

GRATIOT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

THE NEXT CHAPTER



JULY/AUGUST 2024 EDITION

A Democratic Party Newsletter Made for and by Gratiot County Members
Chief Editors, Nancy O'Brien & Lisa Gregory



Chair Chat

By Christie Freestone

“We’re not going back!”

Vice President Kamala Harris

Who’s ahead in the national polls for the 2024 presidential election this week? Based on an ABC News report averaging several national polls, it’s Kamala Harris by +2.7%!

We can feel the “Blue Wave” energy right here in Gratiot County as a surge of new visitors have frequented our Dem office these last few weeks. Many of them want yard signs. Others want to volunteer to work! Most want to talk about how we can get Democrats elected from the top to the bottom of the ticket.

The Democrats seem to be doing a better job of contrasting the stark differences between the Harris/Walz and the Trump/Vance candidates. Now the challenge becomes getting Republican, Independent and Democrats who rarely vote to fact-check what they read or see on the news for accuracy before deciding how they will vote in 2024.

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Chair Chat

“We’re not going back!”

Vice President Kamala Harris

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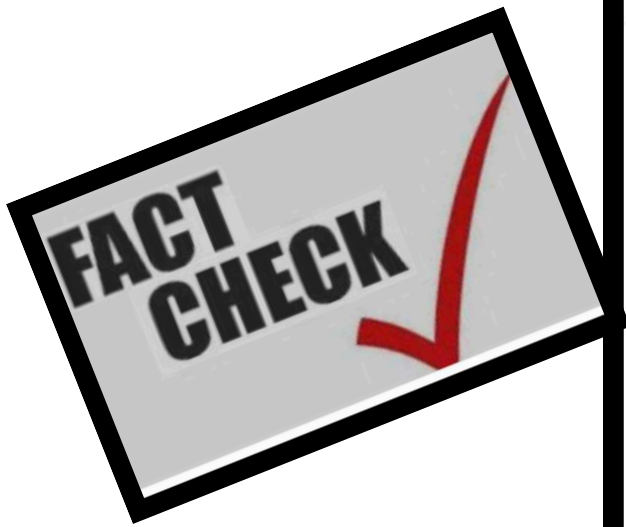
The Washington Post fact-checkers documented 30,573 false or misleading claims made by Donald Trump during his presidential term. That is equivalent to 21 falsehoods per day. Commentators have described the scale of Trump's dishonesty as “unprecedented” in American politics. Scholarly analysis of Trump's tweets on social media found “significant evidence” of his intent to deceive.

For anyone fighting against this rise of misinformation, sensationalism, and biased news, I highly recommend the **Ground News Mac app** for your personal use, but also to share with your family and friends who only believe what they hear on the *Fox Entertainment* network. This app will help you easily compare how a story is being covered by thousands of sources from across the political spectrum and from around the world. Whenever you read a news article, **Ground News** will show you who else is covering the same news story and compare how other sources from all across the political spectrum are reporting on it.

If we can convince voters to understand and recognize bias in the news media, we can win elections. We need to give voters resources to help them think for themselves.

Click below to learn how you can add the Ground News App to your device.





Nancy Hutto O'Brien

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Fact check sites.

In this political season, you are going to want to keep these sites handy. Visit them regularly. And rather than relying on one, you'll want to use multiple fact check sites.

<https://apnews.com/hub/ap-fact-check>

<https://www.factcheck.org/>

<https://www.politifact.com/>

<https://www.opensecrets.org/>

<https://www.reuters.com/fact-check/>

<https://www.verifythis.com>

<https://leadstories.com/>

Podcast Alternatives to Mainstream Media

Fast Politics

@mollyjongfast

Heather Cox Richardson

@heathercoxrichardson

No Lie

@briantylercohen

Michelangelo Signorile Show

@msignorile

Meidas Touch

@meidastouch

Start Me Up

@Kimberleyannjohnson

Jen Rubin's Green Room

@jenrubin9

Politics With Cheri Jacobus

@cherijacobus1

Candidate's Corner

Michael Lynch

U.S. Congressional Candidate - MI District 2



We Are Going to Miss You, Joe . . . Hold on - Not So Fast

I was saddened when I heard that Joe Biden was stepping down as the Democratic Candidate for President of the United States. He is a great president and he deserved better than to be pushed out of the way. To many people in the Michigan Senior Caucus, this smacked of ageism, a barrier many of the members of the caucus have encountered.

During the now infamous debate, Joe Biden had one job. That job was to stay upright and sound presidential. That is not what happened. The debate gave America the impression that Joe Biden was unable to think quickly or to effectively communicate his thoughts. Anyone who thought that he was simply being propped up by his advisors felt that their thoughts were confirmed. As we know, perception is reality. The minds of too many Americans were made up. Changing those minds would be nearly impossible.

Kamala Harris is an outstanding candidate and will be an amazing President. She will help to maintain our position in the world which eroded during the Trump administration. Biden's list of accomplishments would require multiple pages. I am sure that Harris' list of accomplishments will be just as long. We are going to miss you, Joe.

HOLD ON-NOT SO FAST

I think many people are forgetting something. Joe Biden is not being sent out to pasture. He will still be around. When Kamala Harris needs advice, she can turn to Joe Biden, Bill Clinton, or Barack Obama. If Donald Trump looks for advice, no matter how unlikely that might be, he has no one with experience to whom he can turn. George Bush will not answer his phone calls (as if Trump would ever reach out to him).

Think for a moment about that amazing bench strength. In times of world crisis, Joe Biden will bring his 50 years of experience. In times of domestic turmoil, Barack Obama can offer guidance on how to best pull the country together. Bill Clinton (and Hillary) can explain how to get legislation through Congress and how to explain policies to the country.

We are in good hands. (Shameless plug) They will need help. They will need a House and a Senate that can make the Dream come true for all Americans. Please support Michael Lynch for US Congress. Also support our Democratic candidate for US Senate. We have the unique opportunity to save our democracy. Everyone will have to do their part to make it happen.

Candidate's
Corner



TIM
ODYKIRK

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
★ ★ ★ 92nd District ★ ★ ★

FORWARD **TOGETHER**



Hello 92nd District Gratiot Dems! This is Tim Odykirk. I have yard signs for anyone who would like to add one to your yard! The signs are at our Gratiot Dems office 1686 Wright Ave. and can be picked up during office hours on Wednesdays from 4- 6:00 pm or Saturdays from 10 am to noon. Or email me at Timetimodykirk.us. Or text me at 989-621-1820, we would be happy to deliver.

If you are wondering if you live in the 92nd district, you are if you live in one of the townships of Seville, Pine River, Bethany, Arcada, or Emerson, or the communities of Alma, St. Louis, Ithaca, Forest Hill, Beebe, Elwell, or Riverdale.

I also need some help. I have some large 4' x 4' signs that I would like to place in strategic roadside locations in the 92nd. If you have a good location, or know of someone who does, please let me know.

Vote for Ody! | Tim Odykirk | www.timodykirk.us

Hey! Donations would always be helpful. 😊 Thanks!

ActBlue >>



Michigan Voter Information
Department of State

Click here for helpful information about where to find your clerk, polling place, and sample ballots.



Your elected officials | USA.gov

Click here to input your address to find your elected officials.



DE-CLUTTER FOR A CAUSE

DONATE YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS

ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT

THE GRATIOT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

ITEMS WANTED:

BOOKS, CLOTHING,
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
GAMES & TOYS
FURNITURE/APPLIANCES &
MORE!

YARD SALE
SAT. SEPT. 7TH

9AM-5PM

221 HASTINGS STREET
ALMA

MORE INFO OR TO VOLUNTEER: CALL ARTHUR OR RENEE 989-463-8530 OR 989-763-7344

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



The Next Chapter: A Book Club

By Nancy O'Brien

The Midnight Library By Matt Haig

On July 13 we met to discuss this fiction novel about Nora, who has a surprising opportunity to live another life other than the one she is living. Because of choices she has made, Nora is feeling at a loss with no strong personal connections and no job. She decides to end it all, but wakes up in the Midnight Library in a position to choose another life, just like choosing a library book.

This novel has echoes of the movies, "It's a Wonderful Life" (Jimmy Stewart) or "The Family Man" (Nicholas Cage) or "Stranger Than Fiction" (Will Ferrell). The theme of an unfulfilled life is not a new one, but makes for a good discussion. It may cause you to examine your life and define what you are contributing and what is important to you. It's a feel good story that will lift your mood. We rated it 4.8 out of 5 stars.

The Boys in the Boat By Daniel James Brown

We met on August 3 to discuss this historically based novel to coincide with the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. It details the journey of 9 working-class boys in the Pacific northwest from novice rowers to the 1936 U.S. Olympic team. This book weaves the history of the U.S during the Depression years, the mechanics of the sport of rowing, the artistry of boatbuilding, the history of Nazi Germany as it prepared to host the Olympics in a show of pretense and perfection, and an underdog story of perseverance and grit.

Some of the book club members felt that the book had a bit of a slow start but it became a riveting and astonishing story of characters that just did not give up. The main hero, Joe Rantz, lived through hardships that are unimaginable. Our book club members had a good discussion about how the story wove together some themes we have read in other recent books. This was a well written book that had us cheering on the team as they raced to the finish. We rated it 4.9 stars out of 5.

Our next meeting is September 7 at our office 1686 Wright Ave. in Alma. Our September book choice is *Medgar and Myrlie* by Joy Reid. Please join us at 10:00 am. All of these books are available at Ballyhoo Books in Alma.

JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 7

Medgar and Myrlie

by Joy Reid

OCTOBER 5

What the Eyes Don't See

Mona Hannah-Attisha

NOVEMBER 2

The Women

Kristin Hannah

DECEMBER 7

Ghosted

Nancy French

JANUARY 4

Sing for the Lonesome Messenger

David Edward Edwards



HOW YOU CAN HELP



Postcard Writing

We are excited to have postcards in the office that need to be written with a short message and address. These cards will be mailed to Michigan voters. This is a great way to share our message, and we expect that this will be an ongoing project until the November election.

If you are willing to help write these cards, stop in during office hours for more information. Thank you!

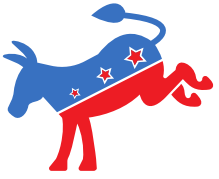
Office Workers

We are still seeking members willing to staff our office Wednesdays from 4-6 and Saturdays from 10-12. Even committing to one shift per month will be a great help. With the 2024 election approaching, it is so important to offer our members times when they can stop in to purchase merchandise or pick up signs. Sign up using the link below, or contact us at 989-285-1212.

Training is provided. Feel free to bring a friend!

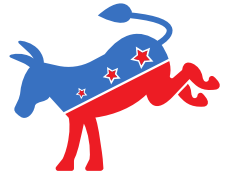
**[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TO
VOLUNTEER](#)**

Stop in at Our Gratiot Dems office!



Wednesdays 4:00-6:00

Saturdays 10:00-12:00



See What's for Sale

We have t-shirts, bumper stickers, jewelry and much more available for purchase.

Get your yard signs

Yard signs are available. We can help you find your favorite candidates' signs. Donations accepted.

Pick up postcards

If you would like to help out, we have postcards that need to be written and addressed.

Learn what's new

Chat with other Democrats to learn what's happening and how you can get involved.

3rd Annual GCDP Summer Picnic

Gratiot Dems and friends gathered on August 15 for good food, fellowship, and fun. Thanks to everyone who attended and, once again, to Marc Raycraft for his hospitality in hosting our picnic and for providing all of us with a good time.



Arthur Faustmann accepts the award for "Best Burger"



Sharon Adams baked the prize-winning pie



**Michigan
Farmers
Union**

[LEARN MORE](#)

Motown is Joetown

By Nancy Gott

Four young Gratiot County Democrats found themselves in the midst of Joetown at a rally held at the Renaissance High School in Detroit on July 12. An enthusiastic crowd greeted a long line of speakers including Jocelyn Benson, Michigan Secretary of State, who reminded everyone of the importance of their vote this year and that democracy is at stake. She encouraged everyone to get out the vote. Lt. Garlin Gilchrist shamed those who have had fun on TV trash-talking our President. Detroit mayor, Mike Duggan, related his experiences with President Biden starting when Biden was Vice-President. Upon Duggan's election, Biden called and asked how he could help the city. With Biden's help the city was able to purchase desperately needed busses for the public transportation problems plaguing the residents of Detroit trying to get to work. The mayor further roused the crowd by relating the numerous times he has worked with the President to help Detroit recover from other, more recent hard times. In comparison, Duggan reminded us of the only time Donald Trump visited Detroit - at a non-union shop where he promised jobs but produced none, and never returned during his term.

Other inspiring speakers who endorsed the President included Lavora Barnes, Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party; Paula Thornton Greear, CEO of Michigan Planned Parenthood; Olivia Spencer, Academy Award winning actor. All of these participants were enthusiastically welcomed by the crowd. And after a very long wait while Biden was speaking to the overflow crowd, the friendly, hand-shaking, amiable President was introduced by Cindy Rudolph, Pastor at Oak Grove AME Church in Detroit.

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Motown is Joetown

What amazed us the most was the love and support that over 2,000 people at this high school gymnasium had for our President. When Biden walked in he was greeted with supportive chants of "Don't you Quit", and "We've got your back". The President responded with, "I am running and we're going to win!". The President went on to speak of the media hammering him and the crowd gave the media a resounding session of boos. President Biden also had one protester that wanted to voice her opinion on the Palestine/Israeli situation. The protester was removed before the crowd quieted enough for the President to talk to her, but after she had been removed, he went on to explain the work he had accomplished with NATO talks and agreements with parties involved.

It was refreshing to hear President Biden talk a bit about his opponent calling him Putin's Puppy and reminding us of all of the money Trump owed to the city of New York, and his sexual assault case resulting in the payment to his victim of over \$100 million.

President Biden shared his vision for the next four years. Some of the items he mentioned were creating a permanent child care tax credit, raising the federal minimum wage, making Roe vs. Wade a federal law protecting women's rights, signing the John Lewis voting rights act, expanding and strengthening Social Security and Medicare and passing a ban on assault weapons. Biden also spoke of the dismal vision that Project 2025 has for a Trump presidency if that were to occur.

The four Gratiot County Dems that ventured to Joetown came home with inspiration and enthusiasm. We would like to encourage each of you to speak to your friends, neighbors, relatives (if you dare) about the dismal world we will face if Project 2025 becomes our reality. We would like you to join us to call or canvas when that program begins, put up a sign, volunteer at the office, write postcards, let us know what you can do - we can find a way for you to help! Please!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Betty Apple, Christie Freestone, Bobbie Renshaw, and me, Nancy Gott.



Hill Harper



Hill Harper visited our office on July 23 to present his platform and answer questions about his positions. There was much valuable discussion, and we appreciated his willingness to meet with us.

Hill was defeated in the primary election by Elissa Slotkin.

Debate Watch Party

A group of GCDP members gathered at our office to view the presidential debate on June 27.

We cheered and jeered and enjoyed the company of like-minded Democrats as we watched together.



*You're
Invited!*

Have coffee with us!



Coffee with the Dems



Join us the first Tuesday of each month

August 6 | September 3 | October 1

9AM

Ballyhoo Books | Alma





GRATIOT COUNTY DEMOCRATS EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Gratiot County Democratic Office
1686 Wright Ave.
P.O. Box 154
Alma, MI

STOP IN!

OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesdays | 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

Saturdays | 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

CONTACT: 989-285-1212

gratiotdems@gmail.com

gratiotdems.net

EVENTS

- **August 3** - The Next Chapter Book Club
10 a.m. - Gratiot Dems office
The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown
- **August 6** - Coffee with the Dems
9 a.m. - Ballyhoo Books and Brew | Alma
- **August 15** - GCDP Picnic
6 p.m. - Raycraft Farm
- **August 19** - GCDP General Membership Meeting
7 p.m. - Gratiot Dems office
- **September 3** - Coffee with the Dems
9 a.m. - Ballyhoo Books and Brew | Alma
- **September 7** - The Next Chapter Book Club
10 a.m. - Gratiot Dems office
Medgar and Myrlie by Joy Reid
- **September 7** - GCDP Garage Sale
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. | 221 Hastings Street, Alma
- **September 16** - GCDP General Membership Meeting | 7 p.m. - Gratiot Dems office
- **October 1** - Coffee with the Dems
9 a.m. - Ballyhoo Books and Brew | Alma
- **October 5** - The Next Chapter Book Club
10 a.m. - Gratiot Dems office
What the Eyes Don't See by Mona Hanna
- **October 21** - GCDP General Membership Meeting
Meeting | 7 p.m. - Gratiot Dems office

We need volunteers to work at the Gratiot Dems office on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Click here to follow the link to sign up.



CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

Upcoming Events

Taco Tuesday Trivia!
October 8
Pins in Ithaca

Family Bowling Event
November 23
Pins in Ithaca

More Information to Follow

CLICK OR SCAN
TO VISIT OUR
CALENDAR!



FOLLOW, SHARE, AND
LIKE US ON OUR
SOCIAL MEDIA
NETWORKS



CLICK OR SCAN
TO VISIT OUR
WEBSITE!

