



Newsletter for Democrats

November 2019

Welcome to our third monthly newsletter.

October was another month of events and teamwork in the party. We approved another resolution dealing with income tax policy, held our fourth Presidential Debate Watch Party, and another stimulating Brew and Stew session. More on these in this newsletter. We also prepared to promote the Open Enrollment for health coverage in the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). This is the best way we can help to reduce the number of uninsured citizens in our county.

This newsletter is to keep all our members better informed on our many volunteer projects and efforts and to give prospective members a look at what being a member would be like. Please share this newsletter with all who are interested.

Jim Mortimer, Editor j.mortimer@earthlink.net

October 15 Presidential Candidate Debate Watch Party

By: Tom Davidson coffcreek@yahoo.com

I have been asked to comment on the Democratic candidate debate of October 15, 2019 in Ohio. I have found it difficult to put my thoughts into words as the debate was really just a dog and pony show of, “my plan versus your plan”, and whether or not Elizabeth Warren could withstand being swiped at by the others on stage. The other candidates, by the amount of attention they all gave to her, recognize her as the clear leader and the one

to beat for the Democratic presidential nomination. She clearly held her own and produced a strong performance, as did all the candidates on stage. Warren did dominate the talking time, although there were two others who stood out and hit Warren hard in an area that she must cleanup if she wants to be the nominee and face Trump in the general election.



Health Coverage

Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg challenged Warren on how she was going to pay for her version of Medicare for All. They specifically asked whether or not taxes would have to be raised to pay for it, especially on the middle class. Also by raising the financing issue and question on her marquee proposal, they indirectly brought into question all of the rest of her plans and their potential financial and legislative enactment. She basically bailed on the question stating overall middle class costs will go down, but she would not, and did not, say how or where she planned to find the money or anything in regard to middle class taxation. The only revenue stream she offered was her 2% wealth tax which

will require additional special legislation in its own right. Klobuchar and Buttigieg hit her hard at that point with Klobuchar saying, “The difference between a plan and a pipe dream is something that you can get done.” Buttigieg said, “Well, we heard it tonight a yes or no question that did not get a yes or no answer”.

She did survive, and overall did well, but she must find an answer to this question. For if it causes questions, and raises suspicions from those on the stage with her, (all of whom are in favor of universal health care and whose own positions are only separated from hers by the most minuscule of any measure), then she will have great difficulty with the general election and the questions that arise there. Other than that the debate finally hit on something that really matters in regards to defeating President Trump.



Foreign Policy

Foreign policy is an area where Trump is truly vulnerable. When it came to the foreign policy discussion there was only one standout candidate and that was Pete Buttigieg. He delivered a truly masterful and powerful performance during this section of the debate and demonstrated a true capability to rise above the fray while engaging in it. It was quite a display. One example of this seeming contradictory approach was his response to a quarrel between Warren and Biden : “ For every argument that I’ve witnessed like this I could pay for college for all. Yes, we have to fight for the big changes at hand, but it is going to take more than fighting, more than infinite partisan combat.”

Who are We?

Buttigieg, “I want to take you to the day after Trump has stopped being president. Think about that, think about what the president can do to unify a new American majority for some of the boldest things we’ve attempted in my lifetime.” He was calm, but resolved, showing us his passion and true sense of what is the right thing to do. Reminding us that America’s word matters greatly, not simply for its moral essence, but also for the understanding of what that word means to others. “When I was deployed I knew that one of the things keeping me safe was the fact that the flag on my shoulder represented a country known to keep its word. Our allies knew it and our enemies knew it. You take that away and you are taking away what makes America **America.**”

I have been waiting for someone to begin speaking to the real issue with this election: Who we are, and who we, as a people, want to be. Buttigieg asks us if we want to remain the idea, a beacon of light to the world, or retreat into ourselves and join the darkness of partisan bickering and distrust. He may not have the all the answers and has some serious difficulty with gaining any support from outside the college educated and especially the African American community, but his performance was strong and showed how, why and where Trump is vulnerable.

Other Candidates

Finally, I am not 100% sure that the ultimate democratic party candidate was on the stage this past October, but I do feel that the top six separated themselves considerably. Warren, Biden, and Sanders are still 1,2,3 .. Buttigieg I think has moved to a strong 4 and within striking distance of Sanders (may even move to first or second in Iowa) with Harris and Klobuchar following. Booker made a good case for himself as a Vice Presidential candidate, but not the top spot. Other than those candidates the rest are just a supporting cast right now, and pretty much auditioning for a place in

someone else's administration. One last note, many people poke fun at Andrew Yang's proposal of a guaranteed minimum income. Not really as crazy

Let's have a maximum wage, not a minimum one....

By: Jozef Drozdowski, Vice Chair
jozef@ioscodemocrats.org

In his excellent letter to the Iosco County News some six years ago, regarding the growing economic disparity in our nation, Charles Noel rightly pointed out what is largely a result of government policy, (or lack thereof). By maintaining unneeded corporate subsidies, lowering marginal tax rates for the rich, and reducing corporate taxes; it has gotten to the point that many working folks spend a larger portion of their income on paying taxes than do the privileged few with their army of tax lawyers and accountants. Not much has changed.

Rather than treating employees with respect and paying them a decent wage, all too often, the cost of labor is simply just another business expense to be minimized. Many profitable businesses, such as Walmart, could furnish better pay and benefits, but choose not to. Instead, their workers have to go on food stamps to feed their families, get on Medicaid to get their health care, and live in government-subsidized housing in order to have a roof over their heads. The Waltons and their ilk make all the money, while taxpayers end up subsidizing the working poor.

Should greed have no bounds? Denying employees a fair share of the wealth which they produce for their employer is nothing less than wage theft. Our economy should serve all of us, not just a privileged few.

By now, it should be evident that trade policies

as some might think. As technology continues to replace workers, this idea or some variation of it, may have to become reality sooner than later.

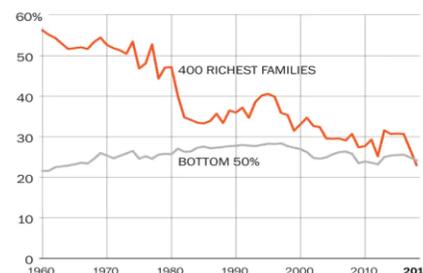
which serve multinational corporate interests, and trickle down economics, have failed to serve our common good. While an increase in the minimum wage, especially if it were to be indexed to inflation, would reduce the need for taxpayers to meet the needs of our working poor, I'm sure there are better ways to reduce economic disparity and rebuild our nation's shrinking middle class.

Perhaps it's time to tie the income of our corporate elites to the wages of their lowest paid workers. California Congresswoman Barbara Lee, in her Income Equity Act of 2015 (H.R. 1305), would have done just that. Her modest proposal would deny a corporate tax deduction for excessive compensation: e.g., any amount over 25 times the compensation of the lowest paid worker, or \$500,000.00, whichever is greater. Better yet **why not tax such excessive compensation at a rate of 100%**, as recently resolved by the Iosco County Democratic Party, the Bay County Democratic Party, the Anishinaabek Caucus, and the CD5 Progressive Caucus?

Read the resolution on the ICDP website at <http://ioscodemocrats.org/iosco%20County%202019%20Taxation%20on%20Excessive%20Compensation%20Resolution.pdf>

In 2018, the super-rich paid a lower tax rate than the bottom 50%

Average effective tax rates of the 400 richest families and the bottom 50 percent of U.S. households



Source: Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman

THE WASHINGTON POST

Note: Includes federal, state and local taxes.

Joining the ICDP

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Iosco County Democratic Party? You can fill out a membership application form at any event or go to the party website www.ioscodemocrats.org and click on "Join the Party". There you will find the information you need to send an application by mail to us at P.O. Box 252, East Tawas, MI 48730.

Event Schedule

November

6- Monthly Meeting- 5:30 PM at the Camp Inn Lodge on US 23 South of Oscoda

17- Wiltse's Charity Drive 4:00 to 7:00 PM on Hwy F41 for Hope Anglican Church Emmanuel Mission Homeless Shelter

20- Presidential Debate Watch Party 7:30 PM at The Dock Grill in Tawas City

21- Brew and Stew 4:00 to 6:00 PM (Location: TBD)

December

4- Monthly Meeting- 5:30 PM at the Camp Inn Lodge on US 23 South of Oscoda

12- Brew & Stew 4:00-6:00 PM (Location: TBD)

15- Christmas Party- Hsing's Garden 4:00-6:00 PM. 600 E. Bay Street (US-23), East Tawas

19- Presidential Debate Watch Party at The Dock Grill in Tawas City (Time: TBD)

Brew and Stew – October 24

The Brew and Stew at The Dock Grill in Tawas City was an open discussion. We find that members are eager to discuss what is on peoples' minds in this fast-moving national and state picture of politics.

Jim Mortimer welcomed the group and reported on our current work in canvassing for absentee ballot requests. This is a great way for members to learn how to use the MiniVAN on their phones to find Democratic voters and record their interest in issues and making sure to vote. We will need lots of trained canvassers in 2020 to support candidates at the national, state and county levels all across Iosco

County. The Campaign Committee will include MiniVAN training in its next meeting on November 6 at 4:00 PM at Camp Inn Lodge. All are welcome to come.

Jozef Drozdowski led the open discussion which focused on greater visibility for Democrats in the county. We will pursue regular interviews with John Carroll Broadcasting WKJC FM 104.7. Members will be invited to discuss current subjects on a monthly or more frequent schedule. Jim Mortimer offered to do an interview on the Affordable Care Act open enrollment period in early November as a first step.

How do we beat Trump???

Having delivered 46% in 2012 and 32% in 2016 of the November county votes for president, we have set a goal of delivering 55% of the votes in 2020. We must be strong in our GOTV (Get Out The Vote) program. TURNOUT!

One step is: we need to reach younger voters. Survey reports say younger voters are more likely to vote Democratic. The Michigan Democratic Party is offering a new texting program to reach these voters. We will be an early adopter of this new tool before year end.

We need to be clear in our messages to voters:

- The country is deeply divided. We need to bring the country back together.
- We stand against a criminal – Trump
- Presidential candidates are spending their campaign money against each other vs. beating Trump. Finding a candidate who will beat Trump is the main criterion.
- Too many big picture issues in the debates.

Gary Peters' campaign is not prominent. His Republican opponent lost to Stabenow in 2018 but now is better prepared in opposing Peters. We need to aggressively campaign for Peters from now on and make a package of him and the presidential nominee. We need yard and larger signs and

appearances by him along the Huron shore including Iosco County.

A question ended the meeting: How many Democrats and Republicans are registered in Iosco County. Here are the numbers from the VAN:

Iosco County Political Populations

VAN Data 10-27-19		% of Registered	
Strong Democrats	1,799	8.4%	sub total
Leaning Democrats	1,859	8.7%	17.1%
Independents	821	3.8%	
Leaning Republicans	920	4.3%	sub total
Strong Republicans	1,027	4.8%	9.1%
Unknown	363	1.7%	
No Data	13,179	61.5%	
Total	20,068	93.6%	
Registered in 2017	21,435		

These data show we have an incomplete picture of party affiliation in the current data in the VAN. As we use this tool to meet and update voters in the county, we will increase the number with accurate data. Maybe a goal for this picture would be worth setting in the Campaign Committee.

Affordable Care Act Open Enrollment

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is alive and well and open enrollment is November 1 through December 15 for 2020 coverage.

Michigan residents have choices of several health plans and premium rates that are lower than 2019 for most of the plans. In total statewide, Affordable Care Act (ACA) rates for 2020 have declined by about 2%. Comparing Michigan's rates with Indiana, Iowa and Wisconsin, a Kaiser Family Foundation study shows Michigan rates are lower for all plan levels than these neighboring states.

In Iosco County we have twenty-two plans offered by four insurance carriers. Here is a list of the insurers:

- **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Mutual Insurance Company (8 plans)**
- **Blue Care Network of Michigan (5 plans)**
- **McLaren Health Plan Community (4 plans)**
- **Priority Health (5 plans)**

Enrollment in the plans for new and renewing coverage is primarily done through a federal government website www.healthcare.gov. Our party has found that enrolling in the best plan for an individual or family can be a confusing process. We have posted information on bulletin boards and in newspapers listing certified "assisters" who can explain the differences among the plans and help individuals and families find the ones that best fit their needs. With this assistance several people have told us that they saved money finding their plan which they could not see on their own. For people without access to a computer, working with an assister is highly recommended.

Assisters are available at several places in or near Iosco County. Here is a list:

- **Sterling Area Health Centers**

Ashley Ford is at any of their three locations:

- Hale Clinic, 436 West Main St., **Hale** 989-728-2800
- 355 E. Houghton, **West Branch**, 989-343-9466
- 725 E. State St, **Sterling**, 989-654-2491 x 2026

- **Mid-Michigan Medical Center**

Pete Jackson - 335 E. Houghton Avenue, **West Branch**, 989-343-3608

- **Alcona Area Health Centers**

Jordan Smith is at two locations:

- 5671 N. Skeel Ave. Suite #8, **Oscoda** 989-739-2550 x1480
- 177 N. Barlow Rd., **Lincoln**, 989-736-8157 x1480

- **District Health Department No. 4**

Mindy Daoust – 100 Woods Circle Suite 200, **Alpena**, 989-358-7971

- **District Health Department No.2**

- **Mechelle Fletcher**

- 630 Progress St., West Branch
 - 420 West Lake St., Tawas City
 - 989-345-5020 x 1836

- **Tawas Bay Insurance Agency**

- **Theresa Boensch** – 108 W. State St., East Tawas
 - 989-362-3409

- **Ascension St. Joseph Hospital**

- **Patient Financial Assistance** – 200 Hemlock Rd.
 - Tawas City
 - 989-362-3411

Trump is crippling the ACA.

Since 2016, having failed to repeal “Obamacare”, the Trump administration has been implementing policy changes to cripple the Affordable Care Act. This has caused costs to go up and enrollment has started to decline. US Census 2018 survey data show that 4.1 million children were uninsured in 2018, up from a low of 3.6 million in 2016. Michigan has a lower total uninsured population rate (5.3%) than the nation (8.7%), but the trend is in the wrong direction. Our party is dedicated to finding ways to cover all US citizens.

Please print and distribute the poster at the end of this newsletter so your neighbors are aware of this opportunity.

Attorney General Dana Nessel meets Democrats at event in Alpena

Four ICDP members attended an October 29 event hosted by the Alpena County Democratic Party including an educational program on Freedom of Information and Open Meeting Acts. Attorney General Nessel attended a Meet and Greet following the program at a popular tavern. She took questions from the group. Many were around the safe

discontinuation of Line 5: a campaign must do for the Attorney General.

The day after the event we got word that AG Nessel will attend our September 26, 2020 event on the AuSable River Queen. We are excited to have her join candidates on this important day.



AG Dana Nessel with Judy Shuler



Save the date - Saturday September 2 - on your 2020 calendar for the AuSable River Queen event with Dana Nessel and candidates for the November Election

Need Health Coverage?

Visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) to sign up for coverage through the

Health Insurance Marketplace



Don't miss out – make sure you're ready to enroll for 2020 coverage by visiting [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). Marketplace Open Enrollment is **November 1, 2019 - December 15, 2019**. You may qualify for coverage through a Marketplace plan, Medicaid, or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). You can apply and enroll in Medicaid or CHIP at any time. For more information, visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or call the **Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596**. TTY users can call 1-855-889-4325.

Provided by the [Iosco County Democratic Party](https://www.ioscodemocrats.org)

www.ioscodemocrats.org

Affordable Care Act Open Enrollment

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is alive and well

.Michigan residents have choices of several health plans and premium rates that are lower than 2019 for most of the plans. In total statewide, Affordable Care Act (ACA) rates for 2020 have declined by about 2%. Comparing Michigan's rates with Indiana, Iowa and Wisconsin, a Kaiser Family Foundation study shows Michigan rates are lower for all plan levels than these neighboring states.

In Iosco County we have twenty-two plans offered by four insurance carriers . Here is a list of the insurers:

- **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Mutual Insurance Company (8 plans)**
- **Blue Care Network of Michigan (5 plans)**
- **McLaren Health Plan Community (4 plans)**
- **Priority Health (5 plans)**

Our party has found that enrolling in the best plan for an individual or family can be a confusing process. Certified "assisters" who can explain the differences among the plans and help individuals and families find the ones that best fit their needs. With this assistance several people have told us that they saved money finding their plan which they could not see on their own. For people without access to a computer, working with an assister is highly recommended.

Assisters are available at several places in or near Iosco County. Here is a list:

- **Sterling Area Health Centers**

Ashley Ford is at any of their three locations:

- Hale Clinic, 436 West Main St., **Hale** 989-728-2800
- 355 E. Houghton, **West Branch**, 989-343-9466
- 725 E. State St, **Sterling**, 989-654-2491 x 2026

- **Mid-Michigan Medical Center**

Pete Jackson - 335 E. Houghton Avenue, **West Branch**, (989) 343-3608

- **Alcona Area Health Centers**

Jordan Smith is at two locations:

- 5671 N. Skeel Ave. Suite #8, **Oscoda** 989 739 2550 x1480
- 177 N. Barlow Rd., **Lincoln**, 989-736-8157 x1480

- **District Health Department No. 4**

Mindy Daoust – 100 Woods Circle Suite 200, **Alpena**, 989-358-7971

- **District Health Department No.2**

Mechelle Fletcher

630 Progress St., **West Branch**
420 West Lake St., **Tawas City**
989-345-5020 x 1836

- **Tawas Bay Insurance Agency**

Theresa Boensch – 108 W. State St., **East Tawas** 989-362-3409

- **Ascension St. Joseph Hospital**

Patient Financial Assistance – 200 Hemlock Rd. **Tawas City**
989-362-3411