

## Minutes

Josephine County Democrats

April 14, 2020

Josephine County Democrats held their regular Central Committee meeting by webinar due to the statewide ban on large gatherings to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Dorothy Yetter administered the remote meeting and candidate forum.

Chair Brian Clark called the meeting to order at 7 pm and held a brief business session, saying we haven't seen our PCP's since January as the February and March meetings were canceled except for executive sessions held by ZOOM. He gave an update on Project Engage, targeting non-affiliated voters, saying the team has sent out 5,791 postcards reminding voters to register with a party if they want to vote for their favorite primary candidate. He referred [://josephinedemocrats.org/](http://josephinedemocrats.org/) for local activist projects people can do from home and our resource page on COVID-19. Brian also said we have an election coming up for our May meeting for Treasurer and Vice-Chair. Dorothy Yetter has agreed to serve again as Treasurer with Lynda Spangler up for the Vice-Chair position. Anyone else who would like to run for these positions can contact Brian at [Chair@JosephineDemocrats.org](mailto:Chair@JosephineDemocrats.org).

The rest of the meeting was a forum featuring Democrats running for Oregon's Congressional District 2 seat, being vacated by current Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River, who is retiring. Lynda Spangler was moderator.

Four of the five Democrats running were present: Nick "Nik" Heuertz, John Holm, Alex Spenser and Chris Vaughn. Candidate Jack Howard didn't attend. All the candidates supported the Green New Deal, sensible gun restrictions, a woman's right to choose, LGBTQ and civil rights, and Healthcare For All. Nik said his experience on a small farm with timberland and his 20 years as a small business owner and work with a non-profit give him the understanding of CD2 issues and what is needed to help the economy. Alex emphasized communication, saying we need to heal divisiveness and work together to solve problems. Chris said representatives in Congress need to reflect the people they represent and his working-class background does that. John said his experience as a political strategist has prepared him to meet the challenge of running in the conservative district.

Questions from those tuned into the webinar included: how will you beat a Republican opponent, how will you represent such a big district, and how would you deal with single-issue voters such as anti-abortion or pro-gun voters? They all said some voters can't expect to be converted, but there are many "kitchen table" issues most voters can agree on. Alex said people in the district she talks to are very concerned about political divisiveness so she wants to work on that. Chris said most voters are tuned into "family values" like affordable healthcare, a livable wage, and environmental protection. Nik said Democrats can't be afraid to talk about "big, bold" policies and not try to be wishy-washy about what we want to do. John said a successful candidate has to be prepared with a strategy to win and not just ideas.

The pandemic came up briefly during the forum, with candidates emphasizing the need for paying our essential workers a living wage and providing everyone with paid medical leave and affordable healthcare. Lynda Spangler thanked everyone for participating and those tuned in were reminded to check their voter registration and invited to get involved.

Submitted by Sec. Lynda Demsher