

Siskiyou Democrats Grassroots News

Issue #5 – July/August 2020

Our current representatives don't work for us.
Elizabeth, Audrey, and Pamela will!



ELIZABETH BETANCOURT
For CA Assembly
betancourtforsenate.com



AUDREY DENNEY
For US Congress
audreyforcongress.com



PAMELA SWARTZ
For CA Senate
pamelaforsenate.com

They will GET THE JOB DONE for EVERYONE!
VOTE November 3, 2020

You will receive your ballot in the mail. Mail it back! No postage needed!

11,000

We're counting on all of you to get us this number of votes in Siskiyou County to help **Audrey Denney** go to Congress and **Elizabeth Betancourt** and **Pamela Swartz** go to the California Legislature!

11,000 Votes: What does that mean?

We've set a WIN number for votes in Siskiyou County—our contribution to the total votes our candidates will need to win in their districts. Reaching this number will mean Democrats have 50% +1 of all votes cast in our county.

In Siskiyou County, there are about 8,400 Democratic, 11,000 Republican, and 8,300 No Party Preference/Other voters. So to reach 11,000 votes we will be working hard to ensure a Democratic turnout of 80%, PLUS about 50% of No Party Preference/Other voters supporting our candidates. With your help we can do this! See page 2 for the many ways you can contribute to this effort. On page 4 you'll find suggestions for effective communication with our fellow rural voters.

IN THIS ISSUE:

As we are all only too aware, our country is in the grip of the most corrupt and incompetent administration in modern times, and a deadly pandemic made worse by the current president. But since we're sure you're following the national news closely, from now until the November election we're turning our focus to our local Congressional and state elections. That's where all our grassroots efforts will be aimed. And to Get Out The Vote (GOTV), our best shot at influencing the Presidential outcome as well. In this issue you'll find lots of ways to get involved, even while we live with the restrictions imposed around COVID-19.

You'll also find a reflection on recent Black Lives Matter events in Siskiyou County. Then an in-depth look at the voting record of Target One, Doug LaMalfa, whose tenure will end when we elect **AUDREY DENNEY** to the United States Congress. This is a reprint from a previous issue, for the many new subscribers on our mailing list. In the next issue we'll look at the voting records of our current state officials, Brian and Megan Dahle, ably opposed by **PAMELA SWARTZ** (CA Senate) and **ELIZABETH BETANCOURT** (CA Assembly).

We close the issue with some books and other resources for studying up on news and issues. And a few cartoons offer a bit of badly-needed fun. Let's all stay well, wear our masks, and most of all get involved!

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

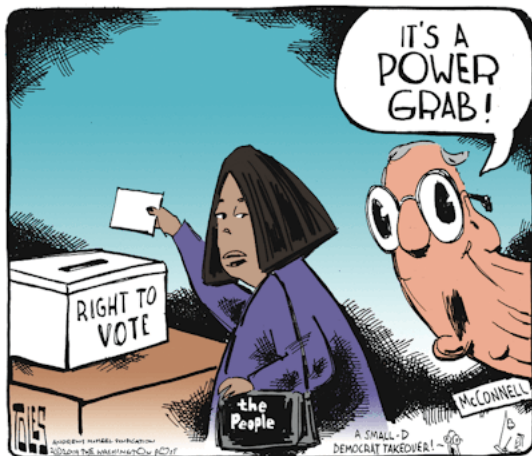


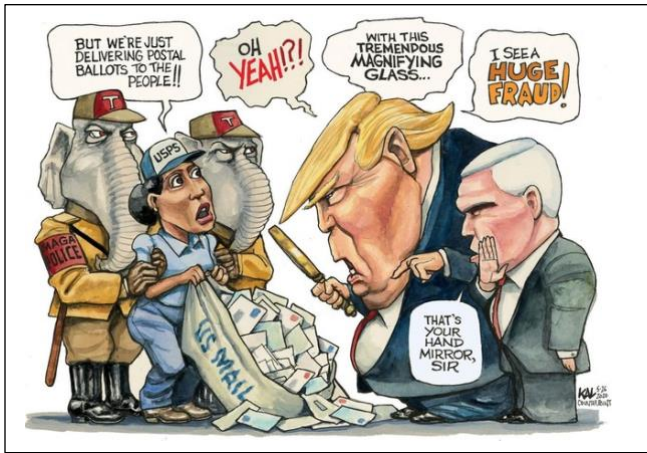
Help Us Get to 11,000 Votes!

As you've heard these days, the November 2020 election is without doubt THE most important election in our lifetimes. And we need your help!

Even in these times of "staying-at-home", there are lots of ways you can become involved:

- 1. Make sure EVERYONE you know is REGISTERED TO VOTE:** It's easy and on-line. Simply refer your friends to the California Secretary of State website at: registertovote.ca.gov (they will use their driver's license signature, so it is completely paper-free!)
- 2. Sign up to VOLUNTEER with the Siskiyou Democrats Grassroots Team:** We are beginning our activities now and would love to have your help. Fill out the on-line though this link: [Siskiyou Democrats Volunteer Form](#) and we will get back to you!
- 3. DONATE to the Democratic Central Committee of Siskiyou County:** We have been working hard to promote Democratic candidates in Siskiyou County. There are some costs associated with these efforts. You can donate through this ActBlue link: [Siskiyou Democrats ACTBlue](#) or send a check to: DCCSC, PO Box 4, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067.
- 4. Encourage ALL of YOUR FRIENDS and FAMILY to VOTE:** This year, ALL voters in California will receive a ballot in the mail. It will arrive around the third of October (30 days before the election). Please make certain everyone you know completes their ballot and mails it in EARLY (postage-free!). (See page 3 for more information on the USPS.)





FIGHTING VOTE-BY-MAIL DISINFORMATION

Trump and newly-appointed crony, Postmaster Louis DeJoy, are doing everything in their power to disable the USPS ahead of the 2020 election. Given their campaign to spread disinformation about “the dangers of voting by mail,” it’s important that we’re prepared to address the issue in our calls, and in our voting behavior. A troubling report in ProPublica (an independent newsroom) reveals that more than *half* of Facebook posts about voting are pushing far-right mail fraud theories. Please read this article to get the full story.

https://www.propublica.org/article/outright-lies-voting-misinformation-flourishes-on-facebook?utm_source=sailftru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=majorinvestigations&utm_content=river

IMPORTANT GUIDANCE FROM THE POSTAL SERVICE

As we all know, there are real problems with the under-funded Postal Service, especially in timely delivery of mail. Here’s an important directive from the USPS itself, posted on May 29: “To account for delivery standards and to allow for contingencies (e.g., weather issues or unforeseen events), **voters should mail their return ballots at least 1 week prior to the due date** established by state law. If a state law requires completed ballots to be received by election officials by a specified date (such as Election Day) in order to be counted, voters should be aware of the possibility that completed ballots mailed less than a week before that date may not, in fact, arrive by the state’s deadline.” For more on this:

<https://www.propublica.org/article/the-postal-service-is-steadily-getting-worse-can-it-handle-a-national-mail-in-election>

What do you do with that ballot you got in the mail?



Learn more at www.calvoter.org

Fill it in (as best you can)

You don't have to vote on every contest. It's OK to skip some and just vote on the ones you care about.

Sign the envelope

Your signature will be compared to the one you provided when you registered. If you don't recall what it looks like, make it look like the one on your license or ID. Remember to date it.

Get it in on time

Ballots postmarked after Election Day or received more than 3 days after Election Day won't be counted. Make sure your votes count by returning your ballot in person to a voting site or ballot drop box by 8 pm on Election Day.



MY VOTE!

● ○ ○

CALLING ALL VOTERS

Best Practices for Maximizing Rural Turnout

In May, DCCSC members attended a webinar hosted by **Elizabeth Betancourt**, on best practices for engaging rural communities in political conversation and action, most of all the simple act of voting. Here are the core principles offered for successful interactions, whether by phone, in writing, or in person.

What matters most in rural areas

- Community, and all the activities that knit the community together
- Tangible volunteer action to keep the community viable
- Personal lives, experiences, and connections

What matters least in rural areas

- Big ideas, otherwise known as hot air
- Policy positions—hot air plus broken promises

Where Democrats go wrong:

- Thinking we're right all the time
- Looking down on people with less education or different views
- Not really asking about, or listening for, what matters to others



Our candidates have poured their hearts into crafting their policy positions, and we've spent a lot of time studying them. So it makes sense we'd want to talk about those. But it turns out that a lot of canvassers have the same experience when we ask people about the "issues that matter most to them." Often we hear something like: "Issues? What *are* the issues? Um, I'm really not sure." Or: "Let me think about it. Can you leave me something? I don't have time right now."

So if that's not working, what's the best way to engage? By **inviting a personal, down-to-earth conversation**. The Grassroots Committee has been discussing how to approach this, especially in making phone calls. Here are some of our suggestions:

Start the call by **making a connection to the community, then addressing feelings first**: "Hi, I'm (name), your neighbor here in (place), and I'm volunteering with the Siskiyou Democrats. I'm calling to ask how you're feeling about the election coming up in November." Framing the question as being about feelings has a good chance of starting a real, personal conversation.

Then it's important to **say what matters to you as well**: "Besides the Presidential race, I'm excited about voting for our three other candidates, for Congress and the state legislature..." If your contact needs more information, that opens a whole new conversation. Listen carefully for their concerns, and how these align with candidates' intentions.

Then wrap up the call, **making sure the contact has everything they need**: vote-by-mail and candidate information, help with understanding the ballot, etc.

Later in the summer the Grassroots Committee will offer a training and practice session on these best practices, stressing how you can make these calls mutually rewarding. Meantime you can sign up to make calls here:



CALLING ALL PHONE BANKERS!

We need your help in making phone calls to support our candidates. Sign up through our volunteer form link:

[VOLUNTEER FORM LINK](#)

Siskiyou County Marches Raise Awareness of Racism

By Katherine Shelton

After the murder of George Floyd on May 25, protests erupted across the country and even internationally. Floyd's death was recorded and circulated all over social media, giving Americans a front row seat to the brutal death of a man accused of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill. In protest, large metropolitan cities and small rural towns alike participated in demonstrations in support of Black lives and police reform.

Among those rural towns were Mount Shasta and Yreka. In spite of some initial hysteria about "Antifa" instigators and riots, residents in both towns held peaceful protests of their own. Both were organized by young people. The City of Mount Shasta estimated 300-400 people came to their march, and around 250 attended in Yreka. Participants listened to speeches from residents who described being racially profiled, both by police and their neighbors, and then knelt for the 8 minutes and 46 seconds that Officer Chauvin knelt on George Floyd's neck, killing him.

Longtime Weed resident, teacher, and film-maker James Langford attended the Mount Shasta march, and he calls such incidences of police brutality and overreach "nothing new." Langford moved to Weed in 1974 to teach at Weed Union Elementary, and was that school's first Black teacher. In a conversation this month, I asked Langford what it was like moving to Weed from the Bay Area after he'd worked with the Berkeley Police Department during a time of protests about Civil Rights and Black liberation. He said that Weed had struck him as a very conservative area. But he reminded me that Weed also held Civil Rights demonstrations of its own, having been heavily segregated dating back to Long Bell's purchase of the local lumber mill. Weed at one point had its own chapter of the NAACP, and members of the Black community lobbied to have a Black teacher at the Elementary School.

This is a good reminder that issues of racism and Civil Rights are not just urban, or "inner city," issues. Like every person of color in America, Langford is familiar with navigating implicit biases. Like Raneé Bryant, a young march organizer in Yreka, he's personally shouldered the burden of keeping conflicts civil and calm, and feels a constant awareness of his race when in public spaces. A feeling of being observed or regarded with suspicion is something that every Black person experiences, both said, especially where police are present.

At the heart of the BLM movement is a real racial divide in American society around issues of law enforcement. Langford offered an example of this. In giving a lesson on police behavior in the South, he'd said that these "police were enforcers of unjust laws." In response, a local law enforcement officer removed his kids from Langford's class. The "law and order" dog whistle, that represents police as the thin blue line separating civilization from anarchy, continues to inspire opposition to any attempts at police reform. In a separate conversation, Raneé Bryant said she understood that too, but most wanted change in the racist behaviors of her neighbors. As a young female, she's endured racial slurs and more subtle shunning. "The worst thing is," she said, "it hardens you."

Langford, who taught at Weed Union Elementary for 33 years, attended the march in Mount Shasta at the prodding of a young friend. He said he felt encouraged and hopeful seeing the role young people have played in organizing these marches and picking up the mantle of the Civil Rights movement. He described young people as having an "awareness of the world they're going to inherit." He has also produced a powerful documentary about the experience of Weed's Black community, a must-watch for anyone who wants to better understand our community. You can watch *From the Quarters to Lincoln Heights* online by following the link: <https://vimeo.com/31221465>



At left, is a scene from the Mt. Shasta BLM March on June 2 and, at right, the crowd kneeling at the County Courthouse at the Yreka March on June 5.



**Doug LaMalfa Votes NO on Everything that Matters -
He's NOT working for us!**

LaMalfa's votes on critical constituent issues, 2019-2020

On Voting Rights and Election Security: NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO

NO on six bills protecting citizens' right to vote, redressing only some of the myriad schemes Trumpicans have cooked up to prevent voter participation; and NO on protecting elections from foreign interference.

On Environment and Protecting Public Lands: NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO

NO on eleven bills to protect the environment, from protecting specific wetlands and shorelines, to blocking mining and fracking on protected public lands.

On Healthcare: NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO

NO on seven bills, from lowering drug costs, to funding Medicaid, to NO on insuring those with preexisting conditions.

On Women's Rights and Protections, and gender equity: NO NO NO NO NO NO

NO on five bills, including the ERA, the VAWA, funding a Women's Museum at the Smithsonian, and gender discrimination in the workplace.

On Workers' Rights, Protections, and Pay: NO NO NO NO NO NO

NO on five bills including raising the minimum wage, a small pay raise for Federal workers, and protecting workers' right to organize into unions.

ON School Safety and Sensible Gun Legislation: NO NO

NO on the only two bills legislators dared bring to the floor. LaMalfa has a perfect score with the NRA, so if there were more, we can be sure he'd vote against them as well.

Among other notable NO votes were: three against the rights of immigrants and asylum seeks, three against help to student loan holders, three against corporate oversight, two against consumer protections, one against help for homeless vets, one against protecting show horses from mutilation by soring, and one against disaster relief for Puerto Rico. That's 14 total. **NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO**

In the foreign policy arena, NO votes included a two-state solution in Israel/Palestine, condemning the Saudis for the murder of an American journalist, and **NO on kicking Russia out of the G-7 for its interference in the 2016 election.**

Does LaMalfa do anything at all for his constituents? Why yes! He voted YES three times on funding The Wall instead of healthcare and public education, and YES on a farm bill of great benefit to himself, among others. This bill protects immigrant farm workers, standing in stark contrast to his hostility to all other immigrants.

HAD ENOUGH OBSTRUCTION, HAD ENOUGH HATE?

VOTE—NO NO NO NO—ON DOUG LAMALFA!!

Resources of the Month

SARAH COOPER: We promised some fun, and here it is. If you haven't been following, jump on board the Cooper Train: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPLE34EemoE>

Running Against the Devil, Rick Wilson, Crown Forum/Random House 2020

As if we didn't know this already, Donald Trump is seen here as a dangerous, conscience-free, racist authoritarian. Republican strategist and Never-Trumper Rick Wilson has written a dark but important perspective on what it will take to defeat not only Donald Trump but down-ballot Trumpism (Doug LaMalfa, and Brian and Megan Dahle).

Republican Voters Against Trump: <https://rvat.org/#homePageStories>

Organized by Republican strategist Tim Miller, this link will take you to the remarkable and moving self-made video stories of thousands (!) of Republican and independent voters who feel they can no longer support Donald Trump. Inspiring, and important for planning those crucial conversations with NPP voters. **Highly recommended!**

Robert Reich exposes the economic roots of systemic racism in this short video, part of a series you can subscribe to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IkT_EEwq_I&feature=youtu.be&emci=8958d79a-f1c5-ea11-9b05-00155d03bda0&emdi=85cdccc9-f8c5-ea11-9b05-00155d03bda0&ceid=4903568

Shasta County's aNews Café. Author Doni Chamberlain fights the good fight in deep red Shasta County Here she lays out all her frustrations with CD-1's anti-mask behaviors, and makes some excellent points. Some background: Doug LaMalfa was recently spotted in Nevada County, mask-less inside a restaurant. He was supporting a rally of the Freedom Angels, a far right group organized around COVID disinformation, reckless reopening, and anti-mask, anti-vaccination views. Thanks to Dolly Verrue for this link.

<https://anewscafe.com/2020/07/14/redding/california-rightfully-suffer-covid-19-consequencescalifornians-rightfully-suffer-covid-19-consequences/>

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

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: Carolyn Miller - Chair, Alice Rogers – Vice Chair, Katherine Shelton – Secretary, Robin Richards – Treasurer; Members: Neldena Anderson, Rick Green, Ann Herfindahl, Al Lugo, Larry Marks, Christine Balletta, Abigail Van Alyn Booraem, 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.