

EASTSIDE REPUBLICAN REVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE EASTSIDE REPUBLICAN CLUB

P. O. Box 361025 Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236
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September 2019

Crain's Writer Chad Livengood to Talk Politics, Policy

Chad Livengood, senior editor at Crain's Detroit Business, speaks to the Eastside Republican Club on



Tuesday, Sept. 17, at the War Memorial.

His forum remarks will address Michigan road funding and auto insurance, as well as the economic challenges facing Detroit and Michigan.

"Mr. Livengood will share his insight into rebirth of a vibrant Detroit, as well as what goes on in Lansing with respect to politics and policy," commented Eastside Republican Club chairman Dave Schumacher in advance of the meeting.

"The Forum is open to the public at no charge, so we invite anyone interested in public affairs to attend," he added.

Forum doors open at 7 p.m. for coffee and networking in advance of the meeting.

Livengood is a senior editor at Crain's Detroit Business covering Detroit on the rise and public affairs.

Since joining Crain's in 2017, he's been writing about public policy and political issues that intersect with business and the economy, ranging from transportation and auto insurance to education and the workforce.

He's a regular guest on public television's "Off The Record," and on such radio programs as "Nolan Finley Show," and Michigan Radio's "Stateside."

Livengood previously spent five years as political reporter for The Detroit News covering state government, the Detroit bankruptcy, the Flint water crisis, and the 2016 presidential election.

He also has worked at newspapers in Delaware, Missouri and in Jackson, Mich.

A 2005 Central Michigan University journalism graduate, Livengood and his wife have an energetic six-year-old daughter.

Spread The Word

By Dave Schumacher, ERC Chair

Moving into the fall, join with the ERC as we work to get the conservative message out to as many people as possible in the months before the 2020 election.

We'll continue to grow our membership and involvement, with young Republicans a key area of emphasis.

There are even new ways to save on your ERC dues—check them out in this issue!

An array of interesting monthly ERC Forum speakers will focus on educating us about current issues as they present the truth, despite the fog of the mainstream media.

Sometimes, it's just fun! As an example, over the summer we had a great time at our annual Family Fun picnic. See the summer picnic photo in this issue.

Check out future ERC opportunities elsewhere in this newsletter and listed in the Events Calendar. We look forward to seeing you with your friends at our monthly meetings at the War Memorial.



GOP Leader to Headline PAC Fundraiser

Rich Shetler, chairman of the Eastside Republican Club political action committee, has announced Michigan GOP chairwoman Laura Cox as guest speaker for the P.A.C.'s annual fundraiser to benefit local candidates.

The dinner event is set for 6 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 23, at the Country Club of Detroit.

Shetler, a Grosse Pointe Woods councilman, invited local supporters to attend.

Formally known as The Thomas R. McCleary Jr. Eastside Republican Club Political Action Committee, the P.A.C. is named in memory of one of the ERC's original members, Tom McCleary, who also served as a P.A.C. director.



The P.A.C. operates independently from the Eastside Republican Club.

Tickets for the buffet dinner are \$60 per person with proceeds used to support local candidates.

Shetler added, "It's business casual and open to the public, but because space is limited, reservations are a must." For reservations or more information, contact Shetler at 882-7407.

Make reservations/payment to the ERC-PAC, P.O. Box 361356, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Besides Shetler, P.A.C. committee members include, John Chouinard, Annette DeSantis Feldpausch, Carol Hackleman, Kenneth Mullens, Mike Nolan, Joe Ricci, Dave Schumacher, Linda R. Solterisch, John Stempfle, and Joe Sucher. In addition, PAC founder Lita M. McKeehan serves on the committee.

Support the ERC and Save!

by Christine Howson

Looking for a better way to keep up with your annual ERC dues? Look no further, because there are now three ways you can support the ERC with your dues.

First, simply pay the annual \$25 per household.

Second—and this is new—pay \$100 for a five-year membership. That's equivalent to one year of free membership!

Or third, chip in \$500 and become an elite, Lifetime Member.

Of course, any additional donations are always accepted and appreciated.

Court Challenges for New Redistricting Commission Rules

In 2018, Michigan voters passed Prop 2 hoping to remove partisanship from the redistricting process. Good luck.

The proposal enacted a constitutional amendment calling for a 13-member commission made up of those who reflect Michigan's demographic and geographic diversity. Enter the first problem: "diversity" was not defined by the amendment.

Of course racial, ethnic and language discrimination in drawing district boundaries is already governed by federal civil rights laws, including the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and amendments and case law since passage.

So, exactly, how will Michigan interpret "diversity," and how much discrimination is permitted?

Michigan's new amendment explicitly discriminates against anyone who is or has been involved in the political process within the past six years, including a parent, child or spouse of these people. One estimate is that a half-million Michigan citizens would be barred from serving.

Challenging this provision, a group has filed a federal suit calling it unnecessary discrimination against voters who have exercised their constitutional rights.

"Michigan's new redistricting commission falls short... by punishing the people of Michigan for exercising those rights — or for being related to someone who has," said former Wisconsin governor Scott Walker, who serves as finance chair for the group challenging the redistricting commission provision.

Secretary of State Nessel says this exclusion serves to remove any potential "conflict of interest."

In the latest round, a second federal suit challenges commission member selection.

MI GOP chair Laura Cox has called implementation "an assault on the associational right of political parties." She points out that nothing prohibits Michigan's sitting Secretary of State to appoint "fake" Republicans (or Democrats) to fill the four commissioner seats set aside for the Party.

But there's more.

Existing standards for redistricting are thrown out by the 2018 amendment, which now aims to eliminate partisan gerrymandering.

Yet those dumped standards were adopted to redress offenses of 1964 and 1972 redistricting plans guilty of crossing hundreds of village, city, township and county lines in pursuit of "one person, one vote" purity.

Those maligned redistricting plans, according to political analyst Bill Ballenger, triggered "consternation and anger throughout Michigan."

And don't forget: Eric Holder is at work as head of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee.

Removing partisanship will remain elusive.

October Forum To Spotlight #WalkAway

Andra Elle Crawford, former Democrat campaign manager, speaks to the Eastside Republican Club on Tuesday, October 15, at the War Memorial.

“We look forward to Ms Crawford sharing her own first-hand account and what led her to act on the realization that her values were more aligned with Republican principles,” commented Eastside Republican Club vice chairman Marie Hackleman in advance of the meeting.

Crawford grew up as a Democrat, but recently “walked away” to join the Republican Party despite feeling pressure from family and former colleagues.



Earlier, she spent twelve years as a Democrat insider working on campaigns for Democratic organizations and candidates.

Crawford holds a BA from Western Michigan University in Political Science: international/comparative politics with a minor in Japanese. She lives in Detroit.

She is one of a growing number in what is recognized as a movement, first launched by a former Democrat in 2018 with the hash tag “#WalkAway.”

Examples of other such awakenings on the national stage are Candace Owens and Sonnie Johnson, both of whom walked away from their former party to support candidates more closely aligned with their own values—usually Republicans. Today, Owens and Johnson are recognized broadcast commentators and speakers.

As the movement reaches out to disenfranchised Democrats, including African Americans, it endeavors to engage potential voters through interacting face-to-face, listening to their concerns, and showing an authentic interest in their input.

Generous Hospitality Sponsors Make Valuable Contribution to ERC Forums

By Marie Hackleman

A big “thank you!” to each ERC hospitality sponsor who has contributed in 2019!

Your kind, enthusiastic sponsorship this year has made it possible to offer cookies, coffee, and tea at our meetings, creating a warm, welcoming atmosphere for members, guests, and wonderful speakers. We thank you!

2019 Sponsors (so far!):

John Chouinard
John Daniele
Janine Kateff
Adele Kerske
Mike Nolan
Charlie Rutherford
Bob Sejfulla
Jim & Evlyn Willems
Mary Zeock

Hospitality sponsorships underwrite expenses for the welcome/networking reception starting at 7 p.m. prior to each ERC Forum.

If you would like to sponsor cookies and/or coffee and tea for a meeting (or team up to split a sponsorship with a friend), please see me before or after one of our monthly forums (or email: chair@eastside-republican-club.org). I will be happy to answer your questions and include you on the schedule.

Michigan Voter Information Center

Your source for Michigan election information

Visit Michigan.gov/vote to:

- View your sample ballot.
- Find out if you are registered to vote.
- Find your voting location.
- Track your absentee ballot.
- And much more!

Also available on smart devices.



Don't wait! Study your November 5 sample ballot in advance. Ballots will be available not later than September 21 here: mVIC.sos.state.mi.us.

Mackinac Center Director Skorup To Talk About Legislative Issues

Critical Michigan legislative issues will be the topic as Jarrett Skorup of the Mackinac Center for Public Polity speaks to the Eastside Republican Club at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the War Memorial.

Skorup is director of marketing and communications at the Center, which is headquartered in Midland.

“As the Mackinac Center is an aggressive advocate of government transparency and accountability, we look forward to Mr. Skorup’s legislative update and his ideas on how we can promote positive change in Lansing,” said chairman Dave Schumacher in a statement.



In addition, ERC members will elect 2002 officers and board members at the Jan. 21 meeting.

For three decades, the Mackinac Center has championed freedom through its research, educational programs, investigative journalism and litigation.

In his role at the Center, Skorup leads marketing efforts, media strategy, and oversees policy campaigns and objectives.

Since joining in 2009, Skorup’s work has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, Fox News, National Public Radio, MLive, *Detroit News*, *Free Press*, and newspapers across the country.

He is a graduate of Grove City College with degrees in history and political science. While there, he captained the school’s wrestling team and club Ultimate Frisbee.

A native of Illinois, Skorup is an avid Chicago sports fan, officiates high school wrestling, and enjoys fishing and woodworking. He volunteers with his church, serves on local Chamber of Commerce committees, and volunteers through Junior Achievement in the schools.

Skorup lives in Midland with his wife, Karen, and their three children.

Origin of the GOP: It Started Under the Oaks

The first official meeting of Republicans took place on a hot summer day in 1854 “under the oaks” at Jackson, Michigan.

It was at this meeting the Party adopted a platform and nominated candidates for office. In 1856, the Republicans became a national Party when John C. Fremont was nominated for president. His slogan: “Free soil, free labor, free speech, free men, Fremont.”

Initially the Republican Party was considered a Third Party as the Democrats and Whigs represented the two-party system. Four years after Fremont lost the presidential election, Abraham Lincoln became president.

Through the years, Republicans have led the fight for individuals’ rights in opposition to a large, bloated government. Republicans abolished slavery, fought on behalf of free speech and defended women’s suffrage. The Party is still fighting for limited government, streamlined bureaucracy and individual states’ rights.

Republicans have a long history with basic principles: individuals, not government, can make the best decisions; all people are entitled to equal rights; and decisions are best made close to home.



On July 6, 1854, a state convention of anti-slavery men was held in Jackson to found a new political party. Pictured: Detroit’s Dr. Ben Carson, then Republican presidential candidate at the Jackson site in 2015.

Pro-Life Attorney to Tell Her Story

Rebecca Kiessling speaks to the Eastside Republican Club Forum on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

The attorney, author, wife, and mother of five will share her own personal story, including how she learned at age 18 from her adoptive mother that she had been conceived out of a brutal assault at knife-point by a serial rapist.



Today, Kiessling is a passionate advocate for the life of the unborn, including for those, like herself, who are conceived in rape.

The 7:30 p.m. forum is open to the public and will be held at the War Memorial.

“In addition to litigating numerous high-profile

cases protecting preborn human life, Rebecca Kiessling has an inspiring personal story to tell,” said Eastside Republican Club chairman Dave Schumacher in advance of the meeting.

He added, “We invite anyone interested in the pro-life movement to attend and to put a real face to the so-called rape exception.”

A Michigan native, Kiessling was born under the protection of state law before the 1973 Roe-Wade decision and adopted as an infant.

Today she and husband Robert Kiessling are parents of five—the two oldest adopted, including their daughter Cassie born with special needs and adopted when just 33 days old.

Mackinac Republican Leadership Confab

The 2019 Mackinac Republican Leadership Conference and the Michigan GOP announced that Texas Congressman Dan Crenshaw would speak at the biennial event.

Crenshaw, a House freshman, was quickly tagged as a Republican “rising star” after his 2018 election. He served as a



ERC Family Fun Picnic 2019 Hosts, Mike and Peggy Hennigan with Park councilman John Chouinard, center, at the 17th annual ERC Family Fun Picnic June 23 at Patterson Park on Lake St. Clair, Grosse Pointe Park.

Navy SEAL in Afghanistan before retiring from military service in 2016.

Also speaking will be Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. Michigan Republican Party chair Laura Cox, said, “Betsy has dedicated her life to helping families across our nation, and we are tremendously honored to have her as our guest for the 2019 Mackinac Republican Leadership Conference.”

Among the speakers joining Crenshaw and DeVos this year will be Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy.

This year’s event will be on Sept. 20-22.

Since 1955, the GOP has gathered every two years at the historic Grand Hotel to discuss ideas, to learn how to articulate the Republican message and to interact with fellow Republicans and party leaders from across the state—and the country. It has become one of the premier Republican events in the Midwest.

Update: Vice-President Mike Pence added as VIP presenter at Mackinac Leadership Conference! Could another VIP be in the wings, ready to announce?

Wayne 14th District News

By Monica Palmer, Wayne 14th Chair

Andra Elle Crawford shared her inspiring story at our August 13, Wayne 14 meeting, telling us how she grew up as a Democrat, but then “walked away” to join the Republican Party.

Her experience has been shared by many and is now recognized as a movement. First launched by a former Democrat in 2018, the aim of the “#WalkAway” movement is to encourage other disenfranchised Democrats, including African Americans, to “walk away” from their party and to support candidates who more closely share their values.

At our session, Andra shared three specific ways we can engage Detroit-area Independents and Democrats:

1. Be where they are by attending neighborhood events, and church services
2. Ask them to list issues that are impacting them locally, and
3. Be “real.”



Wayne County GOP Campaign Academy

Cheryl Costantino, Wayne County Republican Committee chairman, has announced the Greater Wayne County Republican Campaign Academy is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m., Monday, Sept. 30, in Dearborn Heights.

The event will be held at the Canfield Community Center, 1801 N. Beech Daly Rd., Dearborn Heights.

The program is presented by the Michigan Republican Party and will cover topics including, the technical side of campaigning, campaign finance, timelines, and how to build community connections and support.

Local elected officials will share their secrets to election success.

Costantino invites Republicans from the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th districts and their guests to attend the no cost training session, and promises a light supper and refreshments will be provided.

Registration deadline is Thursday, Sept. 26, as attendees registering after that date may not receive the campaign finance packet or other materials.

For more information or to register, contact Costantino at ccostantino08@gmail.com, or text (313) 720-4184.

When Election Day 2020 comes, we need to make sure that every conservative is able to make his or her voice heard, so don't miss the Sept. 12 Michigan GOP Trump Victory campaign training detailed by Mayra Rodriguez in her separate column.

Our next Wayne 14 meeting is planned for Thursday, October 10.

Support for Municipal Candidates

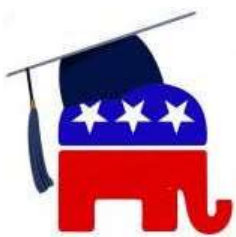
By Jay Hackleman

Although eastsiders will have no candidates for a state office on their November 5, 2019, ballots, there are important non-partisan races in each of the five Pointes and in Harper Woods. In a number of those cities, there are contests and incumbents being challenged.

I know the Eastside Republican Club is making no endorsements in these races, but believe it is instructive for Republicans to consider the partisan endorsements made by our friends on the other side.

As for me, I favor incumbents in the contested races.

If you attend our meetings, you already know the local incumbents seeking reelection who are ERC members: John Chouinard, GP Park, Cheryl Costantino, Harper Woods, Rich Shetler, GP Woods, John Stempfle, GP City, Joe Ricci, GP Farms, and Louis Theros, GP Farms. Farms Mayor Theros is running unopposed.



GOP Congressional District Plans

By Mayra Rodriguez, 14th District Chair

We are energized and just kicked off the fall season with the 14th District's "Welcome Back" event last Saturday, Sept. 7, at Patterson Park (see photo)!

Coming next is the Michigan Trump Victory Campaign team to present "how to" instruction on tools we'll use for a successful 2020 ground game. That's why grassroots leaders like you are preparing to engage their fellow conservatives, and register new Republican voters.

We'll organize and equip every area candidate, campaign volunteer, activist, and precinct delegate to engage local voters. Join us from 7-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12, at the Ewald Branch of the Grosse Pointe Library, 15175 E. Jefferson Ave. Light refreshments will be provided.



Register now at Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/2ku3Sh4>.

Our next 14th Congressional District executive committee meeting will be 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 12 at Kerby's Coney Island, 25050 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield. Come by 6:30 p.m. for networking and dinner.

Yes, it's time to "save the date." The 14th District Holiday Party is coming faster than you think! Mark your calendars for Tuesday, Dec. 10, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

Will Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence have a 2020 GOP challenger? Stay tuned.

Finally, I invite members of the 14th—that's you if you're reading this—to join us in Lansing on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 13 and 14 for the GOP State Committee meeting at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids.

All Republicans are invited to attend the Friday afternoon training, Friday night "Pizza and Politics," and Saturday morning committee meetings (most committees are open to guests). The event will wrap up with a general session ending by 1 p.m.



Park councilman John Chouinard welcomes Oakland and Wayne County GOP guests enjoying the 14th Congressional District Republican "Welcome Back" fall picnic Sept. 7 at Patterson Park.

The Power of "Plunking"

What is "plunking"? It is a way to ensure you don't dilute your vote. You can "plunk" by simply voting only for your favorite candidate(s).

For example, in a competitive race with four candidates vying for three spots, voters usually vote for their favorite one or two candidates and then use their third vote for someone they really don't like as well, but consider in some way to be better than the fourth option.

Remember, a vote is a vote. Every vote is weighted equally—your third vote isn't counted any less because it's your third choice.

In fact, the vote you give to your third choice could very well be the single, winning vote that causes your third choice candidate to place above your first or second choice—actually pushing one or the other of them out of the winner's circle!

Keep in mind that in this scenario of four candidates vying for three spots, the ballot instructions would say, "vote for not more than three." It's not necessary to vote for three! You are not throwing a vote away if you vote for less than three, but actually strengthening your support for your favored candidate(s)! So, if you really want to help your top choice candidate(s), plunk by voting only for your favorite(s)!

Still have questions? Stay tuned! More will be shared at fall ERC meetings.

~ CALENDAR OF EVENTS ~

Tuesday, Sept. 17

ERC Forum with Crain's-Detroit writer Chad Livengood, 7:30 p.m., War Memorial

Fri./Sat./Sun., Sept. 22-23

Mackinac Republican Leadership Conference, Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

Monday, Sept. 30

Wayne County GOP Campaign Academy, 6 p.m., Canfield Center, Dearborn Heights

Tuesday, Oct. 15

ERC Forum speakers on "Walk Away" Movement, 7:30 p.m., War Memorial

Wednesday, Oct. 23

Annual ERC-PAC dinner with MI GOP chair Laura Cox, 6 p.m., Country Club of Detroit

Monday, Oct. 28

Wayne County Rep. Committee Halloween Party, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 1801 N. Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights

Tuesday, Nov. 5

General Election

Tuesday, Nov. 12

14th Congressional District meeting
6:30 p.m. - Kerby's Coney Island
25050 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield

Tuesday, Nov. 19

ERC Forum with pro-life speaker Rebecca Kiessling, 7:30 p.m., War Memorial

Tuesday Dec. 10

14th District Christmas/Hanukkah Party, 6 p.m. Grosse Pointe Yacht Club

Tuesday, Jan. 21

ERC Forum with Jarrett Skorup of Mackinac Center, election of ERC officers, 7:30 p.m., War Memorial

Monday, Jan. 27

Wayne County Rep. Committee Unity Dinner, location TBA

Tuesday, Feb. 18

ERC Forum speaker TBA, 7:30 p.m., War Memorial

Tuesday, March 17

ERC Forum speaker TBA, 7:30 p.m., War Memorial

Tuesday, April 21

ERC Forum speaker TBA, 7:30 p.m., War Memorial

Tuesday, May 19

ERC Forum speaker TBA, 7:30 p.m., War Memorial

Opinions expressed in the Eastside Republican Review are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Eastside Republican Club.