

Minutes
Chequamegon Democrats Membership Meeting
Chequamegon Dems Office, Ashland, Wisconsin

April 11, 2026

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Kathleen Adee called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.
2. **Approval of March 14, 2026, Minutes.** Our meeting notice provided a link to our website page where members can review our minutes. **Motion (Sandy Raspotnik), second (Greg Trush) to approve the minutes for March 14, 2026. Carried.**
3. **Introductions.** We went around the room and introduced ourselves.
4. **Treasurer's report.** Kathleen reviewed the March Treasurer's Report, which was shown on the screen. **Motion (David Siegler), second (Cindy Pliss) to accept the Treasurer's Report.**
5. **Introductions (part 2).** Participants over Zoom introduced themselves.
6. **Joshua Taylor talk.** Joshua Taylor, the 2nd Vice-Chair of the Wis Dems, addressed us via Zoom. He encouraged us to stay organized and not get too comfortable with our massive Chris Taylor win. He asked us to bring the same energy to the November campaign as we brought to the April one. He reviewed the Wis Dems strategy for November: (1) Do not overlook any community; (2) Do not assume people will show up- organize; (3) Compete everywhere; (4) Invest in volunteers- recruitment, training, appreciation; (5) Stay focused on what is at stake; (6) We must come out of the primary with urgency and unity. A trifecta is within our reach.
7. **Review of local Chris Taylor election results.** David Siegler reviewed numbers showing that Ashland and Bayfield Counties outperformed the state-wide numbers both for margin of victory and turnout: Taylor won state-wide with 60% of the vote; she won in Ashland County with 63% and in Bayfield County with 69%. Only four counties in the state gave her a wider margin of victory than Bayfield County; only nine gave her a wider margin than Ashland County. Statewide, 70% of the number of voters who turned out last year for Susan Crawford turned out this year for Chris Taylor. In Ashland County, the number was 71% and in Bayfield County the number was 81%.
8. **Midterm elections.** Mike Radtke reported that candidates will begin circulating nominating papers on April 15. We will have a signing event on April 16. We'll have

nominating papers for people to pick up and circulate for the candidates of their choice. An individual can only circulate papers for one candidate for each office.

9. Monarca training. Kathleen reminded the group that we will have Monarca Upstander training in Ashland on May 7, to prepare for any further incursions into our community by ICE.

10. 7th CD Convention. Kathleen announced that we can bring up to 28 delegates to the convention, but she needed to know by the end of the meeting if anyone wanted to be included. We then discussed and voted on the three resolutions that members had prepared for us to consider sending on to the 7th CD Convention.

Resolution regarding DHS/ICE/CBP. (Gail Syverud). **Motion by Gail Syverud, second by David Siegler to approve the resolution.** Discussion. **Motion by Jeremy Oswald, second by Greg Trush to remove the word “abolish” from the request in the resolution asking Congress to “reform or abolish” ICE. Carried.** More discussion. Concern that the resolution refers only to the Administration being responsible for the huge budgetary amounts given to DHS. **Motion by Jeremy Oswald, second by Dan Goglin to place this resolution on hold and return to it later in the meeting after Gail has time to reconsider wording. Carried.**

Resolution regarding climate change (Bill Bussey). **Motion by Bill Bussey, second by Mike Radtke to approve resolution as presented. Carried.** Bill noted that he will not be at the 7th CD Convention but if someone from the Cheq Dems would be willing to present the resolution he would draft a statement for them.

Resolution regarding health care (Linda Jorgensen). Kathleen noted that Linda was not present. She also said that the resolution was 121 words long but that we could approve it and then she would wordsmith it to reduce the length to the maximum 100 words. **Motion by David Siegler, second by Jermey Oswald to table the resolution indefinitely because it would be difficult to reduce such a large percentage of the total words after approval and be sure to preserve the meaning of the resolution. Motion failed.** Ann Reitz volunteered to rewrite the resolution to bring it down to 100 words during the next agenda item. **Motion by Sandy Raspotnik, second by Mary Pliss to table until after the next speaker. Carried.**

Return to Gail’s ICE resolution. **David Siegler moved, Sandy Raspotnik seconded a motion to add “and Congress” to the resolution, after “Administration” in setting forth the parties responsible for ICE funding. Carried.**

11. Flock Camera presentation by Liam Delmain. Liam said his concern was not only with the current Flock camera system but with the rise of the surveillance state in general.

Another more general issue of concern to him was the lack of transparency in decision-making regarding the purchase and maintenance of the Flock system in Bayfield County. Liam stated that his goal was to start a conversation so that the community can make better informed decisions. Because he assumed a general level of knowledge already about the system, and because of time limitations, he was not at the meeting to give his usual presentation on Flock, but to answer questions.

He answered a question about “where does information go after it is collected.” He stated that Flock owns the system that takes and stores the photos it takes, and the Sheriff’s Department accesses the info through a yearly subscription. Photos are erased after 30 days. He clarified that the County does own the information, but there is a clause that seems to give Flock broad usage rights.

A question was raised about the basics: what is the system we are talking about. Liam described the system and what it does. Bayfield County Sheriff Tony Williams was at the meeting and he added some information. (He had made a presentation about Flock at our December meeting.)

A question was raised about possible abuses of the system. Typical abuses occur when a deputy, or someone else with access, uses the system to track a domestic partner. That has not happened in Bayfield County. An incident did occur where a deputy performed a number of consecutive searches entering nonsense letters into the “reason for search” field.

A question was raised whether there is any state-wide legislation being discussed to regulate Flock systems and other systems like them. No one knew the answer.

The Sheriff was asked what the system was used for. He explained that it has helped them solve crimes, but it has been mainly useful for locating suicidal individuals and elderly confused people who have wandered off (5-8 times/month).

Liam concluded by saying that he does not dispute that the system has been used for some good ends, but that those uses must be balanced against the other interests of the community. He left a QR code, linking to a site where more information can be found.

12. Return to 7th CD resolutions. Ann Reitz read her version of the resolution.

Discussion, mainly centering on the re-written resolution focusing on a request for the legislature to expand Badgercare, and not focusing on Medicare-for-all, which had been

part of the original. **Motion by Sandy Raspotnik, second by Penny to approve the re-written resolution. Carried.**

Motion by David Siegler, second by Sandy Raspotnik to give Kathleen the authority to appoint delegates to represent the Cheq Dems at the 7th CD Convention. Carried.

13. Facebook presentation. Jeremy Oswald presented information on the performance of our Facebook posts, including the value of the expenditures on “boosts.” He passed around a sheet showing our highest performing posts, including one promoting Chris Taylor that received over 7,500 views, including views achieved through the boost expenditure.

11. Adjournment. Motion (David Siegler), second (Greg Trush) to adjourn. Carried. We adjourned at approximately noon.

Respectfully submitted:

David Siegler
Secretary