

December 2013

EARLY WINTER EDITION

The Grand Democrat



2014 Calendar of Events

Sat. Jan. 25: Mid-Winter
Rally, InsideOut Gallery

Tues., May 6: Precinct
Delegate Filing Deadline

Mon. July 7: Last day to
register voters for Aug Primary
Election

Aug 2-9: Northwest Michigan
Fair, GT Democrats booth

Tues. Aug. 5: Primary
Election Day

Fri. Aug. 8: Grand Traverse
Dems "Politics in the Park"
Summer Picnic

Sat. Sept. 27: Truman Dinner

Mon. Oct. 6: Last day to
register voters for November
General Election

Tues. Nov. 4: General
Election



THE 2014 ELECTION WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION EVER

Every election year, someone somewhere says "This election is the most important election ever" and we as voters pay attention for short periods when a particular issue captures our attention. It's difficult to stay tuned in to what's happening in Washington, D.C. and Lansing when the demands of daily life consume every bit of our waking hours. For most of us, the laws passed don't seem to have a direct or immediate impact on how we conduct our lives....until it's too late.

The blatant power grab by the Republican-controlled Michigan legislature and Governor Snyder is unprecedented as shown by the following examples:

Court of Claims

GOP and Snyder are trying to control the judicial branch. Snyder is clearly attempting to thwart judicial review of the legislation he backs. Just like the emergency manager law that was quickly pushed through the legislature, the Court of Claims reform was introduced in October and passed into law a month later, stifling public debate. In a span of just 14 days, and with little more than three hours of public testimony, Senate Bill 652 (which moves the venue for lawsuits against the state to one favorable to Republicans) was passed.

Campaign Finance Reform & Transparency

Lawmakers are in pursuit of liberalized campaign finance laws that will double contribution limits and protect anonymous donors to so-called "issue" campaigns. The people who benefit are the 1 percent who can meet the current limits and presumably even exceed them. The GOP Senate's message to voters could not be more cynical.

Snyder's NERD Fund

He refused to make the names of donors public. The non-profit "New Energy to Reinvent and Diversify" Fund was allegedly set up to help improve government. When Snyder appeared before the bankruptcy hearing, his poor memory, his lack of knowledge, and his attorney-client privilege testimony left some wondering how much into transparency he really is. Three NERD Fund directors received political appointments: Fund President Charlie Secchia, Fund Secretary-Treasurer Brad Canale and past Fund Vice President David Nicholson.

These are just a few examples of what's happening in Lansing, and there are many more issues (the attack on teachers, Right to Work) which could be discussed. The only way we can begin to stop the abuse of legislative power and dark money influence is to make sure that every Democratic and Independent voter shows up to vote in the November 4, 2014 General Election!

It's a well documented fact that many voters sit out the "off" election year. For example, in Grand Traverse County:

2008 (Presidential election year)	23,258 votes were cast for Barack Obama
2010 (Off election year)	9,395 votes were cast for Virg Bernero for Governor of Michigan

In the 2010 election, 13,863 Democratic voters in Grand Traverse County didn't vote. We can't afford to let that happen again in 2014.

Diana Keola, Chair

Grand Traverse County Democratic Party



In 2014, Jerry Cannon is running for the 1st Congressional District, which encompasses a large part of northern Michigan as well as the Upper Peninsula.

Jerry has lived a life of public service. As Congressman, he will focus on doing what is good for the economy, doing what is good for this District and getting the middle class a fair shake.

He is a Marine veteran of the Vietnam War. He subsequently served as a Major General in the Michigan Army National Guard, serving multiple tours around the world, including Iraq.

Jerry was a police officer, then a police detective and eventually Sheriff of Kalkaska County. He was elected Sheriff four times and was appointed President of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association in 1997.

He received a B.A. in Criminal Justice from the University of Detroit Mercy, a Master's in Public Administration from Central Michigan University, and a Master's in Strategic Studies from

the U.S. Army War College. He has taught criminal justice at Northwestern Michigan College.

Jerry and his wife of 43 years, Elizabeth, live in Fife Lake. They are the parents of four children, including a son who has served two tours in Afghanistan, and they have seven grandchildren.

Jerry Cannon is a citizen soldier in the tradition of George Washington and Dwight D. Eisenhower. He shares our northern Michigan values, including representing all of us in Washington.

As Jerry has stated, the 1st Congressional District "is ready for a representative in Washington who will never forget who they represent and what is important to them. People want someone who will have the personal courage to support reasonable common sense solutions and not be afraid to compromise. That's how the system is supposed to work."

<http://www.jerrycannon.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/cannonforcongress>

<https://twitter.com/Cannon4Congress>

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN FAIR – August 2013

"Solidarity of Democratic Parties in Northern Michigan" was the 2013 theme at the Fair. Our booth was decorated with reminders of the many accomplishments that the Democratic Party has brought forth and passed by the U.S. Congress. Some of the social programs that are in place because of our party include Social Security and OSHA. Many people volunteered their time to work the booth and we'd like to thank all of them! A special thanks to the Democratic Party of Leelanau County and their volunteers who manned the booth handing out brochures and information all day Monday, August 5.

Grand Traverse County was well represented by these volunteers who put in a lot of their time throughout the week: Bill Brown, Joel Casler, Betsy Coffia, Don Dierkes, Bill Hansen, Lee Hornberger, Diana Ketola and Bob Scheele. A special thanks to Andrew Poppalardo who volunteered numerous hours to help fill in the empty time slots to keep our booth active!!

— *Bob Scheele*



By Lee Hornberger

Other nations have a higher standard of health care, including life expectancy and infant mortality, than the United States. Life expectancy in the United States is 79 years. Life expectancy in Australia, Canada, France, Italy, and Spain is 82 years. Even Portugal and Slovenia have a longer life expectancy than the United States.

The infant mortality rate in the United States is higher than other nations: 5.9 deaths per 1,000 live births. Japan is 2.2, Singapore 2.6, France 3.3, Spain 3.4, Germany 3.5 and Canada 4.8. Even Cuba has a lower infant mortality rate than the United States.

The Affordable Care Act is in the tradition of Americans helping each other. That American tradition includes the Social Security Act of 1935, the G.I. Bill of 1944, President Dwight D. Eisenhower's National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Open Housing Act of 1968, which were co-sponsored and co-written by Republican Senate Minority Leader Everett Dirksen.

The Affordable Care Act will help America become part of the 21st Century with the rest of the Western world concerning healthcare for all Americans and will help the United States do as well as other nations concerning life expectancy and infant mortality.



Traverse City voters pointed the City Commission in new directions on November 5 with the election of three newcomers: myself, Tim Werner and Gary Howe. Relative youth seemed to rule the day, as two of the new Commissioners are in their 40's, replacing two outgoing commissioners who were in their 70's. These results were borne out by the turnout, which was a decent 34%, reasonably high for a city election, and indicating a higher proportion of younger voters.

Transportation issues should be at the forefront of the discussion, as all 3 new commissioners advocated strongly for increased investment in streets, sidewalks and trails. The frequency and effects of

festivals is also front and center, as commissioners struggle with the demands of some residents for quieter, less-invasive functions, while others push the economic and cultural benefits an active festival calendar may provide. Also soon to be discussed is whether Traverse City should build (and where) a fishing pier into West Bay, to be funded largely with outside grants.

The City of TC also provided the margin of victory for the County Road Commission millage. The millage squeaked through with only 100 votes county-wide, but city voters gave it a 700-vote plurality, with 59% voting for the tax. This tax will generate about \$3.2 million annually for the County Road Commission and \$750,000 for Traverse City. Some of you may have noticed it (GTC ROAD 2013-15) on your winter tax bills, which were recently mailed out.

— Ross Richardson
City Commissioner

Grand Traverse County Democratic Party

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR

2014 MEMBERSHIP

**RENEWALS WILL BE MAILED OUT
IN JANUARY**

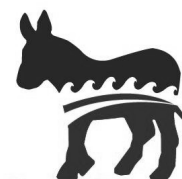
Or visit our web site

www.grandtraversedems.org

**Click on the "Documents" link for the
2014 Membership Form**

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Grand Traverse Democratic Party



**Grand Traverse
DEMOCRATS**

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DEMOCRATS**