



[www.manisteecountydemocrats.us](http://www.manisteecountydemocrats.us)

**THIS SATURDAY!!**

**JOIN FELLOW DEMS  
FOR COFFEE, DONUTS  
AND TALK**

**SAT, November 17**

**10:00 AM**

**Campaign Office**

**342 River Street**

**Election RESULTS**

- ✓ MICHIGAN turns blue and female
- ✓ Can Dems check Trump?

**SAVE THE DATE**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY  
& Potluck**

**SAT. DEC. 15<sup>TH</sup> at 6PM**

**MANISTEE INN AND MARINA**

**Ham, wine and punch served**

**Officers**

Chair- Gary Madden  
[genie42br@gmail.com](mailto:genie42br@gmail.com)

Vice Chair-  
Laurel Mason  
[laurele52@charter.net](mailto:laurele52@charter.net)

Secretary- Peg Raddatz  
[peg.raddatz@gmail.com](mailto:peg.raddatz@gmail.com)

Treasurer-  
Judy Cunningham  
[jpc4466@gmail.com](mailto:jpc4466@gmail.com)

Membership Chair -  
Shirley Madden  
[gspmadden@gmail.com](mailto:gspmadden@gmail.com)



**SEE SIDEBAR**

**NOV. 17<sup>th</sup>**

**COFFEE &  
DONUTS AND  
TALK.....THEN  
THE  
ANNUAL  
CONVENTION  
AND ELECTION  
OF OFFICERS**

**My Deepest Thanks – Kathy Wiejaczka**

When I entered this race, I did so with a vision of putting people first – before profits, before greed, before hate. That’s why I chose “people first for the 101st” as our campaign motto. I hoped for the opportunity to represent the people of this district with integrity and to take our message of hope, love, and service to others to Lansing. While I am sorry that I will not get that opportunity, I have no regrets. I met beautiful people that were kind, considerate, and honorable no matter their political party.

Though we have lost the race, I hope you will join me and continue fighting for the good in this world, for a better society, for a government we’re proud of that demonstrates transparency. I am not done and I hope you aren’t either. Join me in holding Lansing accountable for the decisions that impact our lives, our families, and our livelihood.

I give the deepest, deepest thanks to our amazingly dedicated supporters and volunteers, our hundreds of donors, our friends, family and every voter who stood behind us. Your voice matters and the fight isn’t over.

***People first!***



## COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Celebrating our Blue Wave!

2020 Here We Come

Gary Madden

With the mid terms behind us and some results yet to be decided in the coming weeks, it has become clear that the Democratic Party has indeed achieved a blue wave. We have taken control of the House and are now in a good position to check the Trump Administration on key issues. Additionally, we have demonstrated in three key states, Texas, Florida, and Georgia that we are serious contenders come 2020. Key issues such as redistricting and voter access initiatives were passed in many states, further strengthening our future prospects. The party also took seven state governorships. So, overall, things are looking up for the NDP.

These successes were especially noteworthy here in Michigan where our ticket almost unanimously prevailed. We gained the governorship and added seats in both the house and senate. We also saw Debbie Stabenow win reelection. Locally, of course we did not do well, failing to elect Matt Morgan, Kathy Wiejaczka, or Mike Taillard. These losses were very disappointing, especially for those who gave so much effort to those campaigns. As a local party, we also invested our resources heavily in those campaigns. These losses underscore the fact that our county is now solidly Republican. So, locally, the elections were a mixed bag.

So now we have to set our sights on 2020 and making sure we do our part in scoring another victory in the push to take back our country from the far right Republican Party. Broadly speaking we will use the next two years to build up our resources. We will plan fund raising events to make sure we can adequately support candidates, and continue to build our membership. We will use these resources to develop a winning strategy at the county level. **On Saturday, November 17 at 10:00a.m. at our office on River Street we will have our annual convention, election of officers, and monthly membership meeting, our last of the year.** At that time we will be discussing what we need to do over the next two years to reverse our fortunes in Manistee County and how we can support the State and National Democratic Party. We will also discuss the past year and try to identify what worked and what didn't work as well as plan events for the coming year. Please join us! We need everyone's input if we are to improve our success as a local party. Come join your fellow Democrats and help develop a winning county strategy. See you there!

# Historic Highlights of Election 2018

*Women Rule in Michigan & Gain 107+ seats nationwide*



**Gretchen Whitmer, Gov., Dana Nessel, Att.G.,and Jocelyn Benson, Sec of St.**

**Michigan’s Elissa Slotkin, Haley Stevens and Rashida Tlaib, newly elected, helped flip a total of 33+ seats in the House TO Democrats.**



**DEBBIE STABENOW, LEFT, RE-ELECTED TO 4<sup>TH</sup> TERM AS US SENATOR.**

**MEGAN CAVANAUGH, RIGHT, NEWLY ELECTED TO THE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT.**



## 2018 ELECTION SUMMARY

### VOTER TURNOUT

- NATIONAL VOTER TURNOUT - 49%
- MICHIGAN VOTER TURNOUT - 57.5%
- MANISTEE COUNTY TURNOUT - 61%
- MASON COUNTY TURNOUT - 60%
- BENZIE COUNTY TURNOUT - 65%
- LEELANAU COUNTY TURNOUT - 71%

### HISTORIC FIRSTS

- TWO NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN -IN NEW MEXICO AND KANSAS
  - TWO MUSLIM WOMEN - IN MICHIGAN AND MINNESOTA
  - FOUR WOMEN VETERANS

### GOVERNORS

- DEMOCRATS WON BACK 7+ GOVERNORSHIPS INCLUDING MICHIGAN

### HOUSE SEATS

- OF THE 33+ HOUSE SEATS FLIPPED, 22 ARE WOMEN

### MICHIGAN COUNTIES

- CLINTON WON ONLY 8 COUNTIES IN MICHIGAN IN 2016, IN 2018 DEBBIE STABENOW WON IN 15 COUNTIES AND GRETCHEN WHITMER IN 17 COUNTIES.
  - IN THE NORTHERN LOWER PENNINSULA, ONLY LEELANAU COUNTY WON FOR WHITMER AND STABENOW. MANISTEE, BENZIE AND LEELANAU COUNTIES REMAINED SOLIDLY RED FOR ALL CANDIDATES.



## Election Reflections

By Rick Schrock

*The 2018 election is over. Now it is time to reflect on our successes, our failures, our opportunities, and let those reflections shape our approach to 2020.*

Our greatest success was restoring checks and balance to our political systems. We can now block the most damaging of the Republican policies. We can hope that political balance will lead to governance by finding common ground and working together. Time will tell if Republicans are interested in working together. My hope is that Democrats will lead by example to cross the aisle for common sense policies.

The State of Michigan government will change significantly. Last month the GOP owned every branch of state government. The 2018 election changed everything. The Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General shifted to the Democrats. This team is all women and exceptional women. It is a spectacular team. From legislation to voting rights to consumer advocacy, we will see a shift that will favor working people.

The state legislature is still controlled by the GOP in both houses even though Democrats received the most votes overall. The Gerrymandering by the Republicans was skillfully done and highly successful. The passage of Proposition 2 and a Democratic Governor should bring an end to this kind of election rigging.

The Michigan Supreme Court will shift more to the center. The 5-2 court was dominated by Republican supported Justices. That now shifts to 4-3. Two of the Republicans are willing to go against popular GOP thinking at times. I expect to see a more centrist court than we have seen in the past.

At the national level the Democrats gained control of the House. The Senate will be controlled by the Republicans but the margin is very small. Finally we will see some checks and balance in Washington DC.

We have a lot of good news. We need to celebrate. But we also need to step up to the bad news. Manistee County has traditionally reflected state and national trends. We supported Obama, Grandholm, Levin, Stabenow, and other in the past. This year was different. In 2018 the Democrats carried the statewide offices, but without the majority of Manistee County voters. Our State Rep candidate and our US Rep candidates did not carry Manistee County. This year Manistee County shifted from leaning blue to being a solid red county.

## RICK SCHROCK ELECTION ANALYSIS CONTINUED.....

It is easy to observe that all across the US rural areas are voting more and more with the GOP. Urban areas are voting more Democratic. We are rural. There is a temptation to think Manistee County voting more Republican is just inevitable. We are tempted to think we are helpless victims of a national trend. I believe that would be a mistake. Our challenge is to run the right candidates, promote key issues we have in common, and organize to get our voters to the polls.

How do we earn the votes of rural voters? That is the question we must ask over the next year. Can moderates win anymore? Can a candidate run on character rather than policy? Do we need candidates who are bold leaders? We are not helpless. In a year of many Democratic successes Manistee County fell short. This happened all across the country in rural counties.

***Our challenge is for 2020 is for Democrats to reconnect with rural voters.***

### SCENES FROM DON JENNINGS DINNER



From Left to Right: Shirley Madden, Judy Cunningham, and Peggy Raddatz at Don Jennings Award Dinner held Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> at Manistee National Golf Club.

SNEAK PREVIEW - Peggy Raddatz has extended an invitation to ....

**Gretchen Whitmer to be our Keynote Speaker next year. Save the Date: September 14, 2019.**

**Speaker not confirmed yet!!**



LEFT: Dave Berns was our Don Jennings awardee for 2018 for his exemplary work in Social Justice.

RIGHT:

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Don Jennings Keynote Speaker: Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein.





## 2018 Manistee DEMS Membership Year

January – December 2018

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)
- ★ 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](http://manisteecountydemocrats.us)  
 Join us on FACEBOOK [facebook.com/groups/21048470915534](https://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