



## Meeting Minutes, July 20, 2023

**I. Welcome! Glenda Stainback** welcomed everyone to this meeting.

**II. Approval of Agenda:** Laurie Lisi moved approval, and Sharon Baseman seconded. The agenda was approved.

**III. Approval of June Meeting Minutes:** Laurie Lisi moved approval, and Zakiya Hollifield seconded. The Minutes were approved.

### IV. Guest Speakers

**A. Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson:** “We work, we fight, we win” is the theme for our state. A lot started happening in 2018 to repudiate the 2016 presidential election. Election day registration and early voting have increased voter numbers significantly. Two main goals for 2024: we have to ensure that the Republican candidate for president doesn’t win, and we must retain and expand the Democratic majority in the MI Legislature. We are able to transform MI for generations with our current Democratic majority. May it thrive and prevail, and may democracy thrive and prevail!

**B. MI Sen. Mallory McMorrow:** Saving democracy is hard work. Prop 2 expanded voting rights—especially 9 days of early voting. The Democratic trifecta, for the first time in 40 years, shows MI leading in the US as a beacon of hope. The Legislature has passed more bills so far than the last 6 Legislatures combined—e.g., repeal of right to work, repeal of the retirement tax, LGBTQ+ protective measures, etc. We must prove that 2022 was not a fluke in MI. In 2024, voters must come out to retain and expand the Democratic majority in the state.

**C. Voters Not Politicians Director Jamie Lyons-Eddy:** The origin of VNP occurred as a grass roots group to counter gerrymandering. Promote the Vote continues to be a major activity of VNP. Volunteers also meet with

Election Clerks to find out what support they need. VNP is excited about all the accomplishments re: voting. Ethics and Transparency reforms must, however, continue to inspire trust and confidence re: financial and other matters. The three main problems re: preventing democracy from thriving: gerrymandering; barriers to voting; money in politics. All these must be addressed and improved. Volunteers are needed to help with ongoing projects.

**D. Rep. Jason Hoskins:** There have been great accomplishments in the MI Legislature: \$2 million dedicated to community outdoor spaces, affordable housing, public safety, reimagining economic development in needed areas, a holistic approach to issues, attracting and retaining talent, etc. All tools for MI to be #1 in the US.

**E. Rep. Natalie Price:** Historic budget passed for equitable funding for education. Transformative changes: 5 days of free pre-school, free meals for kids, budget for building improvements (e.g., A/C).

**F. Rep. Regina Weiss:** Gov. Whitmer signed to historic education bill today, July 20. Largest investment in education in MI history. Special education allowance. Direct funding for transportation.

Lively Q/A with guest speakers re: a variety of topics.

**V. Treasurer's Report (Nina Abrams):** June 30-July 20:

**As of 6.30:** checking account balance is \$1880.04; savings account balance is \$1101.11 (incl. \$.09 interest).

**As of 7.18:** checking account balance is \$1882.94 (incl. Act Blue deposits and withdrawals).

**VI. Vote on Bylaws (Laurie Lisi):** The new name, once approved by the MDP, will be Democrats of South Oakland County (DSOC). The new name is now reflected across the bylaws. There are some other minor changes: e.g. the Treasurer is able to withdraw \$250 vs. \$100 for expenses as needed. Lucinda Kiels moved approval of the new bylaws, and Marian McClellan seconded. The bylaws were approved.

**VII. Unfinished business:** There was no unfinished business.

**VIII. New business:** There was no new business.

## **IX. Good and Welfare**

**US Senate candidate Hill Harper** attended our meeting and asked to speak. Communities have to be well represented. We have to show up for each other and to protect and preserve democracy. We need to stand for what we believe in.

**Kris McClonis** is the new chair of Ferndale Area Dems. Their meeting on July 27, 7 pm, will feature Rep. Helena Scott.

**Debbie Rosenman** mentioned the Fighting 9 meeting on August 1, featuring US Rep. Haley Stevens. At the First United Methodist Church on the east side of Woodward at Leroy.

**Nina Abrams** invited everyone to attend the OPHWROT Dem Club picnic on August 16 at 6:00 pm in Shepherd Park, Oak Park. US Rep. Haley Stevens will be the keynote speaker alongside other elected officials.

**Danielle Hall** represents the NW Detroit Democratic Club and announced a meeting on July 28, 5:30-8:30 pm.

**Barry Lepler** reminded everyone about our Candidates' Night meeting on September 21. More to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Roslyn Schindler, Secretary