

Muskegon Democrat

The Voice of Muskegon County Democrats

Volume 1, Issue 1 Spring, 2022



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Call to Action! Precinct Delegates, 2022

“The precinct is the smallest political unit in the country. As you know, the precinct is where elections are won and lost. It is your neighborhood. You know the people and you know what issues are most important to them.”

On behalf of your Precinct Delegate Chairs, Darius Mitchell, Kip Smith and your MKG Dems officers and Patsy Petty, we ask for your help in planning our precinct delegate program for 2022. We are hosting our first meeting Saturday, March 5th at the CIO Hall from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We know that precinct delegates are the frontline of grassroots organizing.

We need your help, your energy, your input and ideas.

I have registered as a Notary Public so we can sign up new and returning precinct delegates at the every event until the *May 3 precinct delegate filing deadline*. First, we will discuss the role of a precinct delegate then we will work together to shape our plan. Please invite your friends, neighbors and anyone who may be interested in helping. I truly believe that the identity of Muskegon County politics will be defined by this election. Our belief is that we are a welcoming community of hard-working folks who understand that our greatest strength is our diversity. We hope you'll join us.

In Solidarity,
Ryan Bennett, MKG Dems Chair



Precincts: Where Elections are Won and Lost!

Politics begins at the local level when you talk to your family, friends and neighbors about the issues that are important to your neighborhoods. Once you get involved and become a precinct delegate, you have the opportunity to share these issues and concerns and make a difference. In your role as an elected Precinct Delegate, you will meet the people who live in your precinct and let them know you as well as you getting to know them. You will talk with Democrats, Republicans and many non-partisan neighbors.

Be respectful of all the residents you encounter, greet your precinct residents and introduce yourself and your role as a precinct delegate. Actively listen, don't argue and always be polite because you are representing the inclusion of our party. Share views and goals when appropriate to the degree that's appropriate and note to yourself who are strong Dems and who may vote Democratic. Share the voting record on issues important to them concerning your current commissioner and other elected officials.



Scan for Affidavit

A Precinct Delegate is a means of communication between political groups, Ideology and caucuses to our Party, at both the local and state level and strengthens and brings unity between various ideas and beliefs within our party, making us stronger together. *The QR code above will bring you to the Affidavit of Identity which is used to file for election as a Precinct Delegate.* Please reach out if you are seeking more information on being a Precinct Delegate or attend the Precinct Delegate workshop on March 5th

L. Kip Smith - Communityguy@gamil.com

Join the Fight!

A CALL TO ACTION!

“I don’t know what will happen now; we’ve got some difficult days ahead,” said the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in his last public address on April 3, 1968, the day before the immortal civil rights icon and activist was murdered.

Dr. King added - auspiciously - that he had been “to the mountaintop” and had “seen the Promised Land” and thus, in spite of the many hardships and trials that he knew lay ahead, things would be all right. Justice would prevail. Good would win. Evil would be vanquished.

The Great Man was talking about the justice we all strive for as Americans and Democrats. Not merely justice for ourselves and our causes, but justice that will see an end to the dangerous attacks on our country, on our government, on our inherited rights under our beloved Constitution, and to our future. Our children’s future.

And yet – it’s a struggle to be free and REMAIN free.

Justice doesn’t simply prevail by one’s HOPING for it, or snapping one’s fingers and wishing the fight was behind us and that victory lies ahead. History, if it teaches us anything, it is that we ourselves are part of it and it can either sweep us away and our hopes with it, or else we can weather the storms and emerge triumphant by planning wisely and getting involved.

Why is involvement – JOINING THE FIGHT – so critical, especially here in Muskegon County and West Michigan? It’s pretty simple: If we don’t get involved we will be overwhelmed and lose. Numbers are everything and numbers are the STRENGTH of Democrats everywhere.

Republicans know that. And they fear our strength in numbers. Their own politics have never been more transparent. They seek to divide us, wherever we are. They understand that they don’t need numbers to win, only that they merely have to suppress OUR vote and they have the means to do exactly that, with their

unlimited amounts of corporate cash and dark money from the filthiest sewers of society. Look at who was behind the Jan. 6, 2021 INSURRECTION and among those who actively plotted to steal the last election and you can understand exactly who represents the threat that faces all of us.

No better example exists than here in Muskegon County, where Democrats have traditionally polled strong and performed well, but where a falloff of voter support has allowed the worst of the opposing party to roil our politics, and to inject venom and hate into what had traditionally been a bipartisan oasis. Trumpian stupidity and malice is no way to govern, and certainly is not a formula to do good for our neighbors.

Here’s the message: You cannot sit this election out. If you do, we lose. Democracy will die.

Don’t be intimidated by the polls, or by the pundits who proclaim the election this fall is a done deal for Republicans, and that Congress is lost to the enemies of democracy.

Give up now? Shrug your shoulders? Throw in your hand? Republicans would love to see that.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is our Statement of Mission, our Muskegon County Democratic Officers, information about how to connect with your fellow Muskegon County Democrats and where to go for information on our web site.

We need you to join us, to be part of this monumental effort to win in November. Walk with us.

Fight with us. Join us!

If we don’t get involved, democracy will die.

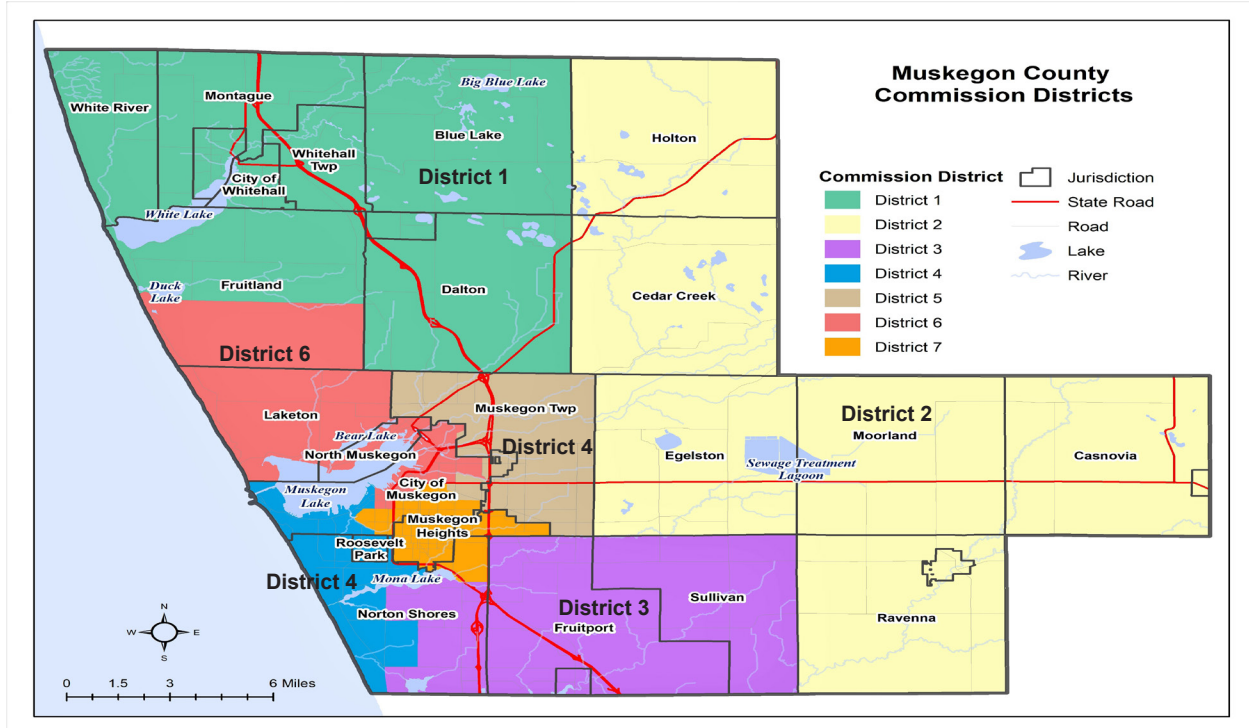
Who We Are

The Muskegon County Democrats are a progressive organization of community volunteers focused on improving the lives of Muskegon residents. We believe in values like building a strong middle class and protecting the environment. We believe that people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, and those with disabilities need to be given equal rights and an equal voice. ***We work to make sure our county party represents the diversity of our community.***

New County Commission District Map!

One of the most critically important elections in 2022 is the fight to save Muskegon County by electing more DEMOCRATS to the county board to end the insulting and outrageous turmoil and chaos Republicans have sown in our beautiful Muskegon. This year, under the new district reorganization, all seven (7) seats will be in play. EVERY district race is vitally important, and Democrats can only prevail IF YOU VOTE! Make your voice heard. The filing deadline to run for the County Commission is April 19, 2022.

Keep this map for reference if you are precinct delegate.



Backstory – Every 10 years the reapportionment committee convenes to draw new county commission district maps. The committee is made of of the county clerk, treasurer, prosecutor and the chairs of the Democratic and Republican Party, (including MGK Chair Ryan Bennett!). Based on population, it was decided to reduce the number of county commission districts from nine to seven. As a result, MGK Democrats have a real chance of taking back the County Commission in 2022. Find out if your county commission district has changed.

Make your vote count! JOIN THE FIGHT!

Your Muskegon County Democratic Party has built a diverse leadership team and we're working to strengthen our community by electing people who actually want to serve the public. We need elected officials who are willing to put the needs of the community above overarching political ideology. That means people who understand that Muskegon is at its very best when we embrace our diversity and look to build out from it. That's what we're working on. We need your help. Find more info at mkgdems.org.

We hope to see you at a meeting in the future. Over the past few years we've seen this insidious Trump brand of hateful politics infiltrate our schools and municipal boardrooms. Their plan is to create division using fear and misinformation hidden behind a false guise of patriotism. Our plan is to stop them.



Taking it Back!

Ryan Bennett
Chair/MKG Dems



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www.mkgdems.org

Why Take Back Tuesdays?

Next Date: March 15 at 2:15 pm.

Take Back Tuesdays is patterned after Moral Mondays that began in 2013. Led by The Rev. William Barber, Co-Chair of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Campaign for Moral Revival, Rev. Barber organized weekly protests at the North Carolina State House when it was in session to protest the right wing agenda of voter suppression and cuts to social programs. Since then, The Moral Monday movement has spread to other states and the Republican governor was defeated in 2016.

Right here in Muskegon, we have witnessed the takeover of our County Board by a group of right wing radicals determined to destroy county government. Their anti mask/vaccine agenda, personal attacks on marginalized groups in our community and efforts to secede from Muskegon County have caused division and fear mongering among our residents and resulted in negative media and embarrassment for our county.

It is our goal to lead a protest before every County Commission meeting to remind the community that the vocal minority currently controlling the Board does not represent the majority of the residents of Muskegon County. **Please join us In taking back our county government! See you there!**

Take Back Tuesdays are held from 2:15 - 3:15 pm in front of the Hall of Justice, 990 Terrace Ave.



Joining the MKG County Dems is EASY!

To have a voice and vote on all issues pertaining to the MCDP you must:

- Reside in Muskegon County and
- Be a member of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Please go to <http://www.mkgdems.org> for more information about your Muskegon County Democratic Party and <http://www.michigandems.com> to join the Michigan Democratic Party. Follow the links. Contact any officer with questions.

Your interest in and support of the Muskegon Democratic Party is vital to our future success and our community . You can help us further our mission of electing Democrats in Muskegon and throughout the State of Michigan.

Members participate in a variety of ways: volunteer to phone bank, canvas for candidates and events. Others help around the office. As a member, you can vote on a variety of things that help determine the direction of the local party. **Join Us!**