

**Lincoln County Democrats  
General Meeting October 27, 2021  
Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Michael Gaskill at 6pm. The meeting was held online via the Zoom platform.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of May 25, June 23, and August 25, 2021, were all approved without objection.

**Upcoming Meetings and Holiday Party**

Chair Gaskill announced that due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no General Meeting in November.

He stated that there had been meetings of Congressional District 4 and Congressional District.

Chair Gaskill invited Lincoln County Democrats to consider attending the upcoming Platform Convention for the Democratic Party of Oregon, to be held in Happy Valley December 10-12, 2021. Interested parties should contact him for information.

There was discussion of the safety of holding an in-person holiday party in December. Chair Gaskill and Secretary Carol Shenk agreed to follow up after the meeting to determine interest and options.

**U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio's Office**

Joey Kranitz, Political Director for U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio, introduced himself and welcomed Lincoln County to the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, the redistricting of which will most likely take effect for the 2022 November election and for the 2023 legislative session. Kranitz described Representative DeFazio as a longtime champion of progressive causes, including as a co-founder, with Bernie Sanders, of the House Progressive Caucus. Kranitz invited support for DeFazio's upcoming campaign through volunteering and contributions, information about which is at <https://www.mobilize.us/defazioforcongress>. The site also provides links to the "Movers and Shakers" political speakers series, to be presented via Zoom for the next year.

Kranitz also invited people to contact him at [joey@defazioforcongress.org](mailto:joey@defazioforcongress.org) to share with Representative DeFazio issues of concern to Lincoln County.

Newport City Councilmember Cynthia Jacobi invited Representative DeFazio to tour the Big Creek dams, which are in need of replacement and at risk of failure, even in a minor

earthquake.

Chair Gaskill commended DeFazio's office for beginning campaign efforts early. Kranitz noted they were currently contacting non-affiliated voters to encourage them to register as Democrats so that they can vote in the primary.

Newport City Councilmember Ryan Parker requested that Representative DeFazio familiarize himself with the Ocean Dumping Act and the Marine Debris Program, research for which is coming out of the Hatfield Center.

### **Oregon State Representative David Gomberg**

Oregon State Representative David Gomberg welcomed Representative DeFazio to the "blue" Oregon coast and noted the congressman's clout could help support NOAA, the ports, the Coast Guard, and the region's water system.

Representative Gomberg began his report by stating that rather than focusing on his reelection at the moment, constituents should focus right now on local parties and in support of local issues and candidates. He noted that there was only a 21% ballot return across Lincoln County in the previous election, with unincorporated areas returning ballots at a higher rate than cities.

He commented that although he does not take positions on local measures, he found the campaign against the local short-term-rental initiative "shameful" for its conduct, including setting up a misleading Web site and encouraging non-residents to register to vote.

Representative Gomberg stated that there is a proposed upcoming special session of the state legislature to address housing, in particular the implementation of federal funding for COVID housing assistance that has not been distributed.

Mike Rawles, Lincoln County School Boardmember and resident of Newport noted that there is a housing shortage not just for low-income residents but also for professionals like doctors and teachers who are unable to relocate to the area, which is affecting employment.

Representative Gomberg announced that he is also focused on regulations affecting childcare facilities, at a time when the childcare shortage is preventing people, especially women, from returning to work.

### **Democratic Party of Oregon Update**

Chair Gaskill reported that the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Oregon passed a resolution objecting to U.S. Representative Kurt Schrader's vote against Medicare drug price negotiation and stating that it is the state party platform to support the measure.

Leigh Evans reported on the Congressional District 5 meeting. CD5 will be concentrating on the Democratic Party of Oregon's platform committee and statewide measures and invited input.

She reiterated that people who wish to be delegates to the State Central Committee platform meeting should notify Chair Gaskill before the Precinct Officers' November 10 vote. There are 13 slots available.

Jaiden Oquendo, Rules Committee Chair for the Douglas County Democrats, reported on the Congressional District 4 meeting, which focused on their rules for new business. He noted that the each DPO caucus sends five delegates to the platform convention.

Michelle Risher, Precinct Committee Person and caucus liaison thanked Oquendo for his work. She noted that the district now has seven counties, and that they are interested in learning the needs of rural areas.

### **November 2021 Election**

Chair Gaskill reminded everyone to vote in the upcoming election. He reminded people that campaigning for this election is more about getting out the vote than changing people's minds.

Mike Rawles noted it is difficult to fill school district positions for basic services.

Newport City Councilmembers Jacobi and Parker explained that the proposed tax on gas and restaurant food is intended to bring in needed funding for police, fire, and library services and personnel, as well as for basic roads maintenance, the bulk of which tax income would come from people traveling through city. Parker noted the active campaign against the measure, mostly by the restaurant industry.

Michelle Rischer noted that the anti-tax sentiment, as currently seen in response to the City of Newport measure, is present in Tillamook as well.

She reported that Jamie McCloud Skinner will be running against Schrader.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.