



Michigan's largest chartered Democratic club

Serving the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods and Detroit's east side

Taking a look at our new legislative maps

We hope you had happy holidays and a wonderful start to the new year!

Now that our new districts have been drawn, 2022 and the next 10 years will be very different for us. As the maps on Page 4 in this issue indicate, our state legislative districts and congressional district have changed, and very dramatically for our state Senate district.

During the redistricting process, the club submitted resolutions to the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission requesting that the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods be combined in



Message from the president

all our districts, and that those cities be combined with the east side of Detroit for the state Senate district. Club Vice President Colton Dale and I testified at commission hearings to convince them to draw the districts in accordance with our positions. Results were mixed but until the various lawsuits are resolved, those are the districts we must work with to elect Democrats.

For 2022 our current legislators and our congressional delegation will remain the same. Congress-

Continued on Page 2



OUR 2021 OCTOBERFEST

We held our first, and only, in-person 2021 event on Oct. 18 at the Cadieux Café beer garden. The weather was good and so was the food for approximately 100 attendees. Local candidates spoke and elected officials gave updates, and we raised more than \$2,500 thanks to all of you! ~ Chris Keelean (photo by Rosie Triano)

Legislative maps have new look

Continued from Page 1

woman Brenda Lawrence will continue to represent us in the 14th Congressional District until the end of the year. She has announced she will retire from Congress when her term ends, and we want to thank her for all her work, diligence and leadership throughout her eight years representing us. The congresswoman's leadership was particularly exemplary when she visited our cities and spoke with our local elected leaders after the terrible flooding last summer.

On behalf on the club, I want to congratulate Congresswoman Lawrence on her retirement and wish her all the best on her next chapter. We hope to have her at an event later this year to commemorate her service to us.

New faces in races

In the meantime candidates will be seeking to represent us in our newly drawn districts. Those races will be this year and will take effect in January 2023.

We will be part of the new 13th Congressional District. Its new district leadership will be elected in early 2023. We will work with our 13th District partners to collaborate on our new plans.

For the 2023 election, our endorsement committee will evaluate candidates and consider endorsements later this year. Our website will include information for those



Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence, shown speaking to GP Dems at a fundraiser in 2019, has worked diligently for the 14th District. We thank her for her friendship and her service and wish her the best on her retirement next year.

who would like to apply.

In addition to those races, the club will be working hard to re-elect Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Attorney General Dana Nessel and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. Those will be our priorities in November. To that end, we intend to work with the Michigan Democratic Party's state campaign to open an office again in our community. Keep an eye out for fundraiser and office information.

Our club will certainly do its part again to advance the Democratic Party's message and we'll be heavily involved in the fall campaign with an all-out grassroots engagement with voters.

Fab fall fundraiser

I want to thank everyone who attended and contributed to our meeting and fundraiser at the Cadieux Cafe outdoor space last October. It was a tremendous success. Since the COVID-19 pandemic is still with us, we will be holding events remotely, at least until summer. We would much rather get together in person but want to be safe until the state of the pandemic improves.

Looking ahead, we have our next membership meeting at 7 p.m. March 16, when our state legislators will provide a report on what is happening in Lansing. We will also elect new board members to serve until 2023.

For the rest of the year we hope to provide you with worthwhile and informative meetings, social events and information on local issues. Check the newsletter calendar, go to our website at gpdems.com and like us on Facebook to stay updated.

I want to thank the 2021 board for all their efforts. Serving on the board is a lot of work and commitment, and I appreciate all they do. As you can see from this newsletter, it will be an extremely busy and important year, and the board will be working overtime to get the job done.

Finally, please renew your membership dues for 2022. Your contributions allow our club to advance the Democratic Party's message in our community and continue our very important work. I will see you at our upcoming events.

Gary Bresnehan

Latest ‘crisis’ uses our children as pawns

If you’ve attended or read about a school board meeting in just about any suburban American town lately, you’ve seen the latest manufactured “crisis” play out dramatically in public comments over teaching history and diversity, and equity and inclusion efforts.

Folks who came to meetings to urge local school boards to ban masks are now coming to push banning books. According to NBC, “Conflicts like this are playing out in cities and towns across the country, amid the rise of at least 165 local and national groups that aim to disrupt lessons on race and gender. ... Reinforced by conservative think tanks, law firms and activist parents, these groups have found allies in families frustrated over COVID-19 restrictions in schools and have weaponized the right’s opposition to critical race theory, turning it into a political rallying point.”

We’ve seen this playbook before from the Republicans: stoke the flames of a manufactured culture war to win elections. The difference is this time our children are being used as pawns in their political battle and it is happening right here in our community.

Two national right-wing organizations, FEC United and Moms for Liberty, have started chapters here and are bringing their extremist agenda to our Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meetings.

FEC United leader Joe Oltmann promotes political violence, and his organization has a paramilitary wing. A Moms for Liberty chapter in New Hampshire put a “bounty” on teachers and offered cash rewards for information to get teachers fired.

Under the guise of parental rights, these organizations are pushing to fundamentally alter public education and control what and how our children are taught.

In addition to well-funded national organizations, a local group, Know Your Classroom, is opposing diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. Know Your Classroom is demanding classes be livestreamed so parents can ensure our teachers are using the “proper curriculum.”

It is concerned about the district’s use of resources to support the vital work of the Race, Equity and Inclusion Council. Know Your Classroom has said it is prepared to start a local charter school if their demands are not met by GPPSS.

And here we see the end game. The Astroturfing Republican culture war campaign to drive up election turnout for this fall’s midterms, while taking over local school boards, is well underway locally.

Now is the time to show up at school board meetings and stay informed. In November there will be three critical GPPSS Board of Education seats on the ballot. Our children’s futures and the future of public education in our community are at stake.

Under the guise of parental rights, these organizations are pushing to fundamentally alter public education and control what and how our children are taught.

COMING UP

Planning in the time of covid is still tricky so everything is subject to change.

GP Dems virtual membership meeting, 7 p.m. March 16. Our state legislators will give us the latest news from Lansing.

GP Dems membership meeting, 7 p.m. May 4. Check your

inbox, our website and Facebook for updates.

MDP Endorsement Convention, April 9, Huntington Place, 1 Washington Blvd, Detroit. (If circumstances make it unsafe to be in person, the format will change.) You are qualified to vote if you were a member of the party as of March 10. We will endorse candidates for attorney general, secretary of state, state Supreme Court, state Board

of Education and the university boards. Join or renew your MDP membership here:

<https://michigandems.com/join>
RSVP for the Convention here:
www.mobilize.us/midems/event/436373/?emci=d18da185-7474-ec11-94f6-c896650d4442

Annual picnic and office fundraiser, TBD for the obvious reasons. You’ll be the first to know when figure out days, times and places.

New redistricting numbers for 2023

In August and November, residents of Detroit, the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods and the State of Michigan will see new district numbers when they hit the polls to vote for state and federal offices.

For the past 10 years, the Grosse Pointe area has voted for State House District 1 or 2 (depending on where you live), State Senate District 2 and Congressional District 14.

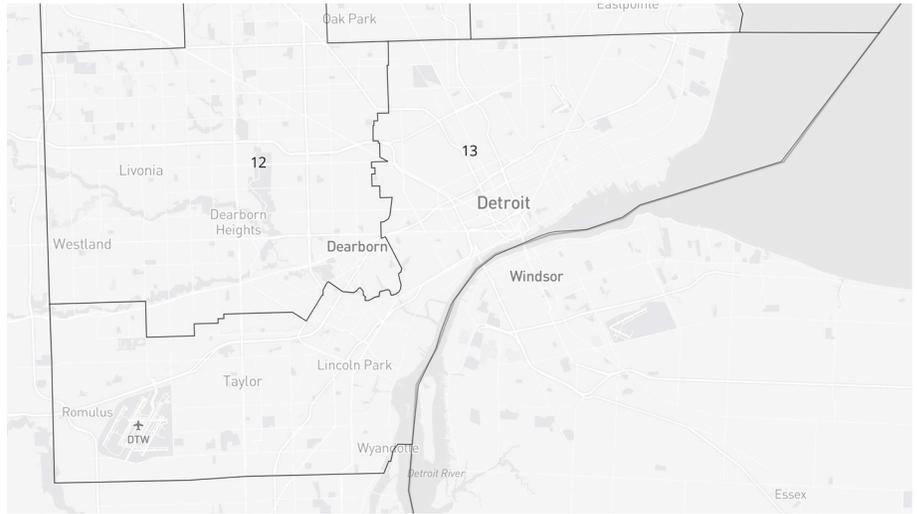
Now that the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission has concluded its process to draw new legislative maps, Grosse Pointers and certain residents of Detroit's east side will vote in State House District 10, while voters in Harper Woods and other parts of Detroit's east side will be in State House District 11 with parts of St. Clair Shores.

For State Senate, the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods are together in the new 12th District that extends north around Lake St. Clair into Macomb and St. Clair Counties.

The east side of Detroit is broken into State Senate Districts 3, 10, and 11.

The Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods and Detroit's east side are in the new 13th Congressional District that also includes Hamtramck, Highland Park, downtown Detroit, some Downriver communities and Romulus.

Though the new districts are not exactly what we



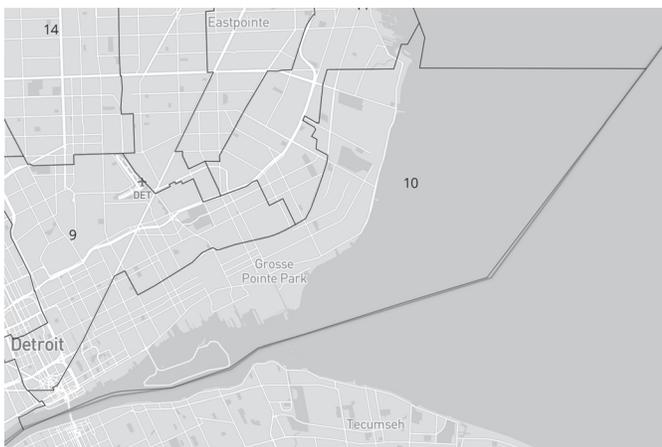
13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

would have chosen, they could be a lot worse.

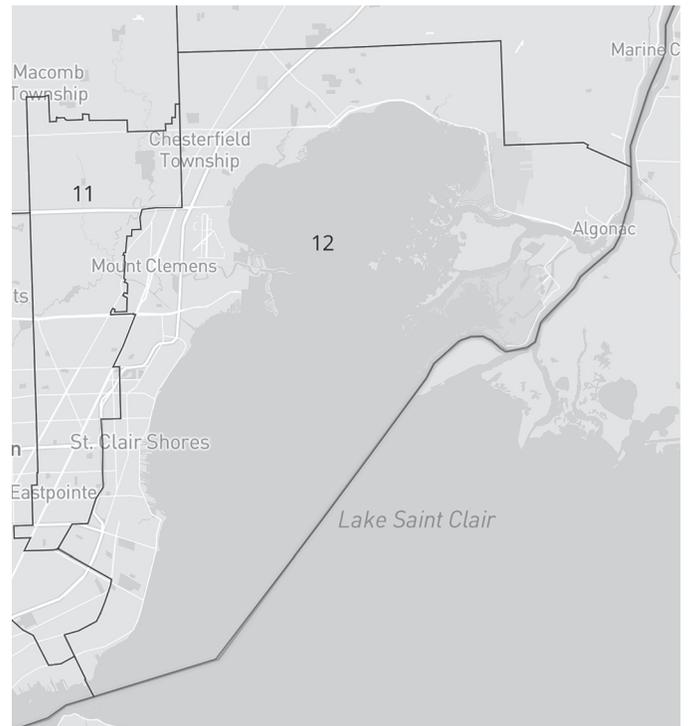
Either way, we knew that the redistricting process was going to bring about change for our community and for our club.

For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/3vdMyz1>.

Colton Dale



STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 10



STATE SENATE DISTRICT 12

Grosse Pointe Democratic Club officers and executive board

President Gary Bresnehan (GP)
Vice President Jackie Kalogerakos (HW)
Vice President Colton Dale (GPW)
Treasurer Christan Keelean (GPP)

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Darlene Anderson (DET)
Rachael Backer (GPW)
Beverly Brown (DET)
Shannon Byrne (GPF)
Sandra Bucciero (GPW)
Francesca Catalfio (GPF)
John Clark (GPS)
Olivia Coleman (DET)**
Jeff Greer (GPP)
Ed Keelean (GPP)
Laura Kellett (GPF)
Addison Mauck (DET)
Colin Moulder-McComb (GPP)
Chris Moyer (GPC)
Mary Rouleau (GPP)
La Vern Rutledge (HW)
Roland Samaroo (GPF)
Aaron Tavalire (GPF)
Mimi Valentic (GPS)

Ex-officio members

Kenn Gafa (GPW)
Tim Killeen (DET)
Valerie Kindle (HW)
Neil Sroka (GPF)

Past president

Harry Kalogerakos (HW)
** campaign finance compliance officer



There were smiles all around at our October fundraiser when we finally met in person! From left, State Rep. Joe Tate, Grosse Pointe Farms Councilman Neil Sroka and State Sen. Adam Hollier expressed the spirit of the occasion.

Committee chair reports

Precinct Delegate Action

The committee is ramping up recruitment of new precinct delegates and retention of the 167 current delegates in advance of the May 3 deadline to get on the ballot for the August primary.

We are focusing on the 110 precincts and 433 delegate positions in state House Districts 1 and 2. When redrawn district lines are adopted, the number of precincts per state House district likely will change. And given increased Democratic turnout for the 2020 election it is anticipated that allocation of total delegates per precinct will increase.

Precinct delegates are the grassroots difference-makers in our neighborhoods, and this is a great time for interested Dems to be part of the effort.

Committee members are

Beverly Brown, Jeff Greer, Colin Moulder-McComb, Mimi Valentic, Tewonia Evans, Roland Samaroo, Addison Mauck and chair Ed Keelean.

For more info or to get on the ballot for precinct delegate, call or email me at 313-498-2409, eckeelean@comcast.net.

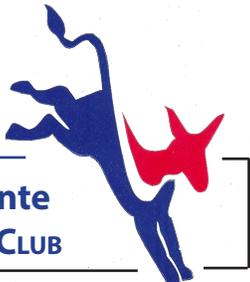
Ed Keelean

Membership

Thanks to all who already updated your membership! We're excited about the number of people who renewed or joined the club last fall. With your support we can continue the necessary work to win the important upcoming elections.

Check the back page for the membership form; you can also renew online at gpdems.com. Also, the mailing label on the back page shows your last paid membership year.

Francesca Catalfio



**Grosse Pointe
DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

P.O. Box 36881, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

It's time to renew! Club membership coincides with the calendar year. Check your mailing label for your last paid membership year. Renew by check with this form or online at gpdems.com. As always, thank you. Help us continue to be the largest chartered Democratic club in the state!

Grosse Pointe Democratic Club • 2022 Membership

P.O. Box 36881, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

Member \$20 Sponsor \$50 Century Club \$100 Life \$500

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* Required for club announcements

** Required by Michigan campaign finance law

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