

Siskiyou Democrats Grassroots News

Issue #7 – October 2020

Crossing the Finish Line: How YOU can help Democrats WIN!

“Get rid of the ballots and you won’t *have* a transition.” Donald Trump, when asked whether he would accept an orderly transfer of power in the coming election. Allegedly, he intends to target Republican swing states to try to invalidate ALL mail-in ballots lawfully counted after election day. And Lindsey Graham added: “...if the Supreme Court decides that Biden wins, I will accept the result.” Litigation is clearly the plan. But none of this can happen with a decisive Biden win. So **VOTE EARLY, and spread the word.** Voting early takes pressure off the Post Office, and could put California’s 55 electors for Biden/Harris on the table on election day.

For more on California’s vote-count rules, see page 7. For spreading the word, see page 4.

Make a plan to vote Nov 3!

Ballots will be mailed to all voters in early October.

Sign up!

Sign up to vote or update your info at [RegistertoVote.ca.gov](https://www.RegistertoVote.ca.gov)

Check up!

Check your info at [VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov](https://www.VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov)

Track it!

Sign up to track your ballot at [WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov](https://www.WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov)

Return Your Ballot EARLY!

1. You can mail it in (it is postage-paid).
2. You can drop it off at the Siskiyou County Clerk’s Office at 510 N. Main St. in Yreka. Their office is open 9-12 and 1-4 Mon-Fri. There is also a drop box in front of the office:



3. You can drop it off at the Weed City Hall, Monday – Thursday from 9 am – 3 pm.
4. You can also return your ballot at your polling place on November 3.

IN THIS ISSUE:

It’s all about Getting Out the VOTE!

We were all deeply saddened by the death this month of **Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg**, and offer suggestions on p. 3 from CADEMS on what we can do to help flip the McConnell Senate. **Voting by mail** may be new to you or someone you know. So we’re providing information above to be sure your vote counts. There’s a **great guide to state propositions** on p. 2. And there’s a new way *everyone* can help **Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV)**. It’s called **Relational Organizing**, and you’ll find guidance on p. 4. To help with your GOTV conversations, we’ve reprinted our candidates’ bios, and follow their campaigns as they sprint to the finish line of this crucial election. And you’ll find **Resources** on p. 7.

VOTE BIDEN-HARRIS, DENNEY, BETANCOURT AND SWARTZ

Your News team: Robin Richards, Abigail Van Alyn, Katherine Shelton

Your Ballot for November 2020 Election

California Democratic Party OFFICIAL 2020 PROPOSITION RECOMMENDATIONS

Yes	No	Neutral
Prop 14 • Bonds for research	Prop 20 • Harsher sentencing	Prop 24 • Consumer privacy
Prop 15 • Split-roll tax	Prop 22 • Rollback labor law	
Prop 16 • Affirmative action	*Click the links to read more about the ballot measures on ballotpedia.org .	
Prop 17 • Voting rights		
Prop 18 • Voting age		
Prop 19 • Property tax cut		
Prop 21 • Rent Control		
Prop 23 • Dialysis clinic regulation		
Prop 25 • End cash bail		

On California’s November ballot, some measures are pretty straight forward, while others are more complex. Huge PAC donations and polarizing television ads risk obscuring the issues even further. Here’s a brief guide to some of the more controversial ballot measures you’ll be voting on.

Prop 15: A **YES** vote amends the State Constitution to tax commercial and industrial properties based on their market value, rather than their purchase price. The increased revenue would go directly to local governments and schools. Although PAC ads try to scare voters into believing otherwise, agricultural and residential properties are exempt, as are small businesses whose owners have \$3 million or less in State holdings.

Prop 16: A **YES** vote ends California’s ban on affirmative action. While the state would still be subject to federal laws, this measure re-asserts California’s strong support for recognizing obstacles faced by minorities, especially in obtaining higher education.

Prop 19: A **YES** vote on this measure would allow people aged 55 or older, or who are disabled, or who are victims of natural disasters, to retain their property tax rate when buying a new home of equal or lesser value. Voters rejected a similar measure two years ago, calling it a “Baby Boomer tax break.” The measure, sponsored by California realtors, is back this year, but with some changes that have appeased many Democrats. These include closing some tax loopholes on inherited properties, like “[the Lebowski loophole](#),” and using excess revenue to create a wildfire response fund.

Prop 20: A **NO** vote rejects this attempt to roll back reforms to criminal sentencing, making non-violent crimes like auto theft and unlawful use of credit cards punishable as felonies. Opponents to Prop 20 see an untenable rise in the already overtaxed prison system.

Prop 22: A **NO** vote rejects an attempt by Uber, Lyft, and similar app-based companies to skirt State law and classify their employees as independent contractors. Last year, after a strike by California rideshare workers, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 5, imposing limits on the ability of businesses to classify their employees as independent contractors. Those companies have been fighting that law in court ever since. To date, Yes on Proposition 22 has received \$184 million dollars from Uber, Lyft, InstaCart, DoorDash, and PostMates, making it the [most expensive](#) ballot initiative since 1999 according to BallotPedia.



FOR ANYONE NEW TO VOTING: You don’t have to vote for everything on your ballot. If there’s any candidate or proposition you feel you don’t know enough about, your other votes will still be counted if you skip that one.

IN MEMORIUM
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG
“Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”



Audrey Denney’s partial statement:
I don’t have the words to express how much Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an inspiration and a hero to me and to so many of us. For tonight, I am just going to sit and remember how she dedicated her life to fighting for justice and for good in the world. I hope that those memories will inspire and motivate us, again and again. ... Peace to her family and to all of us. Thank you, Justice Ginsberg.

Elizabeth Betancourt’s partial statement:
We are doing all we can do as candidates, volunteers, donors, and advocates, to stand up for what’s right, and advocate for a world of equity, inclusion, and fairness that we believe can be a world Justice Ginsburg fought for in her way, as well. ... Thank you, Justice Ginsburg, for giving us your all.

Pamela Swartz’s partial statement:
Today we lost a champion of humanity and kindness. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a hero who dedicated her life to the fight for justice and equality. May her courage and bravery serve as an inspiration to us all. Her legacy will never be forgotten — Rest in peace, Justice Ginsburg.



“My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new President is installed.”
Ruth Bader Ginsburg, dictated to her granddaughter a few days before her death on September 18, 2020

“...President Trump’s nominee will receive a vote on the floor of the United States Senate.”
Mitch McConnell, **within the hour** of Ginsburg’s death, and in spite of his refusing a nominee to President Barack Obama.



TAKE ACTION ON RBG’S BEHALF

While we can’t grant Justice Ginsburg’s wish, we can help to take back the Senate by **donating to and phone banking for these Senate candidates: Kelly/AZ, Cunningham/NC, Gideon/ME, Bullock/MT, Ossoff/GA, Harrison/SC, Greenfield/IA.** And we can do everything possible to support California Senators Harris and Feinstein as they fight on for fairness and equity in the McConnell-run Senate.

NYTimes Obituary: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/18/us/ruth-bader-ginsburg-dead.html>

Cross the Finish Line with Relational Organizing



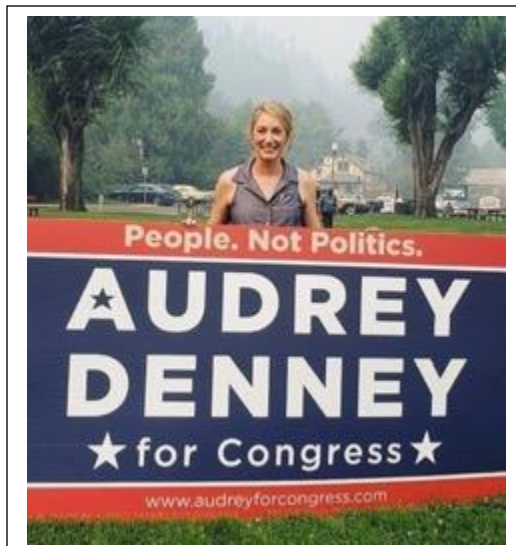
YOU ARE THE CENTER OF A POWERFUL NETWORK

And believe it or not, there are still voters in your network who either are not registered, or have not decided how they'll vote. So here's how to activate that network, to reach new Democratic voters:

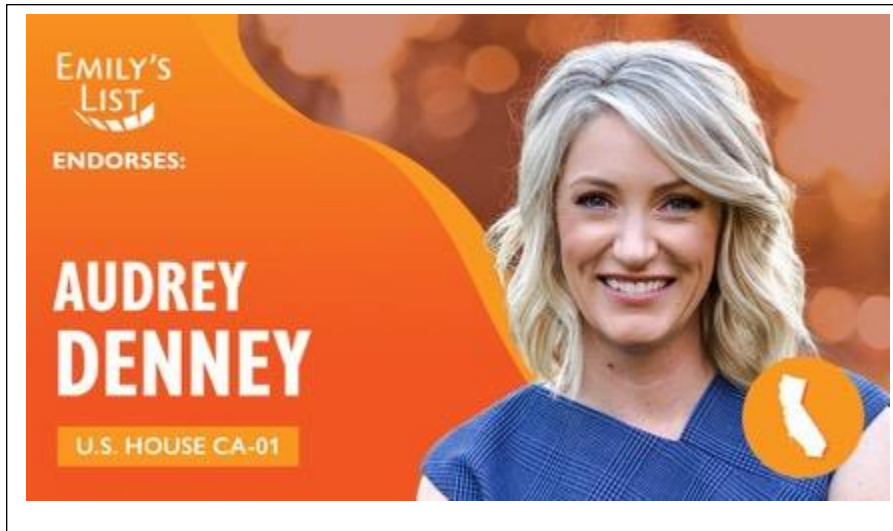
1. Make a list of **five friends and family members** who might not vote, or who you believe know people who might not vote.
2. **Contact them** and talk about the importance of voting in this election. Ask them to activate *their* networks, and enroll five people, each of whom will enroll five more, etc.
3. Make sure they understand how to register, in case any of their contacts needs it. Simply go to registertovote.ca.gov.
4. **Follow-up** and see how it's going with them. Remind them to make those texts and calls!

Many of us will be thinking, “but I don't know a single person who's not voting.” Maybe. **But this is not only about them, it's about their networks.** Friends who know college-age young people are especially valuable. If even ONE of them becomes active, that can lead to many, many more pledging to vote blue. Let's do this!

Let's VOTE EARLY: Biden/Harris, Audrey Denney, Pamela Swartz and Elizabeth Betancourt!



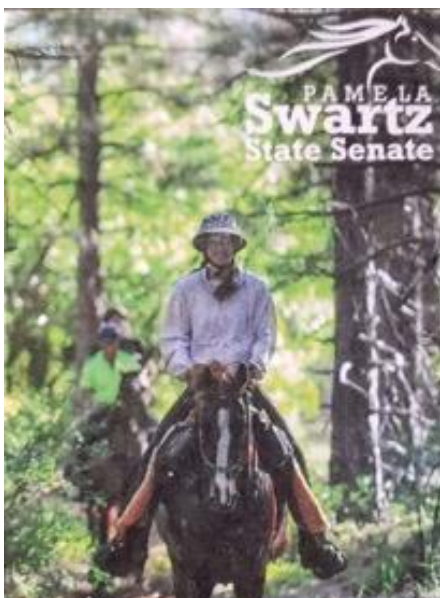
Our Active Candidates!



CONGRATULATIONS AUDREY!

On September 15, Audrey announced she's been endorsed by EMILY'S List!! That brings a lot of firepower to her campaign, and we all send huge congratulations! She has also released her first two TV ads, which are running on national as well as local network and cable channels. TV advertising is critical but expensive, so let's step up to financially support her in these final days of her campaign.

With the whole state engulfed in fire, Audrey and her campaign are doing all they can to give aid and comfort to the thousands who have been impacted, from evacuees to the many suffering health effects from wildfire smoke. These events have only strengthened her resolve, to bring her forest management and environmental know-how to Congress.



Both of our candidates for State Offices – Pamela Swartz for CA State Senate and Elizabeth Betancourt for CA State Assembly - have been holding virtual Zoom gatherings and Town Halls. Elizabeth (right) has been traveling the district for outside meet-and-greet get-togethers with future constituents, while Pamela (left) has been active on social media. Both are avid outdoors women, and manage to fit in some time in their beloved California forests (Pamela), and at home on the farm (Elizabeth).



MEET OUR OUTSTANDING CANDIDATES



AUDREY DENNEY spent her childhood on her family’s farm and ranch in Central California, where they grew hay and wine grapes, and raised beef cattle and draft horses. Her father was a Vietnam veteran, her mother a leader in their church. Farm life instilled in Audrey a strong work ethic and a respect for the land and natural resources, which have guided both her education and her career. She holds both a B.S. and M.S. in Agriculture Education from Chico State. She spent a year volunteering with rural youth on agriculture projects in El Salvador, and another year in Ghana, doing agriculture education. Audrey then taught agriculture at Cal State University, Chico for almost six years.

Now Audrey serves on the board of directors for Cristosal, an internationally renowned human rights organization based in Central America. She also serves on the mission committee at Bidwell Presbyterian Church in Chico. And for the last six years she’s worked full-time for a company providing sustainable agriculture training to international clients. Both her work and community engagement exemplify her deeply-rooted devotion to service. She’s passionate about her community and our world. Her work ethic and professional training enable her to learn quickly, communicate effectively, and inspire others to action. And now? She’s ready, able, and eager to bring her energy, fresh ideas, and expertise to the United States Congress!



PAMELA SWARTZ grew up in Shasta county, raised by parents who were both educators. After attending Sequoia Middle School and Shasta High School in Redding, she entered UC Berkeley, graduating with with a B.S. in Forestry, with an emphasis in Wildlife Management. Her university education taught her the fragility of native habitats, and the intertwined relationship between these habitats and human influence.

Now living in the Sierra foothills, Pamela has three passions: running her small business, distance trail riding on her two horses, and working to protect Northern California’s forests and wild lands. She possesses the true entrepreneurial spirit—a strong work ethic, perseverance, and a desire to help others. Owning a successful business for over 30 years has taught her that authenticity and honesty count just as much as understanding smart finances and balanced budgets. Now she seeks to help the state wisely manage our natural resources and create a healthy and safe future for all of us.



ELIZABETH BETANCOURT is a proud native of rural California. She grew up in the San Joaquin Valley, where her father was a hard-working teacher and school administrator. She studied science and resource management at UC Davis, and got her M.S. in forest and source-water management at Colorado State University. While studying, she worked for the agricultural extension services, providing local ranchers and small landholders education about water resources and land management. Since then she’s spent most of her working life in Northern California’s forests, fields, and rivers. Now operating a small Shasta County farm, she and her husband produce olive oil, eggs, and other farm products.

At the same time Elizabeth continues to built her extensive resume. She’s worked for nearly 20 years in resource management and planning for all levels of government and the private sector. She has served as Director on the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District Board, as well as on the Community Development Advisory Committee for the City of Redding. She’s worked with local water purveyors, tribes, business and tourism advocates, environmental groups, timber companies, and many others to ensure a balanced approach to water use, planning, and management. Protecting forest resources and drinking water supplies has been the objective of most of her work in California’s beautiful Sierra-Cascade region. Now she is poised to bring all her passion and experience to the California State Assembly!

Resources of the Month

California's rules on vote-by-mail ballot counting

Voters have been asking for information on how mail-in ballots are handled in California, so here are the rules: This year everyone gets a mail-in ballot. Mail-in ballots are validated when they're received, and all that come in BEFORE election day are counted BEFORE election day. Those mailed or received ON election day are counted ASAP AFTER election day, up to 17 days to account for delayed mail delivery.

While intended to encourage full election participation, this approach has historically delayed the announcement of a California presidential winner for days or weeks. California's Biden/Harris vote is not in doubt, but we also have tight local elections whose outcomes we're eagerly awaiting, so there are lots of reasons to **VOTE EARLY!!** **And encourage everyone in your networks to do so. You can mail your ballot early or take your ballot to the County Clerk's office, 510 N. Main St., Yreka or Weed City Hall, Mon-Thurs from 9 am – 3 pm.**

Elizabeth Betancourt recommends: *Dress Rehearsal*, a short documentary about how Relational Organizing worked in Wisconsin's April, 2020 special election. Very inspiring!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSSlxVMYKkk&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0coxl9TqZtU718Pdii_NfscWkvIxd0mTfm9NHvEIDZX25kkaiJj0e9vrE

Alice Rogers recommends: **Politico** offers an in-depth guide to California Propositions.

<https://www.politico.com/interactives/2020/california-november-ballot/?nname=california-playbook&nid=00000150-384f-da43-aff2-bf7fd35a0000&nrid=0000014e-f112-dd93-ad7f-f91707fc0001&nlid=641189>

Prominent election law attorney Mark Elias provides in-depth advice on **making your vote count**, as the Trump administration seeks to suppress the Democratic vote and undermine voters' confidence.

<https://www.democracymarket.com/category/the-latest/>

The Swing District in the Middle of Wildfire Country, HuffPost, 9/17/10. **A fabulous piece on Audrey Denney's candidacy**, including a few shockers on LaMalfa's latest misbehavior.

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/audrey-denney-doug-lamalfa-2020-election-wildfire_n_5f613cc1c5b68d1b09c8fea2?ncid=engmodushpimg00000006

What's Happening

In light of the stay-at-home requirement in California, we will not be conducting the SISKIYOU DEMOCRATIC GRASSROOTS COMMITTEE or the SISKIYOU DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE meetings in person. Instead, we will be using remote access (Zoom). If you are interested in attending, please send an email to: siskiyoudems@gmail.com to request a digital meeting invitation.

The Grassroots Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month (North County) and the second Tuesday of the month (South County). The Central Committee meets the second Wednesday of the month.

Your Democratic Central Committee of Siskiyou County (DCCSC):

Officers: Alice Rogers – Chair, Abigail Van Alyn- Vice Chair, Katherine Shelton – Secretary, Robin Richards – Treasurer; Members: Neldena Anderson, Rick Green, Ann Herfindahl, Al Lugo, Larry Marks, Christine Balletta, Dolly Verrue, and Karen Zeigler. For more information, visit our website: siskiyoudemocrats.org or Facebook page: [SiskiyouCountyDemocrats](https://www.facebook.com/SiskiyouCountyDemocrats). Send mail and donations to: DCCSC, Post Office Box 4, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067.