

**BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD DEMOCRATIC CLUB VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 17, 2020**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:**

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Charles Gaba, Chair; Corrine Shoop, Vice-Chair; Nicole Bedi, Corresponding Secretary; Miriam Imerman, Recording Secretary; Debbie Rosenman, Trustee

**Not Present:** Gail Whitty, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Charles Gaba, Chair, presiding.

Charles called for approval of the September meeting minutes. Debbie Rosenman moved for approval of the minutes. The motion was **seconded**, and minutes were **approved**. Charles next asked for approval of the agenda. A motion to approve was **made** by Corrine, **seconded** by Gail, and **approved**. The agenda consisted of:

- Post-election debrief
- Discussion of upcoming changes in the BB Dems Board, and the OCDP leadership
- Precinct delegate updates
- Affordable Care Act updates

**Post-Election Round-Up:**

Charles presented the round-up. Nationally, the news was big: The Biden/Harris ticket defeated Trump/Pence both in the popular vote and in the electoral college. Biden received nearly 80 million votes, and 306 electoral votes, the exact margin by which Trump won in 2016.

The Wayne County Board of Canvassers deadlocked 2-2, with the 2 Republican members of the Board refusing to certify the results of the election. They stated that they would certify all of the votes in Wayne County, outside of Detroit.

In Georgia, the Republican Secretary of State is being criticized by his own party, and reportedly has received death threats, for stating - truthfully - that Joe Biden won the state. There will be a runoff election in Georgia in January to determine the balance of the Senate. If both Democratic candidates win (Recording Secretary's note: **they did - yay!**), the Senate will be 50-50 with Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris as the tie-breaking vote. This may limit Biden's ability to appoint Senators to posts in his administration.

Charles urged Club members and all present to get involved with organizations working on the Georgia runoff election. Janette Phillips reported that Fems for Dems would be sending out 100,000 postcards to help Democrats win in Georgia. Back in Michigan, Gary Peters defeated John James. Other victories for Michigan Democrats included Andy Levin, Elissa Slotkin and Haley Stevens. All in all, a good result for the Dems.

Nationally, however, the Democrats may have lost approximately 12 seats. There will still be a (slim) Democratic majority in the House; perhaps 4 to 5 seats. While Gary Peters won, the Democrats did not flip the Senate - yet.

At the state level, the Democrats flipped the Michigan Supreme Court. The Court is now 4 Democrats/3 Republicans. This will be important to help Gov. Whitmer continue to take steps to control the COVID pandemic. While Democrats won a few key state House races, the House remains under GOP control. Several Republican state legislators are trying to impeach Governor Whitmer. In Oakland County, Democrats took 5 out of 6 slots on the County Commission. Charles thanked Kelly Dillaha for her hard work running for County Commissioner, and said that he hoped she would come back and run again. Martin Brook was congratulated for his election as Bloomfield Township Clerk, the first time a Democrat ever to hold that office. In addition, Democrats won 4 seats on the Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees, the first time Democrats will hold any seats on that body.

Charles noted that this was the last election to use the 2011 redistricting plan. The Independent Redistricting Commission is preparing to re-draw maps in a way that will not be gerrymandered.

Charles announced that he still has many lawn signs, and offered to give them to anyone wishing a souvenir of this historic election. Regarding fundraising, Charles said he is preparing a final analysis of how much he was able to raise. As of this meeting, he has raised just under \$5.9 million for candidates across the country.

On the development of a vaccine for COVID-19, Charles reported that it is a good news/bad news situation. The good news: Pfizer and Moderna are close to developing a vaccine, and it may be distributed sooner than previously thought. Bad news: it will probably still be 6 months or more before the pandemic is brought under control, and cases are still spiking.

Charles announced two upcoming board elections: First, the Oakland County Democratic Party Executive Committee will be having its county convention the coming Friday night. The BB Dems will get 8 slots. 7 of the 8 have already been filled. Charles reported that he would be giving his position to the Berkley Democratic Club, as our club would still have one more slot than before. On the slate: Corrine, Allen Wolf, Kelly Dillaha, Debbie Rosenman, Julia Gallagher, and Nash Salami. The Oakland County Democratic Party meetings are open to anyone. The second election is discussed below.

**Transitions:** Charles announced that he would be stepping down as club Chair at the end of the year. He stated that any member having paid dues by the January meeting could run for chair. Charles said he hoped to return to his former role as corresponding secretary. Corrine will be staying on as Vice-Chair. Nicole said she would be stepping down from her position as corresponding sec. (Post-meeting note: Miriam Imerman will be stepping down as Recording Secretary). Gail will be staying as treasurer. Charles suggested Debbie Rosenman as chair - Debbie agreed to run. One trustee position remains open. Charles said that we are recruiting for that position.

**Precinct Delegate Updates:** Many precinct delegates worked on the Voter Protection Team. Turnout was quite high: in Bloomfield Township, there was an 81% turnout, a very high percentage of the vote for Biden. In the 18 precincts in the township, only 2 precincts - Precinct 7 (by 2 votes!) and Precinct 16 (by 185 votes) went Red. In Southfield Township, there was an 85% turnout. All 10 precincts went for Biden.

Allen Wolf and Mandy Garver walked their precinct, and in so doing, identified 5 potential new precinct delegates. Charles said that our club did very well, helping to increase turnout. The only problem was this: many people voted for Biden, but then voted for Republicans in down-ballot races

**ACA Update:** Charles reported on the status of how the ACA was supposed to work, and how it is working. He has produced a comprehensive report - ACA 101: The Law and the Lawsuit. He gave a general tutorial on the current status of the law. A Supreme Court ruling is due to come out in the spring. If the ACA is struck down, millions will lose health coverage immediately. Charles said that a single-payer system will not happen for the foreseeable future.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.