

Siskiyou Democrats Grassroots News

Issue #9 – December 2020

An Analysis of the Election

On December 11, the State of California certified the election results from all of the counties. Statewide, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris received 63.5% of the vote. By contrast, in Siskiyou county, Trump received 56.7% of the vote. To put this in context locally, about 30% of our registered voters are Democrats and 40% are Republicans and the remaining 30% are No Party Preference, Green, Peace & Freedom, or other parties. Statewide, about 46% of voters are Democrats and 24% are Republicans.

As you all have probably seen throughout the US, this election was a mixed one. Although Trump lost the popular and electoral vote by a large margin, the Democrats so far have only gained one seat in the Senate (two Democrats defeated Republican incumbents, and one Democratic incumbent lost). In the House, the Democrats lost seats, to decrease their majority in the 435-member House from 232 to 222 seats. Georgia's Senate runoff is a nail-biter.

November Election Results

How did our three great federal and state candidates do? Below is a table of the votes received by county in general order of percentage received in the US Congressional race. As noted below, Siskiyou County was third highest in percentage of votes for our US Congressional candidate. (Note: NA = This county is not part of the candidate's district. And, several of the counties are "divided" – for example, only 9% of Butte County is in our CA Assembly District 1, thus the total number of votes is much different.)

2020 DISTRICT 1 ELECTION RESULTS						
County	US CONGRESSIONAL RACE		CA STATE SENATE RACE		CA STATE ASSEMBLY RACE	
	Denney	LaMalfa	Swartz	B. Dahle	Betancourt	M. Dahle
Alpine	NA	NA	441 (60.2%)	292 (39.8%)	NA	NA
Nevada	29,658 (54.3%)	24,914 (45.7%)	33,989 (53.1%)	29,964 (46.9%)	35,367 (55.4%)	28,510 (44.6%)
Butte	51,719 (50.9%)	49,828 (49.1%)	NA	NA	3,188 (39.6%)	4,855 (60.4%)
Sacramento	NA	NA	38,269 (44.6%)	47,569 (55.4%)	NA	NA
El Dorado	NA	NA	46,286 (40.9%)	66,928 (59.1%)	NA	NA
Siskiyou	10,198 (43.7%)	13,155 (56.3%)	9,134 (39.7%)	13,867 (60.3%)	9,650 (41.8%)	13,463 (58.2%)
Plumas	4,737 (42.0%)	6,541 (58.0%)	4,256 (38.0%)	6,937 (62.0%)	4,497 (40.2%)	6,688 (59.8%)
Sierra	801 (41.5%)	1,129 (58.5%)	730 (38.2%)	1,183 (61.8%)	776 (40.7%)	1,131 (59.3%)
Placer	11,092 (39.7%)	16,830 (60.3%)	56,614 (40.2%)	84,209 (59.8%)	15,544 (45.9%)	18,344 (54.1%)
Shasta	31,851 (34.7%)	59,983 (65.3%)	27,367 (30.1%)	63,405 (69.9%)	29,683 (32.5%)	61,729 (67.5%)
Tehama	9,507 (33.3%)	19,082 (66.7%)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Modoc	1,290 (29.9%)	3,025 (70.1%)	1,031 (24.2%)	3,223 (75.8%)	1,133 (26.6%)	3,134 (73.4%)
Lassen	3,000 (25.2%)	8,892 (74.8%)	2,446 (20.9%)	9,259 (79.1%)	2,703 (23.0%)	9,048 (77.0%)
Glenn	220 (21.3%)	811 (78.7%)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total	154,073 (43.0%)	204,190 (57.0%)	220,563 (40.3%)	326,836 (59.7%)	102,541 (41.1%)	146,902 (58.9%)

Trends Over Time

How are we doing in Siskiyou county over time? The table below looks at the last four elections and the percentage of votes received by the Democratic candidates.

Percent of Votes Received by Democratic Candidates in Siskiyou County					
Office	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
US Congress	39.4%	35.3%	38.9%	46.1%	43.7%
CA State Senate	37.4%	NA	38.1%	NA	39.7%
CA State Assembly	36.2%	28.9%	28.0%	38.8%	41.8%

OUR GRASSROOTS EFFORTS—LOOKING FORWARD

When extraordinary candidates like Audrey Denney, Elizabeth Betancourt, and Pamela Swartz lose elections, it's natural for us, their supporters, to feel depressed, and tempting to feel despair. These women have everything you'd ever want in a representative: experience, intelligence, courage, dedication, fair-mindedness and above all ethics. If they can't win, who can?

Understandable. But your Democratic Central Committee and grassroots team are urging us all to take a different view and think about the long game.

First, the last four years have been unrivaled since the Civil War for partisan warfare. But unlike the 1860s, the 2000s have media platforms perfectly designed for the spread of propaganda, and a Republican Party leader who's mastered them and models lying as a way of life. Add COVID to that, with no in-person canvassing, and you have a perfect storm of obstacles.

Yet in spite of those difficulties, YOUR efforts have built a solid base of Democratic activism and community. Four years ago SisQ Dems felt isolated and helpless. Now the DCC is active in district-wide organizing, we have a lively internet and media presence, many generous donors, and a grassroots committee boasting dozens of committed volunteers. This platform supports us as we look to the future, when we'll focus on candidate development, messaging, and community involvement – to create a strong Democratic presence in our county!

Volunteer Leaders Take the Leap!



ALICE ROGERS shows off her Valkyrie wings, awarded for her huge efforts in the last four years. In 2016 she'd never missed an election, and used to bring her kids to the polls to ensure they grew up valuing and participating in our democracy. So like many of our volunteers and DCC members, she was inspired to get more involved after that year's devastating election, feeling that she could do more than simply vote.

Then she went further. She attended the 2017 Women's March in Sacramento, and helped found the Mt. Shasta Women's Huddle. Her role has evolved from eager volunteer, to being the main contact and coordinator for South County grassroots volunteers, to SCDCC Chair, delegate, and Executive Board member to the State Democratic Party. She's become an invaluable local leader who has helped empower local Democrats to fight for visibility and better representation.



Sometimes your only available transportation is a leap of faith.

Margaret Shepard



AL LUGO, champion phone banker, displays his prize, a *Leap Frog Chat & Count Cell Phone*. The DCC thanks him for his heroic efforts, and wishes him many happy hours of play time!



ROBIN RICHARDS sports her laurel wreath, a tribute for her years of service heading the DCC Grassroots Committee. While Robin has never missed a chance to vote, she wasn't always a political activist. But the 2016 election galvanized her to bring her formidable organizing talents to work, to uphold our democratic values.

She's found the work fun, creative, and inspiring. She says she's learned how to stick with it in spite of the vitriol and misinformation fostered by some on the other side. And she's endlessly grateful for all our Siskiyou Democrats, who've come out of hiding and done so much to build this movement.

She looks forward to all we'll do together in 2021.

Happy New Year!

Looking for **2021** to be better!

An Embarrassment for Our Congressional District

From the Sacramento Bee Editorial Board, December 15, 2020:

“LaMalfa, one of California’s most embarrassing and inept congressmen...”

Members of the SCDCC will submit a version of the following Letter to the Editor to local press outlets:

“Doug LaMalfa has shamed us all by signing onto the “bill of complaint” submitted by Texas last week to the United States Supreme Court, in an effort to overturn November’s free and fair election of Joe Biden to the Presidency. Here is the oath of office taken by Congressman Doug LaMalfa:

“I, Douglas Lee LaMalfa, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.”

Here is the Supreme Court’s order, in part, issued December 11, 2020:

The State of Texas’s motion for leave to file a bill of complaint is denied for lack of standing under Article III of the Constitution. Texas has not demonstrated a judicially cognizable interest in the manner in which another State conducts its elections. All other pending motions are dismissed as moot.

In plain language, the law does not recognize any possible way that Texas or its citizens have been harmed by another state’s election procedures. It’s none of the business of Texas what any other state does in this regard, (or of representatives of other states).

Either LaMalfa knew that the complaint had no merit and was not supported by the Constitution, or he’s even less capable than we thought. Or, he’s part of a much darker purpose, to disenfranchise large portions of the population (see Constitutional amendments 14, 15, 19 and 24). Whichever is true, by signing on to this complaint LaMalfa has violated his oath of office.

We call on Doug LaMalfa to stop this hyper-partisan, anti-democratic behavior, and start representing ALL of us.”

A National Embarrassment...

Here’s the link to the Sacramento Bee’s scathing editorial:

https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/editorials/article247849700.html?ac_cid=DM344376&ac_bid=-1143601813

And, in case you haven’t seen it, LaMalfa appeared on CNN’s Cuomo Prime Time on December 11. He was backed into a corner trying to justify Texas’ election lawsuit. “You got any proof that anything was done fraudulently in any election?” asks Cuomo. “I don’t have proof that men landed on the moon in 1969 because I wasn’t there” says Rep. LaMalfa.

Check out the full video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1kO3NKQwNg&feature=youtu.be>

Audrey Denney has also commented by tweet about LaMalfa as follows: “@Chris Cuomo gave @RepLaMalfa a chance ‘to show you are a man of honor and that you can accept that this is a country of laws.’ He didn’t. We deserve better!”