

Executive Committee

Zoom

Josephine County Democrats

December 28, 2021

The Executive Committee postponed their regular meeting, usually on the last Sunday afternoon of the month, to 6:30 pm Tuesday, Dec. 28 because of the holidays. This also allowed Joey and Eva to be present to say they are moving to Jackson County and will no longer be able to serve the Josephine County Democrats. Joey has been the Campaign Committee chair and Eva has managed the office, among other tasks for the party. Their work has been greatly appreciated.

Lynda Spangler said there are numerous openings on county committees and urged people to sign up to be on one.

The January General Meeting will feature Patrick Starnes and Tina Kotek, candidates for governor in Oregon.

Starnes, 59, ran for governor in 2018 as an Independent. He is running this time as a Democrat and campaign finance reformer. A cabinetmaker who lives in Brownsville in Linn County, he was a resident of Douglas County before that where he was secretary of the Douglas County Democratic Party. While in Douglas County he ran unsuccessfully for Roseburg City Council and Douglas County Commission. He believes in Oregon Health Plan coverage for all and has proposed taxing junk food to pay for it. He supports Gov. Kate Brown's COVID mandates saying they protect children and the vulnerable. He describes himself as an environmentalist but as a cabinetmaker says he understands timber issues.

Tina Kotek, 55, is currently House Speaker in the Oregon State Legislature and lives in Portland. She was elected to the legislature in 2006 after serving as a policy advocate for the Oregon Food Bank and later policy director for Children First for Oregon. In 2013 she was elected Speaker, the first openly lesbian speaker of any state house in the nation. While in the House she worked on many issues and helped pass legislation that ended discrimination based on sexual orientation and created domestic partnerships for same-sex couples. She also worked on raising the minimum wage in Oregon and has been on a mission to improve access to housing in the state.

After a lively discussion about education, Lynda Spangler said she would make some calls to find out what's going on locally in the schools. Two people who may be resources are Constance Palaia and Bob Bath.