



"Good Trouble Lives On" Regroup Focuses on Building Stronger Neighborhood Connections

This meeting wasn't about complaints - it was about building a roadmap.

Members of the **Lee County Democratic Party**, joined by leaders and members of the **Black Caucus** and **Hispanic Caucus**, recently gathered for the **"Good Trouble Lives On" Community Regroup**, an evening dedicated to listening, collaboration, and building a stronger path forward for Democratic organizing in Lee County.

The discussion centered on one essential question: **How can the Democratic Party better engage and represent every community it serves?** Participants from the Black and Hispanic Caucuses shared their perspectives, experiences, and ideas for strengthening neighborhood relationships, developing future leaders, improving messaging, and ensuring every voice is heard.

Lee County Democratic Chair **James Rosinus** said the conversation reinforced the importance of meeting communities where they are.

"Each community has its own needs that have to be addressed specifically," Jim said. "People need to see representation from within their own community and hear messaging that speaks to their experiences if we're going to motivate them to participate and vote."

Throughout the afternoon, attendees emphasized that meaningful engagement begins with trust and consistent presence in neighborhoods - not just during election season. Vice Chair **Karyn Edison** said participants were focused on finding practical ways to strengthen those connections.

"The first concern both communities raised was how they can better reach and engage their own communities in the Democratic Party," Karyn said. "We talked about ways Party officials can become part of the community, while helping the community become

part of the Party. We also highlighted Democratic heroes within Black and Hispanic communities and brainstormed messaging that inspires and motivates people who have felt disconnected."

Among the ideas that emerged were expanding neighborhood organizing, hosting more community gatherings, supporting future Democratic candidates, and increasing service-oriented outreach.

Jim believes grassroots organizing remains the foundation for long-term success.

"Neighborhood organizers are the way to go—the more local, the better, even down to the street level," he said. "Community events like picnics, BBQs, and house parties bring neighbors together, build trust, and create lasting relationships. Regular communication through meetings and updates keeps the conversation going and strengthens those connections."

Karyn highlighted several initiatives already underway that will continue following the regroup.

"We'll continue our food and clothing drives, our Melt Some ICE events supporting marginalized communities, and our partnerships with professionals who can connect residents with needed resources," she said. "We've also identified three community parks where we'll host old-fashioned neighborhood picnics so these conversations can continue."

As Democrats prepare for future elections, both leaders acknowledged that rebuilding confidence within the community remains one of the Party's greatest challenges.

"The biggest challenge is convincing voters—especially in marginalized communities—that change is possible and that they have the power to create it," Jim said. "I'm optimistic because we have a dedicated group of activists committed to working one-on-one with neighbors over the long term."

Karyn agreed that rebuilding trust is essential while expressing confidence in the Party's direction.

"The biggest challenge is restoring confidence in the local Democratic Party's ability to make a difference," she said. "I'm optimistic because we already have programs and plans in place. We simply need to stay committed to them. We have diverse representation within our local caucuses and among our slate of candidates, and we're continuing to grow that representation within our Democratic Executive Committee."

The "Good Trouble Lives On" Community Regroup demonstrated the value of bringing together Democratic leaders and members of the Black and Hispanic Caucuses to listen, collaborate, and identify practical ways to strengthen community engagement. The evening concluded with a shared commitment to continue building relationships, expanding neighborhood outreach, and ensuring every community has a voice in shaping the future of the Lee County Democratic Party.