

GROSSE POINTE DEMOCRATS

September 2020

Michigan's largest chartered Democratic club

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



Vote early and vote blue!

OUR 2020 ENDORSEMENTS

PRESIDENTIAL

Joe Biden & Kamala Harris

CONGRESSIONAL

Gary Peters - U.S. Senate
Brenda Lawrence - U.S. House of Representatives

MSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brian Mosallam
Dr. Rema Vassar

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

Bridget Mary McCormack
Elizabeth Welch

WSU BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Eva Garza Dewaelsche
Shirley Stancato

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tenisha Yancey - District 1
Joe Tate - District 2

JUDGE 3RD CIRCUIT COURT

Chandra Baker
Nicholas Hathaway

MICHIGAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellen Cogen Lipton
Jason Strayhorn

JUDGE 32A DISTRICT COURT

Daniel Palmer

U OF M BOARD OF REGENTS

Mark Bernstein
Dr. Shauna Diggs

GROSSE POINTE SCHOOL BOARD

Joseph Herd (two-year term)
Kathleen Abke (four-year term)
David Brumbaugh (four-year term)
Cynthia Douglas (four-year term)
Colleen Worden (four-year term)

Make a plan to vote!

Here's why it matters

For those who tuned in to the Democratic National Convention in August, there was one phrase repeated over and over throughout the four nights: "Make a plan to vote!"

Even in a typical election during saner times, voting plans can be complicated. Finding time before or after work, coordinating schedules to make sure children get to school and activities and factoring in time to stand in line can be challenging.

But typical doesn't compare with the minefield facing us in 2020. Voters must weigh the risks of the coronavirus, the time it takes to receive and send mail-in ballots and the coordinated effort by the Trump administration to make voting harder.

Despite routinely voting by mail himself, Trump has repeatedly spread false information on how that works. He and his conservative allies on Fox News realize that the more people vote, the worse his chances for re-election are.

In May Trump appointed Republican fundraiser Louis DeJoy to run the United States Postal Service, even though he had no USPS experience. Since then he has worked to slow down mail delivery, and the USPS warned 46 states and Washington, D.C. that it might not be able to deliver mailed ballots in time.

Bipartisan political pressure has caused DeJoy to suspend some of his changes but concerns remain over his tactics to damage

the integrity of the postal service.

These challenges make it all the more important to ensure our votes count. That is why leaders such as President Obama, Michelle Obama, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson are urging all Americans to make a plan.

Here are a few considerations for our voters in Detroit, the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods:

1. Track your ballot. To make sure you are registered to vote and see if your ballot has been received, go to this Michigan Secretary of State website: <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>

2. Be safe if you vote in person. Wear a mask, wash your hands and maintain social distancing. Also, double-check your polling location by calling your city hall or at mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk

3. Give yourself plenty of time to mail in your ballot. If you requested an absentee ballot, you should receive it by early October. If you mail the ballot by Oct. 20, it should arrive in time. But to be on the safe side, think about mailing it as soon as you fill it out. The state of Michigan recommends 71 cents worth of postage.

4. For even more peace of mind, return your ballot to your city hall in person or in a designated drop box. And not just any drop box: It is critical that you drop yours off in your city. Otherwise it won't be counted and



we need every vote counted.

The Harper Woods drop box is inside city hall and is accessible around the clock. Each of the Grosse Pointes has drop boxes in front of their respective city halls. There will be 50 drop boxes throughout Detroit. michigandropbox.com, which will have a list, was not live by our press time but is expected to be in early October so keep checking.

If you have questions, reach out to your city clerk, the Grosse Pointe Dems or me at cmoyerpolitics@gmail.com. I am happy to help you make a plan that works for you.

The pandemic means a lot will be different about voting this year. Make a plan and vote early. America's future depends on it.

Chris Moyer

COMING UP

Virtual GP Dems membership meeting, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 7. Check your emails, Facebook or gpdems.com for the Zoom RSVP. We're combining our membership meeting with the Oktoberfest fundraiser for a big night of democracy at its best!

Taking our organizing into communities we serve

Continued from Page 3

neighbors about voting is core to what we do. Look for more socially distanced events with community partners soon. If you're interested in partnering or helping with an event, email gpdems@sbcglobal.net.

We are committed to showing strong support in our community for not only Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, but Democrats up and down the ballot. With the help of an awesome crew of volunteers, we've distributed hundreds of lawn signs and will continue

through Election Day. To sign up for a lawn sign, click the lawn sign link on the gpdems.com homepage.

Things are different this year, but every day new members and volunteers are joining us to organize and fight to win big in November. We know what is at stake. We hope you join us!

To volunteer, go to gpdems.com and click Volunteer on the homepage.

Action Committee Chair Shannon Byrne

Covid can't take away our enthusiasm

This fall's campaign effort is very different with COVID-19 restrictions, but the necessity of winning is greater than ever. The stakes could not be any higher after four years of this president and a Republican Senate.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to open a fall campaign office due to COVID-19 restrictions. Although we'll miss having our community headquarters, we will more than make up for it with hard work, motivation, enthusiasm and a desire to change the course of our country.

With the guidance of the MDP's One Campaign for Michigan, we have delivered lawn signs to homes (see the sign-up tab at gpdems.com) and are doing phone banking and literature drops. We may do door-to-door campaigning, following state guidelines, if we believe voters are open to opening their doors to us.

Please sign up for volunteer opportunities that are previewed in this newsletter and at gpdems.com for all our Democratic and endorsed candidates. We must re-elect our outstanding incumbent senator Gary Peters, if we are to have any chance of taking over the Senate.



Message from the president

Any amount of time and work you can put into volunteering will go a long way. We need help with voter registration, phone banking, neighborhood canvassing (if permitted) and, new this fall, assistance with absentee voter information which will change how voting is conducted. These are essential tasks and we need everyone's help.

Take the first step by emailing Josh Duffy with One Campaign for Michigan at jduffy@1campaignmi.com, or calling

313-930-1244.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we have canceled live events since spring, including our membership meetings, annual picnic and office fundraiser. Instead, we have held Zoom events, which have been very enjoyable and informative, including our recent convention watch parties.

Coming up is the Oct. 7 membership meeting/Okttoberfest fundraiser/debate watch party. Check your emails, Facebook or gpdems.com for the Zoom RSVPs. I want to thank 2nd VP Colton Dale for arranging our Zoom events.

We aren't sure if we will be able to have our in-person election-night party and fall fundraiser so continue to check our website, emails and Facebook for upcoming events.

Also, please renew your dues. Your contribution is essential to our success.

Here's to a strong victory in November!

Gary Bresnehan

Our campaigning has moved up to a whole new level

In order to keep everyone as safe as possible during COVID, we've changed much of what we do during campaign season. We miss seeing friends old and new at the campaign office, but we haven't missed a beat doing the work of organizing to win this most important election of our lives.

GP Dems volunteers have called thousands of voters throughout Michigan in our Wednesday and Saturday phone banking sessions coordinated with the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP). To join a phone bank, contact Josh Duffy at 313-930-1244 or jduffy@1campaignmi.com.

We've gathered together virtually to watch a moving and inspiring convention that reaffirmed who we are as a diverse and vibrant party, while reminding all that a vote for Biden-Harris is a vote for hope over fear, unity over division and truth over lies.

Our precinct captains are mobilized throughout the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods and Detroit, thanks to Ed Keelean's

recruitment efforts. Our precinct captains are helping to organize more than 80 energized and motivated precinct delegates

in 35 precincts, with a robust voter outreach and volunteer recruitment campaign.

We are hosting multiple training and support virtual meetings each month for precinct delegates and volunteers. If you would like to help your precinct delegate on the ground with lit drops that provide important voting information or by calling your neighbors, go to gpdems.com and click the volunteer link.

We also are taking organizing to communities we serve, and in August worked with the Community Tree House, Motor City Mitten Mission, Back Alley Bikes



Grosse Pointe Dems and other community organizations worked together on a socially distanced day of democracy that included info on voting, the census and even fresh produce and ice cream!

and Mothering Justice to host a socially distanced Ice Cream Social in the Jefferson-Chalmers community. At our safe and distanced day of democracy, neighbors completed the census, registered to vote, applied for absentee ballots, received bike vouchers and backpacks with supplies for their children, picked up a bounty of fresh produce, talked about the importance of the upcoming election and enjoyed connecting with neighbors. Building sustainable community relationships and engaging with

Continued on Page 2

Paul Donahue left behind rich legacy

It's all Paul Donahue's fault I'm infected with the political bug. That was my first thought when I learned he passed away on Aug. 16. He was 86 and living with his wife, Sylvia, in North Carolina.

In the late '80s I was working with Sylvia and she told me about a Grosse Pointe Democratic Club meeting. I went and was amazed to find out you could fill a room with people who would BOO! when President Reagan was mentioned — in Grosse Pointe! It was a revelation. I found my home.

I came back for more and became a member and volunteer. After graduation, I sent a note saying I wanted to do more. It turned out that he had some ideas.

Paul put me on the executive board and a couple years later asked me to replace him as club president. He made it easy to learn the job. He and David Greenspan began taking me everywhere, introducing me to elected officials, party leaders and neighborhood groups. The two of them gave me an unparalleled education in politics and history.

Paul started his career as a teacher but ultimately went into politics. He was Michigan campaign director for Hubert Humphrey's 1968 and 1972 presidential campaigns. He was executive administrator on the congressional staffs of Lucien Nedzi and Dennis Hertel. It was while working for Congressman Hertel in 1987 that Paul revived the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club.

Retirement did not end his political life.



From left, Harry Kalogerakos, Janet Blanchard, former Gov. Jim Blanchard and Paul Donahue, at a GP Dems meeting in 1999

He became chair of the Henderson County Democratic Party when he and Sylvia moved to North Carolina.

Paul truly enjoyed people and believed in having a good time. Politics is serious, but he had fun. He loved playing practical jokes. I was a victim early in my term as president. At an executive board meeting considering a routine endorsement, I left the room for a moment, came back and called for the ayes. Dead silence. I assumed no one heard me and asked again. Still silence. When I asked for nays, everybody voted no; Paul had told them to. We all laughed — none harder than Paul.

Paul still inspires me. The best way to honor him is to do all we can to turn out the vote for Joe Biden, Gary Peters, Brenda Lawrence and the entire Democratic ticket in November.

Paul's obituary can be found at legacy.com/amp/obituaries/blueridge-now/196698809

Harry Kalogerakos

Committee chair reports

Precinct delegate

The Aug. 4 primary completed a successful recruitment effort in which 154 candidates were elected, 11 by write-in, in the 110 precincts in State House Districts 1 and 2. That's 44 percent of the 350 allotted positions.

Grosse Pointe filled 27 percent of its positions; Harper Woods, 33 percent; Detroit, 36 percent; Grosse Pointe Woods, 62 percent; Grosse Pointe Shores, 66 percent; Grosse Pointe Park, 78 percent, and Grosse Pointe Farms, 89 percent.

New and re-elected delegates are working with the Action Committee to spread the word to all eligible voters that

this election is critical to America's future and that every vote matters.

All precinct delegates and Grosse Pointe Democratic Club members are encouraged to sign up to work the polls in their city in November or to volunteer in Detroit, which has the greatest need. The Detroit enrollment site is: vote4detroit.net/pollaccess/

Organize - Build Power - Win Justice!

*Ed Keelean, 313-498-2409,
edkeelean@comcast.net*

Membership

Join or renew your membership to the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club today! It's easy and safe to do at gpdems.com.

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)
Secretary Larry Macdonald (GPW)

At-large members

Rachael Backer (GPW)
Beverly Brown (DET)
Sandra Bucciero (GPW)
Shannon Byrne (GPF)
Francesca Catalfio (GPF)
John Clark (GPS)
Olivia Coleman (DET)
Tewonia Evans (DET)
Emily Everett (GPW)
Jeff Greer (GPP)
Ed Keelean (GPP)
Laura Kellett (GPF)
Colin McComb (GPP)
Chris Moyer (GPC)
Mary Rouleau (GPP)
La Vern Rutledge (HW)
Roland Samaroo (GPF)
Marcia Spivey (DET)
Aaron Tavalire (GPF)

Ex-officio members

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

Past president

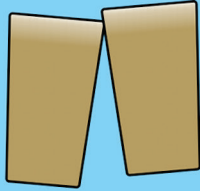
Harry Kalogerakos (HW)

And while you're there you can sign up to do some phone banking and get a lawn sign. We count on you to advocate for our values and elect Democrats at the local, state and federal levels so talk to your friends and family about joining the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club.

Francesca Catalfio

VIRTUAL

GROSSE POINTE DEMOCRATIC CLUB OKTOBERFEST CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISER



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020

8:30PM TO 11:00PM
(DURING THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE)

JOIN US ON ZOOM!



GRAB A BEER (OR ROOT BEER) FOR THIS VIRTUAL EVENT AS WE WATCH THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE
AND RAISE FUNDS FOR A ROBUST OUTREACH CAMPAIGN TO HELP DEMOCRATS WIN IN NOVEMBER!
SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION LEVELS: \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000

Just because we can't do it in person doesn't mean we can't have fun!
Let's gather virtually to watch the veep debate
— you know you can't wait for this one! —
and raise money to support Dems up and down the ticket.

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THE ZOOM!

[zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtdeuqqjsqE9ZrcEQXMzd2v0hKBIXU6Iec](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJUtdeuqqjsqE9ZrcEQXMzd2v0hKBIXU6Iec)

Donate at a suggested contribution level
or whatever you can afford. And if you can't
make it, we still appreciate your support.
Every dollar makes a difference!

Suggested contribution levels
Student-\$25 Activist-\$50 Friend-\$100
Sponsor-\$500 Host-\$1,000

Contribute online at secure.actblue.com/donate/gpdemsoktoberfest

Suit up for Zooming!

Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist and Grosse Pointe Dems President Gary Bresnehan show their team spirit, and you can, too!

Fill out the shirt order form on our Facebook page or gpdems.com, or send your name, address, phone number, email address, size (M, L, XL, XXL) and number of shirts requested to Grosse Pointe Dems, PO

Box 36881, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. Include your check payable to GPDems. Shirts are \$10 each.

Shirts will be delivered in the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods and east side of Detroit.

If you have questions, contact Treasurer Chris Keelean at cakeelean@yahoo.com.

Be like Garlin & Gary.





Grosse Pointe Democratic Club • 2021 Membership

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

- ☐ Member \$20 ☐ Sponsor \$50 ☐ Century Club \$100 ☐ Life \$500
- ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card

* Email _____

Name _____ Phone (____) _____ - _____

Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

** Occupation _____

** Employer _____ ** Address _____ ** ZIP _____

* Required for club announcements

** Required by Michigan campaign finance law

Donations not tax-deductible