

November 10, 2020
JCDCC Meeting

After a dissonant ZOOM flag salute, Josephine County Democrats began their November meeting at 7 pm by approving the agenda and minutes.

The treasurer's report was approved after Treasurer Dorothy Yetter reported an October income of \$1,986, bringing our balance up to \$9,073. Even with some outstanding bills, that puts us in good shape for the post-election period when donations traditionally drop.

Reports:

Nancy Graden, a long-time Election Board member, said this year it was gratifying to see such an "amazing turnout" with so many ballots marked for Biden as she opened them for ballot counting in the courthouse. There were also fewer write-ins for "Donald Duck" and other characters, she said.

Chair Brian Clark said there were 10 Democrats who served multiple shifts as Election Protection volunteers. They reported no incidents. We also had ballot box watchers, checking on drop boxes located around the county, and tracking down rumors about them.

Brian reported turnout for Josephine County did not reach the state's level of 81.5 percent, but Democrats turning out in the county reached 85.4 percent. Still not matching Republican turnout at 88.8 percent, but we are catching up, he noted, and credited volunteer Geri Ventura's organizational leadership for the increase. Geri received a ZOOM applause by those in attendance.

Geri reported our GOTV activities involved slate sheets with handwritten notes mailed out by Neighborhood Leaders, postcards, texting sent to non-affiliated voters (NAVs), and phone banking. Our work for Democratic Candidates also shows they gained 5-8 points over previous candidates even though they, predictably for this Republican dominated county, lost their elections. It was pointed out, however, the Grants Pass City Council will have three new, progressive-leaning members, even though they did run non-partisan campaigns. In addition, a concentration on getting NAVs out to vote put Rep. Peter DeFazio over the top in the contest with the popular hero Alex Scarlotos.

Nancy said the Election Board could use new members and urged people to apply. Several of those present said they were interested.

Geri said some of our candidates recruited by the state party to run, didn't get into the game until the last minute and had to quickly figure out deadlines for candidate's statements and for getting petitions in to avoid filing fees. A discussion about how scattered such information is lead to the expressed need for a overall candidate instruction book. John Holm, CD2 primary candidate, said a candidate training manual can be found on traindemocrats.org

Lynda Demsher volunteered to put a collection of candidate information together for those running for local, state and federal offices from Josephine County.

It was noted that more state Environmental Caucus members are needed.

The Election Committee requested doing an update on our endorsement policies, especially for those running in non-partisan elections. There was some confusion over endorsing people in local races this time so our policies need to be made clearer.

Brian announced the nomination process for party officers is now open. Nominations for chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, and delegates to the state central committee, and congressional districts 2 and 4 can be made at <https://josephinedemocrats.org/contact-us/2020-josephine-county-democrats-nomination/> Nominations will be taken until 7 days before the December meeting. These are two-year terms. The chair and vice-chair positions are automatic delegates to the state party so those positions do involve some travel, he said, to about four meetings a year. However, they are currently taking place on ZOOM so travel may not be necessary for a while. Delegates to congressional districts also require some travel as well. Any registered Democrat can be nominated. Elected PCPs will vote on the nominations during our December meeting. Dorothy is researching how voting electronically for these positions can be done while we are still observing COVID protocols.

Geri is now coordinating a postcard/phone banking drive for the two senate run-offs in Georgia. Anyone willing to help can contact her through josephinedemocrats.org email. The candidates also have volunteer opportunities on their web sites.

Brian said office hours have been changed now to Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 3 pm. He praised the many volunteers who came forward to keep the office open during the election, which helped fuel voter enthusiasm.