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THE DUBUQUE DISPATCH

A publication of the Dubuque County Democratic Party



THANK YOU, DUBUQUE. WE DID IT

The election is over. The work wasn't only done by candidates. It was done by you too. We won big, and we're not done.

Inside: a big thank-you to every volunteer, helper and worker bee, the Data & Analytics results rundown, a leadership spotlight, and our Organization Spotlight on Toys for Tots.

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Leadership, plus our Organization Spotlight: Toys for Tots.

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THANK YOU. REALLY.

Volunteers

You knocked the doors, made the calls and signed up for the shifts. Every contact counted.

We had 123+ volunteers through the County Party, our GOTV, our partnerships with other community changers. YOUR WORK IS DEDICATION AND WE OWE YOU.

Helpers

You jumped in wherever we needed you: rides, events, last-minute asks.

Thank you for driving to pick up literature, dropping off last minute supplies or jumping in to grab more candy for a festival. You are awesome.

Worker Bees

The ones nobody clapped for: bundling, data entry, lit drops, setup, cleanup. The work that makes the other work possible.

Thank you, your work behind the scenes allowed our community to become better educated in casting their vote because of you.

Office Volunteers

You staffed the office, greeted every walk-in, handed out lit, and kept HQ running.

Thank you for showing up, for handling every curve ball, and managing all the things you were fielding at the office. Speaking to volunteers is hard work and you made all the difference.

TO EVERYONE WHO SHOWED UP

Our community needed us and each of you showed up. We moved 40,000 pieces of literature, we knocked more than 11,000 doors, and we helped drive 64.1% turnout among voters in this election. Because of you, we helped turn the tide on building a better tomorrow.

We couldn't have done it without you.

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE WORK

EXECUTIVE BOARD


Eli Licht


RRS


Anthony Allen


Emily Bush


Jerry Hammel


Claire Robinson


Mary Loney Bichell


Josh Lampman


Allison Drahozal


David Gonzalez


Evan Gerish

CENTRAL COMMITTEE & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Thank you for your approvals, your support and your guidance this past year. Thank you for the meetings, the hours and the evenings you gave to the Democratic cause. It was your support that helped turn the tide and build a BLUE TSUNAMI in Dubuque County!



Many hands did this work, and we may have missed a few. If your name isn't here, it still belongs. Thank you.

2026 A YEAR IN PHOTOS



























YEAR IN PHOTOS CONT.

























WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY

Dubuque County results, unofficial. From the Data & Analytics Committee.

Countywide: Rob Sand and Dave Muhlbauer carried the county by 5,695 votes. Ann Sweeney won Recorder with 77.0%. Full table below.

County turnout: 64.1%. For context, it was 54.40% in 2022 and 66.51% in 2018.

Early vote: 42% of ballots. Turek won it 11,439 to 6,600.

Precinct highlights: Turek got 74.7% in 18, 66.4% in 19, 65.4% in 17 and 59.5% in 9, our final-weekend targets.

Closest miss: Agriculture, by 102 votes.

The Numbers: 11,272 Doors Knocked/Lit Dropped : 80K+ Texts Sent : Total Estimated Reach 31K+

How we did it: We supported our candidates' needs, and worked to fill the gaps between Iowa Forward, County Candidate Campaigns to Get Out The Vote.

DUBUQUE COUNTY, DEMOCRATIC SHARE (unofficial)

Federal Seats:
U.S. Senate: Josh Turek 51.4%, +2,325 **FLIPPED**
U.S. House: Lindsay James 51.5%, +2,857 **FLIPPED**

State Seats
Governor & Lt. Governor: Rob Sand & Dave Muhlbauer 56.5%, +5,695 **FLIPPED**
State Attorney General: Nate Willems 53.1%, +2,649 **FLIPPED**
State Auditor: Taylor Wettach 52.2%, +1,879
State House 71: Sam Wooden, unopposed, 8,880 votes
State House 72: Matt Robinson 53.7%, +1,017 **FLIPPED**

County Seats:
County Attorney: Steve Drahozal 52.5%, +2,159 **FLIPPED**
County Recorder: Ann Sweeney 77.0%, +19,734
County Supervisors: Kristin Dietzel 22,076 votes; Rick Dickinson 19,576 votes **FLIPPED**

ONE NUMBER TO REMEMBER: 5,695. How many more votes Sand and Muhlbauer got than the Republican ticket in Dubuque County. **Questions about the data? Email tech@dbqdems.org**

LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

IOWA'S NEXT CONGRESSWOMAN

BY JOSH LAMPMAN



Election night, Nov. 3, at the Stone Cliff Event Center. Lindsay James told the room she is a chaplain and that she will lead with a moral compass.

"Iowa chose hope. Iowa chose faith. Iowa chose moral clarity."

I have known Lindsay James for more than eight years. She has been my Iowa State House Representative since 2018, and she is an unmistakably remarkable person.

On election night, more than 300 of us packed the Stone Cliff Event Center for her watch party. Her daughter, Ginny, opened the night. She talked about her mom. Then she introduced Iowa's next Congresswoman.

Lindsay thanked the people who made this happen. The volunteers. The voters. The unions. The folks who knocked doors.

"I will always fight for Iowa."

"When we launched this campaign last year, not many people believed that we would be here tonight."

She said plenty of people told her Iowa had broken their hearts. "Well, here we are."

Then she made a promise to everyone, including people who didn't vote for her. "My office door will always be open."

"This is not the end. It's just the very beginning."

She ran on the Good Samaritan promise: to always take care of her neighbor. She will live up to that in Washington. She will work on behalf of all Iowans and all Americans to help perfect our imperfect union and build a better world for everyone.

Dubuque, she is ours. Let's show up for her the way she showed up for us. You built this. Thank you.

IN LINDSAY'S WORDS

"After the 2016 election, my daughter Ginny and I bought a White House Lego. We were going to build it the morning after we elected our first female president. When that didn't happen, we had a very hard conversation about what it meant for our country and for her future. This experience is what led me to first run for office.

So our family bought another Lego, a United States Capitol building. Every single person who knocked a door, made a phone call or sent a text message was able to grab a piece and build a new national capitol. We did that.

Iowa chose hope. Iowa chose faith. Iowa chose moral clarity. This is not the end. It's just the very beginning. I will always fight for Iowa. And to anyone who didn't vote for me, my office door will always be open."

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

TOYS FOR TOTS

Toys for Tots gets gifts to more than 5,000 kids across the Dubuque area every Christmas. It runs under the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, and cash gifts stay right here at home.



What it is: A local holiday toy program. Each child gets 3 toys and 1 book.

How to donate: Cash gifts stay in the Dubuque area. Give at dubuquetoys.org. For toy drop-off spots and deadlines, check the site or email Bryce.

How to get help: Parents and guardians book an appointment at toystortotsdbq.simplybook.me. Kids from newborn through age 14 or 8th grade. Bring proof you live in Dubuque. Multicultural Family Center, 1157 Central Ave., 563-582-3681. For sign-up dates, check the site or email Bryce.

Local contact: *Bryce Parks, bryce@dubuque365.com*

Want to give or get help? Start at dubuquetoys.org.

WHAT'S NEXT

We won. Now let's keep building.

Volunteer Giveback Party: We're celebrating this cycle and our Blue Tsunami. Stay tuned for a Save the Date coming soon!

Roles Open Now: Social Media Manager, Marketing Coordinator, Videographer, Data Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator and more.

Join a Committee: Candidates & Campaigns, Community Engagement, Development, Data & Analytics, Marketing and Fundraising. Tell us what you want to do for the party. We're always looking for new people for our Neighbor to Neighbor program.

Swearing-in: Local county officials are sworn in the first week of January. The other members-elect are seated the same month.

Local meetings you can attend. Dubuque City Council, Mon., Nov. 16, 6:30 PM, 350 W. 6th St.

Next meeting of the party. Central Committee meets the second Tuesday of every month: Nov. 10 and Dec. 8. At the UAW Local 94 Hall.

Sign pick-up and drop-off. Want us to pick up your signs? Go to dbqdems.org or drop them off at 123 Main Street by Nov. 15.



STAY IN TOUCH

Visit dbqdems.org to volunteer, join a committee or reach the party.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar.

Scan for more information on our website!

Tue., Nov. 10, 7:00 PM. DBQ Central Committee Meeting. UAW Local 94, 3450 Central Ave.

Tue., Dec. 8. DBQ Central Committee Meeting. We meet the second Tuesday of every month. Details at dbqdems.org.

Volunteer Giveback Party. Date, time and place coming soon at dbqdems.org.

COME TO THE NEXT MEETING. SEE YOU NOV. 10!

Jigsaw Analytics Group

Thank you to the Jigsaw team for their marketing, strategy and website expertise this last year.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dubuque, thank you. We won big, up and down the ticket, and that happened because you showed up. You knocked the doors. You made the calls. You ran the office. We have work to do in the county, and we'll start right now. Come to the next meeting.

Best
Josh Lampman

Art by Shelby Fry



PAID FOR BY THE DUBUQUE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY