

The St. Joseph Co. Top 3 Issues for May 2026

Next Issues Committee meeting is June 2nd @ noon, Royal Cafe

1. SIGN SAVE AMERICA ACT LETTERS TO OUR SLOTKIN AND PETERS

2. UPDATE ON TINA PETERS AND STEPHANIE SCOTT

Stephanie Scott: Dismissal of Felonies (2026): In late April/early May 2026, a Hillsdale County Circuit Court judge (Sara Lisznyai) dismissed the felony charges, ruling that a lower court abused its discretion and misread state law. The judge found the voter data in question was not confidential in a way that criminalized the access under the statutes charged. Scott still faces a misdemeanor charge related to disobeying a lawful order from the Secretary of State. She has pleaded not guilty to the charges and her legal team argued she acted within her authority as clerk.

Practical ways to help:

Her major legal battle (felonies) has largely succeeded, reducing the immediate need for broad fundraising.

Monitor the remaining misdemeanor: Follow updates via her attorney (e.g., David Kallman/Kallman Legal Group) or local Michigan news... Donations may still support any ongoing costs. There is an active GiveSendGo account for her ("Defend Election Whistleblower Stephanie Scott") if you feel inclined to help out financially. Also, public support through awareness, letters to officials, or attending hearings if the misdemeanor proceeds.

Tina Peters: former Mesa County Clerk, was convicted in August 2024 on seven counts (including felonies) related to a 2021 security breach of election equipment in her office, aimed at advancing claims of 2020 election fraud. She was sentenced to nine years in prison in October 2024.

Trump's Pardon Attempt

In December 2025, President Trump announced a "full pardon" for Peters, citing her efforts to examine election systems. Colorado officials and courts have consistently ruled that this has **no legal effect**, as presidents can only pardon federal offenses—not state crimes. The Colorado Court of Appeals explicitly rejected it, noting no historical precedent for a president pardoning state convictions.

April 2026 Appeals Court Ruling

On April 2, 2026, the Colorado Court of Appeals:

Upheld her convictions in full. Practical ways to help:

Donate to her legal defense: The main platform is her GiveSendGo campaign ("Unite With Tina's Fight to Save America"). Funds support legal fees, appeals, and related costs. Check tinapeters.org or tinapeters.us for official links.

Current Status (as of May 2026) Commutation Details

Democratic Governor Jared Polis commuted her sentence on May 15, 2026.

Polis commuted the sentence to about 4 years and 4.5 months (including time served), making her parole-eligible on June 1.

This does **not** pardon her or overturn the felony convictions; she remains a convicted felon. The move followed pressure from President Trump and others, and came as part of broader clemency actions. Polis has described the original sentence as harsh and noted that Peters' actions involved illegal access but did not directly alter ballots or counts. Peters remains incarcerated at La Vista Correctional Facility until June 1, 2026. Her felony convictions stand, but her original ~9-year sentence was vacated in April 2026 due to the trial judge improperly considering her protected speech/free speech rights. She awaits resentencing. A Trump pardon does not apply to her state charges.

Barb N.

3. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF UPDATE. Axe MI Tax fell short of the needed signatures to be placed on the Nov ballot. It was shy a few thousand votes according to Karla Wagner the founder of Axe Mi Tax. While this is bad news, there is very good news in process in the State House. Bill(s) are in process to modify and reduce many aspects of our property taxes. Please note Steve Carra update on actions in the House.

Carol S.