



Eaton Dems & Friends

An outreach group within the Eaton County Democratic Party

The 2004 campaign runs on Volunteer Power!

Working from the rolls of registered Democrats in Eaton County, telephone volunteers completed some 600 calls to Democratic households in the county to solicit volunteers for the Kerry Campaign. A gratifying number of those contacted agreed to be a part of campaign telephone banks, neighborhood walk activities, media committee, and assembling campaign materials packets.

Several Dems & Friends members signed up to coordinate volunteers. Tom Baird – Media Committee; Chris Walker and

Betsy Kateyiannis – Phone Bank; Susan York – Neighborhood Canvassing; Rosemary DiPonio – Visibility, and Lisa Boyer, Database Entry

Trading Spaces

Finally, storage units and bonus rooms around Eaton County were cleared of unused office furniture that was donated to set up phone bank and campaign headquarters at 5914 Executive Drive. Thanks to Glenn Freeman and John Strachan who did the heavy lifting for this project.

Sign up to help Bush OUT!

Eaton County Democratic Party chairwoman Rosemary DiPonio has 150 yard signs available at ECDP headquarters on Lansing Road north of Charlotte. The HQ will be open daily starting September 13.

DiPonio is looking for additional volunteers to help keep the HQ open until the election. If you can help out, call her at 646-6929. She would like to have it staffed for specific, consistent time periods -- every time the doors are open, someone stops in to see how they can help, get signs, bumper stickers, etc., so being there counts!

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October Forum

Medicare Rx Discount Card

On Thurs., Oct. 7, at 2 p.m. and 7 pm, Dems & Friends will host a PUBLIC FORUM on the Medicare prescription drug coverage cards. Details on page 2.

Date: October 7, 2004

Time: 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Location: Best Western Midway at the SW corner of Saginaw Highway and Canal Road, east of the I-96/M-43 interchange.

Contact: 517-881-5915

E/M: Info@demsandfriends.com

EATON COUNTY DEMS & FRIENDS

Reaching out to progressives in Eaton County



Medicare Drug Discount Card

A prescription for savings?
...or program placebo?

Join other Eaton County residents at one or both of the two information forums, scheduled for 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on October 7, to **LISTEN** as practitioners and experts discuss the program rules, Rx pricing and the truth about the impact of the **Medicare-Approved Prescription Drug Discount Card**.

Forum Speakers are:

- JEFF MILLER pharmacist and owner, Miller Pharmacy, Grand Ledge
- BARBARA MCCALLAHAN, regional manager, Senator Debbie Stabenow's Office
- DR. HOWARD BRODY, expert in medical ethics at the College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University

Sponsored by the Eaton County Dems & Friends
www.demsandfriends.com.

ELDER CARE ADVOCATES
WILL BE PRESENT TO ANSWER
INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS.

Who should attend:

Medicare-eligible senior citizens and family members, home caregivers, attorneys, social workers, nursing home administrators, geriatric workers and home health aides and agencies, and local officials.

Bush prescription drug plan fails America's seniors

George Bush prohibits Medicare from negotiating drug prices with the pharmaceutical industry. This will add an additional \$139 billion to the cost of the bill over the next eight years in increased drug industry profits, according to Ben Peck of the Medicare Rights Center.

The New York Times reported that drug companies were set to spend \$150 million to lobby Congress to pass a prescription drug benefit that does not allow the federal government to negotiate lower drug costs for Medicare. *[New York Times, 6/1/03.]* President Bush strongly opposed a provision for drug re-importation from Canada, pressuring Republican representatives to strip the provision for the measure in the House, which had bipartisan support.

The lowest prices seniors can get through the new Medicare drug discount cards are considerably higher than the prices of drugs negotiated by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The lowest discount card prices for half of the top 20 brand-name drugs are at least 50 percent more expensive than prices negotiated for veterans. *[Families USA]*

The Top 10 Reasons to Vote on November 2

Local/County

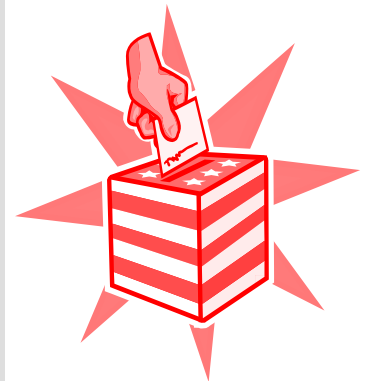
- Choose officials with YOUR interests at heart.
- Help forge land use and development for Eaton County by choosing officials who will strike the right balance.
- Choose a new Sheriff.

State

- Choose YOUR Supreme Court justices.
- Give Governor Granholm a Democratic majority in the Michigan House and help reduce the financial burden left over from the Engler administration.
- Select members of university boards who will ensure quality in higher education and keep costs under control.

National

- Give President Kerry a Democratic congressional majority.
- Let President Kerry choose the next Supreme Court justices.
- Get the country back on track: How we handle the economy, outsourcing, environmental protections, education and the conduct of the reconstruction of Iraq, and the real fight against terrorism will all be determined by the next president.



**The #1 Reason
to VOTE this
November 2nd:
Democracy is NOT
A Spectator Sport**

Let's get local with these Democratic candidates for Eaton County Commission Districts

With responsibility for many of the public policy decisions that affect everyday life, choices for the county commission make a very real difference. Commission seats will be determined in the November General Election. Learn more about the seven district commissioner candidates who will appear on the Democratic ticket for Eaton County.

DISTRICT 1 Russ Weiler, of Vermontville is a lifelong resident of Eaton County. Now retired, Weiler worked for Diamond Reo and General Motors. He was active in the Capital Area CAP Council, Mystic Lake Union Camp, and the Eaton County Democratic Party. Russ and his spouse of 22 years have six children and five grandchildren

DISTRICT 4 David Tome, of Delta Township, is a graduate of Sexton High School, Lansing Community College (LCC), and Michigan State Police Academy. He is the owner-operator of a laundry in East Lansing. David was a member of the Grand Ledge School Board Committee, a founder of the Grand Ledge High School football concession fundraising project, a member of the YMCA Mystic Lake Camp Advisory Board, and was a founder of the Delta Democrats. He is married with two children.

DISTRICT 5 Jeanne Pearl-Wright, is a lifelong resident of the county. Employed by the Grand Ledge School District, she holds management and education degrees from LCC and Western Michigan. Her volunteer activities include Strong Families/Safe Children Family Coordinating Council and Wraparound Community Team. She is experienced in administration of public funds to deliver community services.

What is the Role of the County Commission?

The County Commission provides legislative and policy oversight of all county services and determines what those county services will be. The Commission also appoints various county officials and supervises the equalization of property values and land use/development policy.

DISTRICT 7 Glenn Freeman III, the son of an active community and union leader. A reputation as a “go-to guy” was earned early in Glenn’s career, and he has maintained that helping philosophy. He is currently employed as a Community Service Liaison. Glenn and his wife, Sherry, live in the Waverly School District and as a couple have participated actively in community affairs throughout their married life. Service is a Freeman family value

handed down to their four children who are also active in the community.

DISTRICT 8 Joseph Brehler, of Lansing, is the incumbent seeking re-election. He has represented the southwest Lansing-Delta Township area for 16 years

DISTRICT 10 Ed Waddell, has lived in the county since 1977. He holds degrees in Urban Planning and Transportation Planning from MSU. He is a former Air Force officer and has been employed as an MDOT Transportation Planner since 1993, working on suburban traffic problems throughout the state. Ed advocates “smart growth” for communities under increasing development pressure through wise planning for land use policy, transportation planning, and controlling the cost of government services. Ed and Kelly Waddell have five children. Their oldest son is serving in the U.S. Navy.

DISTRICT 13 Merlyn (Mert) Place, of Olivet, has lived in the Olivet area over 50 years. He is a graduate of Olivet High School and is now retired from Eaton Corporation, where he was a tool and gauge inspector. He was a member of UAW Local 220 and served as vice chairperson of the Bargaining Committee. He is the sexton of the Bosworth Cemetery. He and wife, Sandi, have been married for 39 years and have two children and three

State and county Democratic conventions approve 2004 Slate of Candidates



Delegates to the recent conventions of the Michigan and Eaton County Democratic Parties approved a slate of candidates for the 2004 General Election in November. The candidates will appear on the ballot for national, state and local elective offices.

The national Democratic Party Convention, held in the last week of July 2004, named Senator John Kerry as its presidential candidate, along with his vice presidential running mate, Senator John Edwards.

Rosemary DiPonio, county chairwoman and delegate to all three conventions, provided an at-a-glance summary of the Democratic Party candidates. See below. Read brief bio summaries of county commission on the preceding page. Information about Congressional and State Representative candidates and for Jack Gaskill, candidate for Eaton County Sheriff appears on page 6.

A Summary of the 2004 Democratic Party Conventions Results ***These candidates will appear on the November Ballot***

President of the United States

- John Kerry

Michigan Supreme Court

- Justice Marilyn Kelly
- Judge Deborah Thomas

U. S. Congress

7th District

- Sharon Renier

State Representative

65th District

- Mike Simpson

State Representative

71st District

- Ryan Latourette

State Board of Education

- Marianne Yared McGuire
- Herbert Moyer

U of M Board of Regents

- Olivia Maynard
- Martin Taylor

MSU Board of Trustees

- Joel Ferguson
- Phil Thompson

WSU Board of Governors

- Anetta Miller
- Tina Abbott

County Sheriff

- Jack Gaskill

Eaton County Commissioners

- District 1* Russell Weiler
- District 4* David Tome
- District 5* Jeanne Pearl Wright
- District 7* Glenn Freeman III
- District 8* Joseph Brehler
- District 13* Merlyn Place

Brookfield Twp Supervisor

- Nolan B. Spotts

Delta Township Trustee

- Sherry Freeman

Eaton Rapids Township Clerk

- Elizabeth Mestelle

Eaton Rapids Township Trustee

- Reginald Brooks

Kalamo Township Trustee

- Nikki Lennox

Sunfield Township Trustee

- Linda Rairigh

Vermontville Township Clerk

- Sharon L. Stewart

Vermontville Township Treasurer

- JoeAnn Nehmer

Vermontville Township Trustee

- Katherine Louise Sharpe

Renier set to run for U. S. House of Representatives, District 7

48 Years Old, One Son – Gunnar, Age 12 Ran for the State House in 2002 65th District

Educational Background: Associate degree, *Magna Cum Laude*, Oakland Community College; coursework from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment, and Washtenaw Community College.

Work History - Paralegal: University of Michigan Law School with Professor Catharine A. MacKinnon, Dykema-Gossett, and Chrysler Corporation. Organic Farmer. Research scientist Michigan Department of Natural Resources Institute for Fisheries Research. Worked with the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Guest Lecturer and keynote speaker: The University of Michigan, USDA Farm Women's Symposium, USAid in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Community: Vice president of the board of directors of the Organic Crop Improvement Association International, the world's largest certifier of organic foods. Member, board of directors, Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance. Member, Board of Directors, Michigan Milling Cooperative.

Issues drive Latourette's House campaign in District 71

Jobs, Education, and Healthcare are the foremost concerns of **Ryan Latourette**. As a Systems Engineer for EDS, Latourette has consulted for General Motors, Xerox Corporation, and the State of Michigan, solving the toughest business problems and creating new job opportunities. As the son of two teachers, Latourette was brought up knowing the importance of quality education. And when his father suffered a serious spinal cord injury in 1994, Latourette used his education and entrepreneurial talents to create a health care business to provide the care his father required.

With our state facing budget deficits, an unemployment rate higher than the national average, and overcrowded classrooms, Latourette is determined to offer real solutions and change that draws from his experience and success.

Simpson runs for the Michigan House seat in the 65th District

Mike Simpson, the youngest of ten children, entered the family trucking business in 1981, and enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve. In 1998, Mike and wife, Linda, opened a small restaurant, Poppa's Place, in Brooklyn, Mich. The couple is active in the Make-a-Wish Foundation, the Brooklyn-Irish Hills Chamber of Commerce, and the Michigan Restaurant Association. They also lend financial support to local high school athletics and the police department.

The couple lost their oldest child, Gina, to bone cancer in 1994. It was then they experienced the heart-wrenching impact of health insurance coverage limits. Mike is determined to fight for public policy which helps rather than ignores families. Learn more about Mike at www.hiresimpson.com

Gaskill: greater public safety through better budget management

Jack R. Gaskill, Jr., is a 10-year active duty soldier who also served 10 years in the Army National Guard before retiring from the military in 2002. He worked 11 years as a corrections deputy with the Eaton County Sheriff's Department, receiving numerous awards. Currently, he is a motivational instructor in a program, which helps inmates turn their lives around. He also trains new employees. Jack would like to keep the citizens of Eaton County safe by making the department financially sound, so that funding is available for improved training for road patrols and corrections alike. Jack wants to match jail capacity with need, in order to avoid worries about early releases due to overcrowding. He plans to have an open door policy and wants to increase morale within the department, partly by promoting from within when possible. He and wife of 26 years, Magdalena, have 3 adult children ranging in age from 24 to 18.

Summer picnic event raises friends and funds

With burgers and hot dogs sizzling on the outdoor grill, Eaton Dems & Friends celebrated their first Summer Friends Picnic, July 17, at Fox Park in Pottersville. More than 40 Eaton County Democrats and Independents gathered for the fellowship of getting acquainted with other “like-minded” people in the county. The guests also included Eaton County Commission candidate Mert Place of Olivet, Mich., (Read more about Mert on page 5.) and Ryan Latourette of Delta Township, candidate for House District 71 (See preceding page)



Dems & Friends also got an introduction to the Kerry Campaign area coordinator, Emily Kettering. Emily is an MSU political science junior serving in an internship with the Michigan Democratic Party. A native of Livonia, Mich., she is learning the by-ways and highways of the 7th Districts predominantly rural counties of Eaton, Jackson, Hillsdale, Branch, Calhoun, Lenawee, and Washtenaw counties. “It was a great introduction to this terrific group of people,” says Emily. “They wasted no time volunteering for some key campaign activities! I was so happy with their response.”



Use this form to update your address and contact information, or to sign up new members for the newsletter and announcements. Newsletters will be published 4-6 times a year. *For timely notice of Dems & Friends meetings and activities, please include your e-mail address.*

Sign me up for Dems & Friends!

Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Street _____ Apt. No. _____

City _____ Zip _____

Preferred Phone _____ (*indicate home, cell, or office*)

E-mail address _____

Party affiliation:

Democrat GOP/Republican Independent Other

Clip and mail to: **Dems & Friends**, 5675 South Stine Road, Olivet, MI 49076, or provide the requested information in an email to: info@demsandfriends.com with the subject line — Subscribe

Optional: Dems & Friends accepts donations to help cover the cost of newsletter printing and mailing.



Eaton County Dems & Friends

5675 South Stine Road,
Olivet, MI 49076

We're on the Web at <http://www.demsandfriends.com>

Who are Dems & Friends?

The Eaton County Dems & Friends Association was formed in March 2003. *The purposes of the Association are to provide a forum for discussion and advocacy of progressive concepts in public policy and to assist in the development of effective political leadership in Eaton County.*

Members are Eaton County residents and others who are looking for a place to engage in lively discussions of national, state, and local policies, and bring their unique perspectives to the table. Dems & Friends also sponsors events around Eaton County to bring these discussions to a wider audience. Eaton County Democratic Party membership is urged, but not required, to be a member of the Association.

Membership meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the last Thursday of every month.

"A liberal is a man or a woman or a child who looks forward to a better day, a more tranquil night, and a bright, infinite future.".... Leonard Bernstein

--- A friend and supporter

Eaton County Democratic Party Leadership

Rosemary DiPonio, Chair
Russ Weiler, Vice-Chair
Sherry Freeman, Recording Secretary
Shirley Rapelje
Corresponding Secretary
Donna McBride, Treasurer

Dems & Friends

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Jacky Tennis, Chair
Tom Anderson, Vice-Chair
Sallee Anderson, Secretary
Sherry Freeman, Treasurer
Ryan Latourette, Database
Connie Lawson, Newsletter
Chris Walker, Events & Fundraising
Darrell Tennis, Eaton County Democratic Party Liaison

Dems & Friends Events and Meeting Dates

September through November 2004

All meetings are held the
last Thursday of the month
at 7:30 p.m.

September 30

Monthly Meeting

October 7

Medicare Medicaid Rx
Public Forum

October 29

Monthly Meeting

Email: info@demsandfriends.com

Phone: 517-881-5915

Eaton County Democratic Party Meetings

The Eaton County Democratic Party has regularly scheduled meetings for Democratic Party members on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 pm, at the Eaton County Democrats Party Headquarters on Lansing Road, Charlotte — 517-543-2967