



OAKLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Moving Michigan Forward

We have a great group of Officers and Committee Chairs, and we are excited to continue working to elect Democrats in Oakland County. Get to know the OCDP leaders below!

OCDP Officers:

First Vice-Chair, Carlos Cross: Carlos Cross is the Statutory (1st) Vice-Chair of the OCDP. He is also the Chair and a founding member of the Oakland County Democratic Black Caucus. He will be focused on getting our candidates elected in Oakland County, and is looking forward to your help in getting it done!

Vice-Chair, Wanda Anderson: Wanda Anderson is a political and community activist, precinct delegate city of Oak, and past chair Oak Park/Huntington Woods Democratic Club. She has worked on numerous presidential and local campaigns. She currently serves on MDP Appeals Committee, State Central Alternate 14th CD. She has served on OCDP Phil Hart Dinner Committee, Membership, Finance/Compensation and Endorsement Committees. Wanda is a proud UAW member and serves on the UAW Michigan CAP Committee and Region 1 Oakland County CAP Council.

Vice-Chair, Ray Wert: Ray is the former Assistant Finance Director, Assistant Campaign Manager, and Director of Operations to Gov. Granholm. After the Governor's Office, he moved on to a decade-long career in media, and is the former head of storytelling for General Motors. Ray now runs storytelling for the \$30 billion self-driving car company, Cruise.

Vice-Chair, Sharon Kelly-Person: Sharon is a Registered Parliamentarian and believes in the rule of law. She was appointed by the Governor to the Michigan Unarmed Committee Commission. Sharon is a Precinct Delegate for Southfield and received Precinct Delegate Award from United Precinct Delegates in 2020. She is an SLVDC Executive Board Member, Executive Board member for the 14 District, Executive Board member for the OCDBC, and lastly a Vice-Chair of OCDP.

Corresponding Secretary, Kevin Hrit: Kevin Hrit is the Corresponding Secretary for OCDP. He has been involved in Politics since 2006, working for Congressman and Senator Gary Peters, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, and the Michigan Democratic Party. Kevin attended Troy Public Schools, is a graduate of James Madison College at Michigan State University, and lives in Berkley with his wife Lisa, sons Parker and Carson, and dog Izzy.

Recording Secretary, Julia Galliker: As the OCDP's recording secretary, Julia Galliker looks forward to getting to know all executive committee members as we join together to support Democratic candidates that represent our values and commit to governing on

behalf of the people of Oakland County. She is a former finance exec and corporate treasurer with more than 20 years of international work experience. She is currently the Oakland County director for Michigan Liberation which is devoted to real criminal justice reform at the local and state level.

Treasurer, Phillip Reid: Phillip (Phil) Reid lives in Independence Twp (Clarkston) and has lived in Oakland County for the second half of his life, the first half was in Wayne County (Detroit), except for about two years (Livonia). Phil remembers the day he decided to be a straight-ticket voter for the Democratic Party, January 3, 1995 - the day Newt Gingrich became the Speaker of the House. Phil has been active with the Michigan Democratic Party at the State, Congressional District, County, and Club levels, has been a Precinct Delegate since 2006, and he has run for County Commissioner, District 4.

8th District Rep., Brian Dunphy: Brian has been a Rochester Hills resident for more than 30 years, and serves as Vice-Chair - Oakland County on the 8th Congressional District Democratic Committee. He is an Officer-at-Large with the Rochester Area Democratic Club and Precinct Delegate Liaison, as well as a precinct delegate in Rochester Hills Pct. 9. He has worked as a volunteer on numerous campaigns at the local, state and Congressional levels. Brian is also a member of the OCDP Political Organizing and Communications committees.

9th District Rep., Jenny Byer: Jenny is currently the 9th District Representative for the OCDP Officers Committee. She is currently the Communications Director for Congressman Andy Levin.

11th District Rep., Carla Meier: Carla Meier, Troy, has been a longtime activist and has served as Precinct Delegate, State Central Delegate, officer/board member for the Troy Democratic Club, Oakland County Democratic Party, 9th and 11th Congressional Districts and the MDP Justice Caucus. She was also a Delegate to the DNC, Charlotte, in 2012 and has worked on local, county, state and national campaigns.

14th District Rep., Loretta Coleman: Loretta has been with the OCDP since Gary Peters was District Chair. She is the Vice-Chair of the Pontiac Democratic Club and First Vice-Chair for the Oakland County Black Caucus. Loretta is also a member of the 14th Democratic Congressional District and is currently battling with Stage 4 bladder cancer.

Parliamentarian, Murray Gorchow: Murray Gorchow is a now semi-retired attorney, who formerly represented organized labor and workers injured on the job. He was appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm as Chief Judge of Workers Compensation, and later as Chair of the Workers Compensation Appellate Commission. Murray has served as Parliamentarian of the OCDP for the last 6 years, and as Parliamentarian of the 14th District Dems for the last 10 years. He has been a Precinct Delegate from West Bloomfield for approximately 14 years. He is married and has a son and daughter and 3 grand-daughters.

Officer-At-Large, Kelly Dillaha: Kelly Dillaha's strengths are creating data-driven strategy and building relationships. A small business owner and former university administrator, she is Chair of Oakland County Sanitary Code Appeal Board, precinct delegate, founder of Birmingham-Bloomfield Women in Business, and active member of Birmingham-Bloomfield

Dems and Fems for Democracy. She lives in Birmingham with her husband Scott and twin sons Aidan and Brady.

Officer-At-Large, Brittany Pinnock: Brittany Pinnock is a lifelong Democrat, MDP member, precinct delegate, organizer, and activist. She has worked on various campaigns. Brittany is currently chair of Novi Dems, a Fems For Dems board member, and an 11th Congressional District Democratic Party executive committee member. She wants to continue to be of service and help make OCDP successful. She believes that we can be more transparent, inclusive, and more embracing of community stakeholders. She believes that we can continue to uplift/promote our values, be informative, elect Democratic candidates and support Democratic elected officials and hold them to account, support community, party members, and precinct delegates.

Officer-At-Large, Nash Salami: Nash Salami is a student at Oakland University, where he studies political science and philosophy. Besides his studies, Nash sits on the Birmingham Education Foundation board of trustees and has dedicated most of his time to fighting for equity in public education. Following his extensive involvement in electing Democrats in the 2016-2018 election cycles, Nash ran for the Birmingham Public School Board to bring light to issues of inequality and unfair discipline practices in public schools.

Officer-At-Large, Nancy Quarles: Nancy Quarles served on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and the Michigan House of Representatives. She was appointed to the Road Commission of Oakland County 2021. She also currently works as a professor at Central Michigan University. Nancy is also the chair of the OCDP Membership Committee.

Officer-At-Large, Joseph Person: Joseph Person is a Registered Parliamentarian, NAP, Chair of SLVDC, and received Precinct Delegate of the Year award in 2019 from African American Leadership Awards. He serves on the Executive Board of OCDBC and Executive Board for 14th Congressional District. He is a member of State Central Committee and Officer at Large for OCDP. He also received a Proclamation from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on November 20, 2020 for all his hard work in the community.

Officer-At-Large, Gloria Harsten-Spann: Gloria Harsten-Spann is the Pontiac Dem Club Chair. She lives in Pontiac, is an Oakland County Canvasser, and member on the Oakland County Personnel Appeal BD. She is a member of the 14th Congressional Dist. and CO-Chair of 14th Screening Committee. She is a Mother(5), Grandmother(15), Great-Grandmother (11), and Sunday School teacher (on break now). She is a member of Oakland Black Caucus and comes from a union background "AFSCME."

Officer-At-Large, Dana Fortier: Dana Fortier is a Novi resident and active member of the Northville Democratic Club (Secretary), Oakland/Macomb Michigan NOW (Membership Chair), Novi Democrats, and Farmington/Farmington Hills Democrats. She successfully managed the campaigns of Samantha Steckloff (HD37) and Gwen Markham (Oakland Board of Commissioners, District 9) and currently consults with aspiring political candidates in many states.

Officer-At-Large, Tom Regan: Tom works as a software engineer. He has served in the leadership of the Greater Royal Oak Democratic Club for the last 20 years, with many of those years serving as chair. When he was much younger he worked as a community

organizer for ACORN, a union organizer for CWA, a lobbyist for MOPIRG, and an organizer for an abortion rights organization.

Officer-At-Large, Jessica Lumbreras: Jessica Lumbreras works in Public Affairs for the Michigan Education Association and is the current Chair of the Berkley Democratic Club. She is an organizer and campaign professional with a focus on political activism in the areas of public education, labor, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. In her free time, she enjoys listening to records, hanging out with her family and friends, and watching movies with her two dogs Bella and Ruby.

Officer-At-Large, Regina Strong: Regina Strong is an effective advocate, a powerful communicator and a skillful negotiator. For more than 30 years, she has served as a leader in advocacy, public affairs, communications and public relations. Currently Regina serves as the Environmental Justice Public Advocate for the state. In that role she leads the Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate within the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Regina holds a Master of Science in Strategic Communications/Public Relations and a Graduate Certificate in Strategic Communications Management from Purdue University. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Michigan State University.

Officer-At-Large, Dr. Melanie Hartman: This will be Melanie's third term on the OCDP Officer's Board and she has served as Recording Secretary and an At-Large Board member in the past, as well as Chair of the Fundraising Committee and a member of the Finance and Compensation Committees. She is also a delegate to the Michigan Democratic 8th Congressional District as well as a delegate to the MDP State Central Committee. She holds a pharmacist as well as MD degrees and lives in Rochester Hills with her husband, Gary Abusamra, and they have two daughters, Francesca and Sophia, golden-doodle, Gracie, and Amazon parrot, Ziggy.

Officer-At-Large, Francine Melotti: Francine says that it's an honor to serve on the OCDP leadership team, and she looks forward to advancing our position as one of the most powerful county-party organizations in the country. She is a longtime grassroots activist, precinct delegate, executive committee member and former vice-chair of the North Oakland Democratic Club, part of North Oakland Women-Making A Difference, and consistent contributor to OCDP. She has also served on Kitchen Cabinets for several local and state candidates. Now retired, Francine spent several decades in corporate communications, editorial services and media relations.

Sergeant-At-Arms, Anthony Grillo: Tony Grillo is currently the OCDP Sergeant-At-Arms and has been an OCDP officer for years. He works in quality at Ford Motor Company and is a proud UAW member.

Immediate Past Chair, Vaughn Derderian: Vaughn Derderian is the prior Chair of the Oakland County Democratic Party, and used to own the Anchor Bar in Detroit. He lives in Madison Heights with his wife and three children.

OCDP Standing Committee Chairs:

Communications Committee Chair, Barb Anness: Barb Anness is a resident of Rochester Hills, she has lived in Michigan for 24 years with her husband, Tim. She believes in the power of public education to transform lives which is why she currently serves on the

Rochester Community Schools Board of Education as a Trustee. Barb is a graphic designer by trade and after running for the MI House 45th district in 2020 she wants to work these next two years to bring progressive, diverse voices to state and local government.

Political Organizing Committee Chair, Debbie Rosenman: Debbie Rosenman has been very active working on many county, state and national campaigns. She is the new chair of the Birmingham Bloomfield Democratic Club and is extremely involved with recruiting and training precinct delegates in her area. She is now working on the staff of State Senator Mallory McMorrow in Constituent Services.

Rules & Bylaws Committee Chair, Kim Somsky: Kim Somsky is a precinct delegate and Vice-Chair of the North Oakland Democratic Club. She served as Vice-Chair of Finance, co-chair of Fundraising, and member of the Budget and Compensation committees for the OCDP during the past term. She also works on the Rosemary Bayer for State Senate campaign. Outside of politics, Kim is a performance improvement consultant and a yoga teacher.

Finance Committee Chair, Dr. Theresa Brooks: Theresa Brooks is a wife and mother of three daughters. She has an Undergraduate Degree in Biology & Sociology from UofM and went to Medical School at MSU College of Human Medicine. She is a small business owner with a private practice located in Grosse Pointe that is affiliated with Beaumont Hospital. She is a Precinct Delegate and a Troy Democratic Party Trustee, and she was elected to Troy City Council in 2019. She currently is serving as Mayor Pro Tem in Troy.

Resolutions Committee Chair, Ravi Yalamanchi: Ravi Yalamanchi established Metro Community Development, a Community Development Financial Institution, in Flint and surrounding eight county market, to create access to capital in underserved communities. He has been CEO for over 22 years. In 2019, he started his own Management and Forensics Operations consulting firm, INFIN, Inc. He is also a former City Council Member, City of Rochester Hills (2005 – 2013) and served on many commissions and committees in Rochester. Former Treasurer and Commissioner - Older Persons Commission, Rochester, MI. Former Commissioner Paint Creek Trailways Commission Served on Water and Sewer Committee, Finance Committee and Environmental Committee. Ravi served on the Biden-Harris 2020 Campaign Policy Committee and Assisted on many Rochester and Oakland County elections in 2020.

Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Committee Chair, Mikal Goodman: Mikal Goodman is a progressive political activist and educator from the city of Pontiac who has spent the last 5 years fighting for workers rights, racial justice, environmental justice, and healthcare across the country. Mikal currently serves as the Vice-Chair of The Young Democrats of Michigan, an executive board member for Oakland County for Racial Justice, and a director at Reroot Pontiac.

Community Support Committee Chair, Cheryl Herrmann: Cheryl holds a bachelor's degree from MSU and a law degree from U of D Mercy School of Law. She is licensed to practice each in the State of Michigan. She believes in the importance of a diversity of thoughts, ideas, and opinions at the table.

Young Democrats Committee Chair, Caprice Jackson: Caprice Jackson is a policy analyst with the city of Detroit and the chair of the 14th District Youth Advisory Council. After

graduating from Michigan State with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Relations and Policy, she currently works with Detroit City Council as a policy analyst and community liaison. Previously she has worked with State House District 5 (Detroit) and House District 35 (Southfield). Caprice has served as former President and Vice President of two mentoring organizations, P.E.A.R.L.S and Virtue- Girls with a Purpose. Currently, she focuses on organizing youth and keeping them civically engaged within the 14th Congressional District as the Chair of the 14th Congressional Youth Council and a Membership Chair for the Michigan Democratic Party Youth Caucus. Recently, she was named the 14th District Young Democrat's Liaison and awarded the Legacy District Award.



We hope that you are doing well. If you have any questions, please reach out to staff@ocdp.org.

-Jody & Alex



{{Disclaimer}}

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