

# Siskiyou Democrats Grassroots News

Issue #3 – March/April 2020

## WHEN LEADERSHIP FAILS

When we planned this edition of the News, we'd just had an important election and intended to report on the results and an action plan for November. Since then all our lives have been turned upside down. While our communities and businesses struggle to stay afloat in the sharp economic downturn caused by the pandemic, no one can fail to notice the catastrophic failure of the current administration in this crisis. In fact, the crisis was *caused* by the blindness of leaders who value power over people. Trump, like Xi in China, knew what was happening. He refused to act, peddling instead his favorite cocktail of propaganda and magical thinking.

So while we need to act now to protect ourselves and our neighbors from this disease, and support our local businesses as best we can, we also have to plan for November with greater-than-ever urgency. We *must* remove this dangerous man from office, along with his enablers down ballot. That includes Doug LaMalfa, whose message around current shortages is to cut more trees for toilet paper, open those mines, and get rid of the “regulatory world we live in.” (See his FB page for this video). Please join in our efforts and urge everyone you know to do the same. Please stay safe, stay home, and stay engaged. Read on for ways to do that, even as we practice distancing.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

You'll find complete election results for the March 3 primary, candidate statements, and reports from the Grassroots Organizing Committee of the DCCSC on past and future efforts.

We'll also take a deep dive into Doug LaMalfa's voting record, one of relentless opposition to any federal role in upholding and funding citizens' rights, protections, health, and education, as well as a science-denying hostility to addressing the climate crisis faced by every nation and species on earth.

**Before you read on, here is an important message from Audrey Denney on the pandemic we're all confronting. This was sent to her donor list via email on March 13, 2020.**

“As we work to navigate the growing concern over the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we need to rely on science and follow the guidance from public health professionals. My team and I have put together a list of current, accurate and evidence-based sources that can give you more context and guidance around Coronavirus. This list includes myriad public health resources and facts from those who are monitoring the progress of the Coronavirus and working to prevent its spread. **We've also collected resources for those who are unable to work due to COVID-10 exposure.**

### **[Audrey Denney for Congress's COVID-19 Resources](#)**

My office is following this closely, and we have decided to cancel or postpone many of our events over the next few weeks out of an abundance of caution for our North state community. ... Stay safe, we'll get through this together -- we're stronger than this challenge.”

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

# OUR CANDIDATES FOR NOVEMBER: HOW THEY DID

## By Katherine Shelton

### Congratulations to Audrey Denney, Elizabeth Betancourt and Pamela Swartz for advancing to the November General Election!

Siskiyou Democrats will now have the opportunity to put support behind these three strong candidates. And, for Congress, we increased support for Democrats in the primary from 40% (2018) to 45% (2020)!

#### United States Congress, CA District 1

Candidate	Siskiyou County	Entire District
Audrey Denney (D)	6,314 (42%)	88,765 (39%)
Doug LaMalfa (R)	7,933 (53%)	125,327 (55%)
Rob Lydon (D)	478 (3%)	8,299 (4%)
Joseph LeTourneau (I)	184 (1%)	2,636 (1%)
Gregory Cheadle (i)	140 (1%)	2,518 (1%)

**Audrey Denney** is doing great in Siskiyou County! She came within 1,619 votes of Doug LaMalfa. Thanks to all who worked hard for this result. A lot of work still needs to be done across the rest of the Congressional District, but the work has to start at home.

#### State Assembly, California District 1

Candidate	Siskiyou County	Entire District
Elizabeth Betancourt (D)	6,262 (42%)	62,858 (39%)
Megan Dahle (R)	7,281 (49%)	81,854 (51%)
Paul Dhanuka (I)	1,434 (9%)	15,199 (9%)

**Elizabeth Betancourt** came within 1,019 votes of Megan Dahle in Siskiyou County. In November voters will have a chance to elect an inspiring woman to the State Assembly.

#### State Senate, California District 1

Candidate	Siskiyou County	Entire District
Pamela Swartz (D)	5,231 (35%)	121,448 (36%)
Brian Dahle (R)	8,460 (57%)	195,990 (58%)
Linda Kelleher (I)	1,105 (7.47%)	20,660 (6%)

**Pamela Swartz** threw her hat into the ring at the last minute and managed to get the support of 121,448 voters across Senate District 1! She will face off against Brian Dahle in November.

#### Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, D-1

Candidate	Total Votes
Angelina Cook	666 (27%)
Brandon Criss	1,805 (73%)

**Angelina Cook** unfortunately lost her bid to represent District 1 on the County Board of Supervisors. She felt that her campaign was able to move the needle further toward democracy.

#### Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, D-2

Candidate	Total Votes
Ed Valenzuela	2,393 (72%)
Paul C. Beck	938 (28%)

**Ed Valenzuela** was re-elected to represent District 2 on the County Board of Supervisors.

#### Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, D-4

Candidate	Total Votes
Catherine Gilbert	977 (38%)
Nancy Ogren	1,569 (62%)

**Nancy Ogren** was elected to represent District 4 on the County Board of Supervisors. **Catherine Gilbert** made a great start to her political career.

## NOW IS THE TIME TO GET INVOLVED: LET'S WIN IN NOVEMBER!

The results are in for the primary election, and we're now gearing up for November 2020! We're supporting a terrific trio of candidates: Audrey Denney for Congress, Pamela Swartz for CA Senate, and Elizabeth Betancourt for CA Assembly.

In light of the significant changes in our country these past few weeks—which have us looking at ways to contact voters while limiting in-person contacts—the candidates and our grassroots committee are adapting campaigning to this new reality.

There will be ways for you to volunteer. **Now, more than ever before, is the time for you to get involved. We need good, grassroots leadership—yours!** We have lots going on in the coming months and urge you to join in the effort. It will be all hands-on-deck!

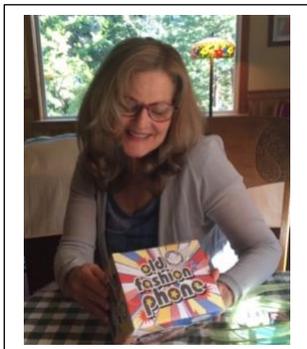
Winning: What will make the difference in November? **VOTER TURNOUT!** We need to get **every** Democrat and Democratic-leaning independent voter to turn in their ballots or go to the polls. And all the data shows that even virtual person-to-person contact makes all the difference.

Getting Involved: What can you do to help? We will have lots of opportunities for engaging with voters – **virtual gatherings, emailing, texting, phone calls, writing postcards and letters to the editor, and donating.** You can **start now** with a small monthly donation to the DCCSC: [Siskiyou Democrats ActBlue](#). We'll begin taking action in earnest in July, so we're preparing now by creating volunteer lists. Choose one or more of these activities, then send us an email to [siskiyoudems@gmail.com](mailto:siskiyoudems@gmail.com). Alice Rogers or Robin Richards will contact you right away, and provide you with information on the timing of each activity.

June Training: Many first-time volunteers worry about their lack of experience, so we're planning volunteer training at the end of June. **Please plan to attend, we hope in-person but possibly online.** You'll acquire all the tools and skills you need to be successful in encouraging Democrats to vote. We'll provide you with the details in the next Grassroots News.

### Volunteers Extraordinaire!

Three great volunteers have exceeded expectations! Sandy Sullivan (left) from Mt. Shasta made 1,638 phone calls and Mary and Tom Laurent (right) have written 1,525 postcards in the last three elections. Way to go!



*Sandy Sullivan receives a "phone bank" prize for her exceptional phone banking. Now she can call and save!*



*Mary and Tom Laurent hard at work writing postcards. A prize coming soon!*

## Doug LaMalfa: NO on Everything That Matters

WHY WE NEED AUDREY DENNEY-- by Tom Laurent

Doug LaMalfa has told us: *“I view my role as that of a representative of the people, someone who fights for them against the overreach of government.”* ([douglamalfa.org/issues](http://douglamalfa.org/issues)).

Let’s take a look at his statement. LaMalfa’s voting record as our Congressman shows that he rarely votes for what is best for his constituents. Driven by ideology, he votes to make us pay more for healthcare and prescription drugs, to cut off those with pre-existing conditions, and to give us dirtier air and dirtier water. He voted against raising the federal minimum wage. He votes to take money out of our wallets and give it to corporations. He is anti-union, and against essential protections for women and low-income working families.

LaMalfa considers government overreach anything Democrats pass that does positive things for people. This “overreach” ranges from *insuring* clean air and water, voting rights, and equal protections under the law; to *striving* for livable wages, lower health insurance costs, lower-priced prescription drugs, Stock Market stability, and consumer protections; to *protecting* the safety-net of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, school lunches and food stamps. **LaMalfa has voted to weaken or defund all of these.**

LaMalfa is anti-women, voting routinely against any measure protecting women from violence, persecution, or recognition. He has done nothing to protect our school children from gun slaughter. He clearly sees the nation’s slaughtered school children as 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment collateral damage. He voted against universal background checks and an increased waiting period. He votes as the NRA tells him to vote, so he won’t lose the conservative white male vote. LaMalfa doesn’t believe in human-caused climate change. He believes that God would not allow creation to be destroyed by human activities, rather than believing the 97% of active climate researchers whose fact-based data prove humans are the single greatest cause of global warming.

Trump’s 2021 budget plans to cut funding to SS, SSDI and Medicare by ending annual payment increases covering inflation so he can stuff our bloated military budget. But these are cuts to programs that give vital support to the working families of District 1 and across the nation. Based on his record, we can be sure LaMalfa will vote to support these cuts, which would harm every one of our district’s roughly 315,000 seniors and many more. This is our Congressman, “representative of all the people.”

**So what really drives Doug LaMalfa?** (continued on page 6)



*Rep. LaMalfa enjoys a SNAP turkey dog, the same kind his votes would take away from struggling families. This while his family rice farm has taken almost 5.5 M in USDA subsidies, or corporate welfare.*



*LaMalfa (second from left on stairs) joins his “Freedom Caucus” in storming the House basement, during legitimate Trump impeachment hearings. Republicans hounded Hillary Clinton right here for years.*

## LaMalfa's NO Votes: A Closer Look

### 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 Trumplicans have cooked up to prevent voter participation; and NO on protecting elections from foreign interference.*

**On Environment and Protecting Public Lands: 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 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 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 seekers, 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**

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!!**

## No on Everything (continued from page 4)

Most of LaMalfa's campaign donations come from corporations. They own him. LaMalfa votes to remove even vital citizen protections in order to protect corporate profits. He hides behind his "small government" ideology. His record makes clear he doesn't care about us.

We need someone who does care, a real Representative, someone who means what she says. Whose whole life has been one of service, and who refuses to be bought by corporate money. We need someone who can work across party lines to engage with foresters, farmers, ranchers, teachers, unions, government agencies, and healthcare professionals, to make sound policy. We need someone who thinks clearly, listens carefully, and talks straight to her constituents.

**We need Audrey Denney! She will stand up for us, and for a sustainable future for ALL.**

## Resources of the Month

### SLAY THE DRAGON: A documentary on gerrymandering from Magnolia Pictures

This vitally important film tackles the issue of right-wing attacks on our democracy through voter suppression, from gerrymandering, to Census rigging, to blatant State House suppression measures like poll closings and voter purges. It explores how the process works, who's driving it, and what we can and must do about it. Unfortunately, the film will hit theaters in early April, just as COVID-19 is taking everyone's attention and keeping people at home. So be sure to find it online and support it as much as possible.



For the official trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGdCxOM1A20>

For the film's FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/SlayTheDragonFilm>

### From INEQUALITY MEDIA:

This terrific website hosted by former Labor Secretary, economist Robert Reich, has a new piece on the "corruption as usual" behavior going on now in Congress, and among the corporations seeking to use the COVID-19 emergency to their advantage.

While the rescue packages in the Senate propose \$600 for the most struggling families, the airlines, etc. are lining up at the trough. (Since this was first written, Democrats have fought for and won \$1,200 per adult. We'll see what happens.) For more, see <https://mailchi.mp/inequalitymedia/everyone-knew-1987286?e=ed772031d1>.

## 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 April. 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 information.**

### 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](https://www.facebook.com/SiskiyouCountyDemocrats). Send mail and donations to: DCCSC, Post Office Box 4, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067.