

# Siskiyou Democrats Grassroots News

Issue #4 – May/June 2020



**NEW! EVERY voter in California is receiving a ballot in the mail! NO Excuses: We must all VOTE in NOVEMBER!**

Please help us encourage every Democrat in Siskiyou County to vote in the November 2020 election. Turnout is critical! If all of you who receive this newsletter encourage 10 of your friends and family to vote, we can win! Note: The California Governor passed an executive order where EVERYONE in California will be provided a mail-in ballot. It is postage-free when mailed – so there are no excuses! *(In March 2020, only 55% of the voters in Siskiyou County voted – we can do better!)*

**Be thinking about ways you can help Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) in the November election!**

## How You Can Help!

**GET INVOLVED!** We need your help. Let us know what you would like to do!

**Donate:** Help support our get-out-the-vote efforts. It's easy – either use our ACTBlue account and sign up for a monthly donation (you can give just \$5 per month): [Siskiyou Democrats ACTBlue](#) or send a check to: DCCSC, PO Box 4, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067. Thanks!

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** Below are ways to help. Sign up with our [Siskiyou Democrats Volunteer Form](#)

1. **Phone Calls:** We will be making over 8,000 phone calls to promote our three terrific candidates. It's fun talking to voters and reminding them to vote!
2. **Letters to the Editor:** One way to inform voters of the differences between our candidates and the current representatives is to write letters to the editor. We'll provide topics to match your interests.
3. **Postcards:** A personal postcard from a neighbor creates community and encourages engagement. Sign up to write cards supporting our candidates and urging your neighbors to vote! We provide cards and postage.
4. **Yard Signs:** In August, we will be setting up a delivery system to drop off signs around Siskiyou County. Get a sign, and encourage others to display them.
5. **Email Addresses:** Do you know someone who might want to receive our News? Send us their email address and we will add them to our list!
6. **Social Media:** Do you have a social media account? You can promote our candidates on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.
7. **Other Ideas:** Our key concern for the November election is to get-out-the-vote. If you have ideas, please let us know!

**VOLUNTEER Form:** Click on this link to volunteer: [Siskiyou Democrats Volunteer Form](#)

## IN THIS ISSUE:

We know our readers' minds are all on getting through the COVID pandemic that has turned our lives upside down. Still we're heading toward the most important election since 1932, Roosevelt-v-Hoover. So you'll find detailed guidance on volunteering to GOTV. Then an essay on Trump's malicious project to destroy the federal government, an update on Audrey Denney-v-Doug LaMalfa, informative Resources, and finally some much needed humor.

**November is only six months away. Time to step up, folks!!**

*Your News Team: Abigail Van Alyn, Robin Richards, and Katherine Shelton*

## THE CHALLENGE WE FACE

by Abigail Van Alyn

*“So now we know. They’ll kill to stay in power.”*—James Carville, in response to forced in-person voting in the 2020 Wisconsin primary election

*“I view America’s citizens as warriors on the battlefield. Outcomes for some might be bad, they might be very bad, but we have to get our country open.”* Donald Trump, May 4, 2020

*“If you test, you find something wrong. If you have no tests, you have no cases. Maybe testing is overrated.”* Donald Trump, May 15, 2020

*“They’re willing to take the casualties, in order to get re-elected. Deaths in the hundreds of thousands. They figure these are mostly seniors or poor minorities, not Trump voters, so they’re expendable.”* David Frum, conservative Sr. Editor at The Atlantic, on the Trump plan to re-open the economy without adequate CV testing.

Nurses wearing protective garbage bags (*see below*); ten-day-old protective masks; mass graves; Wisconsin voters ordered to the polls in a pandemic; whistleblowers and watchdogs persecuted, demoted, or fired; a collapsing economy and botched and corrupt rescue rollout; a third of all the world’s COVID-19 cases right here in the USA. The federal government using FEMA to reward cronies, and competing with the states for life-saving PPE, even confiscating shipments to blue states who don’t show sufficient “appreciation.” “It’s a two-way street. They have to be nice to me.” Then moving to re-open industry without protecting workers from the virus.

At the same time, the president resists federal support for testing, because, as he readily admits, he wants to keep the CV case numbers steady. And with testing in disarray, we have no idea how many US residents are actually infected with CV. We’re five months into this crisis, and there’s absolutely no coherent federal plan to get us out of it. This is the reality we face, now that the worst has happened—a worldwide emergency far beyond the grasp of the corrupt and incompetent Trump administration.

As Michael Lewis made so clear in his last book, *The Fifth Risk*, the federal government is full of dedicated and highly accomplished civil servants and superb managers, whose role it is to manage risks that threaten public safety. (This is the group dubbed “deep state” by the fringe right wing). And the greatest risk they face, the fifth risk after the obvious ones of, say, famine, nuclear accidents, or, yes, a killer epidemic, is the simple and deadly failure of “project management.” So here we are. The grim high-priority goal of the right, to dismantle this fictional “deep state,” has led us into a disaster with no plan, no process, and no management, even for handling a catastrophic pandemic. And the most devastating evidence of this destructive project is the gutting of the CDC in the middle of a pandemic, turning that world-renowned institution into a black hole of fear and disinformation. (See **Resources** for more on this).



## A CASE IN POINT: Audrey Denney-v-Doug LaMalfa

Under the Defense Production Act, Trump has ordered that all meat and poultry producing plants should remain open, even though many were ground zero for CV outbreaks as of May 20. FDA guidelines for plant safety have all the earmarks of the Trump FDA, with language so loose and industry-friendly as to be meaningless from a public health standpoint. These plants employ about 500,000 low-wage workers, who appear to be seen as expendable—collateral damage in Trump’s drive toward re-election.

**And what is Doug LaMalfa’s position?** His FB page shows enthusiastic support for DPA forced meat processing, on behalf of the ranching interests of CA D-1. But he shows no concern for the health of meat processing plant workers or their communities. And with his usual failure to recognize complexity, he claims that because rural D-1 has relatively few CV cases, we should be allowed by the state government to open up. Has it occurred to him that we’ve been spared because others have locked down? That those loathed urban elites who are following the guidelines are saving our lives by not traveling to the District?

In all LaMalfa’s communications there is not one iota of criticism for the administration, as he diligently helps, through his votes, with the dismantling of government services like the ACA, NHS, Medicare, Medicaid, all of which are vital to the health of rural communities. Most recently, he voted against the HEROES act, that would have provided emergency aid to states and front-line hospitals. But as ever, his positions are driven by ideology, support of this disastrous administration, and the interests of his corporate donors.

**Meanwhile Audrey Denney** has set up a system for helping D-1’s seniors, low wage workers, and struggling small businesses find the resources they need to get through the pandemic. While vigorously campaigning from home on issues of healthcare, connectivity, forest practices, and access to education, she’s engaging with the CA Dems to mobilize support for Democratic Congressional candidates all over the state. Along with Elizabeth Betancourt and Pamela Swartz, she’s taking no corporate funding, and she continues in her strong commitment to non-partisan, fair-minded and practical problem-solving. In her opinion, time spent on partisan politics is time wasted. Our rural communities need strong federal advocacy around healthcare, FDA programs like SNAP, educational and job opportunities, forest management, and so much more. And right now we need smarts and heart, both of which these candidates have in abundance.

For a great opportunity to be with Audrey, Elizabeth, and Pamela as they speak about their positions, at a May 2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual Town Hall with California Democratic Party Chair Rusty Hicks, click on: [VIRTUAL TOWN HALL LINK](#)

**They’re all in it for US! Let’s send these strong, smart, honorable, independent women to Congress and the State Legislature. Find our 3 candidates and Rusty Hicks below at the Town Hall. (Answers on p.4)**



## THE ONLY REMEDY WE HAVE: THE VOTE

NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAN YOUR DECISION TO VOTE! And engaging with everyone you know to ensure the highest possible Democratic turnout for the November election. In Siskiyou County that's another challenge, but one with which we've made significant progress. For more on **what YOU can do** to achieve our goal of rocking the vote, see Page 1. Donate, call, write postcards, deliver yard signs, Zoom house parties.

**WE NEED YOU! ALL DEMOCRATS MUST VOTE!!**

### **Quote of the Month**

*“Out of every crisis, every tribulation, every disaster, mankind rises with some share of greater knowledge, of higher decency, of purer purpose.... I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a new deal for the American people. Let us all here assembled constitute ourselves prophets of a new order of competence and of courage. This is more than a political campaign; it is a call to arms. Give me your help, not to win votes alone, but to win in this crusade to restore America to its own people.”*

**Franklin D. Roosevelt, accepting the nomination for President in 1932**

## The CADEM Coordinated Campaign: What is it?

The California Democratic Party (CADEM), under the new leadership of Rusty Hicks, is making excellent changes in the way they support our local grassroots efforts. One big change is creating the “Coordinated Campaign.”

This is a statewide grassroots program. Anyone can help with phoning, postcard writing, and conducting virtual meetings and house parties for any area. Coordinated action also includes other states, like Arizona and Michigan, so Californians can help Democrats in both the state and the nation. In Siskiyou County, we're part of this coordinated effort. Several of our volunteers have already conducted “virtual house parties” via Zoom, to talk about issues and ways to become involved. It's fun and rewarding!

If you want to join in and are interested in more information, here is the link: [CADEM Coordinated Campaign](#).

### **From page 3: Find our Candidates and Rusty Hicks:**

Audrey Denney –	1 <sup>st</sup> column, 5 <sup>th</sup> row
Rusty Hicks –	2 <sup>nd</sup> column, 2 <sup>nd</sup> row
Elizabeth Betancourt –	3 <sup>rd</sup> column, 1 <sup>st</sup> row
Pamela Swartz –	4 <sup>th</sup> column, 2 <sup>nd</sup> row

## 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 in June or July. Instead, we will be using remote access. If you are interested in attending, please send an email to: [siskiyoudems@gmail.com](mailto:siskiyoudems@gmail.com) to request a digital meeting invitation.**

### **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, Daniel Soltis, Abigail Van Alyn Booraem, Dolly Verrue, and Karen Zeigler. For more information, visit our website: [siskiyoudemocrats.org](http://siskiyoudemocrats.org) or Facebook page: [SiskiyouCountyDemocrats](#). Send mail and donations to: DCCSC, Post Office Box 4, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067.

## Resources of the Month

### On the Pandemic

**Great NY Times piece on Laurie Garrett**, Pulitzer Prizing winning science writer and author of many books on pandemics. Here she analyzes and decries the science-denying, knowledge-destroying Trump administration, in particular its “gutting” of the CDC.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/02/opinion/sunday/coronavirus-prediction-laurie-garrett.html?searchResultPosition=1>

**New York Magazine’s jaw-dropping piece** about federal interference in and even seizures of shipments of life-savings PPE on its way to the states.

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2020/04/hospitals-face-a-white-house-blockade-for-coronavirus-ppe.html>

**Read Dr. Rick Bright’s whistleblower complaint** against the Trump administration, where the depth of its moral and ethical corruption is made clear.

[https://www.kmblegal.com/sites/default/files/NEW%20R.%20Bright%20OSC%20Complaint\\_Redacted.pdf](https://www.kmblegal.com/sites/default/files/NEW%20R.%20Bright%20OSC%20Complaint_Redacted.pdf)

### Pandemic Resource Links

**Thanks to Ann Herfindahl** for these links to trusted government web sites, where you’ll find all the science-based information you need to make informed decisions as we move toward reopening.

<https://www.CalOES.ca.gov/>

CA Governor’s Office of Emergency Services

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov>

California Department of Public Health

<http://www.gavinnewsom.com>

California Governor

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control

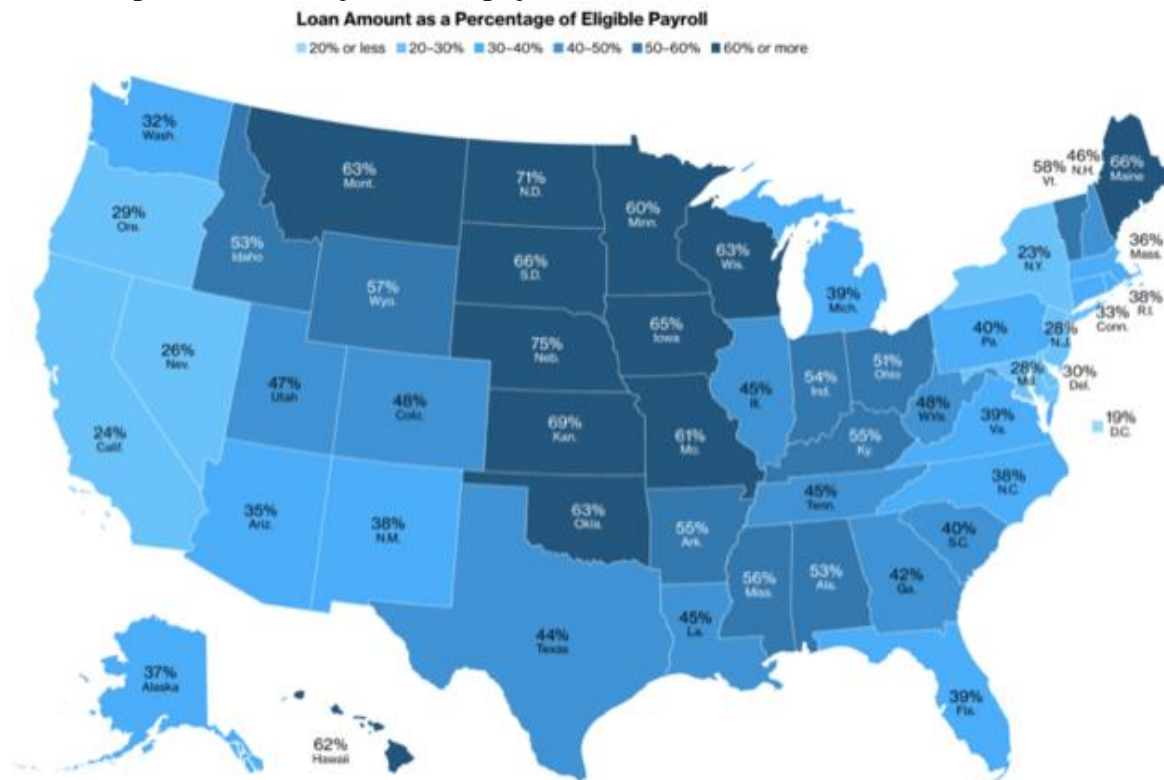
<https://who.int>

World Health Organization

<https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us>

Siskiyou County and Public Health

Below: The dark blue states received the most PPP (Payroll Protection Program) money, the big Democratic states got the least, even though NY and CA represent a huge portion of those thrown out of work.



Note: Eligible payroll is based on calculations by Evercore of the average monthly 2019 payroll of businesses with fewer than 500 employees in each state, multiplied by 2.5. Businesses can apply for SBA loans worth as much as 2.5 times the past year’s average monthly payroll.  
Source: Evercore ISI, based on Census Bureau and SBA data

## Can We Find Some Humor in All of This?

### Quotes from President Trump - his response to the pandemic and the states:

“What do you think we are, a shipping clerk?”

“It’s a two-way street. They have to be nice to me.”

“It’s up to the governors. The governors are doing a great job.”

“I’ll say when we reopen. Me! The President of the United States and the Federal Government.”

“Liberate Michigan!” “Liberate Minnesota!” “Liberate Virginia!”

“And then I saw the disinfectant, where it knocks it out in one minute, and is there a way we could do something like that by injection inside or almost a cleaning...?”

“Yes, I’m taking it. Hydroxychloroquine! People call me, I hear great things.”

