

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – OCTOBER 8, 2026

Statement from William L. Federspiel, Sheriff of Saginaw County, Michigan, Regarding Party Affiliation

As your Sheriff, my primary duty has always been to uphold the law, protect our community, and serve every resident of Saginaw County with integrity. I have always believed that public safety should transcend partisan politics. However, an elected official must also stand on a foundation of core principles and convictions.

After much prayer, reflection, and consideration, I am announcing today that I am leaving the Democratic Party.

This decision comes down to a fundamental misalignment between the current direction of the party and my deepest personal and professional convictions. I can no longer support a platform that conflicts with my values in these critical areas:

- **Public Safety and Criminal Justice:** As a law enforcement officer, my highest priority is the safety of our citizens and justice for victims of crime. I am deeply concerned by the prevailing push within the Democratic platform toward policies that seek to prematurely release violent offenders from prison. A tragic, real-world example of this soft-on-crime approach is hitting close to home right now in Saginaw County. The case of 18-year-old Karen King, who was brutally kidnapped, tortured, and murdered in 1997, remains a painful scar on our region. Yet, due to systemic shifts in juvenile sentencing advocacy championed by progressives, her killers have been repeatedly granted court reviews and Miller hearings to evaluate them for potential resentencing and eventual release. Our justice system must prioritize victims and community safety over the comfort of convicted murderers.
- **The Sanctity of Life:** I hold strong, unshakeable convictions regarding the protection of the unborn. The party's current platform on abortion directly conflicts with my personal faith and moral beliefs. I am guided by the profound words of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who warned at the 1994 National Prayer Breakfast: "The greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child." She rightly noted that if a mother can kill her own child, there is nothing left to stop us from destroying one another. I cannot align myself with a platform that actively promotes the destruction of the most vulnerable among us.
- **Fairness in Athletics:** As a matter of basic fairness, common sense, and the protection of biological integrity, I firmly believe that girls' sports should be reserved exclusively for biological females. The inclusion of transgender males in female sports undermines the hard-earned opportunities and safety of young women. I want to voice my strong admiration for Riley Gaines and WNBA star Sophie Cunningham, who have stood up as true heroes for girls and girls' sports. Their courage to speak the truth and protect female athletes inspires me to take this stand today.

- **Economic Freedom:** I stand firmly against socialist policies and rhetoric that threaten individual liberty, free enterprise, and constitutional principles. Our communities thrive on accountability, personal responsibility, and a strong constitutional framework—not government overreach.
- **Political Ultimatums and Political Double Standards:** My final decision was catalyzed by the actions of local party leadership. I recently crossed party lines to endorse two Republican candidates, primarily because of their unwavering support of law enforcement, their belief in the rule of law in our country, and for their refusal to accept any form of socialism within our constitutional republic. Rather than respecting independent thought or a shared focus on public service, the Saginaw County Democratic Party leadership instantly issued an ultimatum demanding that I leave the Democratic Party. This reaction exposes a glaring double standard in modern politics: when a Republican elected official switches sides to endorse a Democratic candidate, the Democrats warmly welcome them, parading them in the media as "heroes" who are making a "courageous" stand for country over party. Yet, it never works the other way around. When a Democrat stands on conviction to endorse a common-sense conservative policy, they are immediately met with militant gatekeeping, vitriol, and expulsion. This rigid intolerance proves that the modern party no longer tolerates centrist views, independent judgment, or conservative moral principles among its members.

My dedication to the citizens of Saginaw County remains completely unchanged. I was elected to keep this county safe, and I will continue to execute the duties of the Office of Sheriff with the same focus, fairness, and commitment to the rule of law as I always have.

I am incredibly grateful for the continued support of our community as we work together to keep Saginaw County a safe place to live and raise a family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "William L. Federspiel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "W".

William L. Federspiel, Saginaw County Sheriff

**Saginaw County Democrats**

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**Saginaw County Democrats is in Saginaw County, Michigan.**

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The Saginaw County Democratic Party calls on Bill Federspiel to change his Party affiliation NOW, we will run a true Democrat in 2028.

Brandell Adams
SCDP Chair



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