

Second Congressional District Meeting

MINUTES

Saturday, August 9, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by John Helge, Chair at 10:01 a.m.

1. Roll Call --
 - a. **Officers** -- John Helge, Chair – Present
Cathy Willermet, Vice Chair -- Present
Dallas Dean, Treasurer – Absent
Peggy Raddatz, Secretary -- Present
2. A Quorum was deemed present.
3. Roll Call Continued:

Ken Mahoney, Muskegon County – Present
Michael Lynch, Gratiot County – Present
John Pakiedinaz, Clare County, Absent
Al Frye, Manistee County – Absent
Robin Aslakson, Mason County – Present
Michelle Ross, Newaygo County – Present
Amanda Siggins, Wexford County – Absent
Chris Crain, Wexford County – Present
Ed Miller, Mason County – Present
Michael Fields, Gladwin County – Present
Stanley Opal, Newaygo County – Present
Jeffrey Beegle, Muskegon County – Absent
William Allen, Wexford County – Absent
Christine Freestone, Gratiot County – Absent
Karen Turnbull, Mecosta County – Absent
Christina Bush, Barry County – Absent
K.P. Mahoney, Muskegon County – Present
Courtney Phillips, Kent County – Absent

County Party Roll Call:

Barry - 0
Clare - 0
Eaton - 0
Gladwin - 1
Gratiot - 1
Ionia - 1
Isabella -1
Kent -1
Lake - 0

Manistee - 3
Mason - 3
Mecosta -1
Midland - 0
Montcalm - 1
Muskegon - 2
Newaygo - 2
Oceana -2
Osceola - 1
Ottawa -0
Wexford -1

4. Indigenous Land Acknowledgment. —John Helge showed an interview with a native person about the Indigenous Pledges of Reconciliation in Canada. Takeaways – it was an important step in reconciliation and should be personalized.
5. Candidates – At this time, individuals running for office were given the opportunity to speak. Chris Crain, candidate for the 101st Representative District and Zach Abbott of the 79th Representative District each spoke about their campaigns.
6. Guest Speaker – Joe Spaulding, from Rank MI Vote, explained the concept of Ranked Choice Voting to the group.
Guest Speaker – Mark Totten, Candidate for Michigan Attorney General, described his background, extensive experience, and readiness for the position.
7. Officers' Reports
 - a. Chair, John Helge, encouraged all counties to hold at least one empty chair town hall between now and November, and protest in support of our values.
 - b. Vice Chair Cathy Willermet reported that our next meeting would be held September 13th at the Morton Township Library, 110 S. James Street, Mecosta, MI 49332.
 - c. Treasurer's Report -- Dallas Dean, Treasurer, was absent; therefore, no reports were presented.
Additionally, K.P. Mahoney, a long-time member of the Finance Committee, announced that Lincoln Hills Golf Resort was selected by the Fundraising Committee as the venue for the Blue Wave Gala on October 11 in Ludington. Registration will begin at 11 am, lunch will be served at 12 noon, and the program will start at 12:45pm.
8. Committee Reports –
 - a. Candidate Recruitment – John Helge, Chair of CD2, reported that we have another candidate for the 2nd CD, Rich Carrizales. More details will be provided soon.
 - b. Party Organizing – Cathy Willermet, Chair, stated there was nothing to report at this time.
 - c. Communications – Michelle VanSlambrouk has taken on managing the website. The website address is: <https://www.michigan2nddemocrats.com/>. She also introduced a new MDP website to use instead of MOBILIZE, and she proposed year-round service campaigns to showcase Democratic values.

- d. Policy & Resolutions – John Helge, Manistee County – John stated there was no report at this time.
 - e. Audit – No report was available at this time.
9. New Business
- a. Request from Gladwin County Democratic Party – It was moved by Michael Fields, Gladwin County, and seconded by Peggy Raddatz, Manistee County TO ALLOCATE \$3500 FOR SEVEN MONTHS OF RENT AT \$500 PER MONTH. MOTION DENIED. It was then moved by Cathy Willermet, Isabella County and seconded by Karen Greenbay TO ALLOCATE \$500 FOR ONE MONTH OF RENT FOR THE GLADWIN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY. MOTION DENIED.
10. COUNTY REPORTS – County representatives reported on progressive and innovative programs taking place within their counties.
11. Adjournment – It was moved by Kelly Weaver, Lake County and seconded by Ed Miller, Mason County TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. MOTION CARRIED. The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

By Peggy Raddatz
Secretary
2nd Congressional District

If you have any changes or additions, please contact me directly before the meeting to save time, peg.raddatz@gmail.com. Thank you for your cooperation!