

Siskiyou Democrats Grassroots News

Issue #4: Winter 2022



Happy New Year!

From Your DCCSC Officers:
Alice Rogers, Chair
Abigail Van Alyn, Vice Chair
Katherine Shelton, Secretary
Robin Richards, Treasurer



REDISTRICTING: California and Siskiyou County

The biggest event this past fall, at least in politics, has been the redistricting process. All districts must adjust the lines of voting districts based on population shifts as identified by the “every decade” census numbers. The 2020 Census data were released for use in April 2021, and then the work began both statewide and locally. Statewide, a non-partisan commission, “The California Citizens Redistricting Commission,” began its work, which was finalized on December 20. In addition, our local Board of Supervisors, faced with population shifts in the county, were required to adjust supervisorial boundaries by December 15. And, an important note: they chose to violate redistricting rules. A report on the results of both processes is included on pages 8, 9 and 10.

Max in Fort Jones!



Max Steiner, Democratic candidate for Congress in our district, attended the Fort Jones Christmas parade on December 11. *From left: Art Hanna, Max Steiner, and wife, Nika; Max speaks with a group of Scott Valley residents; Max in Art Hanna's truck in the parade.* Thanks, Art, for that generous donation of time and truck!

IN THIS ISSUE

First, we want to thank all of you who volunteered this year in the efforts we revisit in this issue. We're building a strong, resilient Democratic Party in Siskiyou County, thanks to you. We'll need to go all out again in 2022, and look forward to our continued work together.

We're closing out the year looking both back and forward. On page 1, you'll find the latest news on how this decade's redistricting affects us here in Siskiyou county and across the state, continued on page 8. And here's Congressional candidate Max Steiner on a holiday visit to the county, meeting voters and riding in the Fort Jones annual Christmas Parade.

Pages 2 - 4 offer reflections on all that we accomplished in 2021. Then on page 5, we look ahead to 2022, and an off-year election where our candidate for Congress will challenge Doug LaMalfa. See page 6 for exactly how far Doug and his party have gone to bring NOTHING to the district and the country. Then page 7 completes Madeleine Ayres' terrific column, and pages 8-10 wrap up the redistricting picture, with some shocking local news. And with that, we close a year of challenge and inspired activism.

UNTIL OUR NEXT ISSUE IN SPRING 2021, HAVE A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!!

2021: A Busy Year for the Siskiyou Democrats

For 2021, the Siskiyou Democrats established four key goals:

Goal 1. **Create messaging** – What do we support?

Goal 2. **Volunteer in the Community** – How can we be involved and promote our values?

Goal 3. **Develop candidates** – What offices should we support and who will run?

Goal 4. **Reach out to register voters** – Where can we do this effectively?

Our volunteers were hard at work on all four of these goals, and their actions are summarized in the next few pages.

Goal 1. Create Messaging: SISKIYOU VOICES

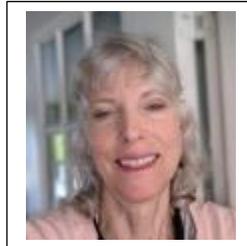
Through the efforts of Tom Laurent, our Writer's Alliance Coordinator, we have a weekly column in the Siskiyou Daily News. There are four column writers: Tom Laurent, Madeleine DeAndreis-Ayres, Gail Domanski, and Lisa Frost. They began the "Siskiyou Voices" column in August 2021 and have great columns each week. In addition, we have had a steady group of Letters to the Editor appearing weekly. Here are the Siskiyou Voices columnists:



Tom Laurent is a third generation Californian, has four daughters, and has fought for gender equality since 1993. Tom has lived in Yreka since 1978.



Madeleine DeAndreis-Ayres is a writer, musician and beekeeper in Fort Jones. She taught drama at Etna High and other Scott Valley schools from 1995-2013.



Gail Domanski is an artist living in Mount Shasta with her husband Ed and her two fledgling kids. She hikes nearly every day with her dog, Tule.



Lisa A. Frost, Attorney, R.N., M.A. lives on a 44-acre Siskiyou Co. ranch with various species of animals and her attorney spouse.

In addition to the Siskiyou Voices columns and the letters to the editor, the Siskiyou Democrats sponsored a highly successful Town Hall meeting to address the local impact of COVID-19 as well as dispel incorrect information. "The COVID Crisis in Siskiyou County: What You Can Do", featured seven local professionals who provided moving frontline reports and important information. Its subsequent YouTube recording received over 3,000 views.

One of the Siskiyou Voices Columns:

Fly Our Flag in the True Spirit of Patriotism - By Madeleine DeAndreis-Ayres

With Veterans/Armistice Day behind us and Pearl Harbor Day coming up on Dec. 7, I am reminded how the American flag has become a symbolic football for political groups to throw at each other. And they aren't playing a pleasant game of catch, either. They are aiming for the head, preferably when their opponent's back is turned.

During the Bush-Kerry presidential election, we had a German exchange student at our school in Etna. He was an intelligent, witty kid who dove into American culture with the kind of enthusiasm a teacher loves to see. He was on the soccer team, played saxophone, was solid in his math, science and English, and just reveled in drama class. We had after-school play rehearsals, and I often drove kids home. Teaching is a profession full of surprises, and I'm often caught off guard by things my students say; their insights on different topics and their own unique take on what is going on in the world.

In the car that day, a bunch of kids were chattering about this and that when the exchange student gestured toward traffic and buildings and said, 'All these flags, these American flags everywhere, they creep me out.'

(Continued on Page 7)

Goal 2. Volunteer in the Community: GIVING BACK

A second key goal for our local Democrats was to give back to the community. As a guest columnist for the Siskiyou Voices, Alice Rogers, Chair of the Democratic Central Committee Siskiyou County, provided a summary of what we have accomplished as community volunteers.

GIVING BACK: It's What We Do Siskiyou Voices Guest Column – by Alice Rogers

Helping our local community residents and supporting state and national efforts to provide services to those who need them – it's what Democrats do, all across the country and right here at home. A key priority for The Siskiyou Democrats is addressing food insecurity – not always having enough to eat. Siskiyou County ranks eighth highest in California for the percentage of kids experiencing food insecurity – almost 24%. (*Map the Meal Gap 2019* - Feeding America, May 2019).

We've taken community involvement seriously and worked on this and other issues. So, what have the Siskiyou Democrats done this past year?

Food Drives

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the Siskiyou Democrats held a very successful food donation event in Yreka, May 15. Dozens of donors stepped up and gave so much we filled both a pickup and an SUV! Additionally, over \$500 was given to support the Siskiyou Community Food Bank and the Yreka Food Bank.

In south county, on June 12, Volunteer Democrats collected food for distribution at Siskiyou Food Assistance Food Bank in Weed, and the South County Family and Community Resource Centers for Mt. Shasta and Dunsmuir. All together we collected three pickups of food and \$750 in cash and checks.

The Siskiyou Democrats participated in the 2021 Giving Tuesday by providing a \$500 donation to the South Siskiyou Meals on Wheels program. The donation was especially important as it was matched by another donor. Great Northern, which administers the program, was able to reach the \$10,000 match amount!

Gift Bags for Domestic Violence Victims

Ten women seeking shelter at the domestic violence center will receive gift bags from the Siskiyou Democrats this holiday season. The bags contain personal care items the women might not have, particularly if they left their homes quickly.

Volunteer Support

We have volunteers from our Central and Grassroots committees who are regularly working with the Weed Public Library and Siskiyou Food Assistance. Our volunteers are serving meals and helping to organize donations weekly, and we had 13 people helping their Thanksgiving Distribution.

COVID Town Hall

We understand the importance of having everyone vaccinated so we can all be healthy and get our economy working. You are 24 times more likely to die from COVID if you are not vaccinated (webmd.com). The Siskiyou Democrats conducted a Town Hall on September 24th entitled: "The COVID Crisis in Siskiyou County: What You Can Do". It featured local health professionals, who encouraged everyone to get vaccinated. It received over 3000 views on YouTube.

Statewide Democrats

Statewide rural Democrats have been advocating for improvements to our internet services. As a result, Siskiyou County has been selected as one of the 18 projects statewide to address the digital divide.

(Continued on page 4)

Goal 3. Develop Candidates: The Work Continues

One of the goals of our Siskiyou Grassroots Democrats is to develop candidates to run at all levels of government. We're looking for individuals who are interested. Once identified, we'll provide them information on how to run.

Key local offices up for election in 2022 include Board of Supervisors (Weed and Scott Valley Areas), City Councils, School Boards, Community Services Councils, and countywide offices (e.g. Sheriff, District Attorney, County Clerk).

Although the local offices are non-partisan, we did an analysis of party affiliation for the key elected positions. We found that 52% of the positions are held by Republicans, while only 40% of registered voters in Siskiyou County are Republican. By contrast, 22.5% of the elected officials are Democrats, while we represent 30% of the registered voters. We are working to change this inequity.

We conducted a workshop in July and had some interest from individuals. Now's the time to step up and run! Just contact us, and we will help you.

Please let us know of anyone who might be interested in running for office by sending an email to: siskiyoudems@gmail.com. We will contact them.

Goal 4. Reach Out to Register Voters

With COVID, registering voters in person these past two years has been a challenge. Still, we have registered voters at the Mount Shasta Farmer's Market this summer/fall. As outdoor venues return, we'll continue to work on ways to increase registration in the spring.

GIVING BACK: It's What We Do (Continued from page 3)

Nationwide Democrats

The American Rescue Plan, a key piece of legislation we supported to help our neighbors survive the economic difficulties of the pandemic, was passed by Democrats at the Federal level – without one Republican vote. Enacted in March, 2021, the ARP supports small businesses, individuals, and local governments as they deal with the pandemic. Our county received almost \$8 million (US Treasury website), school districts and cities got funding, and many of our neighbors received a stimulus check. The changes to the child tax credit lifted three million children out of poverty in the first month - a 25% cut to the monthly child poverty rate.

Democrats were also fighting for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, finally signed by President Biden on November 15. This is the federal bill that over the next ten years will significantly improve our nation's bridges and roads, provide for clean drinking water, upgrade our power infrastructure, and support clean energy transmission. It will also create universal access to reliable high-speed internet, which is very important in our rural county.

It's About Patriotism

Democrats understand the meaning of being patriotic - it is the feeling of love, devotion, and sense of attachment to our country and alliance with others who share the same sentiment, to create a feeling of oneness among people. We want our neighbors to stay healthy, have enough to eat and a place to live. We want them to be able to safely travel on roads & bridges, and on planes, trains & busses, and receive a good education for their children so they can get good paying jobs.

Giving back to our community – it's what we do.



North County Community Volunteers, from left: Pat Hardig, Betsey Shuteroff, and Neldena Anderson.

Preview of 2022: Calendar of Important Events for Democrats

By Katherine Shelton

2022 is a midterm election year, which means a lot of important dates to remember, particularly if you're planning to run for office. The County Clerk's Office provides a list of important dates in their [Candidate Guidebook](#), along with information on how to run for local office. Some of those key dates and open seats are reproduced below:

Key Dates to Run for Elected Office	
February 14-March 11	Time frame for issuing Nomination Papers/Declaration of Candidacy, extended if incumbent doesn't file for re-election.
April 11-May 24	Time frame for filing as a Write-In Candidate
Week of May 9	County Clerk's Office to begin mailing ballots.
May 23	Last day to register to vote for this election. You can still show up at your polling place on election day and receive a provisional ballot if you have not registered.
Around May 7	Ballots are mailed to all registered voters
JUNE 7	ELECTION DAY! Polls are open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Mail-in ballots are sent about 30 days prior, and it is recommended they be mailed back 5 days before election day
July 7	Last day to certify election results

Other important dates:

February 12: Democratic Pre-endorsement conference, where party delegates vote to endorse candidates in advance of the March Convention.

March 3 – 6: California Democratic Party Endorsing Convention

June 7, 2022 Election		
Key County seats to be elected (4-year terms):		
Office	Incumbent	
Supervisor District 3	Michael Kobseff	Republican
Supervisor District 5	Ray Haupt	Republican
Assessor-Recorder*	Craig Kay	Republican
Auditor-Controller*	Diane Olson (appointed)	Decline to State
County Clerk	Laura Bynum	Republican
District Attorney*	J. Kirk Andrus	Republican
Sheriff-Coroner*	Jeremiah LaRue (appointed)	Republican
Superintendent of Schools*	Kermith Walters	Republican
Treasurer-Tax Collector*	Jennifer Taylor (appointed)	Decline to State
* Office holders must meet eligibility requirements.		

We are looking for candidates!

If you or someone you know wants to run, please send an email to siskiyoudems@gmail.com.

Siskiyou Democrats meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 6pm, currently via Zoom. Their Grassroots volunteers also meet on the first (North County) and second (South County) Tuesdays of the month at 6pm, also via Zoom. If you'd like to join a meeting, email siskiyoudems@gmail.com for a link.

REPUBLICAN OBSTRUCTION - This Quarter's Top Story

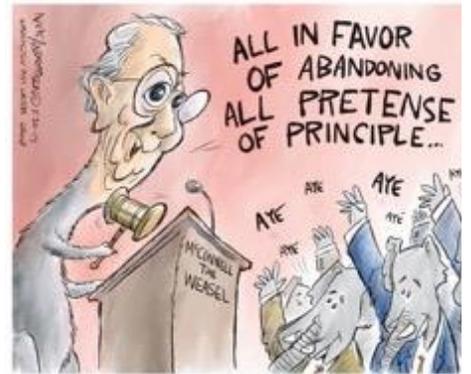
By Abigail Van Alyn

BLOCKED: Both House bills protecting the rights of voters in the United States

BLOCKED: The Build Back Better Act, dozens of measures to lift the middle and working classes

BLOCKED: Three hundred (300) of Biden's 450 nominees to fill vital government positions

In November, the Congressional leader of the Republican Party, Senator Mitch McConnell, privately told a group of stalwarts and donors that he intended to offer an Agenda of NOTHING for the 2022 midterm elections. While Biden continues to fight successfully to end the Covid pandemic, to unkink the supply chain, and to lower inflation, McConnell will be happy to obstruct Biden, Democrats, and the basic principles of democracy at every opportunity. And that's the Big Plan.



As Ed Kilgore of New York Magazine put it, “The GOP is free to become a vehicle for those who vote out of rage, resentment, disappointment, or subscription to conspiracy theories. Standing for something positive would just get in the way.”

Links to References:

[Republicans Don't Need An Agenda for the Midterms](#)

[McConnell: No Agenda for the Midterms](#)

By contrast, over in the House, Speaker Wannabe Kevin McCarthy has been busy busy busy.

“From President Biden's Border Crisis to soaring consumer costs, and the rising crimes caused by the ‘Defund the Police’ movement, Democrats' disastrous policies have left Americans hurting in ways we haven't seen in decades.”
Kevin McCarthy, June 29, 2021

Thus began McCarthy's announcement of his plan for the House in 2022. With typical bad grammar, and distortion and mud-slinging toward Biden and Democrats, he was announcing the formation of multiple task forces covering a curious set of priorities. For instance, the “Future of American Freedoms” task force, led by Jim “Big Lie” Jordan and including fellow Liars Lauren Boebert and Marjorie Taylor Greene. And how about “Healthy Future” led by Trump favorite Devin Nunes? * Open-carry for all, healthcare for none?

<https://www.republicanleader.gov/mccarthy-unveils-republican-task-forces-announces-leaders-and-members/>

The Agenda of Nothing will be great news to Doug LaMalfa, who spends his time spreading disinformation, while doing NOTHING for our district. Some notable House votes have been to prevent Covid mandates, including vaccination, to protect gun manufacturers from “punitive” regulation, and of course to de-certify the electors from Arizona and Pennsylvania, in hopes of overturning the free and fair election of Joseph Biden in 2020. For LaMalfa's full record, see https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/doug_lamalfa/412510

Whether its McConnell's nihilism or McCarthy's Gingrich aspirations, we MUST defeat them in 2022, starting with removing Doug LaMalfa.

“Beware the one party state.” – Timothy Snyder, *On Tyranny*

*Nunes has recently announced he will leave Congress in December, to become CEO of Trump's new media enterprise, TRUTH Social (caps are Trump's). Apparently, media experience is not necessary, since Nunes is a dairy farmer. But how will Healthy Future survive without him?

Fly Our Flag in the True Spirit of Patriotism (continued from page 2)

I remember his exact words because I have often repeated them. His German accent, his competent use of American slang in the phrase, 'creep me out' and, mostly his unique take on what was going on in the world at that time. I asked him what he meant, never telling him that these flags, these American flags everywhere, also crept me out.

He replied that in Germany you rarely see the German flag in daily life. Maybe they fly it for occasions like the Olympic games, he said, but you certainly don't see it displayed on cars, businesses and homes. He said overt symbols of nationalism are deeply frowned upon in Germany because of how, in the runup to World War II, Hitler and his advisers used symbols like the flag to stir the passions of the people and to create a link between the act of flying the German flag and support for Nazi extremism.

Patriotism is simply love of country. You love your country like you love your family. It is your motherland, your fatherland and you love it not because it is the greatest country to ever inhabit Earth, but you love it because it is where you are from. You love it, as the saying goes, warts and all. 'Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride' is how the song goes, and that is patriotism.

Nationalism, on the other hand, is a rigid ideology: My country *'uber alles'*— it has nothing to do with love of country, but rather it's about thinking your country or government or political candidate or way of life is superior to all others. Nationalism is a bully; patriotism is a friend. Nationalism says that the only problem we have is that the rest of the world is not like us. And I would add, nationalism breeds dangerous suspicion within our own country and families. J. Edgar Hoover gained a lot of traction and ruined many lives before 'good people' finally rebelled. Better late than never, but that guy, like many nationalists in our country today, did and do great damage when their fervor is allowed to run unchecked.



My German exchange student saw something alarming in the American political climate during his stay here. Because he was from Germany and knew his history, he was able to articulate what so many Americans can't see for themselves. Loving ones' country is good, but when that love turns into intolerance of others and violence against our government, it ceases to be patriotism and becomes its polar opposite: mindless, violent nationalism.

Time marches on, and sadly we are losing our World War II veterans to the marching of time. My 95-year-old father clearly recalls Pearl Harbor and his time serving in the Navy. He and we proudly fly our American flag on the appropriate commemorative occasions and I urge you all, if you feel so inclined, to dust it off on Dec. 7 and hang it in a true spirit of patriotism.

Know that we live in a wonderful country, but don't let that blind you to the devastating consequences of extremist nationalism.



"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us ... that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."
Abraham Lincoln

California Redistricting: Siskiyou County Remains in California District One

Every ten years, the boundaries for legislative offices must be adjusted to accommodate the one person-one vote concept central to our democracy. Using the U.S. Census Data, which was officially released in April 2021, Siskiyou County remains in California District One for the State Assembly, State Senate and the US Congress. The redistricting process for the state is done by an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission established in 2008, thus taking this process out of the hands of the California Legislature and transferring it to the citizens.

The biggest change this year was with the California Congressional seats. Because California grew more slowly than other states, we lost a Congressional seat, moving from 53 to 52 seats. This caused the California Redistricting Commission to make significant changes to districts. The Commission has been working since the census data became official and has developed several drafts for review. Thousands of comments were received. The maps became final on December 20, 2021. For more information, visit wedrawthelinesca

Congressional District One: Includes Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Colusa (new) and Sutter (new).

Moves Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, and Placer from CD1 to CD3.



Senate District One: Includes Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama (new), Plumas, Glenn (new), Butte (new), Sierra, Colusa (new), Sutter (new), Yuba (new), Nevada, Placer (part)

Moves Alpine and El Dorado from SD1 to SD4

Assembly District One: Includes Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado (new), Amador (new) and Alpine (new).

Moves Butte – small part that was in AD1 to AD3



Yes, Gerrymandering Happens Here: Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors Violates Redistricting Laws

As is the case throughout California, local Boards of Supervisors are tasked to do their own redistricting process. Because there have been population shifts among Siskiyou County districts, our Board was also required to make adjustments. This past year, they hired a consulting firm, Redistricting Partners, to propose new districts. Two options for the revised districts were presented by the consultants at required public hearings this fall. The consultants made clear that there are four key criteria to be used in redistricting: 1) Adjust for population (so district's numbers are similar); 2) Keep communities of interest together*; 3) Keep city boundaries intact (as much as possible); 4) **Give no consideration to party affiliation, or to the residency of incumbent representatives.** (*See CA AB-849, FAIR MAPS Act, 2019: "Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates." [AB849 City & County Redistricting](#))

Following these criteria, the consultants prepared Options 1 and 2. But each one showed that Supervisor Kobseff's personal residence was now in District 2, which meant he would have to move to run for reelection. So at the October 19 meeting, Redistricting Partners were asked by the Board Chair to create a new plan, one which would insure that Mr. Kobseff's home remained in District 3. At the Chair's request, district lines were then **gerrymandered** (in Options 3 and 4) to include Mr. Kobseff's residence. This request was made against the directives of both the County Counsel and the consultants, who had repeatedly made it clear to the Board that such a concern **could not legally be used as a criterion.**

At a November 16 public hearing, the four options were considered by the Board. Most of the public attending supported Options 1 and 2. Based on the public's input, consultant-recommended Option 2 was accordingly agreed to by a 3-1 vote of the Board (Kobseff recusing himself). And at the following December 7 meeting, where the final approval was to occur, the County Counsel again made a presentation on the legal criteria for redistricting.

But a large group of citizens appears to have been encouraged to come to the meeting to support Kobseff. In spite of the County Counsel's admonition, they insisted they wanted to retain Mr. Kobseff as their supervisor. Nor did the Chair support Counsel and make clear to the public that to do so would not be lawful. The stunning result was, two supervisors were pressured into changing their votes from Option 2 to Option 4, **in clear violation of redistricting law.**

The Resulting Gerrymander: You will find the two maps, Options 2 and 4, on page 10. What is obvious in Option 4 is that the Kobseff home in Mt. Shasta is "carved out." As a result, a portion of the town of Weed is given to the supervisor serving Mt. Shasta and Dunsmuir, which violates criterion #3 as well. This was done by the Board for only one purpose: to retain supervisor Kobseff, which is illegal.

(continued on page 10)

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, Matthew Hilliard, Al Lugo, Carolyn Miller, 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.

