



Let's Get Together Pleasure Cruise on the Princess of Manistee

Leaves at 5 PM on August 18th, 4:30 Boarding

Cost \$20.00 - \$10.00 for under 40 years old - Children under 12 - \$5.00

Cash Bar and Snacks available On Board

Live Music on the Upper Deck

Invite your Family, Friends and Neighbors

Space limited, Purchase Early

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR John Helge

The Politics of Hope VS Fear

I recently asked the BING Artificial Intelligence (BING AI) app to help me explore the differences between the Democrats' current positive message of hope and progress and the Republicans' current message of chaos and fear. The results I received were interesting and led me to do even more research and discovery.

Democrats are largely associated with liberalism, which is a political philosophy based on belief in progress and positive change. Liberals tend to focus on issues such as social justice, equality, and environmental protection. On the other hand, Republicans are associated with conservatism, which is a political philosophy based on tradition and social stability. They tend to focus on issues such as individual freedom, national security, and free market economic growth.

According to a study conducted by researchers at New York University and UCLA, voters who align with Democrats tend to use the insula region of their brain when processing information related to politics. The insula is involved in internal monitoring of one's feelings and is associated with empathy and social awareness. In contrast, this study also showed that Republican voters tend to use the amygdala region of their brain when processing political information.

The amygdala is the center of the brain's threat response system triggering the primordial "fight or flight" response and is primarily involved in processing fear.

The difference between the two parties' messages can be seen in their political messaging strategies. Democrats tend to focus on inspiring hope and optimism among voters by highlighting their vision for a better future. They often use slogans such as "Yes We Can" or "Hope and Change" to convey their message. Republicans, on the other hand, tend to focus on instilling fear among voters by highlighting potential threats to their safety or way of life. They often use slogans such as "Make America Great Again" or "Law and Order" to convey their message.

When I asked the Bing AI app to compare some of the recent political strategies of the Republicans and Democrats the reply was consistent in that the Democrats' strategy was to focus on protecting the basic freedoms, protections, and rights for people of color, public school students, the disabled, the LGBTQ+ community, and low-income people who have been discriminated against and disenfranchised by actions of Republican state legislatures and governors. The focus of the Democrats in elected leadership positions has been to build the economy from the middle up by crafting and passing bi-partisan legislation that provides widespread economic growth and good paying jobs through investment of tax dollars on projects focused on infrastructure improvement, climate change intervention, and supply chain renovation. The response on the Republican strategies was simply that the party was focused on frustrating the electorate by obstructing the federal legislation process in Washington, and relying on state legislatures to pass laws limiting voter access, remove or limit LGBTQ+ rights, and restrict access to health care while simultaneously using misinformation to create fears of loss: loss of national identity, loss of personal safety, loss of personal freedom, loss of cultural decency, and loss of economic stability.

The process of crafting meaningful legislation is difficult and time consuming. I have compared this process to sausage making in previous articles for this paper. All too often our elected representatives that we send to Washington or Lansing may never make the effort to propose a piece of meaningful legislation. They simply stand on the sidelines and mechanically vote their

party line. They may be too busy raising money for their next election campaign or positioning themselves to be noticed by their favorite 24-hour news channel to bother with the job they were elected to perform. If they ever actually do propose a bill they typically depend on high-paid lobbyists to write the document for them. Naturally, these lobbyists, who are paid by organizations and corporations who stand to benefit from the bills they write, will skew the proposed law to favor their clients rather than the greater good of the legislator's constituents.

This is why our version of a representative democracy is not a "spectator sport". Citizens of the United States of America cannot just sit in the bleachers and complain about the referees, the coaches, or the players on the court or the field. We need to get involved by ensuring our family members, friends, and neighbors are properly registered to vote and are making the effort to cast their vote in every election. We also need to get involved to identify, recruit, and support the best possible candidates to represent us at all levels of our elected government. Your city council person or township trustee is the most important elected official as they have more direct influence on your day-to-day life than any other. Once they are in office, we need to hold them accountable for their actions or lack of action in working to meet the needs of all the people they were elected to represent, not just those who voted for them. Voters also need to be engaged in learning for themselves about issues and proposals that may be on the ballot. The old saying that you should never trust a politician who tells you how to pray or trust a clergyman who tells you how to vote certainly applies in these situations!

In conclusion, the difference between Democrats' message of hope and Republicans' message of fear can be attributed to their different political philosophies and messaging strategies. While Democrats will continue to focus on progress through social, economic, and environmental justice we can only hope that Republicans in leadership positions locally, statewide, and nationally will see the light and shift their focus from creating chaos, instilling fear, and spreading misinformation to a more positive message.



19th Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner

You are cordially invited to attend
the 19th Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner
Saturday, September 16th, 2023
at the Manistee National Golf and Resort
4797 Grant Highway, Manistee, MI

Social Hour: 6 PM

Dinner: 7 PM

Keynote Speaker

Elissa Slotkin

Candidate for U.S. Senate

Tickets: \$70

Reserve Your Tickets online at www.manisteecountydemocrats.us

Or Mail a check for your ticket(s) to
Manistee Dems P.O. Box 65 Manistee, MI 49660

or Reserve Your Tickets and Pay at the Door

by emailing: DonJenni...@gmail.com

NO CASH CAN BE ACCEPTED

AT THE DOOR FOR DINNER TICKETS

Silent Auction and 50/50 Drawing

Cash Bar



Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin represents the 7th District of Michigan
19th Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner Speaker

Elissa is a third-generation Michigander whose early life was shaped by the time she spent on her family farm in Holly, Michigan. Her family story is one of hard work and sacrifice, starting with her great-grandfather. He immigrated to the U.S. and achieved his American Dream by founding the family meat business, Hygrade Foods, which established its headquarters in Detroit in 1949. Hygrade created a number of food staples beloved by Michiganders, including the famous Ballpark Frank, first sold at Tiger Stadium. The values of hard work, decency, and integrity that underpinned his success were passed down from generation to generation, ultimately guiding Elissa into a life of service.

Elissa has dedicated her career to serving the country she loves. She happened to be in New York City on September 11, 2001, and by the time the dust cleared, Elissa knew she wanted to go into national security to protect our homeland. She was recruited by the CIA to be a Middle East analyst, and within a year she was sent on the first of three tours in Iraq alongside the U.S. military.

Her time in a combat zone led her to national security roles at the White House, where she worked as a civil servant, for whoever was the Commander-in-Chief. Elissa worked for President Bush as a member of his national security staff and was asked to stay on when President Obama took office. In the Obama Administration, she helped negotiate some of the Pentagon's most sensitive national security matters from the fight against ISIS to the U.S. response to Russian aggression. No matter the issue, the values Elissa learned growing up in Michigan – a straightforward, common-sense approach – were what helped her succeed as a national security leader.

But the reason she first decided to run for office was more personal: her mom. Elissa's mother died of ovarian cancer in 2011. She struggled to afford healthcare for years because of an early case of breast cancer, and at the time, the insurance companies had gouged her for years based on that pre-existing condition. The same month that the family got her mother's terminal diagnosis and was desperately trying to get her life-saving care was the same month that they were also filling out the paperwork for her to declare bankruptcy. Protections for people with pre-existing conditions and the exorbitant cost of healthcare and prescription drugs got Elissa into politics, and it remains one of her top priorities.

Elissa has spent her time in Congress working on the issues that she hears about most from people across Michigan: bringing down the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs, bringing critical supply chains back to the U.S., creating jobs with dignity, and getting money out of politics. Now, she's ready to fight for all of Michigan's working families in the U.S. Senate.



All Solar -- Manistee Country Picnic

11171 Kerry Road -- Brethren

Sunday, October 1

Wanda and Tim Joseph's Farm

4-6 pm

Bring a dish to pass, place settings, and your favorite beverage.

Brats will be on the grill, music in the air,
and apples in the cider mill



**Manistee Dems on
the Move!**





We have a new Membership Program on our [website](#). Most previous members have already been entered, but a password has not been assigned. To access the system,

1. Click on [Join the MCDP](#) and then *Member Sign-In*.
2. Enter your email address. It will prompt you for a password.
3. Since you have not signed in before, you will have to *Request Password*.
4. Check your email for the new password.
5. Return to the *Member Sign-in* Screen and enter the password.

You are now a signed in member of the MCDP and can explore the options that are available. Remember to note your password and save it in a secure location.

In the event section, you will see that we have a number of upcoming events that you can attend. Some of those have specific *Volunteer Opportunities*. To see the dates and times click on the *Volunteer Sign-Ups* option.

In the *Join A Committee* option, you can volunteer to help in specific areas. Remember, we are a totally volunteer organization and depend on you to make things work. The more people involved, the less the burden is on individuals. Many hands make light work.

This is new program for us so please let us know about any problems that you encounter or any comments that you think might be helpful.

Note that for your protection, certain areas are only available to registered members of the local party so that the ability to stalk or to troll is minimized.

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