



# [www.manisteecountydemocrats.us](http://www.manisteecountydemocrats.us)

## Monthly Meetings

**Next Meeting Date:**  
**February 21**  
(3rd Thursday of month)  
**7 pm - 9 pm**

**NOTE: CHANGE OF  
MTG. LOCATION!!  
ISD BUILDING  
772 E Parkdale Ave.  
Manistee**

Meeting Agenda includes  
Guest Speaker :  
Lynda Beaton,  
*Path to Economic  
Development... ..*

News from Lansing  
and District 101

## Officers

Chair- Gary Madden  
[genie42br@gmail.com](mailto:genie42br@gmail.com)

Vice Chair-  
Laurel Mason  
[laurele52@charter.net](mailto:laurele52@charter.net)

Secretary- Peg Raddatz  
[peg.raddatz@gmail.com](mailto:peg.raddatz@gmail.com)

Treasurer-  
Judy Cunningham  
[jpc4466@gmail.com](mailto:jpc4466@gmail.com)

Membership Chair -  
Shirley Madden  
[gspmadden@gmail.com](mailto:gspmadden@gmail.com)

Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, given on November 19, 1863, eighty-seven years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, came to be seen as one of the greatest and most influential statements of American national purpose and one of the best know speeches in American history. At the time, public reaction to the speech was divided along partisan lines, Republicans calling it a “perfect gem” and Democrats..... “must tingle with shame as he reads the silly, flat, and dish-watery utterances of the man who has to be pointed out to intelligent foreigners as the President of the United States.” How interesting!! Mario M. Cuomo in his 2005 book, *Why Lincoln Matters Today More Than Ever*, praises Lincoln for his lucidity, sureness of his logic, the cogency of his analysis, and the apparent reasonableness of his conclusions.

*Read and consider the words of the Gettysburg address. They remain important today. They are timeless....*

Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate-we cannot consecrate-we cannot hallow-this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far beyond our ability to add or detract. The world will little note or long remember what we say here but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us-that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave their last full measure of devotion-that we here highly resolve that these dead should not have died in vain-that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom-and that **the government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.**



Gary Madden

## COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

### Immigration Facts

The Trump administration would have us believe that we have a national crisis on our southern border and that we must build a wall to keep out a flood of illegal immigrants who threaten our way of life and even our personal safety. What are we to think of all his negative rhetoric and hateful speech? Is he really alerting us to a serious problem or is he just playing the American people? How are we to take an informed position on this seemingly

intractable issue. The February 4<sup>th</sup> issue of Time magazine contained a long article about immigration and really helped me put it all into perspective. The following are some highlights from that article:

1. The number of illegal immigrants living in the United States has actually declined since 2007. The number of arrests along the border is at its lowest level since 1971.
2. Once inside the United States, immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than the general population.
3. 41% of new immigrants came from Asia between 2010 and 2017, not from Latin America.
4. Today's immigrants are better educated than immigrants in the past. 45% of immigrants coming to this country have college degrees compared to 35% of white, non-Hispanic Americans.
5. The U.S., like many other developed countries, has both an aging population and a fertility rate below replacement.
6. 75% of all immigrants coming to the U.S. are of working age compared to 57% worldwide.
7. Researchers agree that migration, as a whole, raises a nation's total economic output.
8. Foreign-born workers in the U.S. contributed about \$2 trillion to the U.S. economy in 2016. This was about 10% of our total GDP.

This information comes from such sources as the U.S. Census Bureau, The Congressional Budget Office, The Brookings Institute and others. For me, these facts paint a more positive picture of immigration than our president so often presents. It is true that, short-term, immigration can strain a community's resources. Long-term, however, immigrants make a huge contribution to our country. They bring us new vitality and energy, which benefits us all in the long run. After all, it has always been so in this country. What we need is a rational immigration policy that allows those seeking new opportunity and security to settle here, become legal citizens, and build new lives without having to endure inhumane treatment in the process.

## Why Michigan Schools Dropped to Dead Last

According to a new study by Michigan State University, Michigan schools rank dead last in the nation in school funding growth in the quarter century since Michigan radically changed how it funded public education.

School funding has dropped 18 percent since 1995 when spending is adjusted for inflation, according to the report. Only one other state, West Virginia, had a decrease in spending in that time.

Michigan ranked 48th in per-pupil spending growth over the same period.

“I was shocked when I saw this,” said David Arsen, MSU professor of education policy and lead author of the study.

*“Since proposal A (in 1994), Michigan citizens have given control over school funding to the state,” Arsen said. “Since 2002, the funding has dramatically failed to keep pace with inflation.”*

David Arsen, MSU professor of education policy, was lead author of a study tracking spending on education in Michigan compared to spending in other states “Was that intended? I can’t put myself in the heads of policymakers. But we can know with certainty, that funding is lower.”

From 2003 to 2015, Michigan also ranked 50th in school performance on the National Assessment of Educational Performance, often called “the nation’s report card, according to the study. (Older school performance figures are not available because Michigan didn’t participate in the NAEP until 2003.)

One example: Michigan’s white fourth-graders ranked 14th in the nation in reading in 2003 compared to their demographic peers; by 2017, they were 46th.

“Some people say, ‘money doesn’t matter’” in schools, Arsen said. “That’s so at odds with current research. We know we are performing very poorly. We know funding is way down. The connection is too strong.”

The report calls for an increase in school funding of \$3.6 billion a year, an almost 20 percent increase over the \$18.4 billion spent now, with more dollars going toward schools with large populations of low-income and special education children and English language learners.

The \$3.6 billion figure sounds eye-popping, Arsen admits, but he points out that Michigan was spending that much more (when adjusted for inflation) on education as recently as 2007.

That level of funding isn’t available for schools today because of tax cuts, Arsen said.

*“It’s clear we are at the bottom financially,” said state Sen. Rosemary Bayer, D-Beverly Hills. “We can’t begin to take the state forward if we don’t educate our kids.”*

Republicans have often made the case, however, that some states with lower per-pupil funding have higher academic performance than Michigan, such as [Florida](#). In other words, that funding increases alone do not guarantee success. While that may be true, more money does have value, particularly for students facing the stiffest hurdles, one expert says.

“While funding alone cannot fix Michigan’s troubled education system, there is no question that adequate and equitable funding is particularly important for raising the teaching and learning levels of Michigan’s vulnerable students,” said Amber Arellano, director of Education Trust-Midwest, a Michigan-based advocacy group. “Indeed, research supports how critical well-invested, adequate and effectively spent funding is for low-income students.

“Michigan ranks among the bottom five states for funding equity between districts serving the highest percentages of low-income students and districts serving the fewest,” Arellano said. “In fact, Michigan is one of only sixteen states that provides less funding to its highest poverty districts than to its lowest poverty districts, according to a [recent national report](#).

Said Arsen, the MSU author: “The state has focused on accountability and (school) choice policies, with the idea that we could leave funding aside, and we’ve been kidding ourselves. Honestly, when you have policymakers obsessed with grading schools, but all the schools are sinking compared to other states, we

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## Learn How a County Party **Should** be Run

Training led by Mark Brewer, Former Mich. Democratic Party Chair

Saturday, March 16

2:00 -5:00 pm.

Pleasant Valley Community Center

3586 Glovers Lake Rd, Arcadia, MI

RSVP by 3/11/19 to [peg.raddatz@gmail.com](mailto:peg.raddatz@gmail.com)

**NEW: The Manistee News Advocate  
HAS CHALLENGED  
Democrats & Republicans to Write a Monthly Editorial  
(and we have said YES!)**

*Newspapers often are criticized for leaning too far left or too far right. This one is no exception.*

I can't count the number of times I've heard people accuse the News Advocate of being too liberal or too conservative, or complain about political cartoons making fun of Republicans and then the next week about Democrats.

We do our best to represent as many viewpoints as possible on this opinion page, and I must point out, it may not always be an opinion that you, dear reader, agree with. And that's OK. Newspaper opinion pages are not meant to provide content that everyone can agree with; they are meant to provide content to make you think and offer a different point of view.

In this day and age, where consumers can pick and choose what they want to view on the internet and social media, some readers may not like that. But that's our mission.

In addition to encouraging letters to the editor, we sometimes offer the opportunity for guest columns from readers in our community.

That's why starting next month, you'll find a new venture on this page with viewpoints from the Manistee County Republican Party and the Manistee County Democratic Party.

*Once a month, a topic will be chosen — it may be a local topic or it may be broader — and a member from each party will write a response, which will then be published.*

The idea is to offer differing points of view from area citizens on local and national topics. This will give you, the reader, an opportunity to hear opinions from both parties. You can be the judge on who you feel is right on a particular issue.

We also hope this series will spark constructive conversation within the community, by way of letters to the editor. We encourage readers to respond to the viewpoints presented, in a "civil" manner.

Michelle Graves is the managing editor of the Manistee News Advocate and Benzie County Record Patriot. She can be reached at [mgraves@pioneergr.com](mailto:mgraves@pioneergr.com) or (231) 398-3106. Follow her on Twitter @MNA\_Michelle.

**COME JOIN OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS!**

**EACH MONTH, AFTER OUR SPEAKER, WE WILL BE DISCUSSING ONE OF THE TOPICS CHOSEN BY THE NEWS ADVOCATE.**

**February 21st Meeting (and March Column Topic) to be discussed:  
"How Can We Improve the Economy of Manistee County?"**

## Revisiting Rogan's List

BY Laurel Mason

FOR THOSE OF US SEEKING MORE INFORMATION AND WAYS  
TO TAKE ACTION....

Rogan's list was initially presented through the Manistee Dems Newsletter a few months ago. The list continues to be an excellent source of information for enlightened and informed Democrats.

Rogan's list was initiated by Susan B. Logan, a retired librarian from Traverse City Michigan. "Rogan's List is a daily thoroughly vetted action list for people who are unhappy with the current administration and who want to become more politically involved, but do not have time for the research". The list is published in partnership with RISE Stronger.

The list is published every day using the same format. The first page lists multiple ways to contact Federal Government Officials. There are links connecting readers to addresses for Member of the House of Representatives and US Senators including emails, Twitter accounts, Websites and FAX numbers as well a White House Contact information.

The next paragraphs, i.e. 11 on the 1/18/19 list, cover various topics with links to more detailed information on numerous topics being considered and voted upon by our representatives in Washington. The next section is titled Election/Voting followed by State Actions of particular interest and importance.

Next is Marches/events/webinars/Tweetstorms to attend/organize and finally Reading/Watching. While reading the list will provide lots of information, seeking more details is available via links present in every section.

*Rogan's List and Rise Stronger partner to bring local, state, and national calls to action to your attention.*

For more information on RISE Stronger, visit [www.risestronger.org](http://www.risestronger.org) and for Rogan's List, visit [roganslist.blogspot.com](http://roganslist.blogspot.com)

## FIRED UP! READY TO GO!

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Dear Friends,

Joining the Manistee County Democrats will give you the benefit of being with people who have the same issues you care about. More than ever, we need a strong front to convey our message that “Democrats Care.”

Please join us as we stand firm for:

- Affordable Health Care for all
- Supporting the redistricting by an Independent Commission
- Reducing income and opportunity inequality
- Defending the rights of workers
- A sane and humanitarian immigration policy
- High standards for clean water and clean air.

Your membership will help with the rental of facilities for meetings, renting office space, the newsletters, precinct delegate trainings, providing funds for democratic candidates, and many other supportive venues. For the Huron Club and above, your membership may include a memoriam, which will be entered in the Don Jennings Program booklet.

We stand in gratitude to you for your support.

Shirley Madden  
Membership Chairperson

