

## Protecting Americans' Freedom to Vote



The Senate is expected to push the Freedom to Vote Act in January 2022. Senate Republicans have refused to consider the bill, which has bipartisan support from constituents, choosing to deploy the filibuster instead.

In 2021, 52 restrictive voter laws were passed in various states across the country, limiting options to vote and undermining local elections officials' ability to mind elections. In response to the influx in restrictive voting legislation, Congress introduced two voter rights bills: Freedom to Vote Act and John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would make illegal voting rules that discriminate on the basis of race, language, or ethnicity and empower voters' to challenge discriminatory laws.

The Freedom to Vote Act (S. 2747) is currently in the Senate and would solidify comprehensive voter protections, including a minimum of 15 days for early voting, mail-in ballots, and making Election Day a national holiday.

The bill would set up national standards for voter identification. The bill would also establish protections for election officials against intimidation and partisan interference. To further ensure election integrity, the Freedom to Vote Act would require states to use voting systems with a verifiable paper trail and establish national standards for voter identification.

These bills have broad support from the public. A new poll found that 54 to 64 percent of voters support the Freedom to Vote Act and its passing with a simple majority. Another poll conducted by Data for Progress, which broke down results across party affiliation, found that both a majority of Republicans and Democrats support the bill. **Don't' forget– Vote Blue in 2022**

### *Message from the Chair...*

Dear Friends and Members,

Welcome to a New Year and new beginnings. We are positive that 2022 will bring good change to Northeast Michigan and to our State.

As we prepare for the Midterm election on 11/8/22, we have no doubt that Northeast Michigan will be looking to the Alpena County Democratic Party for leadership and direction. We are preparing.

How? We are actively searching for an office, strategizing ways that we can support our 3 ladies in Lansing (Governor Whitmer, AG Nessel and SOS Benson), thinking about slate cards and we are learning the issues that all voters have on their minds. We are actively searching for volunteers to help us staff our future office, help us canvass, phone bank, design literature, deliver signs, take receipt of signs etc. Call us today if you can jump on board. We NEED your help! Or maybe you can run for office? All seats on the Alpena County Board of Commissioners are up for grabs. Also, we have Alpena Public Schools Board of Education seats expiring.

For more information, reach out and we will help you find a spot that is best for you and for Alpena!

Your Chairperson,

*Marie Fielder*

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### Upcoming events

- 1/20/22: January ACDP County Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm via zoom, email us for the link
- 1/24/22: Alpena Public Schools Board of Education meeting, 5:30, at Thunder Bay Junior High
- 2/17/22: February ACDP County Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm, watch for notification if in-person or virtual
- 2/19/22: Fundraiser at the Black Sheep, 11:00 am—7:00 pm. **Volunteers needed!**
- 2/21/22: Alpena Public Schools Board of Education meeting, 5:30, Sanborn Elementary School

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### **Become a member of the Michigan Democratic Party!**

A great way to strengthen the ACDP is to join the MI Democratic Party. A \$20 basic membership returns \$15 to us locally. A \$60 couple membership returns \$40. Join w/donation: <https://michigandems.com/join>

## Local, State and National News Updates

### Michigan officially has a set of new political district maps for House, Senate and Congressional races beginning in 2022.

Michigan currently has 14 US Congressional districts, although the state is losing a seat in Congress this year due to sluggish population growth since the last U.S. Census count in 2010. When the lines drawn following the 2010 census were first put into practice, Michigan's Congressional delegation was a 9-5 split in maps that heavily favored Republicans. In 2018, Democratic candidates flipped two of those seats, bringing the delegation to a 7-7 split. If voting patterns from the 2020 election hold, the new map would favor Democrats in 7 districts and Republicans in 6. Alpena County is in MI 01 District currently held by Jack Bergman-R. (Map Chestnut)

Michigan's state Senate maps currently heavily favor Republicans, although Democrats have made some gains in recent cycles. The current seat split is 22-16 in Republicans' favor. The new map shows a near-even split and marks the best chance Senate Democrats have had in decades to capture a majority in the chamber. Alpena County is in Dist. 36 currently represented by Jim Stamos-R. (Map Linden)

The Michigan House has also been controlled by Republicans in recent years, with a seat split of 58-52 following the 2020 elections. A number of recent vacancies have shaved the current majority to 55, although Republicans still have the advantage. The Michigan House maps were among the most controversial during the commission's public comment period, with many commenters urging the commission to go back to the drawing board. Alpena County is in District 106 currently represented by Sue Allor-R. (Map Hickory)

To see the newly drawn maps visit:  
<https://www.michigan.gov/micrc>



**Black Sheep Pub**  
**Celebrity Server Night**  
 With the Alpena Co. Democratic Party  
**February 19, 2022**  
**11:00 am-7:00 pm**  
 Call 989-356-3076 to order

Support the Black Sheep Pub and order one of our featured items or from the menu and have it delivered curbside in a fun, socially distanced, safe way.

**Featured Items:**

<b>NE Whitmer</b> Turkey piled high on a tomato basil focaccia roll with bacon, lettuce, tomato and swiss and their very own cranberry pecan sauce. With chips. 10.49	<b>The Dr. Lorinser</b> 1/3 lb. ground chuck patty char-grilled topped with bleu cheese, dried cherries and grilled onion. With French fries. 11.99
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ACDP fundraising event. Tips from take out orders go toward Election 2022 Campaign needs.

**We need volunteers to work 2 hour shifts (11-1,1-3,3-5,5-7)**

**All volunteers will be provided medical grade N95 mask respirators.**



Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed an executive directive on January 4 creating the Office of Rural Development within the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The Office of Rural Development will focus on all rural matters, give guidance on issues facing rural Michigan and offer insight to the Whitmer-Gilchrist Administration on how to invest in rural communities.

The Office of Rural Development will be responsible for the following and more:

- Work with the MEDC and other stakeholders on rural economic development;
- Facilitate rural affordable housing development with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority;
- Promote sustainability, environmental preservation and green energy development;
- Address consequences of population and demographic trends in rural areas;
- Analyze and give guidance on education-related issues in rural communities;
- Collaborate with the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office to facilitate expansion of High-speed internet connections in rural communities;
- Coordinate with tribal leaders in the state on issues facing rural Michigan.

### Why Cloth Masks Might Not Be Enough as Omicron Spreads

Time it takes to transmit an infectious dose of Covid-19

		Person not infected is wearing			
		Nothing	Cloth mask	Surgical mask	N95
Person infected is wearing	Nothing	15 min.	20 min.	30 min.	2.5 hours
	Cloth mask	20 min.	27 min.	40 min.	3.3 hours
	Surgical mask	30 min.	40 min.	1 hour	5 hours
	N95	2.5 hours	3.3 hours	5 hours	25 hours

It will take 25 hours for an infectious dose of Covid-19 to transmit between people wearing non-fit-tested N95 respirators. If they're using tightly sealed N95s—where only 1% of particles enter the facepiece—they will have 2,500 hours of protection.

Note: Results published in Spring 2021. The CDC expects the Omicron variant to spread more easily.  
 Source: ACGIH's Pandemic Response Task Force

If you have news to report or would like to write an article for the newsletter, please reach out to Cathy at: [acd684@gmail.com](mailto:acd684@gmail.com) or call 989.916.6499

# ACDP 2021 Year in Review



Friendship Room +\$200



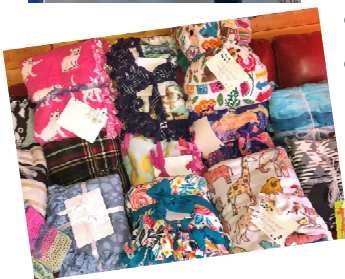
Light of Hope Clubhouse +\$125



Sunrise Centre +\$100



- Dec. '20-Jan.'21 made blankets for Bayview Center in honor of President Biden
- Donated supplies to Hope Shores Alliance
- Feb. 6 held a celebrity server fundraiser at the Black Sheep raised
- April 24 Earth Day Clean-up at various sites around Alpena County benefitting Great Lakes Great Responsibility
- June 6- held a bottle drive and sold Whitmer signs.
- June 18-Gilcrist Meet & Greet
- Aug. 5- Held a Pizza & Dessert in the Park Fundraiser.
- Sept. 10 held Get Vaxxed rally at Culligan Plaza
- Sept. 12-Walked in Posen Potato Festival parade
- Sept. 18 went on Lady Michigan Fundraiser. Hosting 1st Congressional District Candidate Dr. Bob Lorinser and 106th State House Candidate Marie Fielder.
- October helped fellow Democrat Petoskey City Council candidate canvass neighborhoods
- Nov. 26-Walked in the Alpena 2021 Holiday Parade
- 2021 December Month of Giving to:
  - The Light of Hope Clubhouse
  - Sunrise Centre
  - The Friendship Room



*The ACDP thanks you for your generous support in 2021 and we are hoping you will help us turn Alpena County Blue in 2022*

Website: [www.alpenademocrats.org](http://www.alpenademocrats.org)  
 Instagram: @alpenadems

Like us Facebook: @alpenadems  
 twitter: @alpenademsacdp

Alpena County Democratic Party  
P.O. Box 611  
Alpena, MI 49707

**Remember...**

**Just say "No thanks."**

Soon, some "nice" people may ask you to sign a petition about voting "rights."

**They are actually trying to make it harder to vote.**

*Don't let these fast talkers deceive you.*

**Decline to Sign.**



**Land Acknowledgement**

"The State of Michigan occupies the ancestral, traditional and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabek – Three Fires Confederacy, the Odawa (Ottawa), Ojibwe (Chippewa), and Bode'wadmi (Potawatomi). The MI Democratic Party recognizes these historic Indigenous communities, and those who were forcibly removed from their homelands. We further recognize the ongoing relationship of dependence upon, and respect for, all living beings of earth, sky, and water. In offering this land acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty, history, and experiences."

*MDP asks County Parties to include this statement*

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**A portion of our budget is invested in electing local candidates and office space!  
Thank you for all you do to support our efforts and take back Michigan!!**

**\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ DONATION FORM \$\$\$\$\$\$**

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/alpenademocrats>

**Alpena County Democratic Party PO Box 611, Alpena, MI 49707**

**Send check with this form to address above or donate online at**

**Contribution rules:** I am at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen or lawfully admitted permanent resident (i.e., green card holder). This contribution is made from my own funds and are not provided to me by another person or entity. I make it with my personal credit card - not with a business credit card or a card issued to another person.

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**Alpena County Democratic Party Donation form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign finance laws require the following information

Are you employed?    Yes    No    If yes:    Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of the ACDP is to promote the philosophy of the Democratic Party and to elect Democrats who support this philosophy; and further, to unite and to aid in the activities of all Party members, precinct delegates, committees, officeholders, candidates, and all other Democrats working to promote wide and active participation in the Democratic Party.

**Help the ACDP by volunteering your time and/or talents in the following ways:**

The ACDP is planning on opening and maintaining a Campaign Headquarters in 2022. We are currently seeking Volunteers to help us in the following areas:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making Phone Calls                | <input type="checkbox"/> Texting     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> door-to-door Canvassing           | <input type="checkbox"/> Office work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Fundraisers/Meet & Greet | <input type="checkbox"/> mailings    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Placing Yard Signs/4x8 Billboards |                                      |

We also need Members for the following Committees:

**Activism:** To promote, impede or raise awareness of the inherent belief in our core Democratic issues via peaceful protest, demonstrations or lectures.

**Election:** Develops campaign infrastructure and seeks to elect Democrats within Alpena County, the State of Michigan and at the national level.

**Finance:** Identifies expenditure goals for the ACDP to safeguard the ACDP's finances.

**Fundraising:** To develop, plan and coordinate revenue streams by creating sustainable methods for consistent monetary growth of the ACDP.

**Outreach:** To build relationships and Partnerships.

Please call 989-916-6499 or email us with the tasks and committees you can help with- [acd864@gmail.com](mailto:acd864@gmail.com) or go to <https://forms.office.com/r/ZaCkTBrKrN> to complete an online survey.

TEAMWORK  
—————  
*makes the dream work...*