

**NEWAYGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
NEWSLETTER, AUGUST 2009
PRODUCED AND EDITED BY SARAH ILLER,**



Newaygo County Democratic Party

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Office

65 W State Rd
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Newaygo, MI

On the web at newaygodems.com!

Upcoming Events

General Meeting: 7:00pm, August 12th

Newaygo County Democratic Office, 65 W State Rd, Newaygo, MI (Behind empty storefront)

District Meeting:

Newaygo County Democratic Women's Club : 1:00pm., August 10th

Newaygo County Democratic Office, 65 N State Street, Newaygo, MI (Behind empty storefront)



**Legislating Under the Influence:
*How the Health Care Industry
Spends Millions on Campaign Con-
tributions and Lobbying to Influ-
ence Key lawmakers in Health Care
Reform Fight of 2009***

The crisis in health care is undisputed.

Costs continue to skyrocket and tens of millions of Americans are without coverage, leading President Barack Obama to make comprehensive reform a cornerstone of his campaign message and his domestic agenda.

Yet citizens worry that Congress will fail to adequately reform our health care system. More precisely, Americans know that the campaign cash and lobbying by wealthy, powerful industries on Capitol Hill could scuttle real reform, as it has in the past. A recent poll found that 60 percent of voters believe Congress puts the interests of campaign contributors over constituents, and 79 percent are worried that dependence on large campaign contributions will prevent Congress from tackling the important issues facing America today.

A look at the numbers shows that citizens are right to worry. Major health care interests have spent ***\$1.4 million per day*** this year lobbying Congress, so you can bet the legislative battle will not simply rest on the merits of each side's argument. Health care-related industries wield tremendous influence in Washington and have sustained an expensive, high-intensity campaign to protect their own interests. In particular:

- **Health industries – including health insurance, pharmaceuticals and health products, hospitals and HMOs, and health professionals – have contributed about \$373 million in campaign contributions to members of Congress since 2000.**
- **Political spending by the health industries has increased 73 percent since 2000.** Health interests contributed about \$94 million to candidates for Congress in the 2008 election cycle, up from about \$54 million in the 2000 cycle.

• **Members serving on committees and subcommittees with jurisdiction over health care reform in the House and Senate received the lion's share of health industries' largesse.** Committee members raised \$178 million from the industries this decade – roughly half of the industries' contributions to the entire Congress. Since 2000, the House members sitting on health committees have raised twice as much money from the health industry per election cycle as non-committee members (an average of 171,000 compared to 87,000), and the average House member on a key health subcommittee hauled in three times as much per cycle (\$269,000). Senators with plum committee posts also enjoy sizable fundraising advantages.

• **The industries engage in “switch-hitting” – shifting campaign contributions between Democrats and Republicans to win access with the party in power.** In 2000, with Republicans controlling the House and a closely-divided Senate, Republicans on health related committees received more than double what Democrats received (68 percent to 32 percent) from the health industries. In 2008, with Democrats controlling both the House and Senate, over 61 percent of the industries' contributions to committee members went to the majority Democrats and just 39 percent went to Republicans.

• **The major health interests have spent an average of \$1.4 million per day to lobby Congress so far this year and are on track to spend more than half a billion dollars by the end 2009.** *That comes out to about \$2,600 per day per member of the House and Senate.* The pharmaceutical lobby alone spent \$733,000 per day in the first quarter of 2009. Since 2000, the industries have spent over \$3 billion on lobbying, with the total increasing every year and rising more than 142 percent over the course of the decade. In each of the past four years health interests have been the number-one lobbying force in Washington, measured in expenditures, and have averaged over \$1 million per day.

“In a week [of taking office] I learned that there were six organs in the human body I had never heard of, and each one of them had its own Washington lobbyist.”

Representative Pete Stark, 1985



What the DNC Stands For

Give us an idea or write an article, yourself!

The Democratic Party is committed to keeping our nation safe and expanding opportunity for every American. That commitment is reflected in an agenda that emphasizes the strong economic growth, affordable health care

for all Americans, retirement security, open, honest and accountable gov-



Guiding Principles

Our Plan

We are in a critical moment that will reverberate for generations to come. We see us through these times, Democrats will work to end the war in Iraq and refocus our nation's efforts on those who attacked us on September 11. We will turn our economy around with millions of new jobs, and free ourselves from our oil dependency and invest in renewable, alternative energies. As Democrats, we will restore our civil liberties and uphold the civil rights of all



The 50-State Strategy

The Democratic Party is committed to winning elections at every level in every region of the country. When Democrats ask for your vote, we can win anywhere. With the 50-State Strategy, we will take back this country, neighborhood by neighborhood, block by block, and vote by vote.



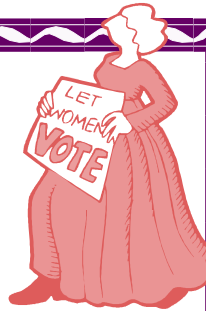
Party Platform

The Democratic Party has a long and proud history of representing and protecting the interests of working Americans and guaranteeing personal liberties for all. One of the places we articulate our beliefs is in the Party's National Platform, adopted every four years by the Delegates at the National Convention

Charter and Bylaws

Essentially, the Charter and Bylaws is the constitution of the Democratic Party. It outlines the structure of the Party organization, and the relationship among the National Convention, the National Committee, and other Party organizations or operations. The Charter and Bylaws was last amended by the Democratic National Commit-

**We are women—Hear us
*ROAR!***



The Newaygo County Democratic Women's Club has resumed meeting. We are an integral force of the Democratic agenda for Newaygo County and are not taken lightly within the local Democratic Party.

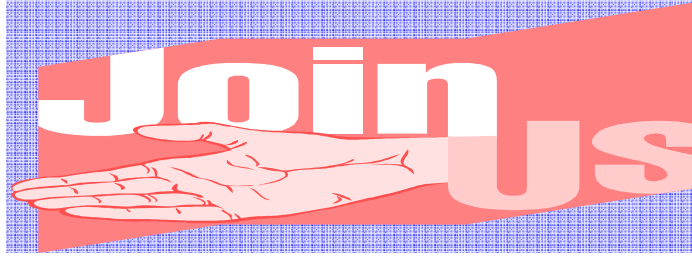
Our mission statement is as follows:

- To educate women on political issues and teach them how to become effective political workers.
- To help elect Democratic candidates to public office.
- To support activities that will benefit the Democratic Party.
- To attract the uninitiated into Democratic politics.

Any woman with liberal leanings is encouraged to attend. Those whose interests may differ from our own, but seek to understand that which makes us roar, are encouraged to attend.

We meet the second Monday of the month. the next meeting date is August 10th. It will be held at 1:00 pm inside the Democratic Headquarters. The location is 65 N State Street in Newaygo.





CHK NO: _____ MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES: _____
DATE: _____
AMOUNT: _____

**NEWAYGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

TITLE: _____ NAME: _____
TITLE: _____ NAME: _____
HOME ADDRESS: _____
POST OFFICE BOX: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____
HOME TELEPHONE: _____ HOME FAX: _____
HOME E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
CITY/TOWNSHIP IN WHICH YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE: _____
OCCUPATION: _____

**OPTIONAL (OCCUPATION INFORMATION REQUIRED ONLY FOR
MEMBERS CONTRIBUTING \$200 OR MORE IN ONE CALENDAR YEAR)*

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____
WORK TELEPHONE: _____ WORK FAX: _____
WORK E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION

MAIL ALL INFORMATION TO MY: HOME ___ BUSINESS ___
 SINGLE \$8.00 **COUPLE \$10.00** **OTHERS** _____
 **I CAN NOT MAKE A CONTRIBUTION AT THIS TIME BUT
WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER**

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND CONTRIBUTION TO:
THE NEWAYGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
BOX 146**

NEWAYGO, MICHIGAN 49337

*PLEASE MAKE PAYMENT BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER – PAYABLE TO NEWAYGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE WE RECEIVE YOUR APPLICATION*

Your contribution may be used in connection with local, State and federal elections and is subject to the prohibitions and limitations of the Federal Election Campaign Act. Federal Law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. DONATIONS ARE NOT U.S. TAX DEDUCTIBLE

In an effort to increase attendance at our meetings, we are asking our readers to send their input to the following address:

**THE NEWAYGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
BOX 146
NEWAYGO, MICHIGAN 49337**

1. What day of week and time of day would you be most likely to attend a meeting?

2. What topics are you interested in hearing about?

3. What activities might persuade you to attend?

4. Are there things, beyond what we are asking, that would encourage you to attend?

5. Are there places, snacks, games, beverages that would get you to attend?

At these Meetings, we discuss and debate the following things:

- How to further our Party's interests (i.e., finding and supporting Democrats to run for elected office,**
- Attracting new members and volunteers to our common cause.**
- Electing democrats who will further our efforts by improving the lives of all Americans in a fair and constitutional way.**

Our General Membership meetings are currently held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm.

At present, we do not have a permanent place to gather, however, our August meeting is being held at our office in Newaygo.

Please join us!

Newaygo County Democratic Party
65 W State Rd, Apt. C
P.O. Box 146
Newaygo, MI 49337

**Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Newaygo, MI
Permit #33**



Executive Board members

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Barb Geno, Vice-Chair

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