

ICDP Strategic Planning Session Materials

Instructions

By Tuesday, March 18 at noon, please review the draft content and provide suggestions for editing, adding, or deleting.

We will approve the document edits at our next ICDP meeting on **Wednesday, March 19**, and recruit people to join the committees to implement this plan.. Therefore, obtaining written feedback before the meeting would be very helpful for everyone to review.

For each goal, there are several objectives already drafted, but we welcome more suggested objectives and feedback. Please keep in mind that ultimately every objective must be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound)

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If you want to make these objectives be more than words and make them happen, then please sign up for a committee.

You can do so online at <https://inghamdems.nationbuilder.com/committees>

Ingham County Democratic Party Vision Statement

Last Update Feb 16, 2025

Background: Using text mostly from the Michigan Democratic Party Platform and Michigan Democratic Party Land Acknowledgment Statement which can be found at

<https://michigandems.com/structure/>

The ICDP believes that the government must be open, honest, transparent, responsive, and accountable to the people it serves. All people of Michigan should have the freedom and the opportunity to rise as high as their talents and initiative will allow, and we will put in our time, talent, and treasure to make that vision a reality.

ICDP believes that everyone deserves a good standard of living, including the right to a healthy environment with earth, water, food, safe shelter, infrastructure, and good healthcare. This platform embodies our core values of fairness and responsibility, and a commitment to the common good.

To achieve this vision, ICDP fosters an inclusive community of individuals who use their time, talents, and treasure to support leaders and policies that support our vision.

We recognized that Ingham County occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabek – Three Fires Confederacy, consisting of the Odawa (Ottawa), Ojibwe (Chippewa), and Bode'wadmi (Potawatomi).

Draft Strategic Goals & Objectives for 2025-2026 (in no particular order)

Goal #1: Recruit, train, and provide support to candidates for elected offices

Draft SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) Objectives

SMART Objective	Brief Summary of Resources	Committee
Recruit 5 or more people to be Political Campaign Treasurers	Schedule training w/ Barb and Caitlin or Emily, create cohort	Elections
Develop a checklist of tasks for a first-time candidate before Labor Day	Talk to Rosa, Sime, and other experienced elected officials Great Lake Political Academy Kody Vitale – MDP Project 83 Liaison would be a good resource	Elections
Promote or create training opportunities for potential candidates		Org and development
Recruit candidates for 2026 & 2028	Create list of races for 2026 and 2028	Elections
Promote appointments to local, county, and state board to build a bench		Tirstan is working on Elections
Get the analysis of 2022 and 2024 election results for every race before May 1, 2025	Host multiple discussions with our members to analyze the data and share ideas. Not any one person has all the answers, together, we will be better (Galloway)	Elections
Raise money to help new candidates get seed money and support candidates with competitive races	Set goals and deadlines to achieve goals	Fundraising

	- Fundraising member(s) to contact major organizations for donations - Support events - Mailing/ Email schedule	
Non-financial support of candidates	Find supporters to make meals, candidate check-in, mentoring?	Elections
Establish Coalitions with neighboring counties and organizations	Pooled resources, multi-county training events (PD, etc.), shared guest speakers.	Org and Development
Welcome and recruit and onboard new members		Welcome Committee
Tracking members and finding their interest and talents and connect them with committees or other opportunities		
Comply with campaign finance and MDP rules		Finance/Bylaws
Lease a Campaign Office for April 2026 or sooner	Determine key criteria - parking, access to MSU community, bus route (Frondor/ Mich Ave area?) Obtain a real estate agent to help us get a quote to determine feasible and fundraising goal Need to find the estimate cost of insurance	
Host meet the candidate events		
Voter Protection	Recruit and train volunteers to observe the process and notify of inappropriate or illegal activity Work with partners -	GOTV/ Elections

	partisan and non-partisan Avoid duplication of operations when possible	
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Goal # 2: Promote targeted voter engagement and voter registration throughout the entire County using targeted best practices for 2026 Elections

SMART Objective	Brief Summary of Resources	Committee
Target new Spartan parents	Text, email, and call to encourage admitted students to register at MSU Chris Andrews Comment: Mark Grebner said the vast majority of MSU students are registered at their parents' house. Getting them to vote here, where they live most of the year, improves our chances to win the 7th Congressional. Perhaps it should be left to the MSU Dems, but I think it should be done. It happened when I was in college during the Vietnam War. I'm not concerned about parents being miffed any more than if students are encouraged to join groups or activities that the parents might not like. Grebner actually suggested we reach out to Democratic parents and urge them to have their kids register here. Angie Belin Comment: Is this something we should be involved in? Parents may be off-put by a political committee reaching out to their child to encourage such a decision. I know that I would have been off-put by this, and I'm a Democrat. Are Republicans doing this? Liam comments: Educate parents that car and health insurance are not impacted by voting change	Communications
Support community voter registration efforts	Coalition building From Rex Hauser - Working with different groups in coalition: make our information tables valuable--- what are the groups that support (VNP, Blue Brigade, League of Women Voters) and have their own lit, that we can	Org and Development

	distribute? Needed. Give voting advice, links, voting calendar, neighborhood and city services with numbers, poll volunteering numbers, etc. Make the party serve for what people need to know.	
Canvas new/recently new voters and drop off DEM voters	Print literate, determine which voter files Need food and water for volunteers add "must have a task force for script critique and changes." This means the Van scripts suck, and must be made pertinent to a campaign. Know-littles are not welcome. They must be interacted with, made pertinent and improved, at the level of the canvassers themselves. (R. Hauser)	Org & Development
Tabling at Community Events, especially in key constituencies LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, and under 30	Print literature, determine which voter files Need food and water for volunteers Printing costs	Org & Development
Welcome, recruit and onboard new members	Text, phone calls and email to follow up on people who attend first meeting or Follow up email and text to those who sign up online New member events- see Kent County Dems Print business cards (union printer)	Welcome Committee
Tracking members and finding their interest and talents and connect them with committees or other opportunities		Membership

Comply with campaign finance and MDP rules		Finance/Bylaws

Goal #3: Recruit, train, and retain precinct delegates/captains to be a neighbor resource to foster 2-way communication with voters and their elected leaders

SMART Objective	Brief Summary of Resources	Committee
Recruit, Train, Support, and Recognize Precinct Delegates (PD) across the entire County	Speaker, food, Develop Training Slide Deck, clearly define deliverables and expectations for PD, Elect lead PD, hold PD meetings. Access to and training for digital tools like WaveMichigan and/or MiniVAN/VAN	Org & Development
Regional events with local elected leaders	Schedule leaders, food and find a location, mail? Determine what is unique community?	Events Org and Development
Outreach Train - deep canvas of new voters & drop off D	Determine which voter file Print list - what is the target Recruit - need to call all PD Training sessions? Develop cohorts	Elections
Swag for PD	Find union vendor - Clinton County & Eaton County may have leads	Org and Development Events
Continue Rural Outreach Events (Recruiting members, candidates, PD's, GOTV)	Pool resources from Rural Caucus and rural PD's	Org and Development Elections
Welcome and recruit new members		Welcome Committee
Tracking members and finding their interest and talents and connect them with committees or other opportunities		Membership
Comply with campaign finance and MDP rules		Finance/Bylaws

Goal #4: Coalition building by working with a variety of organizations with some shared values

SMART Objective	Brief Summary of Resources	Committee
Designate liaisons with org of all key constituencies	Tag liaisons in database Ask to share updates at meetings and emails	Membership Elections Org & Development
Recruit volunteers to support partner events		Events
Recruit, train, and support Lobbyist Agents	Fees for Credentials (Frequent visitor badges) Do we have membership willing to do this? Is this redundant Joanna Galloway/ Brian Jackson	Legislative and Lobbying (new committee)
Develop Rapid Response team	Appointed members from all ICDP committees	Org and Development Legislative and Lobbying
Tabling at Protests and Rallies	Recruit supporters at events where high % of activists -clipboards, signs with QR code, See list of tri-county events at https://docs.google.com/document/d/19TolBPAGtp2Hwktu2sMmBg2uKLHZcCMOyd1pnWhpzNg/edit?tab=t.0	????
Avoid duplication with 7th District or other Dem group	If another group is doing the same thing, then partner	Officers
Reimagine what our monthly meetings look like.		Officers & Welcome &>??
Build collaborative actions with MDP caucus members within ICDP	use resources already deployed in specific political causes (rural, senior, progressive, ethnic, etc)	
Michigan State Univ Community	Time and effort to work with MSU Dems, MSU unions and other partner	
Welcome and recruit new members		Welcome Committee

Tracking members and finding their interest and talents and connect them with committees or other opportunities		Membership
Updated ICDP bylaws by removing outdated policies that may inhibit participation	Reference outdated technology and when ICDP had an office	Resolution and Bylaws

Committee Structure -

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You can do so online at <https://inghamdems.nationbuilder.com/committees>

Welcome Committee

- Focus on email and calling new members,
- Suggest documents for the Communications Committee or Welcome Committees to create to recruit and inform new members.
- Inclusive and working with community partners
- Send thank you emails or letters to contributors and volunteers
- Uphold the legacy of the DEI committee

Greeter Committee

- Provide greeter and check-in support at ICDP or ICDP partner functions as schedule allows
- Coordinate schedule to insure adequate cover 30 minutes prior to any event
- Make sure have adequate name tags, sign-in sheets, sharpies, pens

Communications -

Create a coordinated communication strategy. Create and oversee any content for our websites, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, letters to the editor, emails, etc., to amplify the events and opportunities of ICDP, partners, and the excellent work that our Democratic leaders are doing especially at the state and county level.

In communication strategy, young and old need to work together. We oldies need to become proficient. The Youth are the hope and the fount of knowledge on how to manage the means of communication. Hired, volunteered, whatever--- absolutely essential.

Elections Committee** - (Candidate and Elected Officials Focus)

Recruit candidates for local offices, including school boards and other positions while providing training on the endorsement process and database training. The committee also oversees our endorsement process. School boards and local races have become more important as the fight for human rights and dignity is moving to schools and local government.

Organization and Development - (Direct Voter Contact Focus) -

Hold or assist with voter registration drives throughout the year. Act as liaison to MSU, LCC, youth organizations, and high schools to organize young Democrats or progressives.

Recruit and train precinct delegates and captains across the county; host training for these individuals so that they are informed community leaders who are encouraged to facilitate opportunities for our elected leaders and candidates to connect with their neighborhood/community. Hold quarterly PD coordination meetings.

Resolutions and Bylaws -

Responsible for considering any resolutions or amendments to the bylaws and reporting to the Expanded County Committee. Resolutions are an important way to share ICDP values by bringing an issue to our membership. Some of the current bylaws are antiquated and need to be reviewed for updates.

PROPOSED Legislative and Lobbying Committee by Karl Sime

Researching, analyzing, and advocating for policy changes on specific issues, primarily by providing expert testimony to legislative committees, public awareness campaigns, and lobbying efforts to influence legislation. The Committee's primary duty is to gather information, formulate positions on legislative proposals, and engage with lawmakers to promote desired policy outcomes once approved by the ICDP Executive Committee.

Finance - Karl**

Create an annual budget and help with double-checking our campaign finance reports.

Fundraising -

Plan fundraisers and fundraising activities throughout the year.

Judicial Qualifications**

Makes recommendations on judicial candidates and judicial appointments based on the ICDP bylaws. A majority of the Committee shall be attorneys.

Membership -

We have a lot of critical data entry needs that will help make our Party more effective in helping candidates. With your help, we will have more accurate volunteer lists and fundraising lists so that we can get more people involved in the activities they want to do. All because of you. No direct voter contact is ever required.