

# Siskiyou Democrats Grassroots News

Issue #2: Spring 2022



## THE PRIMARY ELECTION IS COMING UP on June 7th!

*Mail-in ballots will be going to EVERYONE in CA around May 7th!*

**IMPORTANT:** In the DISTRICT 3 (Weed/Lake Shastina Area) Board of Supervisor Race, **Democrat Matthew Hilliard** is running against Kobseff.

Let your District 3 friends know to **Vote for Matthew!**

*(Note: We'll be knocking on doors! Send an email to [siskiyoudems@gmail.com](mailto:siskiyoudems@gmail.com) to help!)*

## Max Steiner Enjoys Siskiyou County Visit! – By Abigail Van Alyn



*Max (center) poses with South County supporters at the Mount Shasta Brewery in Weed. A fun time!*



*Max shares his policy goals with North County supporters, enjoying lunch at Nature's Kitchen.*

In March, Siskiyou County hosted our CADEM endorsed Congressional candidate, Max Steiner, for three days of public and private meetings and events. His campaign strategy is to engage as many rural voters as possible, across the spectrum from moderate Republicans to Independents to liberal Democrats, and his visit here offered opportunities for all those groups to meet and engage with this bright, tireless, committed candidate.

Max arrived on Monday, March 14, and with typical energy launched into a full day of events in South County. DCCSC members Carolyn Miller and Karen Zeigler arranged for him to speak to the senior luncheon group at the Weed Community Center, followed by a meet-and-greet at Seven Suns Café in Mount Shasta, hosted by DCCSC Chair Alice Rogers. (*Max's visit continues on page 2*).

## IN THIS ISSUE

Because our off-year **primary is only two months away**, we're devoting this issue entirely to up-coming election and fundraising events, and to Congressional candidate MAX STEINER and his latest visit to Siskiyou County. This is on pages 1 and 2, with a **personal message from Max on page 5**.

On page 3 you'll find a report on our recent CADEM convention, with emphasis on the Rural Caucus. That's followed on page 4 by updates on your DCCSC's recent scholarship and fundraising activities, and information on the coming primary, including on candidates for local positions.

Finally, because the war in Ukraine has dominated this quarter's news, we're continuing Top Stories next time. We can only say, we hope everyone is following the work of the Congressional January 6 Committee, where there are stunning new revelations, and public hearings will begin soon. Meantime, may there be peace.

## Max Visits Siskiyou County (continued from page 1)

Next on the agenda was Ray's Food Place to talk with shoppers, and at 4:30 a meet-and-greet at the Mount Shasta Brewery in Weed. The crowd at the Brewery included former Board of Supervisors candidate Angelina Cook, who serves on the McCloud River Water Council, and other environmental activists. The conversations there were lively, impressing many with Max's detailed knowledge of conservation, water, and forest issues.

Then Max was off to Yreka for dinner with Betsey and Dave Shuteroff, who had generously offered their cottage to him while he was in the county, and with Joan and Dom Favero, Robin and Ron Richards, and visit coordinator Abigail Van Alyn. Even though he'd been going all day without a break, Max was eager to talk about everything from rivers and forests, to foreign travel, to the war in Ukraine, again making clear his growing depth of knowledge and eagerness to learn.

On Tuesday Max had another full day, attending the Board of Supervisors' meeting in the morning, and a well-attended lunchtime meet-and-greet at Nature's Kitchen, followed by events in Scott Valley well into the evening. Here's a detailed account of Max's Valley visit, from hosts Sari Sommarstrom and Madeleine Ayres:

“Rounding out his tour of Siskiyou County, Max spent Tuesday afternoon and evening in Scott Valley. First, he met with Etna City Mayor Jaime Tarne and a member of the local Fire Safe Council to talk about how federal forest and wildfire issues affect the community. As many readers will know, Etna has been close to being evacuated in recent years, while Callahan came close last year.

Then, after a tour of the upper Scott River to view the old mine tailings problem, Max sat down with three valley ranchers to discuss issues, including immigration visas for agricultural workers and the role of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. All appreciated Max's past experience with federal agencies, and his offer to help key processes work better once he's elected.

In the evening, Tom and Sari Jopson hosted a meet-and-greet at their home in Scott Valley. An enthusiastic crowd of 20 local voters asked engaging questions and were excited to hear Max's intelligent and thoughtful replies. On some issues there was an agreement to disagree, but all were excited to have a candidate who can unseat LaMalfa.”



*At left: Sari and Tom Jopson were wonderful hosts for Max's visit to Scott Valley, introducing him to great group of Scott Valley residents (center). At right, Max discusses his policy ideas with a meet-and-greet attendee.*

Finally on Wednesday, never missing a chance to cross party lines, Max stood *all day* outside Walmart in Yreka, engaging shoppers with his never-failing introduction: “Hi, I'm Max Steiner. I'm a combat veteran, a moderate Democrat, and I'm running for Congress against Doug LaMalfa. I'd appreciate your vote.” And if he gets past that line, a tough call in many parts of Siskiyou, he follows with, “I believe in democracy, I believe in climate change, and I know what to do to help with both.” Now *that's* music to all our ears.

**Want more information about Max Steiner, Candidate for Congressional Representative, District 1? Visit his website: [maxsteinerforcongress.com](http://maxsteinerforcongress.com) or Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MaxSteinerForCongress](https://www.facebook.com/MaxSteinerForCongress) or Twitter: [MaxSteinerCA](https://twitter.com/MaxSteinerCA). Yard signs are available by sending an email to: [siskiyoudems@gmail.com](mailto:siskiyoudems@gmail.com). Get one soon! Let's get Max's name out there.**

**STEINER FOR CONGRESS!!**

# California Democratic Party Convention Report

By Katherine Shelton

The California Democratic Party (CADEM) once again hosted their convention virtually this year. From March 4 through March 6, delegates and candidates from all across the state attended caucus meetings, training sessions and forums, and gathered in a virtual convention hall to vote on endorsements and party platform changes.

On Saturday, delegates voted on endorsements for statewide offices. The results can be viewed [here](#). And on Sunday, during General Session III, delegates voted on the Consent Calendar, finalizing the endorsements for Congressional and State Senate races made during February's Endorsement Caucuses. *Congratulations to Max Steiner for his official party endorsement!*

The Rural and Environmental Caucuses' joint meeting was of particular importance to rural Californians. It included a powerful forum on PG&E: their role in repeatedly sparking wildfires around the state and what can be done about it. Speakers detailed numerous lawsuits facing PG&E, one reminding us that the District Judge who oversaw the utility's five-year probation in the San Bruno Pipeline disaster likened these repeated violations to a "crime spree."

Mari Rose Taruc, Coordinator for [Reclaim our Power Campaign](#), spoke to the joint caucus about her group's efforts, fighting to end PG&E's monopoly and creating a new energy model that is "decentralized and democratized," and includes local clean energy. She spoke of *the need for Governor Newsom to stop issuing PG&E its annual safety certificate, even while it continues to face charges of criminal negligence*. In February, Newsom reissued the safety certificate, which Taruc called "a license to burn." (The safety certificate allows PG&E to tap into state insurance funds to pay for the wildfire damage they've caused). ROPC's coalition of 75 groups are not interested in reforming PG&E. They want to break up the utility entirely.

Panel discussions continued, addressing issues like the Public Utilities Commission's [proposal](#) to slash rooftop solar incentives, and even creating a "grid participation charge," that could end up costing solar users even more money. *PG&E and other state utilities have been lobbying hard to reduce incentives for home solar and rein in their competition*. Crystal Huang, of the People Power Solar Cooperative, echoed the need for "energy democracy."

Renee Zeimer concluded the panel portion of the meeting with an overview of the Rural Caucus' "Democrats Deliver" Billboard Pilot Program. For instance, thanks to Democrats *the State is beginning work on 18 rural broadband projects* which will expand access to underserved parts of the state. You can view the location of upcoming projects [here](#).

As Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis said earlier in the meeting, no group has been more instrumental in raising the profile of the rural broadband issue than the Rural Caucus! And as a result the Rural Caucus, in partnership with CADEM, is *planning to install billboards in both Siskiyou and Fresno counties*, to raise the profile of the vital work Democrats do for the state. Zeimer said the caucus is looking for help with fundraising, outreach, and more.

*If you're interested in helping with this project, you can donate through [Act Blue](#), or reach out to us at [siskiyoudems@gmail.com](mailto:siskiyoudems@gmail.com), and we will connect you to project leaders.*



## Support Your Local Democratic Activities! From the DCCSC Fundraising Committee

Siskiyou Democrats, get ready for our first **in-person gathering** in over 2 ½ years! We should have details out soon for an early summer, outdoor BBQ Fundraiser, and are looking forward to seeing all of you there.

With your help, we'll be able to fund our efforts in the upcoming elections, as well as our new Scholarship. And right now we're also working to increase participation in our **Monthly Donor Program**. For that, you can sign-up here:

[Donate to Siskiyou Democrats](#)

**Finally, big thanks to everybody who turned out for Max and donated to his campaign!**

## What's On the Ballot JUNE 7th

The primary election is coming up on June 7 and everyone in California will be receiving a mail-in ballot. You should get yours around May 7. Remember – no postage needed, and mail it in about a week in advance to make sure it arrives on time!

We'll be voting for the following offices. The California Democratic Party endorsed candidates are in *italics*:

**State and District Offices (Top two winners of primary are on the November Ballot for election):** Governor – *Gavin Newsom*, Lt. Governor – *Eleni Kounalakis*, Secretary of State – *Shirley Weber*, Attorney General – *Rob Bonta*, Treasurer – *Fiona Ma*, Controller – *Malia Cohen*, Superintendent of Public Instruction – *Tony Thurmond*, Insurance Commissioner – *Ricardo Lara*, Board of Equalization (BOE) District 1 – *Braden Murphy*, BOE District 2 – *Sally Leiber*, BOE District 3 – *Antonio Vazquez*, BOE District 4 – *Mike Schaefer*, US House of Representatives District 1 - *Max Steiner*, State Assembly District 1 - Belle Sandwith (Note: Belle entered the race too late to obtain a formal endorsement)

**County offices (Winners are elected in June):** Board of Supervisors District 3 (Weed/Lake Shastina) – Note: **Matthew Hilliard, Democrat, is running against the incumbent, Kobseff**, Board of Supervisors District 5 (Scott Valley), County Superintendent of Schools, Sheriff-Coroner, Assessor-Recorder, Auditor-Controller, County Clerk, District Attorney, Treasurer-Tax Collector. ONLY two positions have more than one candidate. Besides the District 3 Supervisor race, the Superintendent of Schools has two candidates. For the list of candidates, visit the Siskiyou County Clerk Elections page: [LIST OF CANDIDATES June 2022](#)

**THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE VOTING FOR:**

**CHOOSE WISELY** #DemVoice1

- Eliminate Social Security
- Eliminate Medicare
- Repeal ACA/Elim. Preexisting Condition Coverage
- Raise Taxes On Middle- & Lower-Income Earners
- Reduce Taxes On Corporations
- Reduce/Eliminate Abortion Access
- Block LGBTQIA Equality
- Suppress Voting Rights
- Forget Climate Crisis Measures
- Trumpism/Fascism

- Protect Voting Rights For All
- Protect Women's Healthcare Rights
- Expand ACA, Reduce Drug Prices
- Expand Medicaid
- Protect Soc. Sec. & Medicare
- Reform Immigration
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Invest in Climate Change Remedies
- Invest In Education; Child Care Help
- Invest In Affordable Housing
- Fair Taxation for ALL
- Democracy & Rule Of Law

## A Message from Max Steiner to Siskiyou County

It was great seeing everyone, at multiple events, throughout Siskiyou County. I really appreciated the support and the questions I got from everyone who came by. The most enjoyable part of campaigning is getting out and meeting people who care about issues that are important to them - and that is what I got in Siskiyou. My meetings with Siskiyou farmers were especially meaningful, and I learned a lot from them.

For them, water is the big issue. These are people who love their way of life and are multi-generational farmers, but they can't farm with an erratic water supply. Not having enough water is the difference between a profitable year and a loss. Government assistance helps cover bad years, but farmers don't want to depend on a government check to survive. The problem with water is that there isn't a perfect solution for anyone: climate change means there will be less water in the future. More efficient water systems, like center pivots, can help, but that likely means that the crop mix will need to change.

LaMalfa is selling a message that nothing needs to change and, while farmers I talked to know that he's wrong, they desperately want him to be right. And resistance to becoming a "welfare farmer" feeds into a lot of distrust of LaMalfa – who, they believe, absolutely rides along on a government check.

Non-farmers I talked to have wider concerns. Water is still big: for instance, Etna has a surface water allocation that could be paused if flows get too low, and there's a strong case for the government to pay for a municipal well as a backup, which LaMalfa has failed to deliver. But fire is *the* big issue. Everyone knows this year is going to be bad for fire, and no one wants a repeat of the Camp, Carr, or Dixie Fires up here. People have become afraid of the forests, and they are very receptive to much greater federal and state funding for fire mitigation. LaMalfa has had 10 years to address fires, and he hasn't. No one likes the job he's (not) doing on the issue.

I look forward to being back in Siskiyou. I know we don't agree on all the answers, but being a "Centrist Democrat" means that both political "sides" disagree with me on some things. That's okay! This is how democracy is supposed to work! We listen to each other, disagree, and work out a solution. Unlike LaMalfa, I want to listen to the public, and not just sneak in for a private fundraiser with the Farm Bureau.

And with your help, I'll take his place in Washington and make a real difference for Siskiyou County. See you all next time!

(For more on Max's policy positions on water and fire, go to his website: [maxsteingerforcongress.com](http://maxsteingerforcongress.com))

## 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](mailto: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](http://siskiyoudemocrats.org), Facebook page: [SiskiyouCountyDemocrats](https://www.facebook.com/SiskiyouCountyDemocrats) or Instagram: [SiskiyouCountyDemocrats](https://www.instagram.com/SiskiyouCountyDemocrats) or Twitter: [siskiyoudems1](https://twitter.com/siskiyoudems1)  
Send donations to: DCCSC, Post Office Box 4, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067 or to: [Siskiyou Democrats Act Blue](https://www.democratsactblue.com).