

# Siskiyou Democrats Grassroots News

Issue #10 – October 2019



We Need YOU  
to Vote!

Elizabeth Betancourt for Assembly

## In This Issue

After Climate Change, last spring's Denney campaign poll showed **Healthcare** to be voters' second priority. So SDGN will devote the next two issues to this vital concern. Here we give a policy overview. In November we'll focus on the specific concerns of rural California.

## What's Happening

**DCCSC Grassroots Committee Meetings**  
**Tuesday, October 1, 2019: Yreka YMCA or**  
**Tuesday, October 8, 2019: Mt. Shasta Library**  
Meetings begin at 6:00pm and everyone is welcome! The same agenda is used for both meetings – so attend either one and get involved! It's fun!

**Democratic Central Committee Siskiyou County Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 9, 2019: 6:00pm to 7:30pm**  
**Best Western, Mt. Shasta**

All DCCSC meetings are open to the public and you are encouraged to attend! We meet on the second Wednesday of each month alternating between Yreka and Mt. Shasta.

## District 1 Assembly Special General Election: November 5

We have a great candidate running for Assembly and need to get her elected! Below is a Letter to the Editor from Alice Rogers explaining why everyone (including Republicans) should vote for Elizabeth!

### Not Another Dahle

*Published in Siskiyou Daily News September 11, 2019*

Come November 5, we have the chance to bring a new voice to the north state, by electing Elizabeth Betancourt to our State Assembly seat.

She is a local farmer from Shasta County, a small business owner and an advocate for our whole region. What we do not need is Megan Dahle's voice, which will mirror that of her husband, Brian Dahle.

It is beyond belief that the most qualified person to serve us in the Assembly, from the over 400,000 people in our district, just happens to reside with our last Assemblyman and current Senator, in the same house, from the same small town of Bieber, in one of the smallest counties of our district.

The far north state only gets two seats at the table in Sacramento and we deserve representation that reflects the diversity of our constituency. I will quote the letter sent in to the Siskiyou Daily News, by Republican Louise Gliatto, August 7, 2019, "Why should one family hold sway over an entire district composed of thousands of families." I agree with Louise, let's elect someone outside of the Dahle family, and expand our representation.

Elizabeth Betancourt's voice in the Legislature will highlight the knowledge, experience and education of our people.

Visit [betancourtforassembly.com](http://betancourtforassembly.com) to see her plans to work for our district.

**Alice Rogers Mount Shasta**

## SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS!

*Meet and support your fellow Democrats!*  
Attend our **October 12th**  
**"Paint Siskiyou Blue #2" Fundraiser!**  
Sons of Italy Hall, Weed 5-8pm

**AUDREY DENNEY &  
ELIZABETH BETANCOURT  
will be there.**

Ticket Info: [siskiyoudemocrats.org](http://siskiyoudemocrats.org)

## Healthcare in America: The Choices We Face



As passionate as all the Democratic candidates for President are about fixing our broken healthcare system, the simple fact is, it's up to Congress. A President can lead the party in aspiration, can use the bully pulpit to influence public opinion, and even, as Lyndon Johnson did for the Civil Rights Act, use carrots and sticks on members to push the herd through the gate. But the down and dirty battles will be fought in the House and Senate.

Across the Democratic spectrum the goal is the same: to achieve coverage for everyone at the lowest possible cost. But, as we well know, our Representatives are up against powerful interests—insurers, Big Pharma, private healthcare deliverers, and their extremely powerful lobbyists. Congress must also negotiate with thousands of employers, doctors and hospitals, and must persuade the public against strong ideological claims that with government out of the way markets will sort it out, and only your personal freedoms matter.

So, having a strong, knowledgeable, non-ideological member of Congress is our District's best hope for helping to create a healthcare system that works for all. Fortunately, we have just the candidate in Audrey Denney. Here's a summary of her healthcare ideas:



### Audrey Denney Stands for YOU

Audrey Denney is a strong supporter of Medicare for All. She wants to ensure that every American suffering a medical crisis doesn't have to worry about facing bankruptcy. She wants to make certain that rural districts like ours have the funding and resources they need, including great hospitals, access to doctors and medical specialists, and access to telehealth services. And she believes in making mental health services and drug treatment available to those who need it. For more on her views:

<https://audreyforcongress.com/issues/healthcare-rural-health/>

**LaMalfa:** "I support repealing Obamacare and replacing it with reforms that lower the cost of care and put patients back in charge of their health care decisions." Reforms? Like what, we'd like to know. During the more than 50 attempts to repeal the ACA, no viable Republican plan has been proposed. So, we're left with the assumption that in LaMalfa's view the long battle between citizens and their insurers is a good thing, and will continue. See page 3 for a closer look.



## Healthcare in America: The Choices We Face Continued



Americans pay more per capita on healthcare than any other developed country, and a [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health study](#) shows that it isn't because more Americans seek care, or outcomes and medical staff are superior. It's because prices are higher. As Americans, we pay more than other countries for prescription drugs, we pay more for medical services, we pay more for administrative costs, and for overhead. In the U.S., an estimated 30% of healthcare costs goes purely to administrative services. The Tax Policy Center estimated that the federal government paid \$1.1 trillion in 2018 on healthcare. What did we get for the money? A 2017 report from the Commonwealth Fund found that the U.S. health care system ranks last among the world's 11 high-income countries.

In 2010, prior to the passage of the Affordable Care Act, there were 48.6 million uninsured people in this country according to the CDC. After the ACA was implemented, the uninsured rates dropped to a historic low in 2016, before rising slightly to 27.4 million in 2017. ACA premiums have been on the rise since the plan was adopted; and the Trump administration, while failing to destroy "Obamacare," did successfully cut funding to enrollment outreach and end the individual mandate. Since universal coverage is essential to reining in costs, the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services project healthcare spending to increase to 6 trillion dollars per year over the next decade, under our current fractured system.

So, you might be wondering where the 2020 candidates stand on the healthcare debate. [Politico](#) broke it down into three categories: Medicare for All, Medicare for Some, and building upon and improving the Affordable Care Act. But while all of the candidates support a public healthcare plan, the question is to what extent, if any, private insurance will continue to play a role. Will the federal government be the insurer? Will it insure only those who want a Medicare option? Or will it compete with private insurers in a regulated market place?

Ending private insurance is one of the more controversial issues in the healthcare debate. A much-cited poll conducted by [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#) showed public approval for Medicare-for-All decreases when people are told they will not be able to keep their private insurance plans. However, when they're told they *can* keep their doctors, it rises again. So there seems to be some confusion among the public about what exactly "private coverage" does for us. But overall, the relationship with our doctors is of paramount importance.

### A Closer Look at Trumpcare

Doug LaMalfa supports repealing the Affordable Care Act, even though some 100,000 people in his Congressional District gained coverage through the ACA. His vote in favor of the AHCA, or "Trumpcare," would have rolled back protections for people with pre-existing conditions, allowing insurance companies to price-gouge those with "conditions" like high blood pressure, anxiety, or a history of sexual assault. His vote for this bill demonstrated his lack of support for Medicaid services, a lifeline to those suffering from disabilities, mental health issues, or substance abuse. LaMalfa says he wants to "put patients back in charge of their healthcare decisions," but Trumpcare would have allowed states to redefine what essential services are, leaving healthcare in the hands of ideological state politicians instead of patients and doctors. LaMalfa voted to end the individual mandate, but Trumpcare would have allowed insurance companies to charge more to patients who had a lapse in insurance coverage, still punishing the uninsured while funneling the money to insurance companies. Whatever the GOP may have promised, these are the facts.

## Resource of the Month: An Interactive Feature

A reminder: the *Siskiyou Democrats Grassroots News* invites readers to submit ideas for educational resources such as books, podcasts, and videos. We'll choose those that best align with the theme of our current issue. Send suggestions to: [siskiyoudems@gmail.com](mailto:siskiyoudems@gmail.com).

Fix It: Healthcare at the Tipping Point & Big Pharma: Market Failure : two documentaries that delve into the complex and problematic structure of healthcare in the United States. Watch here: <https://fixithehealthcare.com/>

Sicko (2007): A documentary film by Michael Moore that serves as a reminder of what healthcare looked like before the Affordable Care Act, and how far we still have to go. Available to rent on Amazon Prime Video.

The Ezra Klein Show: "Matt Bruenig's case for single-payer health care." (Aug. 12, 2019): You can listen to this podcast here: <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/vox/the-ezra-klein-show/e/63150329>



### Rusty Hicks, Chair of the California Democratic Party, in Siskiyou County

On Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, the new chair of the California Democratic Party, Rusty Hicks, met with local democrats at the Black Bear in Mt. Shasta. Pictured from left (counter clockwise) are Rusty's wife, Rusty, Carolyn Miller, Karen Zeigler, Katherine Shelton, Sandy Sullivan, Alice Rogers, Diane Deckard and Lee Deckard. He was gathering information on how best the state democratic party can meet the county's needs.

### Elizabeth in Modoc County

At right, Elizabeth visited Modoc County on Saturday, September 14. The hard-working Modoc group increased votes for the democratic candidate in special primary elections (March 26 compared to August 27) by 42% (+115 votes) – a great accomplishment due to their efforts! Pictured are Terry Olson, Paula Pataye, Elizabeth Betancourt, Helen Barker and Alice Rogers.



### Your Democratic Central Committee of Siskiyou County (DCCSC):

Officers: Carolyn Miller - Chair, Alice Rogers – Vice Chair, Katherine Shelton – Secretary, Robin Richards – Treasurer  
Members: Neldena Anderson, Kate Coggin, Rick Green, Ann Herfindahl, Al Lugo, Larry Marks, Bill McKillop, Karina Pollard, Maggie Robeson, Steve Robeson, Daniel Soltis, Abigail Van Alyn Booraem, Dolly Verrue, and Karen Zeigler. For more information on the DCCSC, visit our website: [siskiyoudemocrats.org](http://siskiyoudemocrats.org) or our Facebook page: [SiskiyouCountyDemocrats](https://www.facebook.com/SiskiyouCountyDemocrats). Send mail and donations to: DCCSC, Post Office Box 4, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067.