

## **Josephine County Democrats**

Regular meeting Oct. 13, 2020 (by Zoom)

The meeting opened at 7:01 pm with a flag salute led by Chair Brian Clark. The agenda and September minutes were accepted. Officers present were Vice Chair Lynda Spangler, Treasurer Dorothy Yetter and Secretary Lynda Demsher.

Dorothy reported more than 500 campaign signs have been sold or given away. The bank balance at the end of September was \$7,438.00. Expenditures have been mostly postage and printing. She said the goal is to have \$4,000 to \$5,000 left after election expenses for on-going expenditures.

Brian said we have 13 people signed up for Election Protection. He will let everyone know what their assignments will be when he hears from the County Clerk. He said some people are going to keep an eye on drop boxes as well, especially those in outlying areas.

There is still a demand for Biden signs, so more have been ordered.

Announcements: The site for finding out about Grants Pass city measures is at:

<https://www.co.josephine.or.us/SIB/files/Clerk/%2317-95%20City%20of%20GP%20Charter%20Amendments.pdf>

Brian is checking into reports that not everyone got their voter pamphlet. Geri said voter postcards have gone out to every Democrat in the county and the outpouring of support getting them out has been fantastic. She is now in the process of spending about \$300 for a text-messaging service to contact left-leaning NAVs to remind them to vote. She said the response to this election could “change the temperature” of our community.

Lynda Spangler reported she is following tax policy for timber companies, that currently don't pay much on the land they own. A Timber Tax Fairness meeting will be held Oct. 21 from 6-7:30 pm. Register at <https://josephinedemocrats.org/event/timber-tax-fairness-10-21/>

Daniel Elash invited everyone to join Kat Stone's on-line forums

A new PCP for Precinct 20 in the Wolf Creek area, Stephanie Martin, was approved by the quorum present. She was a PCP in Klamath Falls and moved her to be closer to her children.

Matt King, working for District 4 Rep. Peter DeFazio's campaign, asked for phone bankers, saying they are working feverishly for DeFazio as this is a tough race. He said Saturday, Oct 31, they are doing a “Trick or Vote” virtual campaign for DeFazio and invited our Democrats to join. He said DeFazio's campaign isn't where they'd like it to be at this point in the election and we certainly don't want the well-funded Alek Skarlatos of Roseburg, the former Oregon National Guardsman who's claim to fame is stopping an attempted terrorist on a train in Paris. King said he's been hand-picked by the Trump Administration to try to flip DeFazio's district, which is Democratic by a small margin. Find out more at <https://www.defazioforcongress.org/>

Grants Pass City Council candidate Vanessa Ogier and State Senate candidate Jerry Allen were guests at the meeting. Jerry said he's running because Oregon is in crisis with the pandemic taking its economic toll, and the fires creating many dimensions of problems, including exacerbating the housing crisis. Allen says his background in social work and public health give him the experience needed to address these problems. He said there is huge potential for good paying jobs in alternative energy sources and developing a greener economy and he supports making RCC free so people can learn the skills needed for this new economy.

Vanessa reminded everyone of the Women's Rally on Saturday and said she's running for city council to help make the budget a priority. She said it would be helpful in the city had a housing director who could be tasked with seeking grants to help the housing situation in the city. She called for an audit of all the city's building codes to see if some need updating to reflect the current housing situation. On building fees, Vanessa said they can't be eliminated but could be modified so builders don't have to pay them all up front when starting a project. Vanessa discussed landlords' responsibilities, the city tax rate, and other topics relevant to the housing crisis. See the forum here: <https://josephinedemocrats.org/candidates-allen-and-ogier-at-our-october-meeting/>

Submitted Oct. 16, 2020 by Secretary Lynda Demsher