



www.manisteecountydemocrats.us

Monthly Meetings

Next Meeting Date:

April 20th

(3rd Thursday of month)

7 pm - 9 pm

Manistee ISD, Manistee

Meeting Agenda includes

Guest Speaker -

Nick Kreiger.
on Electoral College

News from Lansing
and District 101

Officers

Chair- Gary Madden
genie42br@gmail.com

Vice Chair-
Laurel Mason
Laurele52@charter.net

Secretary- Peg Raddatz
Peg.raddatz@gmail.com

Treasurer-
Judy Cunningham
jpc4466@gmail.com

Be a Manistee DEM

Grassroots
Supporter

For Free!

See Membership
Form

The United States is a Republic AND a Democracy

You frequently hear people get on a high horse and say that the United States is a Republic not a Democracy. Don't let them fool you with theory. This is just their way of expressing the idea that some people are more equal than others. The insidiousness of this view is that it justifies all sorts of limitation on the voting franchise. In the past it was used to justify denying the right to vote to women, slaves, people who couldn't pass a literacy test or were too poor to pay the poll tax. Today, the methods of reducing people's right to vote is more devious but just as sinister. Instead of outright denying people the right to vote, it is just made harder. Polling places are eliminated, ID requirements are increased, polling hours are reduced, registration requirements are increased. All of these have a disproportionate effect on the elderly and those with more limited resources.

There are other results of the "republican" view. Since some people are more equal than others, then it's easier for people to adopt the attitude that some people deserve the amenities of life more than others. It's easier to say that we don't have enough money for health care or education or nutrition despite the fact that the wealth of this country dwarfs every other nation in the world. It's easier to cut labor in favor of capital. It's easier to have longer prison sentences for stealing from a convenience store than a pension fund. It's easier to disrespect and deport someone whose main failing is being on the wrong side of a line drawn by some politicians some time in the distant past. It's easier to see dead human beings as collateral damage....

If we are truly Democrats, we cannot listen to those who would tell us that we can't afford, we don't deserve, we have to earn the basic respect that we have as a right in a democratic republic. And more than anything else, we need to exercise those freedoms that we have and make sure that those who represent us do the same.



COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

WHAT'S RIGHT ABOUT GOVERNMENT

For a long time now, in fact, ever since Ronald Reagan famously declared that “maybe government is the problem”, the Republican Party has painted the federal government as some evil monolithic force that is wreaking havoc with our basic freedoms. They have been so successful in selling this distorted view, that they now control all three branches of government.

Yet there is much good that comes from the efforts of the federal government to deliver services and benefits that make all our lives safer, healthier and more enjoyable. Think of all the many positive benefits that impact our daily life and the lives of our loved ones.

Many of us already receive benefits from Social Security, probably the most successful social program in the history of human civilization. We enjoy a very safe and secure food supply system that is overseen by multiple federal agencies. Many of us have vacationed in one or more of our national parks that, during it's centennial last year, was visited 330 million times! Thanks to the Center For Disease Control, the FDA, and myriad other federal agencies, we are among the healthiest people on the planet. We have a military that is the most powerful in the world. All of us enjoy the open road or flying anywhere in the world we take a fancy to. Some of us have received our educations through the GI Bill, a PELL grant or some other form of public support, a benefit that has transformed our lives. We now live in a country where the rivers no longer catch fire and are cleaner, along with the air, than they were 60 years ago.

All of these benefits, and many more, we take for granted every day, They define our quality of life and are the source of our freedoms. Sure, the system that provides all of this is not perfect. It requires continuous refinement and modification and that is what our elected officials are supposed to do. However, republicans seem to be on a mission to discard much of what has been described in the name of getting big government out of our lives. Is that really what the American people are demanding? Countless polls have shown that a significant majority of Americans actually support this government presence in our lives. So it becomes paramount that every citizen contact their representatives to let them know that, Hey, “You work for us and we expect you to continue to provide the services and support that we value”. That's what government of the people, by the people, and FOR the people is all about. We must all keep reminding our representatives of that singular American truth.

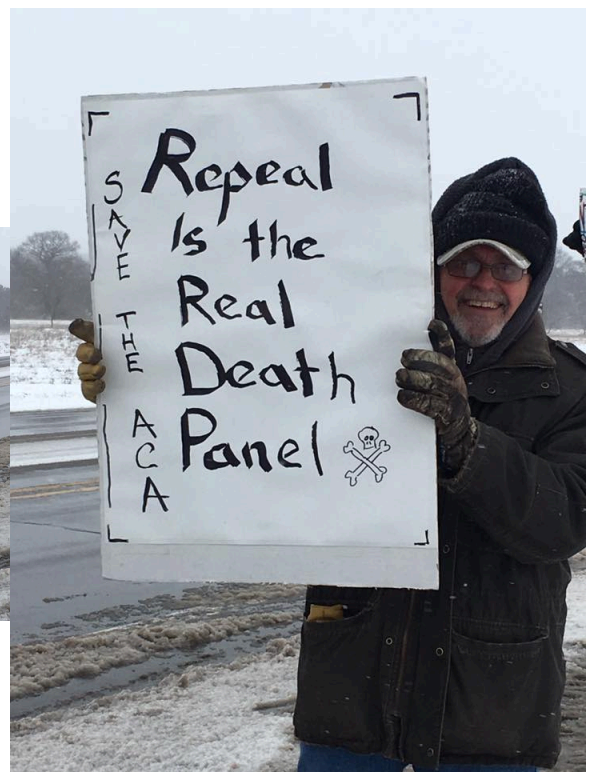


Michigan Democratic Party
Leadership Summit March 18, 2017
With Senator Debbie Stabenow

MANISTEE DEMOCRATS RALLY IN SUPPORT OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

In sub-freezing temperatures, and blowing snow nearly 20 hardy Democrats with signs in hand showed up to rally in support of the Affordable Care Act in front of the Manistee County Medical Care Facility. Senators Chuck Schumer (D) New York, and Bernie Sanders (I) Vermont had called for a series of nationwide rallies in support of the ACA. Rallies were also held statewide in Detroit, Lansing, Grand Rapids and Traverse City. Sanders and Schumer wrote, “This is not a Democratic issue, a Republican issue or an Independent issue. The overwhelming majority of Americans, regardless of political persuasion, understand that we have to go forward on health care, not backwards.”

The Republican’s Party’s plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act is in chaos. The GOP American Health Care Plan will give tax credits to the rich and take health care away from the poor. Public support for the Affordable Care Act law is at an all-time high, while the number of Americans supporting its immediate repeal without a replacement has dipped below 15 percent. The American people increasingly understand that throwing 20 million people off of health insurance, privatizing Medicare, raising prescription drug costs for seniors and doing away with life and death patient protection provisions is not acceptable. The overwhelming majority of Americans want to improve the ACA, not destroy it.



Photos Courtesy of Kristine Harvey

We the People Take Action!

Building on the energy generated by the January 21st women's marches across the country, a number of Manistee residents who participated in the various marches have come together to continue to support each other in taking ongoing action to uphold our values and protect our communities.

Calling ourselves the "We the People Action Network," we are committed to doing our part in Manistee County to shine a spotlight on, and oppose, damaging policies currently being promoted at the state and federal levels.

We are focusing initially on the issues of health care, education, and water. We aim to educate our community and to strongly oppose policies that threaten affordable health insurance, our public schools and the quality of our water resources.

Participants in the network are committed to a whole menu of activities that suit each person's interests and needs: Collectively, we are:

- calling and visiting the offices of our elected officials
- writing letters and op-eds for our local newspapers
- sending postcards to state and national legislators
- researching and producing fact sheets on health care and education issues
- participating in local events organized by various like-minded organizations
- participating in upcoming national actions and events

Our network is non-partisan. We share information from a variety of sources, all aimed at helping individuals maintain their active involvement in supporting policies that will positively impact our lives while opposing policies that will do us harm.

Several resources that we have shared since coming together at the beginning of February include:

- Women's March Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/womensmarchonwash/>
- Indivisible Guide: <https://www.indivisibleguide.com>
- 100 days/10 actions: <https://www.womensmarch.com/100>
- [Creative Majority](https://dailyaction.org) action alerts (artists/writers/musicians): <https://dailyaction.org>
- **5 Calls App:** This app directs you to a menu of options/issues to make calls on each day! Find it on your mobile phone's "app" store.
- For those interested in the immigration issue, "Indivisible" has put out a new resource guide. This and other resources are available at <https://www.indivisibleguide.com/resources/>
- Lots of great statistics on policy impacts state by state: https://www.resistancemanual.org/State_and_Local_Pages
- **Rogan's List:** [A daily compilation of action items from Susan Rogan in Traverse City. Check it out and sign up, you will not be disappointed! http://roganslist.blogspot.com/](http://roganslist.blogspot.com/)

For more information, contact Jeanne Butterfield at jbutterfield2@gmail.com, or go to the "We the People Action Network – Northwestern Michigan" Facebook page where you can request to join this Facebook group.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CALL OR WRITE CONGRESS

In the March 20, 2017 issue of the New Yorker, there is an excellent article titled: *Call and Response: What happens when you phone congress?* Pg 26. Every Democrat is encouraged to read this article as it contains valuable information on contacting your congressional representative as well as the history of congressional communication from the installation of one phone in 1877. (phone number was 1) to the current technological extravaganza. Listed below is some interesting information:

- 1898 installation of a 100 line switchboard. Harriett Daly was hired and worked from 8am to sometimes midnight. There were around 200 calls/day.
- 60,000 calls/day by middle of 20th century
- 1945, 50 operators known as “Hello Girls”
- 535 members of congress, 49 congressional committees, plus commissions and causes
- Currently, a caller can bypass the switchboard and call Congress member’s office directly
- Messages come in by phone, email, USPS, Fax
- Constituent communications account for 20%-30% of the budget for every congressional office
- Congressional members are under no obligation to release data such as the number of call they receive
- Data on mail sent to Congress is public knowledge
- In 2016, congress received 6.4 million pieces of mail
- Influencing law maker’s opinions: personalized emails, personalized letters, editorials in local papers
- Messages from people outside the representatives district are ineffective. Elected officials are committed to those who elected them.
- Staffers in congressional offices generally disregard: tweets, Facebook, on-line petitions, mass mailings from advocacy groups
- Congressional communication is of two types: callers have a specific problem they need help with and call with demands about specific issues
- Best apps for participating in government
 - Countable. Publishes a weekly guide to upcoming bills in Congress. A “Take Action” button lets you contact lawmakers to tell them how you want them to vote.
 - Tinder. Provides links to news sources so you can seek more information on issues.
 - Congress. “no-frills, workhorse app”. Makes it easy to call your rep in D.C. and to follow developments in both houses. Dense technical language.

2017 Manistee DEMS Membership Year

January – December 2017

How you benefit from being a member of the Manistee County DEMS?

- ★ Influence local policy and candidates
- ★ Receive email, phone, and newsletter notifications about upcoming **Democratic** events
- ★ Attend the monthly business meeting featuring Guest Speakers
(Third Thursday of each month at 7 pm, at the Dial A Ride Building
JAN, FEB, MAR Manistee ISD Meeting Room)
- ★ Volunteer opportunities for specific events such as Parades, County Fair and Blue Tigers

Share your ideas to make the Democrats a relevant voice in our County
Join our discussion group by signing up on our website
Go to our WEBSITE at manisteecountydemocrats.us
Join us on FACEBOOK [facebook.com/groups/21048470915534](https://www.facebook.com/groups/21048470915534)
Or on TWITTER <https://twitter.com/manisteedems>

-----CUT & SEND BACK BOTTOM PORTION-----

Please join today and send in a separate membership form for each member of your household

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____

Other joining members in same household _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____

E-mail _____ Send my newsletter by email

2017 Membership Levels **Per Individual**

100 Club - \$100.00
Gold Club - \$50.00
Silver Club - \$25.00
Supporter - \$10.00
Grassroot Supporter – Count me In – No Charge _____

_____ Amount of Enclosed Check

Please make checks payable to
Manistee County Democratic Party

Send this completed form along
with your check to:
Manistee County Dems
P.O. Box 65
Manistee, MI 49660



MICHIGAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(For mailing label; after affixing label, please complete remainder of information)

**APPLY AND RENEW ONLINE
SECURELY AT MICHIGANDEMS.COM**

(Faxed applications will not be accepted)

(Please Circle One): Miss / Ms. / Mr. / Mrs. / Dr.

First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone:(_____) _____ Cell Phone:(_____) _____

Mail to my: (check one) Home Office // I am Registered to Vote in Michigan: Yes No

Email Address: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Gender: _____
mm dd yyyy

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Work Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone:(_____) _____ FAX:(_____) _____

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS VALID FOR ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE POSTMARK DATE ON YOUR RETURN ENVELOPE

All memberships are for an individual (Couples Membership Exempt) Party Membership is open to all legal Michigan residents age 16 and older
Please make all checks payable to the Michigan Democratic Party. Mail to 606 Townsend, Lansing, MI 48933

STANDARD

Voting rights at all meetings and conventions, membership card, invitations to local trainings, community engagement events with MDP staff, regional townhalls, bi-monthly newsletters, weekly press clips, and updates on Party activities.

LEVEL

- Other
- Grassroots
- Activist

PRICE

\$10 annually
\$25 annually

DELUXE

Standard benefits plus choice MDP swag (bumper stickers, magnets, badges), periodic strategy memos from the chair, invitations to member only events, personal meet and greets with Chair Dillon, COO Lavora Barnes, and Democratic elected officials.

- Organizer
- Partners*

\$48 annually/ \$4 monthly
\$72 annually/ \$6 monthly

Names: _____

- Ally

\$120 annually/ \$10 monthly

PREMIUM

Deluxe benefits, invitations to Premium Member Reception, tickets to Spring Event and Fall Event.

- o Leader: 1 Spring ticket
- o Director: 2 Spring tickets, 1 Fall ticket
- o Executive: 4 Spring tickets, 2 Fall tickets
- o Trustee: 1 Spring Table, 5 Fall tickets

- Leader
- Director
- Executive
- Trustee

\$360 annually/ \$30 monthly
\$720 annually/ \$60 monthly
\$1,200 annually/ \$100 monthly
\$3,000 annually/ \$250 monthly

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

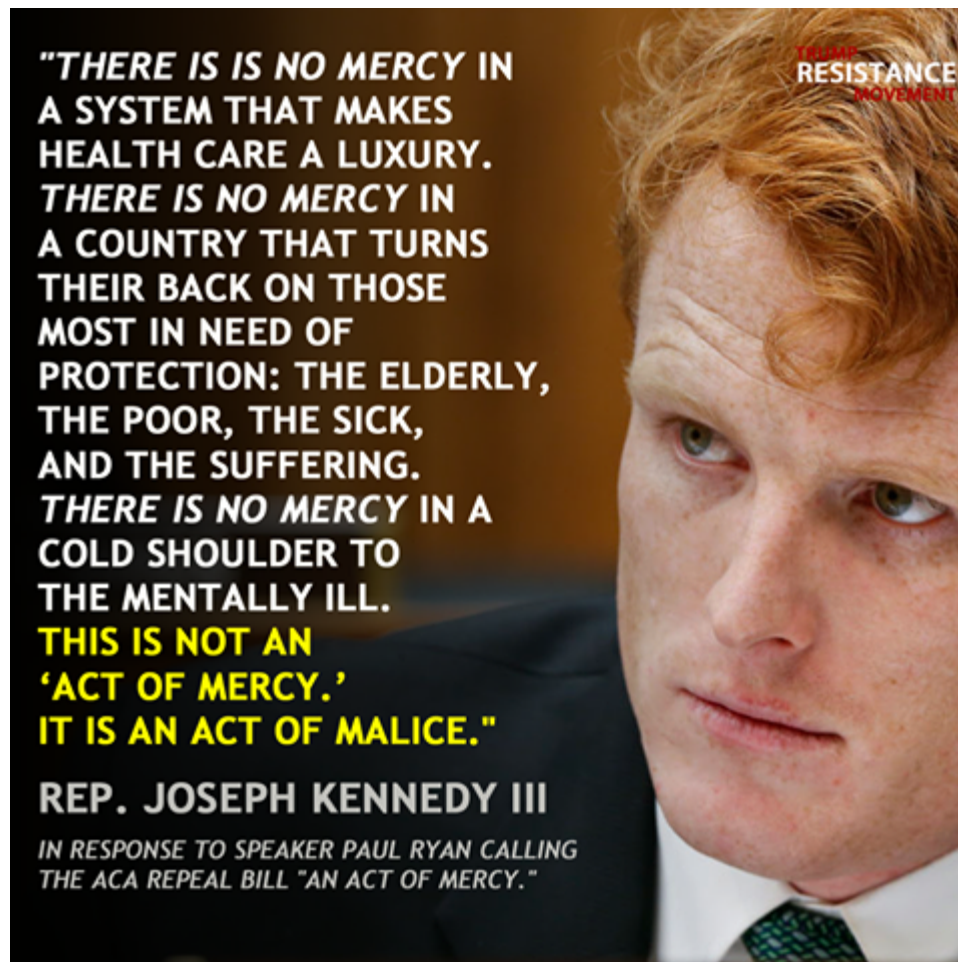
- I am enclosing dues for a two(2) year membership
- Please accept my additional donation of \$_____ to help elect Democrats

Please charge my card: \$ _____ Full Amount Monthly (Credit Card Only)

#: _____/_____/_____/_____ Exp. Date: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____ Signature: X.....

Contributions are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.
Your contribution could be used in connection with federal elections and is subject to the limitations and prohibitions of the Federal Elections Campaign Act. Paid for by the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee/ Michigan Democratic State Central Committee Federal Account, 606 Townsend, Lansing, MI 48933, 517-371-5410, and not authorized by any federal candidate or candidate's committee. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.



"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

-- Robert Kennedy