

February 2013

Dear Friends,

***I am writing to let you know I am running for re-election to Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party and to ask for your support.***

Like many of you, my roots in the MDP started at the local level. I worked my way up starting with the Young Dems and held positions as Club President, County Party Treasurer, and District Chair. Those experiences gave me an appreciation of the challenges, goals, and expectations of Party leaders at all levels.

In my time as MDP Chair, I've had the pleasure of getting to know many of you. I've traveled to all 83 counties and built countless relationships along the way. I've worked to balance the needs of all members – grassroots activists, local party leaders, organizations, candidates and elected officials. We are a robust, diverse, and inclusive Party. I've always taken into consideration the unique needs of everyone involved and worked for long-term success and stability.

During that time, you have also gotten to know me. You know I have never been interested in using the Chair position to get ahead or move on to the next office. My sole focus has been building a successful Party meant to last - investing in programs that allow candidates and Party organizations to grow and succeed.

Together, we have accomplished a lot. I am particularly proud of advances we have made in areas of:

• **Fiscal Responsibility and Financial Stability:**

When you first entrusted me as Chair, the MDP was nearly \$800,000 in debt. I paid off that debt, and on my watch we've maintained a balanced budget, have never been in debt, and achieved solid fundraising goals. Our Party membership is the highest it has been in 25 years at 13,000+ members strong, and our online fundraising is strong and growing. In addition, I have refused personal pay increases and ensured those resources are put toward winning elections.

I have also worked with you to make sure your resources are optimized. The MDP has worked with candidates and Democratic groups to save millions of dollars on printing literature and mailings, and assisted with communications. In addition, I regularly work with Democratic leaders – at no cost from the Party- to ensure complicated campaign finance laws are properly observed, saving candidates and local organizations from expensive fines and political embarrassment.

• **Party Building:**

Under my leadership, the MDP has worked hard to ensure candidates and organizations have what they need to win. I provide a variety of Party trainings covering compliance, fundraising, communications, and field. In the last election cycle alone, **the MDP trained 487 Party leaders.**

In my time as Chair, we've also invested in technology that helps Party organizations grow and succeed. Michigan was one of the first states to utilize the Voter Activation Network (VAN) and provide free access to this valuable resource to all Democratic groups and candidates in general elections.

Party Building has helped the MDP build a solid farm team of both future elected officials and political staff. In the last 3 election cycles alone, we've played a direct role in dozens of municipal and county victories. And when you talk about farm team, you need to include people who help our candidates get elected. I'm proud to say the hard-working staff at Hart-Kennedy House has gone on to work in Michigan and around the country for important political figures at every level and at major political organizations. And our strong intern program has provided a path for young people to get involved in the Party.

I've also made it a main priority to grow our constituency caucuses to ensure the MDP truly reflects our state. Today we have the largest number of constituency caucuses of any State Party in the country.

• **Investment in Social Media and Web Communications:**

Growing our social media presence has been another focus. In 2012, MDP's Facebook page added more "likes" than any other Democratic State Party. Our Twitter following increased by 70% last year and now has the 8th largest following of all Democratic State Party organizations. And on YouTube, the MDP received the 2nd most views of any State Party in 2012 for our Supreme Court video, "Can't Run."

Our Email and web presence has been significant in recent years. In 2012, MichiganDems.com received 333,866 page visits. We also developed several micro-websites that take on GOP candidates including: TheRealBruceRendon.com; BolgerGate.com; and JudgeColleenOBrien.net.

The MDP has been a leader in email communication, too. We have gathered the largest Email list of any Democratic organization in Michigan – and in 2012 alone we sent out 67 statewide Email blasts.

• **Taking the fight to the Republicans:**

I have always been on the frontlines when it comes to taking on the GOP. In 2012, I worked with Senate and House leadership to expose Republican Leader Jase Bolger's election rigging scheme. I also took the fight to Pete Hoekstra for his bogus attacks on Sen. Stabenow. In past elections I have gone on the offensive against Dick DeVos and Cliff Taylor. Currently, I am taking on the GOP's latest scheme – an attempt to rig the Electoral College system. I promise I will continue to do whatever it takes to keep up the fight against extreme Republicans.

• **Working Hard and Leading by Example:**

We ask our candidates to work hard, and I believe the Party Chair must lead by example. I have maintained an around-the-clock work schedule going everywhere in the state to engage Democratic leaders and activists. I have traveled to Party meetings in all 83 counties including regular trips through the Upper Peninsula. I regularly attend church services in Detroit, Flint, Saginaw and Grand Rapids and conduct outreach to religious leaders of all denominations. My schedule also includes a college tour and youth outreach. And I work closely and attend events for Labor, environmental, and progressive groups.

• **Winning Elections:**

Since I became MDP Chair, Michigan has voted for every Democratic Presidential candidate. During that time, we elected Governor Granholm to two terms; Sen. Stabenow to three terms; Sen. Levin to three terms; maintained one of the most-respected and influential Congressional Delegations in the country; won Supreme Court seats; achieved big victories in the State Legislature despite GOP gerrymandering (including majority in the State House in 2006), countless victories up and down the ballot, and many important ballot questions including the right to keep Straight Party Voting on the ballot as well as the ballot measure that allows our Party organizations to maintain BINGO operations – a major source of income for many Democratic groups.

• **Moving Forward:**

I'm proud of the work we have done, but I know we can do better. Moving forward, I believe there is much we can learn from the structure of President Obama's successful campaigns. I will work to continue to implement many of the technological and organizational practices the President pioneered.

I also believe we need to address the very serious issue of gerrymandered legislative and Congressional Districts. Democratic statewide turnout has not been translating into victories at the Congressional, state legislative and local levels. This warped system designed by the GOP is a major obstacle to securing more victories. If we do not fix this rigged system, our efforts to provide resources and run good candidates will be for naught. **It will be one of my top priorities to implement redistricting reform to ensure that Democrats are fairly represented at all levels.**

Friends, I have not taken my decision to run for re-election lightly. This is a decision I have made after careful consideration and consultation with groups and individuals at all levels. I am more excited than ever to get back to work for victory in 2014. I look forward to continuing to work in an inclusive manner to make our Party even stronger.

I will continue a 24/7 work ethic – because the Republicans never stop. I will continue to be a responsive Chair, returning phone calls in a timely fashion and making myself available for speaking engagements, trainings or working through complex campaign finance issues. I will work to continue to grow our Party and work with all our members throughout the state.

**And I will continue to put my heart and soul into the #1 job of a Party Chair: Ensuring our candidates and organizations receive the training and resources they need to beat Republicans up and down the ticket.**

Thank you for all of your efforts through the years. I ask for your support for re-election to Chair so I can continue this important fight with you.

Sincerely,

Mark Brewer

**TO HELP RE-ELECT MARK BREWER AS MDP CHAIR**

Reply to this email to:

- Volunteer
- Publicly endorse
- Commit your vote

**For financial contributions, make payable and send to:**

Mark Brewer for MDP Chair  
404 Hilton Rd  
Ferndale, MI 48220

***Note: there are no contribution limits or campaign finance filings required for MDP elections.***