

Antrim County Times

Volume 1 – Issue 2

"Educating folks about Michigan News & Michigan Politics,...one reader at a time"!!!

Please pay \$.50 a copy



WILDWOOD



CENTRAL LAKE | ELK RAPIDS | RAPID CITY
villmkt.com

If you have any questions or would like to sponsor our event, Please call us at; 231-360-5140

**"Fun Shoot, Pig Roast & Randy's Carrot Cake"
Saturday, August 24th, 2019 1:00 - 4:00 pm
3220 Muckle Rd., Central Lake, Michigan
(Privately owned Gun Range - Richard Davis)
NRA Instructors/Range Officers to provide
Handguns, Shotguns & Long Rifles to Shoot
Pig Roast, Music & Euchre Tournament**

**Information and Tickets ONLY available online at;
www.eventbrite.com**

Search for; Central Lake, MI Saturday, August 24th

Note; Tickets sales will end on Monday, August 19th based on our need for a head count



Dear Editor,

The Antrim County Conservative Union (ACCU) is totally AGAINST Gov. Whitmer's proposed state budget of \$60.2 Billion (a 3.6% INCREASE over Michigan's current operating 2019 budget) AND her proposed \$.45 per gallon INCREASE in our fuel taxes (\$10 extra on every average fill-up),...which if implemented would become the HIGHEST in America.

After being the ONLY state in the Country to lose population per the 2010 U.S. Census, we will once again see Michigan losing population after the 2020 census.

The over taxation, wasteful spending and the outdated models that are currently operating in Lansing,...MUST STOP NOW!

The ACCU believes that Lansing must perform a "forensic accounting" of EVERY department and reduce their budgets, in order to find the tax dollars necessary to repair our roads and bridges, WITHOUT raising our current state's budget or fuel taxes any further.

Michigan needs to pass reforms to; a) Cut our car insurance rates, by 50%. (Michigan is #1 in having the highest rates in America) b) Lower our electric rates by eliminating the current 90% monopoly. c) Eliminate Michigan's State Income Tax. And finally; d) Return Lansing to a Part-Time Legislature, (which we had until 1963) via "Part-Time in Lansing, Full-Time in District" ballot proposal.

The ACCU meets the 3rd Monday of each month (next meeting August 19th, 2019), at the Forest Home Township Hall, 321 Bridge Street, Bellaire, MI at 7:30 pm.

**Randy Bishop
ACCU – Chairman
Visit our website at; www.aconservatives.org
Phone; 231 - 360 - 5140**

Inside Source: Republicans Plan To Fix The Roads Includes a 15 Cent Gas Tax Hike;

The top two GOP leaders in Lansing are close to finalizing a road fix package.

Based on inside information, it looks like a 15 cents-a-gallon hike in the state's gas tax will be part of the plan.

"A Republican source with close ties to the House Republican caucus is reporting that the two legislative leaders, Senator Mike Shirkey and House Speaker Lee Chatfield, are close to finalizing a deal on how to fix the roads," said Lansing Bureau Chief Tim Skubick.

The package would include a gas tax increase, "but it would be revenue neutral," said Skubick.

"In other words, taxpayers would get a break on one front and pay a little more on the other, but they would balance one another out," he added. It's not clear when the lawmakers will come to a deal, or if Governor Gretchen Whitmer would support their plan.

"Look for this to fall into place soon and then if they agree, they'll take it to the governor to see if she'll go along, too," said Skubick.

The state's current gas tax is 18.7 cents per gallon.

Looking to fulfill her campaign promise to "fix the damn roads," Gov. Whitmer proposed a controversial 45 cents-a-gallon hike in the state's gas tax.

The provision was thrown out by a Senate subcommittee, which approved \$132 million in accelerated funding for roads in the 2020 transportation budget, falling far short of Whitmer's call for \$1.9 billion per year.

The Legislators aren't expected back into session in Lansing until after Labor Day.

(Source; WWJ Radio)

Chatfield-Shirkey 'Close On Roads;' Legislature Not Coming Back Until At Least Aug. 26 (Source; MIRS News Service)

If you miss the House and Senate being in session, you'll be waiting a few weeks longer.

Amber McCANN, press secretary for Senate Majority Leader Mike SHIRKEY (R-ClarkLake) announced today the Senate does not plan to resume session with attendance and voting until the week of Aug. 26.

Likewise, Senate Majority Floor Leader Triston COLE (R-Mancelona) said, "There really isn't a reason to come back without our partners across the rotunda."

By that point, the hope is that the system renovations in the Senate chambers will be complete and the upper body can meet in its regular room without having to hold session in the House chambers, which it has received permission to do.

Secretary of the Senate Margaret O'BRIEN said crews should be mostly completed by Sept. 3, but there will be some painting that still needs to be done in some construction zones.

"We are on track for construction," O'Brien said. "It's highly likely we will return to chamber in August although it will still be a construction zone. We will have an update on that later this week."

At that point, the Senate Republicans caucus' priorities will be finishing the budget and passing a long-term road funding plan, McCann said. All the details of what the Republicans plan want haven't been rolled out, but is expected to include eliminating the sales tax on gasoline and replacing that tax, penny-for-penny with a roughly 15-cent-a-gallon gas tax so all of the state taxes collected at the pump goes to roads.

To replace the \$800 million lost to the School Aid Fund and General Fund from the elimination of the sales tax on gasoline, Republicans would like to bond against the teachers retirement system and stretch out pension payments additional years (See "Bonding Out School Pension Payback Suggested To Free Up \$\$\$," 6/26/19).

Neither chamber may be in session, but a source with close inside ties to the House Republican caucus is indicating that the two GOP legislative leaders are "close" to a final agreement on how to fix the roads. The two are hoping to meet with Whitmer in August to see if they can get agreement on whatever they come up with.

(continued on the next column)

In the meantime, Speaker Lee CHATFIELD's (R-Levering) 10-person working committee, run by House Transportation Committee Chair Jack O'MALLEY (R-Lake Ann), has been charged with finalizing a proposal to take to the caucus next month.

The strategy here is to give the Speaker some support in the decidedly conservative caucus from the gang of 10. They supposedly will have buy-in on the plan they draft. That means the Speaker would not be the only one promoting a solution. He'd get verbal back-up from the committee.

Also included in the talks between the two leaders is the 20% vehicle registration fee hike from 2015. The two leaders may buy into the Governor's willingness to discuss extending by five to 10 years the length of the payoff of the teacher retirement debt.

There is also some unconfirmed speculation that the Michigan Education Association has not taken off the table the possibility of bonding using the teacher retirement fund, but would be more comfortable if the Lottery and/or Michigan Economic Development Corporation's coffers were used instead.

A MIRS source reported the GOP goal is to raise \$1.2 billion and to couple that with the \$1.2 billion adopted by the previous legislature, which would allow the governor to say she got a \$2.5 billion package.

There is also reportedly a tacit understanding between Gov. Gretchen WHITMER and the two legislative leaders that she "needs a win" after she gave them a win on no-fault auto insurance reform package.

The tentative timetable is to perhaps have lawmakers come in for one day in August to vote on the gas tax issue, but that is not set in stone.

More likely is a vote on the road package, before the budget, possibly right around Labor Day.

Clearly, the next move is up to Chatfield and Shirkey and that will take a face-to-face meeting, says this source who is also confident the Governor will eventually get new revenue for the roads from the GOP legislature . . . with Democratic support, of course.



Deep Tissue Treatments

- Migraine Headaches
- Tension and Stress Relief
- Shoulder Pain
- Sports Injury
- Low Back and Hip Pain
- Detox Foot Bath
- Ear Candling

Gift Certificates Available

Tracey Sedlacek, CMT-P, MMT
Licensed, Certified & Insured



**Advanced
Clinical Massage Therapy**

806 Hastings St. • Traverse City
231-935-HEAL (4325)

Visit our website

www.advancedcmt.com



CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCEMENT - EVENT (The Public is invited to attend)

**Ken
BORTON**
FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

For the 105th State House District

**Monday, August 26th, 2019
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Otsego Grand Event Center
610 S. Wisconsin Ave.
Gaylord, MI 49735**

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Ken Borton
7682 White Cloud Trail, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

Advertise your Business, Organization or Event;

CALL 231-360-5125 or Email us at: antrimcountytimes@gmail.com

Antrim County Times - P.O. Box 650, Elk Rapids, MI 49629

Democrats will have an uphill battle to beat President Trump in Michigan in 2020 election;

Democrats say they've got lots of answers for Michigan's woes in the automotive and agriculture sectors suffering from the trade war, racial economic inequalities, and a lack of affordable health care. But they faced a skeptical audience when they arrived for the debates in Detroit.

Hillary Clinton in 2016 was the first Democratic presidential candidate to lose the state in 28 years, by a slim 11,000 votes. The party seems to understand it can't take Michigan for granted this time around in 2020.

State and local officials want the candidates to know that they need to not just show up, but to show up with a clear message on key working-class issues like health care, trade and jobs. Even with the U.S. economy growing, plant closings in Michigan and Ohio have many factory workers on edge.

"The Democrats didn't do a very good job of talking to working men and women," Democratic U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell said in an interview. "Voters will want to know that they will have a good job and that it's secure and that they will have health care coverage."

Autos, Housing, Water

Nine of the candidates were at the NAACP annual convention in Detroit on July 24. Joe Biden earned the endorsement of Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, in part by professing his friendship to the auto industry, while Elizabeth Warren talked about affordable urban housing. Beto O'Rourke went to Flint and talked about the city's water crisis. Last week, Senator Kamala Harris and two Michigan lawmakers unveiled the Water Justice Act, which would allocate \$250 billion to ensure access to clean water.

"The way that you win the voters in Michigan is visit them often and talk to them," said Lavora Barnes, chairwoman of the Michigan Democratic Party. "Get here. Get out into the field and talk the voters regularly and listen to them."

Race will be a key issue in Detroit, which is 83% black. Education and health care are also on the list.

But nothing tops the economy for importance among blue-collar voters, many of whom went for President Donald Trump in 2016 based on his promise to bring manufacturing jobs back from Mexico and China, Dingell said. Trump seized on the issue while Clinton talked more about creating green jobs to replace factory work.

The Economy

With unemployment at 3.8% nationally, dinging Trump on the economy may be tough for Democrats. But in Michigan and the upper Midwest, plant closings by General Motors Co., planned cuts amid weak profits from Ford Motor Co., and a higher jobless rate of 4.4% means there could be some room for gains, said Matt Grossmann, associate professor of political science at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

"There is a transition back to class politics," Grossmann said. "The Democrats were traditionally the party of the working class. Trump was able to neutralize that and now they're trying to get back to that."

Unemployment is 8.8% in Detroit, double the state's average, and there's a strong sense that prosperity is concentrated in seven miles near downtown, among white-collar workers at big employers like GM and Quicken Loans Inc., Grossmann said. Democrats will try to exploit that disparity and get the city's voters to come out for them.

(Source; Bloomberg News)

Republicans sue to stop Proposal 2 from being implemented;

Republicans are suing to stop Michigan's new citizen redistricting commission before it begins, alleging the voter-approved amendment is "blatantly unconstitutional" and discriminates against participants based on political service or family ties.

A high-stakes federal lawsuit filed Tuesday morning with the U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids seeks to invalidate Proposal 2, block implementation and prevent the independent commission from drawing new legislative and congressional district maps for the 2022 election cycle.

Instead, whichever political party wins control of the state Legislature next year would lead that process in 2021 but need approval from Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Republicans drew existing lines in 2011 and currently hold majorities in the Michigan House and Senate.

The legal action is backed by the Fair Lines America Foundation, a nonprofit with ties to the National Republican Redistricting Trust. The suit was filed on behalf of 15 Michigan residents who would be excluded from serving on the commission under the new rules.

"Any reform, no matter how poorly conceived, must achieve its goals without infringing on the basic rights guaranteed to all of us by the Constitution," said Scott Walker, the former Wisconsin governor who is now finance chair for the GOP redistricting group, in a statement.

"Michigan's new redistricting commission falls short of that standard by punishing the people of Michigan for exercising those rights — or for being related to someone who has."

The amendment to the Michigan Constitution prohibits service on the commission by anyone who in the last six years was a partisan candidate, elected official, political appointee, lobbyist, campaign consultant and officer or member of the governing body of a political party. It also excludes a parent, child or spouse of any of those individuals.

The Voters Not Politicians ballot committee marketed the exclusions as a way to discourage hyper-partisan influence on the 13-member commission, which is designed to include four Republicans, four Democrats and five residents who do not affiliate with either of the two major political parties.

The GOP lawsuit alleges that rules excluding plaintiffs from serving on the commission violate their First Amendment free speech and association rights, as well as their 14th Amendment guarantee of equal protection under the law. There's no guarantee someone who works in politics has stronger partisan beliefs or would be less impartial than someone who does not, attorneys argue.

"No American should be barred from holding a government position because they, or someone they are related to, exercised their Constitutional rights," Walker added. "This lawsuit aims to restore the rights of all Michiganders to freely participate in the political process without the threat of government sanction."

Michigan voters approved Proposal 2 last fall by 61%-39%. A group backed by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce sued to keep it off the November ballot, but the Michigan Supreme Court ultimately let voters decide its fate.

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat who is tasked with implementing the commission and recently unveiled draft commissioner applications, is the named defendant in the suit.

(Source; The Detroit News)

Get a paid subscription to the Antrim County Times for just \$10.00 per year:

Cut out and mail this form with a check, money order or cash to;

Antrim County Times, P.O. Box 650, Elk Rapids, MI 49629

Your Name; _____

Address you want our newspaper mailed to;

Phone; _____

Email; _____

Thank you for your support!!!

Pray to End Abortion,...sign the "Heartbeat Bill" Petition,...today!!!



For more information call Gregg Valerio or Cherie Hogan at; 231-645-5446

Michigan gun debate heats up after Ohio, Texas mass shootings
(Source; The Detroit News)

Twenty-nine people were killed in two mass shootings in America this weekend: 20 slain at a Wal-Mart in El Paso, Texas, and 9 in Dayton, Ohio, along with dozens of others injured by gunfire.

That same stretch of time saw at least nine (9) people shot in Detroit, three of them fatally, in shootings scattered through the city.

In the aftermath of the violence, activists told different stories about gun ownership and what it represents.

Andrew Patrick, a spokesman for the Washington, D.C. based "Coalition to Stop Gun Violence", founded in 1974, said the mass shootings are part of a "public health crisis" in America concerning gun violence.

When the organization was founded it was called the National Coalition to Ban Handguns, and focused on handgun violence specifically. Their name changed in 1989 after a shooting in Stockton, California in which 5 kids were killed and 30 wounded at an elementary school with an AK-47.

Patrick's focus was on what he called the "high-powered semi-automatic assault rifles" used in both attacks.

"They're intended to kill as many people in as short an amount of time as possible, and that's why they're chosen by these shooters," Patrick said. "They're the official gun of mass shootings."

Patrick criticized political leaders, from Democratic U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, to Republican U.S. President Donald Trump, for a lack of action in Washington, D.C., to ban such weapons.

"Tweeting 'God Bless El Paso' is not going to work," Patrick said, referring to a tweet by President Donald Trump on Sunday morning, offering blessings to both cities affected by the mass shootings.

Those remarks were echoed by the Michigan Democratic Party on Twitter. Taking issue with a tweet where Trump called the El Paso shooting "not only tragic, but an act of cowardice," the Dems wrote that the shooting was "an act of terrorism by a white nationalist terrorist.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, a Democrat and the state's top law enforcement officer, wrote on Twitter that "it's time" for state lawmakers to "create better gun laws I can enforce to protect our state residents from senseless acts of gun violence."

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, meanwhile, wrote that "gun violence is a public health crisis in our country, and we need to come together and take action to make sure firearms don't end up in the hands of someone who wants to hurt themselves or others."

Detroit-based firearms instructor Rick Ector, 51, has "lost count" by now of how many people he has trained in his almost 15 years giving lessons on how to get concealed carry weapons permits.

In May, a free training class for women drew a crowd of 800, and he hopes to top that by bringing out 1,000 women at once for training someday. His affinity for guns and appreciation for gun safety started about 15 years ago when he was robbed at gunpoint in his own driveway.

Ector, owner of Rick's Firearm Academy of Detroit, noted that in the El Paso shooting, the alleged gunman surrendered at the first sight of opposition in the form of armed police officers who arrived about six minutes after he started shooting.

"As soon as the first gun was pointed at him, he gave up," Ector said.

(story continued on the next column)

But by that point 20 people had been killed. They were targeted, police believe, because of the alleged shooter's animus toward Hispanics.

Ector said he carries a weapon everywhere he's legally allowed to do so, but hopes he never has to use it.

"I have no desire to be a hero. But no one has as vested an interest in your safety as you do," Ector said. "I strongly encourage people to take an active role in their own protection." Thousands of Metro Detroiters have just done that, at Ector's instruction, over the years.

Some of them, afterward, have had to use their guns and call on their training to protect themselves.

It's not a joyful experience, he warns.

"None of them has said they were happy to do that, or happy to be placed in that position," Ector said. "But it beats the alternative."

While taking special care to not criticize the police, Ector noted that with even just a few minutes before officers arrived, a shooter in a population-dense environment can inflict many casualties.

Ector said that if faced with a mass-shooting situation, he would be armed, and would ensure his safety and that of his family first. Only then would he engage the gunman.

"But there are no guarantees" of safety provided by gun ownership or possession, he notes. Still, he says, "I'd rather have a chance than no chance."

"There are some people who are not good people," Ector said. "They exist, they've always existed, and will continue to exist. It doesn't matter who you are, or if you're a good person or not."

Linda Brundage of East Lansing is executive director of the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. She said the two mass shootings Saturday have the coalition's membership split, between those "so angry they're spitting tacks" and others "really in the dumps and full of tears" after violent incidents viewed as "preventable."

(Source; The Detroit News)

Are YOU looking for Solutions?

**For; __ Medicare __ Health Insurance
__ Life Insurance __ Dental or Vision Insurance
__ Guaranteed Retirement Income**

Call "Northern Michigan's Solutions Expert"

Laura Bogdan,...Call her today at;

231-264-6890

Laura has been serving Northern Michigan since 1998

ANTRIM COUNTY CONSERVATIVE UNION

A Social Education Club. (Website; www.acconservatives.org Phone; 231-360-5140)

**We hold monthly meetings, the 3rd Monday (8-19-19) of each month 7:30pm - 9:00pm
Forest Home Township Hall, 321 N. Bridge St., Bellaire, MI**

We discuss news and political current events (National, Michigan & Local) that are of interest to our members like those in this newspaper and we discuss how we can educate the people here in Antrim County.

Additionally, we host elected officials/candidates running for office to ask them questions about their policy positions and what they will advocate for while in office.

We will produce and distribute "Voter Guides" prior to elections.

The public is welcome,...Come join us!!!