



Clinton County Republican Party

Weekly Newsletter
April 5, 2025

CCRP MONTHLY MEETING— Thursday, April 17, 2025
Clinton County Courthouse — 7:00 pm

“Free” Preschool, Indoctrination, Low Performance . . . and the St. Johns Bond

Governor Gretchen Whitmer's "**TAXPAYER-FUNDED PRE-K**" for all of Michigan's four-year-olds **ISN'T FREE** and it is nothing more than a bait-and-switch scheme that will cost all of Michigan's residents financially and educationally. What isn't being said is that home based daycare businesses are being driven out of business as daycare is becoming institutionalized by the State. Our children can now be brainwashed from 6-months of age through college by the teacher unions and their liberal agenda. Looking at the educational performance metrics of Michigan public school students, you can see what the real priorities have become in our state educational system.

Touting the early age preschool mantra that every child/family will benefit from this new State supported educational plan is a misnomer. It will not be inexpensive, will not result in educational gains, but it will result in greater harm to lower-income families.

The FULL COST OF COVERAGE IS \$0 for families earning less than \$75,000 annually. This FREE coverage is estimated to include approximately 60% of Michigan families. An additional cost of around \$400,000,000 will be placed on the Michigan taxpayers to cover the FREE "TAXPAYER-FUNDED PRE-K".

The Whitmer mantra that universal preschool is a Lowering MI Costs plan, is an outright lie. It will only shift the cost of preschool to all of Michigan's taxpayers.

The St. Johns 2025 Bond and Transparency

The St. Johns School Board (SJSB) has made the decision to take another shot at passing a revised 30 year bond that was defeated a year ago. You would have thought the board would have listened to the people who campaigned to defeat the bond and they would have requested an open dialog to address their concerns, but no, they decided to add an additional \$8,000,000 to the bond.

It is imperative the board have transparency in their decision making processes regarding expenditures that will cost the taxpayers over **\$192 MILLION DOLLARS OVER THE NEXT 30 YEARS (\$99.8 MILLION IN BOND DEBT + \$92.8 MILLION IN INTEREST)**.

The cost of the bond is not the only issue. The SJSB needs to be good stewards of the peoples' money and how it is allocated based on what the end result is including: 1) a quality education for the children with a curriculum that gives them the needed life skills to contribute in society, 2) a non biased learning environment, and 3) evaluation of essential non academic needs that can be addressed with alternative payment options.

The SJSB deliberately made the decision to place the 2025 bond issue before the people when voters are likely not to go to the polls, guaranteeing a low turnout. In the SJPS 2024 Bond vote only 26% of the registered voters actually went to the polls! This deceptive practice is unconscionable and it is just another way to bypass the actual will of the people. The bond process is a rigged game to assure its passage.

The SJSB touts, as one of their best selling points, **THAT IT WON'T COST YOU ANY MORE ON YOUR SCHOOL TAX BILL**, but they neglect to inform you of the fact that you, your children, and probably your grandchildren will be **PAYING \$92.8 MILLION IN INTEREST ON TOP OF THE \$99.8 BOND AMOUNT . . . ALL OVER THE NEXT 30 YEARS.**

The May 6, 2025, SJSB Bond Issue is a battle between **David vs Goliath!**

GOLIATH — The SJSB, superintendent, administrators, teachers, teacher unions (SJEA), MEA, building contractors, and others will benefit from the passage of the bond. They have a huge advantage with their available resources and funds. Additionally the direct contact with the children by teachers and staff who are promoting the the bond make it more difficult to get an alternative message out to parents. This coalition of special interests will ultimately reap the benefit of their exclusive access and relationship with the students.

DAVID — A dedicated, knowledgeable, informed group of St Johns school district residents who are concerned about the children, and what is in the best interests of the residents of Clinton County whose children attend St. Johns schools. This group of amazing individuals have spent their time and treasure to research and evaluate what is in the best interests of the residents and the students of the St Johns School District. Their knowledge level and expertise on the issues exceeds that of the current board.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STOP THIS PERPETUAL BOND/DEBT CYCLE?

- 1. Look at alternative funding solutions for lower cost expenditures by using sinking funds in the future.**
- 2. Determine what services are WANTS or NEEDS.**
 - a. Do we really need a new Early Education facility with the troubling pre-K studies that show negative outcomes in the later grades?**
 - b. St. Johns is the 2nd largest school district in lower MI, will a new, centralized pre-K (at the cost of \$22 MILLION, not including interest) serve the families with pre-K needs in our large rural areas?**
 - c. Will dropping off your kids off in town increase your drive time in the morning?**
 - d. Can you get out of work 20 minutes earlier for pick up?**
- 3. Should the potential contractors be promoting the millage increase publicly?**
- 4. The SJSB should be focusing on low achievement levels on state tests rather than spending tax dollars on unnecessary upgrades to facilities.**
- 5. With a history of decreasing enrollments the district must be more financially conservative and have consideration for the residents' tax dollars.**

EARLY ABSENTEE VOTING HAS BEGUN

If you are an Automatic Early Absentee Voter you should have received your absentee ballot in your mailbox. Absentee ballot play a significant part in who will win on this bond issue. Please cast your vote and return it by mail or to your clerk as soon as you can. If you live in the St. Johns Public School District you need to do all you can to make sure that the St. Johns School Board is doing what is in the best interest of the students and of the taxpayers. Fiscal responsibility on the part of the board should be one of their most important objectives. The current bond issue **MUST BE DEFEATED!**

VOTE NO ON THE ST JOHNS BOND



<https://www.ccrpmi.com/>

Let's Talk About School District Sinking Funds

You have to ask if the St Johns School Board has ever considered the fact there are other funding options available for school districts. If they never have they owe it to the taxpayers of the school district to take a serious look at that option. Currently there are school districts that are using Sinking Funds as an alternative to a bond rather than having to incur additional debt and the subsequent interest that will be paid on the debt over the term of the bond. The sinking fund option offers a pay as you go system that is approved by local voters.

It provides school districts with the option to pay cash for repairs and improvements as needed. It saves money by addressing infrastructure maintenance without incurring interest on loans or bonds. The funds are utilized to protect the taxpayer investments by paying for school repairs and maintenance projects as they are completed.

The 2025 St Johns school bond proposal outlines several improvements that are needed including new classrooms and updating facilities; however, the financial burden it places on taxpayers deserves to be reevaluated. The \$192.6 million (\$99.75 million + \$92.85 million in interest) bond locks the St Johns school district taxpayers into \$92.85 million in interest payments over the next 30 years. You have to ask if there are any of these needed expenditures that could be paid for with a sinking fund.

The list of projects mentioned in the 2025 St Johns school bond proposes to fund various projects including a new Early Learning Center, a new turf practice field (not the football field), and a fly system to lift stage props, as well as others. All of these projects could be addressed and funded by using a sinking fund. Most of these projects are not urgent.

IT'S TIME TO RETHINK WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO FUND THESE PROJECTS AND GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD. VOTE NO ON THE ST JOHNS BOND!

Charlie Kirk is Coming to MSU!

For FREE TICKETS to attend this event click on the link below:

<https://events2022.tpusa.com/events/the-american-comeback-tour-at-michigan-state-university>

**COMING TO
MSU!**

Friday April 11, 2025, 12:00 pm

**THE
AMERICAN
COMEBACK
TOUR**

<https://www.ccrpmi.com/>

**CLINTON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS
CLINTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
6:00 p.m. — Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month
Thursday, April 10, 2025**

Agenda Packet Link:

<https://www.clinton-county.org/AgendaCenter/Planning-Commission-3>



**PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA
Meeting of April 10, 2025– 6:00 P.M.
Clinton County Commissioners’ Chambers, 2nd floor**

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance –
2. Roll Call –
3. Approval of Agenda –
4. Approval of Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2025
5. Consent Agenda (Action)
 - A. Bengal Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment
 - i. Updated Section 4.12 Accessory Buildings, Structures, Uses
6. Communications –
 - A. Eaton County Notice of Text Amendment Request Articles 3-14
 - B. Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Public Notice of Elsie Dam Emergency Actions
7. Public Comments –
8. Old Business – None
9. New Business –
 - A. (PC-03-25) (OR-205-25) – Application for Zoning Map Amendment (Rezoning) (PublicHearing)
A petition to amend the zoning map has been submitted by Michael Schrader. The applicant is requesting approval to rezone 2.65 acres from General Agriculture (A-2) to Rural Residential (Low Density) (RR). The subject property is located at 10491 Tallman Rd in Section 35 of Westphalia Township (Parcel ID: 19-160-035-200-040-00).
 - B. (PC-04-25) (OR-206-25) – Application for Zoning Map Amendment (Rezoning) (Public Hearing)
A petition to amend the zoning map has been submitted by Tod Gibson. The applicant is requesting approval to rezone 1.91 acres from General Agriculture (A-2) to Rural Residential (Low Density) (RR). The subject property is located at V/L W Lehman Rd in Section 26 of Riley Township (Parcel ID: 19-130-026-200-020-00).
 - C. (PC-06-25) – Application for a Site Plan Review
A petition for a site plan review has been submitted by Patrick Ehlert to update the site plan to include two accessory buildings and the extension of a concrete drive in Section 12 of Ovid Township (Parcel ID: 120-012-300-025-00).
10. Other Business – None
11. Planning & Zoning Director’s Report –
12. Planning Commissioner Comments –
13. Adjournment –



2025 CCRP Lincoln Day Dinner with Michigan Gubernatorial Candidate Aric Nesbitt

Royal Scot Banquet Center — Thursday, May 8, 2025
(VIP reception 6:00- 7:00 pm — Dinner 7:00-9:00 pm)
4722 W Grand River Ave, Lansing, MI



(Clip and return with your payment to the address listed on the form)

2025 CLINTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY CLUB SPONSORSHIP

Name(s) _____ Employer/Occupation _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Phone # _____ email address _____

Indicate which Club Sponsorship level you wish to join for 2025. **PAYMENT IS DUE ON OR BEFORE April 15, 2025** — (Check one)

\$350 Club Sponsorship

(2 people at Lincoln Day Event, Summer BBQ, & Fall Fest)

\$250 Club Sponsorship

(2 people at Lincoln Day Event & one other event)

\$150 Club Sponsorship

(2 people at Lincoln Day Event & Reception)

(All 2025 CCRP Club Sponsors are invited to the VIP Reception with Senator Aric Nesbitt from 6:00- to-7:00pm)

Please return this form, including a check payable to the Clinton County Republican Party (CCRP) to:
Steve Willis, 4789 Drumheller Road, Bath, MI 48808. — (Payment is due by April 15, 2025).
You will receive an email acknowledgment of your payment at the email address you provided above.

 <https://www.ccrpmi.com/2025-club-sign-up-registration.html>

Paid for with regulated funds by the Clinton County Republican Party, P.O. Box 92, St. Johns, MI 48879



(Clip and return with your payment to the address listed on the form)

2025 Clinton County Republican Party Lincoln Day Dinner

Couple \$100.00

Single \$ 60.00

Questions should be directed to **Nancy Bareham** at: 517-202-4719 or to — nbareham@yahoo.com

Attendee #1 _____ Attendee #2 _____

Employer _____

Occupation _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

email: _____ Phone _____

(Confirmations will be sent to the email address given above)

PAYMENT INFORMATION: Please enclose your registration form and a check payable to:

Clinton County Republican Party and MAIL to:

Steve Willis, 4789 Drumheller Road, Bath, MI 48808 (Payment is due April 15, 2025)

You can also register and pay online with a credit card at our website at:

 <https://www.ccrpmi.com/2025-lincoln-day-dinner-registration.html>

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APRIL Government & School Board Meeting Schedules

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Riley Twp -7:00 pm	2 Maple Rapids Village -7:30 pm	3	4	5	
6	7 Bath Twp Board -6:00 pm Westphalia Twp -6:00 pm Westphalia Village -7:00 pm	8 Victor Twp -7:00 pm Village of Elsie -7:00 pm Village of Fowler -7:00 pm	9 Bengel Twp -7:00 pm Duplain Twp -7:30 pm	10 CC Planning -6:00 pm	11	12
13	14 Bingham Twp -7:00 pm Dallas Twp -2:00 pm DeWitt Twp -7:00 pm Olive Twp -7:30 pm DeWitt City -7:00 pm City of Ovid -7:00 pm	15	16 Essex Twp -7:00 pm	17 CCCRP Monthly -7:00 pm Eagle Twp -7:00 pm	18	19
20	21 Bath Twp Board -6:00 pm Watertown Twp -7:00 pm Ovid/Elsie SB - 6:30 pm PW SB - 7:00 pm	22	23	24 Ovid Twp -7:00 pm BOC Ways/Mean -9:00 am	25	26
27	28 DeWitt Twp -7:00 pm Greenbush Twp -7:00 pm DeWitt City -7:00 pm City of St. Johns -7:00 pm Bath SB - 6:30	29 BOC Monthlys -9:00 am	30			

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS IN CLINTON COUNTY

Bath -6:30 pm (4th Monday) DeWitt - 6:00 pp (2nd Monday) Fowler - 7:00 pm (Normally 2nd Monday) Grand Ledge 6:00 pm (Normally Second Monday)
 Laingsburg - 7:00 pm (Meetings vary) Ovid/Elsie - 6:30 pm (3rd Monday) Pewamo/Westphalia - 7:00 pm (normally 3rd Monday)
 St.Johns - 6:30 pm (Meeting dates vary — see website <https://www.sjredwings.org/our-district/boardofeducation/>)