

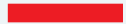
MARCH 2023

WHAT WE SEE

Freedom of Conscience



Moms, dads, and freedom loving individuals joined courageous candidates to defend our piece of America in the 2022 election cycle.



On January 3, 2023, a majority of the new Board of Commissioners took action to course correct Ottawa County and protect the constitutional rights and freedoms of the people—including the freedom of conscience.

OTTAWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The new board closed the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion office (DE&I)—built on the divisive tenants of Critical Race Theory (CRT).

The board also passed a Resolution to change the county motto to “Where Freedom Rings,” affirming “‘Where Freedom Rings’—where individual freedoms, parental rights, and freedom of religion and conscience are protected, all people belong.”

We would love for you to read the [Resolution in its entirety](#), which embraces freedom and a love for all people.

A portion of The Resolution includes:

“WHEREAS, diversity and inclusion, as traditionally defined, are beautiful words and bring value and richness to our relationships, homes, and communities. We value all people regardless of their ethnicity, sexuality, religion, gender and age, born or unborn; and,

WHEREAS, we agree with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream that children ‘will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.’ We agree with his desire to ‘let freedom ring’ in every city and state across our nation, and with the historical significance of these words to the American people’s struggle for freedom and equality;”

Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida and Governor Greg Abbott of Texas have taken similar action in their states to end government sanctioned racism and discrimination through DE&I/CRT initiatives, which are contrary to Civil Rights Law. Instead of encouraging racism and discrimination, Governors DeSantis and Abbott are working to encourage the talent and merit of all, as are the new leaders in Ottawa County.

The majority of the Board of Commissioners moved to end the erroneous narrative previously spread by county government— that Ottawa County being 90% white and largely conservative was a problem which required the social engineering of its people through a county DE&I Department aligned with CRT teachings.

THEORY OF INTERSECTIONALITY

Intersectionality, a core component of DE&I and CRT, teaches that an individual's ability to achieve one's dreams is determined by skin color and other traits.

Alternately—according to the theory of intersectionality, an individual is responsible for oppressing others due to their own skin color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity. On the intersectionality scale, those with the greatest number of oppressor traits are white, Christian, heterosexual, cisgender (identify as the gender assigned at birth), and male.


Teaching our people and our children they cannot achieve their dreams due to their skin color or other characteristics, and/or that children and individuals are oppressors due to their skin color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity is both discriminatory and emotionally abusive.

These teachings are Marxist, meaning they divide people, and are being used to deconstruct society, government institutions, and America.

Many of the people and children in Ottawa County are enjoying beautiful multi-cultural friendships. **Forcing people to view each other through the harmful lens of intersectionality is racist and discriminatory.**

We love the people and children of our county, and for that reason, we oppose teachings that divide us. Our people—all of our people, are beautiful and possess inherent potential.

We do not agree with violating the religious and conscience freedoms of The People by forcing agreement with the tenants of Critical Race Theory, or with the harm it will bring to the future of our nation and our children.



Racism and discrimination will never be defeated by institutionalizing a counter form of racism and discrimination.

As human beings are flawed, there will be occasions when individuals do not treat others as they should or as others would like to be treated.

However, actions of individuals do not transfer guilt to entire groups of people. Nor do they justify government social engineering entire communities with a harmful ideology in an attempt to change or atone for the actions of individuals.

As Thomas Sowell expresses in *Discrimination and Disparities*, “Such wrongs abound in times and places around the world—inflicted on, and perpetrated by, people of virtually every race, creed and color. But what can any society today hope to gain by having newborn babies in that society enter the world as heirs to prepackaged grievances against other babies born into that same society on the same day?”

Conservative minority thought leaders— individuals like Bob Woodson and numerous scholars and activists of 1776 Unites, Candace Owens, Voddie Bauchman, and 91-year-old Thomas Sowell, whose work on economics and social policy is brilliant and relevant—have taken strong stands against the CRT/DE&I movement and their potential harms to our nation.

President Trump gathered distinguished scholars and historians, including Ben Carson and John Gibbs, to address the CRT/ DE&I movement’s attack on our nation’s founding through [The President’s Advisory 1776 Commission](#).



Ironically, the left ignores these diverse voices, as they do not fit their narrative on race.

Americans of diverse ethnicities and backgrounds stand together against this movement, recognizing this harmful ideology to be an arrow aimed at destroying the foundations of our great nation.

CENSORSHIP & PUBLIC INTIMIDATION



Those who promote CRT/DE&I ideology are largely united by progressive ideology and a secular humanism worldview.

The CRT/DE&I movement is a core initiative of the progressive Democrat Party, exemplified by the Biden Administration issuing executive orders to advance Racial Equity (another term for the CRT/DE&I movement) on their first day in office.


GARE's parent organization, of which Ottawa County has been a member, has worked with the Biden Administration on these issues. Additional executive orders on implementing Racial Equity (CRT/DE&I policies) in the federal government were recently issued. Implementation of this ideology in federal bureaucracy has already led to unconstitutional grant issuance based on race. Further implementation in branches such as the IRS risks pushing America further towards the socialist value of equity—the E in DE&I.

We believe in the American value of equality, which provides equal opportunity to all and rewards personal effort. Equality is a human right outlined in the Declaration of Independence, which guarantees our unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We are a nation of overcomers with countless real-life stories of those who have risen above adversity to create the impossible.

The progressive movement seeks to replace the American value of equality with the socialist value of equity.

Equity promises equal outcomes, and is not a human right. Equity takes opportunity and resources from others (redistribution) for the unachievable promise of equal outcomes for all. Although it promises utopia, it ignores the impact of personal effort while dismantling the foundations of our society which made our nation exceptional.

Equity, a core tenant of Critical Race Theory and the Racial Equity movement, binds us to state management of society and leads us down the road to socialism. Equity jeopardizes liberty.



When examining the individuals and beliefs on either side of the CRT/DE&I debate, it becomes clear our country does not predominantly have a racial divide, we have an ideological and political divide.



We have seen the effects of this Marxist ideology in the harsh public treatment of those who disagree.

There is a demand for adherence to a set of beliefs, requiring compelled thoughts, speech, and actions to demonstrate support, and even compelled parenting of children in progressive ideology at school. The public intimidation and bullying of those who do not hold these beliefs is growing, as evidenced by the actions of the Democratic Activist Media and partisan Party operatives over the past year.

We recognize the media and progressive activists are not used to Republican leaders with a backbone.

Censorship, demonization, and public intimidation of Conservatives have been the go-to method to obtain submission and silence.

We famously saw this “cancel culture” play out—punishing those who express alternative views by driving them from public life, with the intense defamatory media coverage of the [Covington boys](#). The defamation ultimately led to millions of dollars in payouts by media outlets.

We now see it playing out again, as the local media aggressively targets conservative leaders, and progressive activists call people’s employers demanding they be fired.

DEMOCRAT ACTIVIST MEDIA



The Democrat Activist Media coverage of local politics has escalated to non-stop articles maligning new Ottawa County Commissioners, Ottawa Impact supporters, and by extension—the Republican majority of The People of Ottawa County, as extremists.

Those in the public eye with the courage to stand for American values, rather than bow to the prescribed DE&I/CRT belief system, are routinely ostracized as far-right Christian nationalists.

Defending against the use of government to institutionalize a harmful DE&I/CRT agenda does not make Americans racist, extreme, or Christian nationalists. Nor does it place them outside of the norms of the Republican Party.




Protecting the constitutional right to the freedom of conscience and defending against racism and discrimination are core Republican positions.


The Republican Party is, after all, the party of Lincoln and the party of Reagan—the party which defeated slavery and brought down threats of communism. And we will do it again.

Missing from local media coverage has been the January 26, 2023, Resolution by the Ottawa County Republican Party in support of the actions taken by the majority of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners on January 3, 2023. The GOP Resolution counters the local media's false assertion that the actions taken by the new commissioners were extreme and did not reflect the will of The People in Michigan's most conservative county.


While we appreciate the tenacity of the Democrat Activist Media and partisan Party operatives, **we disagree with Marxist tactics which force compliance with progressive ideology under threat of personal destruction.**



Put simply, we believe in freedom over force, which includes the freedom of conscience.



Society has lost the beauty of co-existing peacefully with others of diverse beliefs and opinions. Many in our culture maintain that when we disagree with one another, we hate each other, and in order to love someone, we must agree with them completely. This is simply not true.



People can coexist beautifully, and work together, even when we don't fully agree. We love the people of this county, and desire positive outcomes for all.

New commissioners are moms and dads, nurses, teachers, business owners, etc. — everyday citizens who have poured their lives into helping others, and have now decided to get involved in government for the first time. The same is true of newly seated school board members.


We are thankful for these courageous individuals who desire what is best for the people of Ottawa County. We know change is hard. We encourage passionate voices to turn from fear mongering and intimidation to truth telling and work on behalf of The People.

There is much work to do:

- **Strengthening our love of country by increasing knowledge of the Constitution** and our nation's founding documents.
- **Strengthening the family**, parental rights, and the importance of parents in a child's life.
- **Encouraging fatherhood** with honest conversations about systemic fatherlessness.
- **Ending education poverty** and ensuring education excellence for every child.
- **Nourishing opportunities for school choice** for all families.
- **Providing safe communities** protected by strong law enforcement and justice systems.
- **Returning to the values of equality and merit.**
- **Providing social uplift through jobs** and economic opportunity.

“There are no easy answers, but there are simple answers. We must have the courage to do what we know is morally right.”

— President Ronald Reagan, “Time for Choosing” speech, 1964



Ottawa Impact values all people regardless of ethnicity, sexuality, religion, gender and age, ability or disability, born or unborn, believing all people have great worth as created in the image of God.

Ottawa Impact originally covered the Racial Equity movement in Ottawa County government in the July 6, 2021 article, [The Racial Equity Movement: Assault on American Freedom](#).

Ottawa Impact’s Statement on [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, CRT, Racial Equity](#), dated June 1, 2022, is available to read online.

**We affirm, “Where Freedom Rings, All People Belong.”
We are resolved to preserve freedom and our beautiful county for future generations of all who live here.**

Ottawa Impact remains committed to course correcting Ottawa County, protecting American values, and returning local government back to its protection of The People.



Joe Moss
Co-Founder
President



Sylvia Rhodea
Co-Founder
Executive Director

Where Freedom Rings

ALL PEOPLE BELONG