



# Monroe County

## DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## NEWSLETTER

November  
2025



● Letter from Chair

● Member Contributions

● Local & State

● Calendar

● Community Spotlight

● Other Interesting Facts

### Joseph Bellino (R-Monroe) Votes “nay” on feeding babies.

Only three Republicans in the Michigan Senate voted against emergency food aid. Senator Joseph Bellino (R-Monroe) was one of them. Senate Bill 182 would have delivered \$70 million to feed Michigan families. We searched his social media on 11/4/2025. There were no food bank recommendations; he’s not donating, nor will we see him at food distribution centers. The consequences of SNAP support, food bank grants, and surplus produce from local farmers are devastating.

The Michigan Senate United and **passed the bill** with overwhelming bipartisan support. Matt Hall, Michigan State Republican House Speaker, aligned with Bellino and refused to even consider it, calling it “political.” Michiganders are donating and volunteering because **no one should go hungry in a state as abundant as Michigan.**

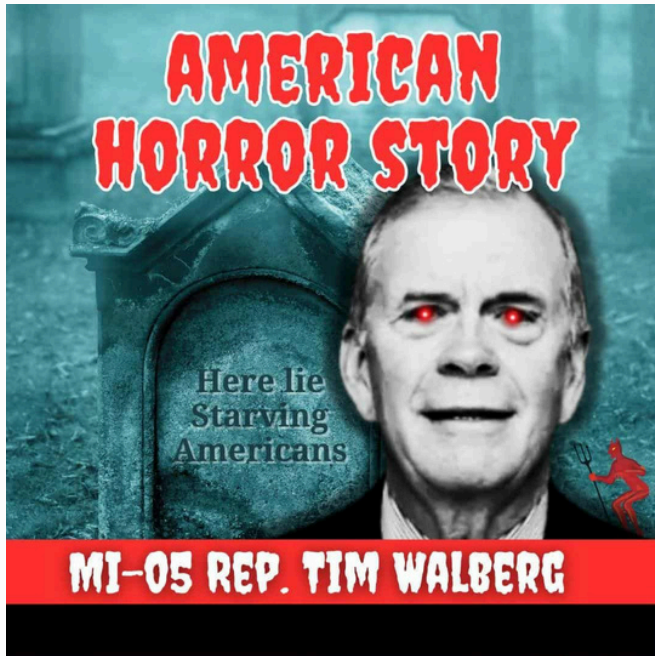
**Feeding children isn’t partisan. Supporting farmers isn’t partisan. Protecting seniors isn’t partisan.** It’s Senator Joe Bellino’s job. When he voted no, he didn’t just reject a bill; he rejected Monroe’s families. He rejected the values that hold communities together. **He was among only 3 who turned their backs on us.**

✅ Feeding families is leadership. ❌ Blocking aid is cruelty. 🗳️ Voting is how we protect our values.

### Miller Urges USDA to Fund SNAP During Federal Pause

“Leaders in D.C. should be doing everything in their power to ensure SNAP benefits are not affected by this shutdown. **It isn’t the politicians who go hungry**” The bashing has to stop Miller continued. “Lawmakers and constituents alike need to call on the federal government to do its job. I will not allow Michigan’s kids, veterans, seniors, and families to pay for the federal government’s shutdown.” **This is personal for Miller;** when she was 6, her father suddenly passed away. Her mom did everything to put food on the table. Yet, she and her sister would go behind a bakery for food. “When you’re a kid, that type of hunger sticks with you for your entire life.” She’s asking the bashing to stop.

Her work is not words to campaign on; she is about taking action. When she was the Chair of the House Agriculture Committee in 2024, as a Democratic State Representative for District 31, she advocated to expand the Double Up Food Bucks. Michigan residents can use the Bridge Card and Double Up fruit and vegetable purchases dollar for dollar, up to \$20 a day. This allows access to affordable, nutritious food from our local farmers and keeps money in our local economy. Michigan ranks second in the top 5 as the most diverse agricultural community in the country. We offer 35 different crops, from hay to carrots to dry kidney beans, and are 7th in the nation for maple syrup and milk, and 8th in egg production and potatoes. The shutdown take away lifelines. We ask they see the faces of 6-year-olds who are innocent and did nothing to deserve this, wondering why and that hunger sticks with them for their entire life. 1.4 million Michiganders going without is inhumane. We cannot ignore that lines are getting longer in food assistance lines where volunteers attempt to feed as many people as they can standing in line. People are hoping there’s something left. Homebound residents, many seniors, will not hear that knock from Meals on Wheels. Infants who need formula that WIC, a Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Meals On Wheels, we ask D.C. to see the people.



Credit: DemCastMI

## The Gap Between Rhetoric and Reality When “For the People” Means “For the Powerful”

We’ve all heard the speeches and soundbytes.

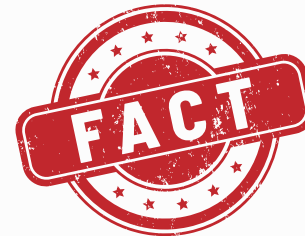
**“I’m here to protect your freedoms.”**

**“I stand with working families.”**

**“This is about restoring dignity.”**

But when the cameras turn off and the votes are cast and counted, the reality often looks very different.

Take Representative Tim Walberg’s recent record, for example. He says he supports seniors but **backed efforts to privatize Social Security** and **raise the retirement age**. He claims to fight for parental rights, while **voting to defund public education** and **dismantle the Department of Education**. He talks about protecting health, but **supports red tape that makes hearing aids harder to access for low-income families**.



H.R. 2474 (2023) – Paid Family Leave & Minimum Wage Increases Congressional Bill

Text and Voting Record Website:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2474>

H.R. 4583 (2023) – Proposed Cuts to Social Security and Medicare Congressional Bill

Text and Voting Record Website:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/4583>

H.R. 5 (2023) – Federal Overreach into Local Education Oversight Congressional Bill Text

and Voting Record Website:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5>

H.R. 734 (2023) – Opposition to LGBTQ+ Protections and Church-State Separation Congressional Bill Text and Voting Record

Website:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/734>

Rhetoric	Reality
“I support working families.”	Voted against paid family leave and minimum wage Increases. 
“I stand with seniors.”	Supported cuts to Social Security and Medicare 
“I believe in local control.”	Backed federal orders to <b>Dismantle</b> education oversight. 
“I’m protecting your freedoms.”	Opposed <b>LGBTQ+ PROTECTIONS</b> blurred church state boundaries.

### Where the money goes, legislation flows.

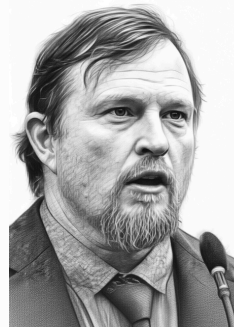
Follow the money. Local Senator and State Representatives team with corporate interests. The common denominator below shows how corporate money drives politicians, despite irreparable harm to residents. There needs to be a way to stop Paid-for politicians. It starts with well-informed residents focusing on policies and not on which party. It's no secret that Bellino and DTE walk the halls of Lansing together. The perks of his job have been well documented. The actions of State Representatives Jamie Thompson, District 28, Will Bruck, District 30, Jim Desana, District 29 are on the same route, removing any barriers for corporations. Let's start the conversation on green energy. HB 4486, HB 4526, HB 4363, and SB 627 recognize the collective weapons.



Rep. Jamie Thompson, District 28, **HB 4486**, Utilities and developers can plan projects faster and spend less fighting cities that want to move away from gas and the continuance of fossil fuels, and our dependency, for decades. It is easier to build and sell gas systems by keeping rules the same across the state, which erodes any delays from local bans. Prohibiting Local government the use of natural gas or the installation of natural gas infrastructure. **It does not require local approval for new pipelines or gas facilities into neighborhoods.** Townships like Frenchtown, Carleton, and

Newport would **lose the ability to say "no"** to projects that threaten farmland, wetlands, or residential areas. Forcing communities that are working toward solar or wind adoption to be **legally required to accommodate fossil fuel expansion instead.** It disregards Public Health that is linked to asthma methane leaks and long-term climate damage. **This is currently in the re-referred to the Committee on Energy. Rep. Thompson's support for it should be a wake-up call.**

**HB 4363** co-sponsored by Rep. William Bruck, District 30 seeks to repeal the Homeowners' Energy Policy Act, **removing protections that allowed residents to install and manage their own energy systems.** This aligns with a broader push to favor centralized energy control over individual sustainability efforts. For Monroe County residents working toward energy independence, this bill would be a major setback. Families trying to lower utility bills or transition to renewables are forced to comply with outdated restrictions. Stop the power grab Bruck, This not local freedom to comply with outdated restrictions. Keep local freedom, clean energy access, and do not protect donors. It's the homeowner's right to power homes responsibly. This is being re-referred to Committee on Energy. Bruck's support for it should be a wake-up call.



**HB 4526** This makes it harder for a homeowner to stop the government or a company from taking land for a project (called eminent domain or condemnation). The change speeds up projects and gives companies an advantage. Homeowners must move fast and organize early to protect their rights within a mandatory 30-60 day deadline. It is dire to act quickly if you get a notice. You'll need to talk to a lawyer, join your neighbors, and collect photos or documents showing harm. Push for early community meetings and clear alternatives to meet this Desana backed corporate advantage.

**SB-627** Gives corporate support for big companies and utilities. It makes it faster and easier for them to approve projects, with clearer rules and less legal risk. For power-line projects, companies get guidance on routes judges will likely accept. For neighbors, this means fewer chances to slow or change projects and harder ways to appeal decisions. Local control shifts to state regulators and courts, so nearby communities, often those with fewer resources, may face the impacts. To protect their neighborhoods, people must act quickly, gather proof of harm, and get legal or advocacy help.





## Janise O'Neil Robinson Senate District 28

At a well-attended Campaign Kickoff event, Janise O'Neil Robinson announced her second run for State Representative. Monroe was well represented and able to hear why it is so important that we keep fighting for a strong leader who embodies Downriver, Monroe, and Michigan values in House District 28.

Janise is caring, compassionate and ready to lead. Special guest speakers at her event included State Senator Darrin Camilleri State Representative Erin Byrnes.



From left, Shawna Farley, Janise O'Neil Robinson, Dr. Denise Brooks, Rick Kull, and Bonnie Boggs



### *We the People Are Not the Problem, We're the Backbone*

*By Rick Kull, Chair of the Monroe County Democratic Party*

*Let's name what's happening: America is waking up to the fact that we're not among the haves. We're the have-nots. We're the ones working two jobs and still struggling to afford groceries. We're the ones watching billionaires fly private while our kids lose healthcare. We're the ones Republican states need to "tighten our belts" while they spend millions on ballrooms and tax breaks. And now, they want to shut down the government not to protect us, but to protect power. To distract from corruption. To avoid accountability. To avoid the release of the Epstein files.*

*The government isn't broken because of us. It's broken because the people in charge are serving themselves. They've concentrated wealth and political power into one tight fist, and they're using it to squeeze working families dry. Republicans are angry, but they're not angry at the billionaires. They're angry at everyone else. At the poor. Immigrants. At teachers. At anyone who dares to ask for dignity.*

*But here in Monroe County, we know each other better. We know that feeding families isn't political, it's moral. We know that healthcare isn't a luxury; it's a right. We know that shutting down the government to protect the powerful is not leadership, it's betrayal. And we're done being quiet. We're done being used. We're done watching our neighbors go hungry while the haves hoard everything.*

Mark Totten, candidate for Michigan Attorney General spoke with members of the Democratic Party on Tuesday, October 7 at the local office and the monthly meeting on November 6. As Attorney General, Mark says he will take on anyone who harms the people of Michigan — even the President of the United States. Now more than ever, we need a fierce, proven leader who gets results. Mark served as the United States attorney for the Western District of Michigan between May 2022 and January 2025. The vote for Democratic candidate for Attorney General will be held at the 2026 Spring Democratic Convention.







## In Protest We Danced in Defiance By Shawna Farley

On October 18, 2025, We filled the streets. We carried flags, held hands, and wore inflatable frogs, unicorns, ducks, axolotl-like armor, and hope. We never knew we needed a frog. The frog found us. A bright inflatable North Star.

**Kermit said, "It's not easy to be green." This won't be easy.**

We, the patriots, refuse to passively watch the cowards in white vans, wearing masks, and zip-tying children as bait. Watching ICE use pepper spray inside the air vent of an unarmed frog became our call to action. It also unarmed his manipulative disinformation that America needs troops.

## THE UNICORN IS NOT THE ENEMY.

Seven million patriots, peacefully united, calling out the actions of a wannabe king. The Trump administration's fearmongering claims that inflatable flying squirrels are terrorists is laughable. Days later, watching the East Wing of the White House, the "People's House," crumble for President Donald Trump's new 300+ million dollar ballroom. It is a representation of why we rebuke. Feasting, a day before, he blocks money for programs that give formula to infants in need, WIC is repulsive. Remember the lesson of the Wizard of Oz behind the curtain? We peaceful protesters are ripping that curtain Trump lives behind. He took a shit on dissent. His administration is scrambling, spraying lilac poo-pourri for a man who is refusing to wash his dirty little hands;

## YOU CAN'T COVER THE STENCH OF THE EPSTEIN FILES.

We are still here, Trump, and we are growing. We demand holding you to accountability. Release the damn files, stop the distractions, and instead of gilding halls, do your job and feed children. We rise. We won't back down.

## TO ANYONE TAKING PART IN SILENCING SEX TRAFFICKED SURVIVORS: WE SEE YOU FOR WHAT YOU ARE.

### SNAP Is Not a Bargaining Chip. It is a Lifeline

A day before, 1.4 million Michiganders were set to lose food assistance, two federal judges stepped in and said what millions have been waiting to hear: **"No. You have emergency money. You must use it to help people eat."** The rulings from Massachusetts and Rhode Island ordered the Trump administration to pull from contingency funds to keep the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) running during the government shutdown. The money was allocated, Republicans are saturating media with misinformation, calling it the Democrats' fault. President Trump has called for the Senate to deploy the **"nuclear option,"** ending the filibuster rule that requires sixty votes to pass legislation. This would allow Republicans to bypass Democrats entirely, forcing through a funding bill that **excludes healthcare protection subsidies.**

**"Play the TRUMP CARD," Trump wrote. "Get rid of the Filibuster, and get rid of it, NOW!"**

Healthcare is being reduced, eliminated, or expiring. Using hunger as leverage is the Trump card. President Donald Trump announced that he will refuse to comply with a federal court order requiring his administration to release emergency funds for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), cutting off food benefits to millions of Americans. The U.S. Department of Agriculture told grocery stores they were prohibited from offering discounts to SNAP recipients during the shutdown. It's a dangerous disinformation campaign, and it's illegal.

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced \$4.5 million in emergency food aid, saying, "Hungry families cannot wait for the folks in power in Washington, DC to do their jobs." Attorney General Dana Nessel joined twenty-five states in a legal challenge, reminding the court that food aid is not just moral, it is a legal obligation. Food banks are already overwhelmed. Meals on Wheels is facing cuts, and the most vulnerable homebound seniors, disabled veterans, infants needing formula, and working families will suffer. The Trump administration is using hunger to force its will. We need to keep fighting for every plate, every person, and every promise. We must remain vigilant in resistance to the nuclear option unless we comply; Democrats are doing their job, Republicans are not showing up to negotiate. Democrats are faced with a choice starve Seniors who will die, or end healthcare protections that include



image from Danielle Hoover's Facebook

HB 4089. is the Renaming a section of US 10 honoring Spc. Levi Kenneth Midland, Michigan Levi Hoover, at age 23 years, was killed in action by an IED bomb on April 7, 2007, while serving with the 82nd Airborne Division U.S. Army. Danielle Hoover the sister of Levi speaks of his love of Family, fishing, and protecting the freedoms of all Americans. Danielle carried that legacy forward with steady patriotism running for District 2 county commissioner, driven by her advocacy for human dignity and specifically advances transgender rights, true patriotism includes acceptance and care for all.

## NATIVE AMERICAN Heritage Month



Code talkers were Native American soldiers who used their tribal languages to send secret battlefield messages during World Wars I and II. Because their languages were little known outside their communities, enemies couldn't understand the transmissions, helping U.S. forces keep plans safe and win key battles. Their skill and service saved countless lives and are an important part of American and Native history.







Transgender Awareness Month reminds us to respect and protect transgender people. It's a day to honor lives, listen to stories, and stand against rules that try to take away rights. We hope for a future where transgender people are fully safe, celebrated, and treated with the same dignity and equality as everyone else.



Join Embrace for a cozy Friendsgiving. A warm dinner where chosen family and friends help celebrate gratitude, laughter, and good food. All proceeds will be carried forward by Embrace to fund future events that uplift and support the LGBTQ+ community and allies in Monroe, MI. Come share a meal, make new friends, and help build a welcoming space for everyone.

## FOOD PANTRIES IN OUR AREA

TOGETHER, WE CAN PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE.

<b>Lambertville United Methodist Church</b> <b>Address:</b> 8165 Douglas Rd, Lambertville, MI 48144 <b>Hours:</b> Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM Thursday: 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM <b>Details:</b> Clients may visit once a week. A registration form is required.	<b>Christ the King Lutheran Church</b> <b>Address:</b> 16700 Pennsylvania Rd, Southgate, MI <b>Phone:</b> (734) 285-9695 <b>Hours:</b> Thursday: 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM (Drive-thru system) <b>Details:</b> Please bring a valid ID. No residency restrictions; open to all. Located in Administration Building #12 (follow signs to Food Pantry).
<b>Christ Lutheran Church</b> <b>Address:</b> 225 E. Elm Ave, Monroe, MI 48162 <b>Phone:</b> (734) - 241-4554 <b>Hours:</b> Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM	<b>MP - Vets Empower Neighbor</b> <b>Address:</b> 1 Maguire St, Flat Rock, MI 48134 <b>Phone:</b> (734) - 241-4554 <b>Hours:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 2:30 - 4:30 PM

## COMMUNITY DINNERS IN OUR AREA

TOGETHER, WE CAN SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER.

<b>First Presbyterian Church</b> <b>Address:</b> 108 Washington St. Monroe, MI 48161 <b>Phone:</b> (734) 242-1545 <b>Hours:</b> Thursday evenings, Hot Meal Service at 5:30 PM	<b>Trinity Lutheran Church</b> <b>Address:</b> 323 Scott St. Monroe, MI 48161 <b>Phone:</b> (734) 242-2308 <b>Hours:</b> Sunday evenings, Hot Meal Service at 5:00 or 6:00 PM (call to confirm time)
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**Gleaners & Forgotten Harvest Information**  
**Link2Feed Card:** Sign up for a free Link2Feed card to store your household information and make pick-up quick and easy. Sign up at <https://foodbankhelp.link2feed.com/> or ask a Gleaners staff member when you visit a Community Mobile.  
**Notes:**  

- Information is confidential and only used within the Gleaners partner network.
- It will not affect any government benefits.

**Find Food:**  
<https://www.forgottenharvest.org/find-food/>

## FOOD PANTRIES IN OUR AREA

TOGETHER, WE CAN PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE.

<b>St. Anne's Catholic Church</b> <b>Address:</b> 2420 North Dixie Highway, Monroe MI 48162 <b>Phone:</b> (734) 289-2910 <b>Hours:</b> Every other Wednesday (11/12/25) 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM	<b>St. John's Food Pantry</b> <b>Address:</b> 222 Colonial Ct, Monroe, MI 48162 <b>Phone:</b> (734) 241-8910 <b>Hours:</b> 3rd Saturday of each month, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
<b>St. Michael Lutheran Church</b> <b>Address:</b> 5790 West Temperance Rd, Ottawa Lake, MI 49267 <b>Phone:</b> (734) 856-2944 <b>Hours:</b> 2nd Saturday of each month, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM <b>Details:</b> Must be a Monroe County resident.	<b>Northbrook Church</b> <b>Address:</b> 12000 Jones Rd, Carleton, MI 48117 <b>Phone:</b> (734) - 654-3993 <b>Hours:</b> 3rd Saturday of each month, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM <b>Details:</b> Must be a Monroe County resident.

**The Lord's Harvest Pantry**  
**Address:** 1140 South Telegraph Rd, Monroe, MI 48161  
**Phone:** (734) 241-2775  
**Hours:**  

- Monday: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM & 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Seniors only)
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Details:**  

- By appointment only (no walk-ins)
- No income requirements

**SATURDAYS**  
**NOVEMBER 15**  
**DECEMBER 6**  
**10 am - 4 pm**

**MONROE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**  
**HELP US, HELP OTHERS**

# FOOD DRIVE

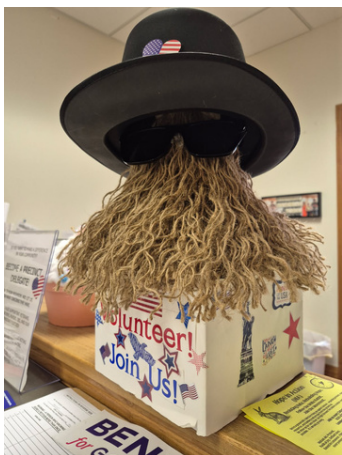
WHETHER YOU HAVE ONE HOUR OR A WHOLE DAY, YOUR TIME MATTERS. NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED - JUST A HEART TO HELP.  
 MONROE COUNTY UPCOMING DATES AVAILABLE  
 NOW LET'S SHOW WHAT COMMUNITY CARE LOOKS LIKE!  
 CONTACT TERRI LANGTON TO VOLUNTEER  
 COMMUNITY@MONROE-DEMS.COM OR CALL 734-243-4485

# Release The FILES WE ARE NOT DISTRACTED

**Election RESULTS HERE**  
**Nov. 5th, 2025**



## FROM THE UNITY DINNER TO ABOLISHING KINGS, BLUE FOR ME AND YOU!



## HAPPENING SOON

**November 6<sup>th</sup> - Mark Totten AG Candidate**  
**MCDP Monthly Meeting/7 PM**

**Lambertville United Methodist Church**  
**8165 Douglas Rd. Lambertville**  
**Food Pantry Every Tuesday/10-11 AM**  
**Every Thursday/5-6 PM**

**November 11<sup>th</sup> - Veteran's Day**  
**November 15<sup>th</sup> - MCDP Seminar for Democracy**  
**Meadow Montessori School 10-12 AM**  
**1670 S. Raisinville Rd. 48161**



SUNDAYS 6-10 PM

[Donate to MDP](#)



[Donate to MCDP](#)

**Reggie Miller**

**DONATE** ❤️

Click to donate to Rep.  
 Reggie Miller's campaign

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ENTIRE NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION TEAM!**

Dr. Denise Brooks | Christina Cusumano | Surya Patel | James Dombrowski | Sean Farley | Shawna Farley