

Siskiyou Democrats Grassroots News

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**We Want
YOU
To Vote!**

VOTE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 - Out with the OLD, in with the BLUE!

IN THIS ISSUE:

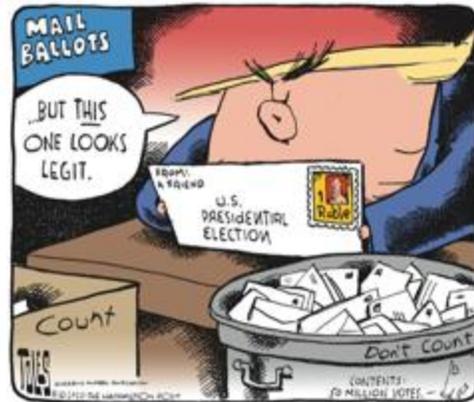
Now it's all about the VOTE! We can't say it better than Congressman John Lewis:

“Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble. Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it.” -- John Lewis

VOTE BIDEN-HARRIS, DENNEY, BETANCOURT AND SWARTZ

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

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!!



The Trump administration has launched an all-out assault on the United States Postal Service, hoping to disrupt vote-by-mail (VBM) voting, and undermine the results of the upcoming November 3, 2020 national election. The latest statistics on VBM in California reveal that more than 100,000 mail-in ballots were not counted in the 2020 California primary. The reasons ballots were received but not counted are:

- **Ballots arriving late** comprised 61%,
- **Ballots lacking a signature** accounted for 20%,
- **Ballots with signatures that did not adequately compare** to the signature on file accounted for 18%.

What actions should we take to ensure this doesn't happen to our votes?

- Fill out the ballot as soon as it arrives.
- Sign the ballot envelope as directed, and as your name appears on the ballot envelope
- **Mail it EARLY!** The USPS is suggesting **TWO WEEKS before election day November 3.**

More steps you can take to help the USPS, which is under pressure as never before:

- Hand-deliver your ballot to the County Clerk's office, 510 N. Main St., Yreka. OR...
- Hand-deliver your ballot to your polling place on November 3rd. This takes only a minute, minimizing social contact.

FOR MORE ON THE USPS UNDER ATTACK, SEE PAGE 6

TRACK YOUR BALLOT: All CA voters can now get updates on their ballots through California's official "Where's My Ballot" tracking tool. Sign up for it at <http://wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov/>



DROP BOX at Siskiyou County Clerk's Office, 510 North Main, Yreka. You can drop off your ballot there or inside! Hours are 9am to Noon and 1pm to 4pm Monday-Friday.



SISKIYOU DEMOCRATICS GRASSROOTS REPORT

Our biggest concern this election is getting out the vote – both for the Democrats in our county and the No Party Preference voters who lean Democratic (and there are quite a few of them!). The best way to do this is through door to door canvassing, but that is not happening this year. Instead, we have other activities and you can help! Send an email to siskiyoudems@gmail.com, and we will contact you and let you know how! We are primarily calling voters and sending postcards and letters.

PROMOTING BIDEN:

We're making ourselves known in the community. Through donations, we purchased a BIDEN sign on the Siskiyou Golden Fair's electronic sign. And we've received over 6,000 responses or views on social media on the sign!



COMMUNITY VISIBILITY:

Due to the Covid 19 concerns, we did not rent office space for the November 2020 election. Instead, we wanted some visual presence and created a great window display in our old office (from the November 2018 election) at 320 West Miner Street in Yreka. If you need signs, etc., just send an email to siskiyoudems@gmail.com.



AUDREY IN SHASTICE PARK – Mt. Shasta



Over 100 supporters of Audrey Denney gathered on August 19 to pick up signs & campaign materials.

At left, Audrey (center in blue) discusses resource management with her campaign manager, Brian Solecki, and a supporter. At right, materials were distributed by volunteers.



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 build 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!

THE DAHLES: VOTING AGAINST OUR INTERESTS

By Abigail Van Alyn and Tom Laurent

PAMELA SWARTZ -V- BRIAN DAHLE

BRIAN DAHLE: Brian Dahle **has not** been supporting us well. Overall, his voting record in the California State Legislature closely resembles Doug LaMalfa's in Congress. **His main campaign contributors are in areas of real estate, land use, law enforcement, and agriculture. On the issue of voting and voter's rights and protections, since 2012 Dahle has voted NO on a shocking twenty-three (23) bills,** from making it easier to register and to vote, to reaching more young people, and ensuring that all votes are counted. Six of these votes were taken since he was elected to the State Senate in 2019. See Brian Dahle's record at [Votesmart - Brian Dahle](#) for the big picture.

As a preview, here are a few of Dahle's approval ratings from advocacy organizations and civic groups:

Climate and environment: 11% from Sierra Club and League of Conservation Voters.

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights: 0% from the ACLU

Women's rights and protections: 17% from Planned Parenthood

Guns: 93% from the NRA

PAMELA SWARTZ: By contrast, Pamela has pledged to promote policies and make decisions that are solely **based on the interests of her constituents, not on special interests.** She is not accepting ANY corporate funding. Pamela will be an advocate for District 1 and the voting rights and protections of residents. She'll fight to **to increase rural infrastructure** and expand funding for education and affordable housing. She'll fight to create more opportunity for young people, and well-paying local jobs. **She'll fight to restore the economic health of our area.**



ELIZABETH BETANCOURT -V- MEGAN DAHLE

MEGAN DAHLE: Before her election to fill her husband's Assembly seat, Megan Dahle was a stay-at-home mother of 3, member of the Big Valley School Board, and co-owner of a nursery business. She has little experience or educational background on issues of concern to our area – forest and water management. **Her few (20) votes have been NO or Abstain on everything,** except for four bills that passed unanimously or with overwhelming majorities. Like her husband's, her COVID-related votes appear to reflect their shared position that rural areas should be allowed to go their own ways, and open without restriction. That includes schools opening for in-person learning, in spite of rising cases in most rural areas. Finally, Mrs. Dahle's campaign is funded mostly by herself and her husband's campaign (!), as well as by realtors and law enforcement. For more see [Votesmart - Meghan Dahle](#)

ELIZABETH BETANCOURT: Against this record and slight resume, we have **Elizabeth's depth of knowledge in forest and water management and conservation,** years of experience working with community and government entities, her deep concern for rural education and healthcare, and her passion for inclusion and fairness. Understanding the North State region as she does, **her priorities are to restore forest health and return forests sustainably to the source of economic viability they once were, and to restore our place at the negotiating table where water rights and resources are managed.** Only someone with her base of knowledge, of both science and state law, can do that effectively. Finally Elizabeth is beholden to no one, takes no corporate funding.

FIGHTING FOR OUR DEMOCRACY: THE US POSTAL SERVICE

By Abigail Van Alyn

The current assault by the Executive Branch on the United States Postal Service is turning out to be the greatest danger to our electoral process our country has faced in generations. In California we're fortunate to have robust protections for casting and counting votes, but we also rely heavily on the Post Office for vote-by-mail (VBM). So no one is protected from what is obviously an attack on our democratic system itself.

Under Trump-appointed Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, "cost-cutting" measures to the USPS have been rapid and destabilizing. Trump has openly admitted that he hopes to promote distrust in VBM, with total disregard for public health in the COVID pandemic. This while Post Office reorganization is inflicting severe damage to small businesses, the military, and individuals reliant on the shipping and communications the USPS has always provided. Here are some recent events:

- DeJoy's directives to hold postal workers to a strict timetable leaves some of each day's mail unsorted or left behind. The result is an ever-growing backlog of undelivered mail, including pay checks, medications, court filings, bill payments, and other vital communications.
- In many states, costly sorting equipment has been removed from post offices without explanation. Cost-cutting is the excuse, but workers wonder why, then, equipment isn't idled rather than destroyed. While Louis DeJoy testifies that he is not responsible for equipment removal, he also refuses to restore it.
- Congress held hearings where Democratic members demanded that DeJoy roll back the damage done, restore equipment, and expedite VBM ballots. In testimony before the Senate, DeJoy promised to treat ballots as priority mail. But he claimed delays are due to COVID, and that he never reduced overtime. Internal documents show otherwise.
- DeJoy also said any disruptions of mail service were "unintended consequences." This suggests he didn't fully understand the organization he has sworn to safeguard.
- Before the House Oversight Committee, DeJoy was combative, insisting his actions are not political and entirely justified to streamline the postal service. But he did not agree to produce analytics or a plan for future actions in writing, or address discrepancies between his testimony and reports from postal workers in the field.
- On the issue of critical pre-election USPS funding, Republican lawmakers show sudden concern for the deficit, while Trump has threatened to veto any funding for the USPS.
- Finally, states are joining together to bring federal charges against DeJoy for a range of infractions, including improper unilateral action, and ignoring mandated advisory and public comment procedures. Conflicts of interest are also being investigated.



Resources of the Month

“VOTE LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.”

MICHELLE OBAMA, DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION 2020

HOAX: Donald Trump, Fox News, and the Dangerous Distortion of Truth; Brian Stelter, Simon & Shuster
Working with sources inside Fox News, CNN media reporter Brian Stelter lays bare the profound cynicism behind Fox’s “support” of Donald Trump, and reveals the real agenda of Rupert Murdoch & Co.

The Catalyst: How to Change Anyone’s Mind: Jonah Berger, Simon & Shuster

While this book goes beyond political discourse, marketing professor Jonah Berger gives helpful advice to anyone interested in bridging the chasm between Democrats and Republicans in our current toxic politics. That’s us! Siskiyou grassroots Democrats are already using many of these approaches, and this book helps us fully understand their power.

Joe Biden’s full speech at the DNC 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6s6qpzqMxE>

Kamala Harris’s full speech at the DNC 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjjFLcbIqMs>

Michelle Obama’s full speech at the DNC 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKy3iiWjhVI>

Barack Obama’s full speech at the DNC 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aohkgMFfhS4>



Nobel Laureate in economics Paul Krugman’s quick take on why the USPS should NOT be run as a business.

Link to article: [Why USPS should NOT be run as a business](#)

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](#). Send mail and donations to: DCCSC, Post Office Box 4, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067.