

# THE NEXT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2024



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

# Get Out To Vote!



## Chair Chat

By Christie Freestone

**"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting."  
--Franklin D. Roosevelt**

As we near Election Day, it's time for Gratiot County's local Democrats to come together and make our voices heard. While the national races often get all the attention, it's the down-ballot candidates—our county officials, city and township commissioners and state representatives—that shape our daily lives the most. These local elections determine our schools' funding, our roads' conditions, and the values that guide our community. By rallying our neighbors, friends, and family, we can ensure a Democratic win up and down the ticket that sets the stage for progress right here at home.

The first step to victory is simple: show up and vote! Turnout is crucial in rural areas like Gratiot, where every single vote counts. By encouraging everyone in your circle to register and cast their ballot early, you'll amplify the voices that want change. Many people, especially in rural communities, feel disconnected from the political process. So let's close that gap by making sure our friends know just how much local elections matter—and that they don't have to drive far or take much time to make a difference.

But we can do more than just vote. We can also educate! Many voters don't make it all the way down the ballot because they don't know the candidates. Sharing posts about Democratic candidates on social media, and even chatting about policies that matter—like affordable healthcare, quality schools, and sustainable farming practices—can empower our community to make informed choices. It's about making these races relatable and demonstrating how Democratic policies directly support the values and needs of Gratiot County residents.

Finally, let's support your local Gratiot Democratic Party who are on the ground, knocking on doors, and making calls. Even a couple of hours helping at our office can make a big impact. Together, we have the power to flip this county and send a clear message that rural Michigan believes in a brighter, fairer, and more prosperous future for all. Let's show everyone what Gratiot County can do when we work together to turn the ticket blue!

# Michael Lynch

## U.S. Congressional Candidate - MI District 2

Click here to see Michael Lynch and John Moolenaar debate in Mason County



Contribute with

ActBlue >>

## Get Out To Vote

From time to time I hear someone say that they are not going to bother to vote. This too often makes me break out into my Yankee Doodle Dandy speech about how voting is not only a right, but a privilege. Think of the men that died so we could have the right to cast our vote. The beautiful thing about America is that when you vote you have the same influence as anyone else, no matter how rich or poor.

The person sometimes says something like, "Everyone who wants to be in politics is corrupt" (Ouch. Good thing that I want to be a statesman, not a politician) or "What can one person do?" I try to explain that democracy is not about what one person can do. It is about what we can all do together.

Together we can argue against injustice. Together we can do something to improve our schools. Together we can let our elected officials know about a problem that is not getting enough attention.

Even if none of that resonates with you, your vote this year might be more important than any vote that you have cast or will cast. Please believe that the future of our democracy is on the line. I have no doubt that if Trump is elected America will no longer be a country of laws, but it will be a country controlled by a small number of people who only have their own interests in mind.

Even though Donald Trump keeps saying that he does not recognize Project 2025, his running mate does. He wrote the foreword for the plan. Part of the plan is to eliminate the Department of Education and many of the agencies that keep us safe, such as the EPA and OSHA. In Project 2025, federal employees will need to swear loyalty to the President. Anyone who does not pledge loyalty will be replaced. We have a representative in Congress who does not want employees to pledge loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party, but is fine with demanding loyalty to a dictator.

So, yes, your one vote can make a difference. If nothing else, your vote can make you feel comfortable knowing that you have done something to try to make the world a better place. Apathy and discouragement are the things that could truly lead to the end of our country: A country that we love and want to preserve. Go Vote and God Bless.

# VOTE

Tuesday, November 5th

TIM  
**ODYKIRK**

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

FORWARD **TOGETHER**



ActBlue >>



**Kevin Taylor**  
Gratiot County Commission  
District 2

**Sarah Foltz**  
Gratiot County Commission  
District 4

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## Office Volunteers Needed

We are still seeking volunteers to staff our office Monday-Friday from 12-6 and Saturdays from 10-4. Even committing to one shift per month will be a great help. With the election so close, we want to be sure to be available to our community every day.

Sign up using the link below, or contact us at 989-285-1212.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TO  
VOLUNTEER AS AN OFFICE WORKER](#)

## Canvass With Gratiot Democrats

Time is running out to win! In the few remaining days between now and Election Day, you can make a huge difference in the outcome by volunteering to canvass in Gratiot County. Elections have been won and lost in our county by 2 votes per precinct. There are 21 precincts in Gratiot County, so 42 votes can make a difference.

Campaign folks are telling us that the best use of your time, between now and election day, is in-person canvassing of Democrats to get them to vote. We are a majority party, and we lose when our people don't vote.

Join us canvassing! It's especially fun with a group of friends (and all Gratiot Dems are friendly)! Click the QR code or the link below.



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



# POSTCARD PROJECT UPDATE

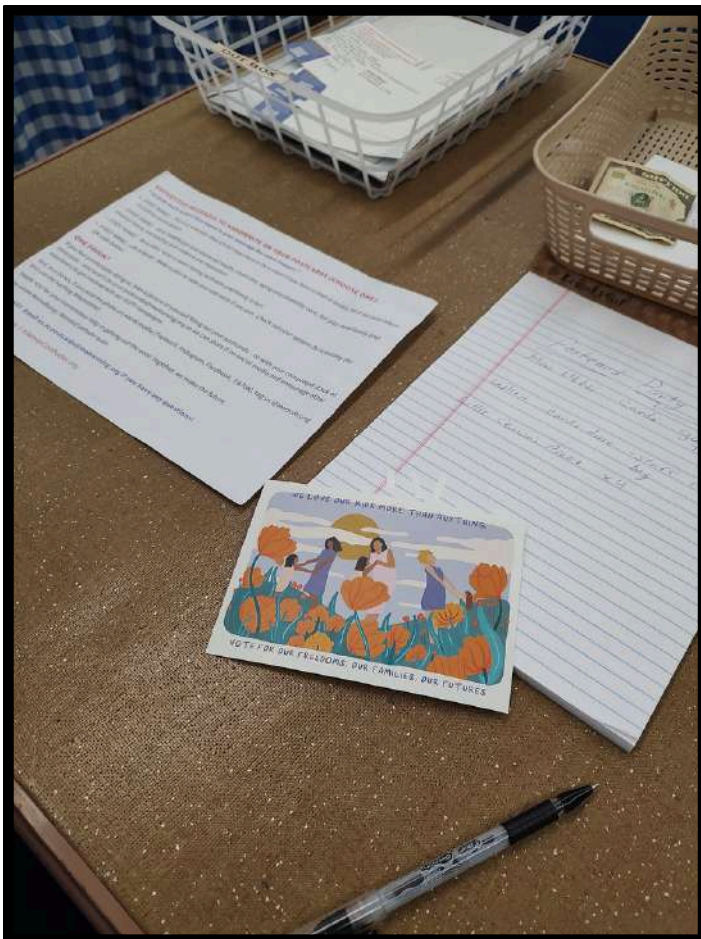


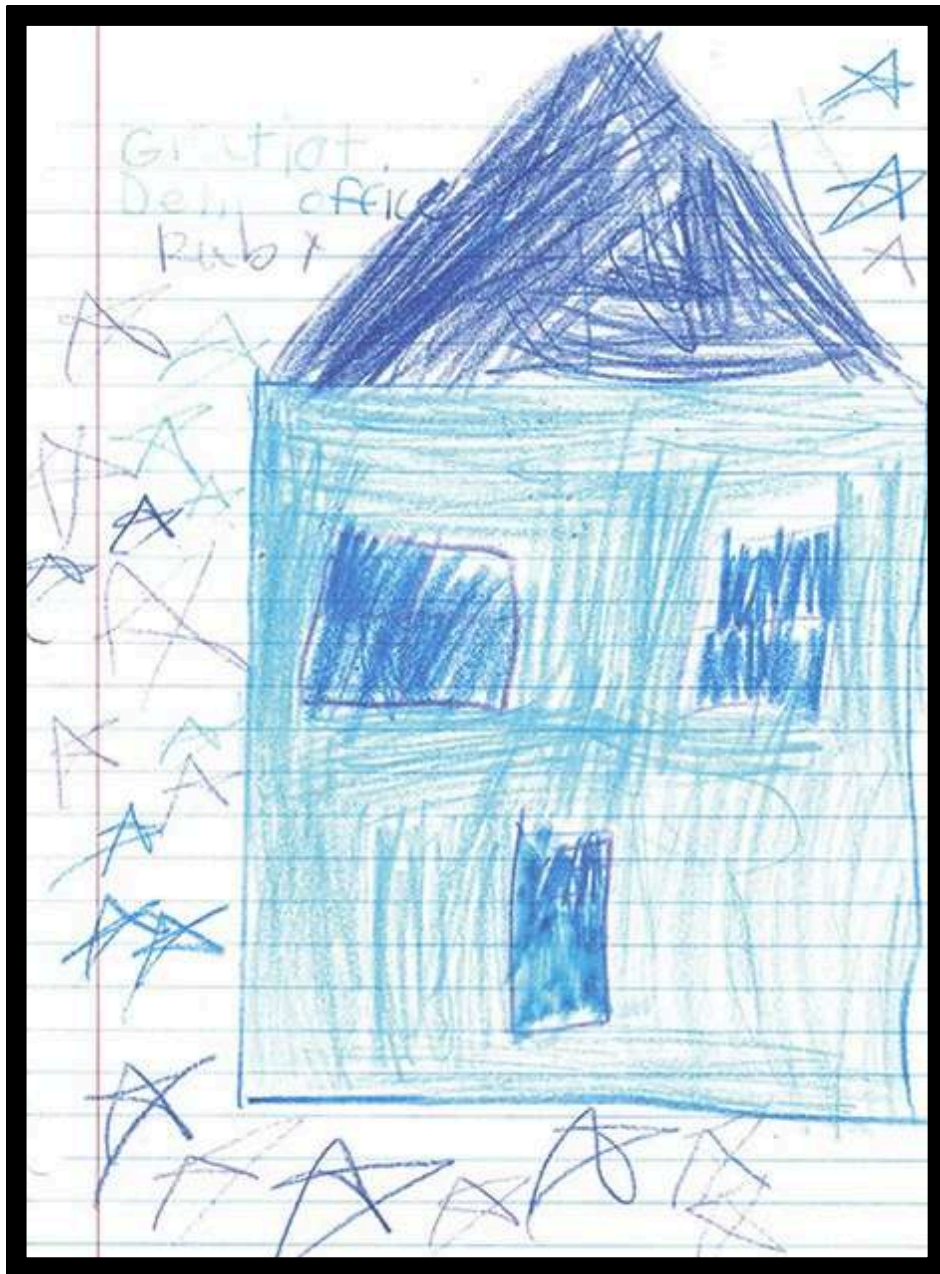
We would like to thank everyone who has written postcards or donated money for postage. So far, we have sent out 850 postcards (\$476 in postage)!

Our work isn't finished. We have 1000 additional postcards that many members have written to help get out the vote for November 5, 2024.

Each stamp costs 56 cents. This postage amounts to \$560. Any donation, small or large, would be appreciated!

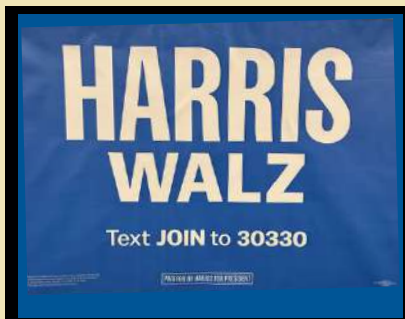
We can do this with your help. If everybody who receives this newsletter donates just \$3 then we would have more than enough to get them sent out. We are not going back!





**Ruby, age 7,  
encourages  
you to stop  
in to the  
Gratiot  
County  
Democratic  
Party Office.  
It's a great  
place!**

## **Free Yard Signs Available**



There's still time to show your support with a yard sign! Stop in to the GCDP office to pick yours up today!



# Taco Trivia Tuesday: A Fun Night of Tacos and Trivia

On October 8, the Gratiot County Democratic Party hosted Taco Trivia Tuesday at PINS, and it was a huge success! The event brought together community members for a lively evening of delicious tacos and exciting trivia. Participants formed teams and tested their knowledge on a variety of topics, competing for fun prizes while enjoying tasty food.

Laughter and camaraderie filled the room, making for a memorable night. The Gratiot County Democratic Party would like to thank all of the members of the community who helped make to make this event possible!



# Gratiot County Democrats Gather for Vice-Presidential Debate Watch Party

On October 1, Gratiot County Democrats gathered at the GCDP office to watch Governor Tim Walz dominate Senator JD Vance in the Vice-Presidential debate. The group enjoyed an evening of discussion and refreshments as they witnessed Walz's strong performance while also celebrating Jimmy Carter's 100th birthday.



**Our lucky BINGO winner!**

# Thank You, Ed and Marilyn!



GCDP members and friends gathered at our office to wish Ed and Marilyn the best as they begin their new adventures. We appreciate your friendship and your work for our community and the Gratiot County Democratic Party.



## THE NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUB JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

**NOVEMBER 2**

*The Women*

Kristin Hannah

**DECEMBER 7**

*Ghosted*

Nancy French

**JANUARY 4**

*Sing for the Lonesome  
Messenger*

David Edward Edwards

*You're  
Invited!*

# Have coffee with us!



## Coffee with the Dems

**Join us the first Tuesday of each month**

**October 1 | November 5 | December 3**

**9AM**

**Ballyhoo Books | Alma**





# GRATIOT COUNTY DEMOCRATS EVENTS AND INFORMATION

## EVENTS

- **November 2** - The Next Chapter Book Club  
10 a.m. - Gratiot Dems office | *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
- **November 5** - **Election Day!**
- **November 5** - Coffee with the Dems  
9 a.m. - Ballyhoo Books and Brew | Alma
- **November 18**- GCDP General Membership  
7 p.m. - Gratiot Dems office
- **November 23**- Family Bowling  
Pins | Ithaca
- **December 3** - Coffee with the Dems  
9 a.m. - Ballyhoo Books and Brew | Alma
- **December 7** - The Next Chapter Book Club  
10 a.m. - Gratiot Dems office | *Ghosted* by Nancy French
- **December 16** - GCDP General Membership  
7 p.m. - Gratiot Dems office

[CLICK HERE OR  
SCAN THE CODE  
TO VISIT OUR  
CALENDAR!](#)



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



[CLICK HERE OR  
SCAN THE CODE  
TO VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE](#)



**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday-Friday | 12 p.m.-6 p.m.  
Saturdays | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

**CONTACT: 989-285-1212**  
[gratiotdems@gmail.com](mailto:gratiotdems@gmail.com)  
[gratiotdems.net](http://gratiotdems.net)

# ELECTION DAY-NOVEMBER 5

## **EARLY VOTING**

**October 26-November 3**

Commission on Aging, 515 Pine River Street, Ithaca  
October 26-27 12-8PM | October 28-November 3 9AM-5PM

## **GENERAL ELECTION**

**November 5**

Vote at your local polling place  
Polls are open 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM

# VOTER INFORMATION

Use the buttons or QR codes below to link to all of your voter information including how to register to vote, requesting an absentee ballot, where to find your clerk's office, and your sample ballot. If you still have questions feel free to stop in to the GCDP office during office hours. We are happy to help!





# GRATIOT COUNTY DEMOCRATS RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES



VOTING ENDS NOVEMBER 5TH



## PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT

**KAMALA HARRIS & TIM WALZ**

## US SENATE

**Elissa Slotkin**

## US HOUSE OF REPR., MI DISTRICT 2

**Michael Lynch**

## MI HOUSE OF REPR., DISTRICT 92

**Timothy Odykirk**

## MI HOUSE OF REPR., DISTRICT 93

**Kevin Seamon**

## MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

**Kyra Harris Bolden & Kimberly Ann Thomas**

## MI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Theodore Jones & Adam Zemke**

## UNIV OF MI BOARD OF REGENTS

**Denise Ilitch & Shauna Ryder Diggs**

## MI STATE UNIV BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Rebecca Bahar-Cook & Thomas Stallworth III**

## WAYNE ST UNIV BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**Rasha Demanshkieh & Mark Gaffney**

## GRATIOT COUNTY COMMISSION, DIST 2

**Kevin S. Taylor**

## GRATIOT COUNTY COMMISSION, DIST 5

**Sarah Foltz**

## ALMA SCHOOL BOARD

**Christie Freestone -- write-in candidate**

*(To vote for Christie as a write-in candidate, write "Christie Freestone" name on the line and then be sure to blacken in the voting spot). A vote specifically for Christie will be more effective if only one vote is selected for the Alma School Board position instead of voting for both available positions.*

## CITY OF SAINT LOUIS PROPOSAL

**Change city elections from the odd to the even numbered years.**

## VILLAGE OF ASHLEY PROPOSAL

**.5 mill increase on state taxable valuation for 4 years for periodic spraying for mosquitoes.**

## FULTON SCHOOLS PROPOSAL

**2.8442 mill increase on state taxable valuation to create sinking fund for school system real estate.**

*Voter's preference on proposals*