

**Lincoln County Democrats  
Meeting Minutes for January 26, 2022**

**Call to Order**

The meeting began at 6pm and was held online via Zoom. Chair Michael Gaskill welcomed everyone, noting the good turnout of 36 participants for the first meeting of 2022. He reviewed Zoom protocols and the proposed meeting agenda.

**Approval of October Minutes**

Without objection the minutes of the October 27, 2021, were adopted.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Wendy Girard reported that as of December 29, 2021, there was \$3,452 in the Lincoln County Democrats checking account, with \$423 of that in the City Club fund, and the remaining \$3,429 in the Lincoln County fund. She noted that there have been four or five Act Blue donations every month. Chair Gaskill asked meeting participants to consider becoming monthly donors, noting that in 2022 there will be many important races, including for the open Lincoln County Commissioner seat, reelecting Representative David Gomberg, the Congressional District 4 seat, and the Governor's race. Chair Gaskill said he would like to double or triple donations. Treasurer Girard noted people can mail a check to the address on the Web site if they do not want to pay the Act Blue fees. Representative David Gomberg noted in the meeting chat that Lincoln County Republicans currently have raised \$4,500, underscoring the importance of donations.

**Precinct Committee Person Filing**

Chair Gaskill announced that filing is open for Precinct Committee Persons for the Democratic Party of Oregon. He advised interested individuals to go to the Lincoln County Clerk's Web site. There is also information on PCP's from the Democratic Party of Oregon here: <https://dpo.org/get-involved/precinct-committee-persons/>.

**"Lift Every Voice" Gun Safety Initiatives**

Dianne Eckstein reported that she has been volunteering with Lift Every Voice (<http://lifteveryvoiceoregon.com>), whose mission is stopping gun violence. Ms. Eckstein noted last year's staggering numbers of shootings in the state and across the country. There are two initiatives each requiring 140,000 signatures by July 8, 2022, for the November, 2022 election:

IP17 – **The Reduction in Gun Violence Act** requires permits to purchase guns, a completed background check with no loopholes, and both classroom and live-fire training. It also restricts future sales of ammunition magazines to no more than 10 rounds, with some exceptions.

IP18 – The goal of the **Reduction of Harm From Weapons Act** is to stop proliferation of assault weapons.

Ms. Eckstein encouraged everyone to donate and to visit the Web site to sign up as a signature gatherer. She asked people to email her directly to coordinate signature gathering and requests input on locations: deckstein16@gmail.com

**Oregon Congressional District 4 Candidate: Commissioner Val Hoyle**

Oregon State Bureau of Labor and Industries Commissioner Val Hoyle described her background in business, labor, and politics in Oregon. She emphasized that she would be responsive to the needs of 250 miles of Oregon Coast now part of District 4. She noted her support for a deep-water port in Coos Bay to help the local economy and reduce truck traffic; making sure federal infrastructure bill funding gets to coast—in particular the need for dam replacement; and her concerns over the cost of housing on the coast. She stated that she supports local control in solving problems and advocates for quality, affordable health care.

Chair Gaskill asked if Commissioner Hoyle would commit to not accepting fossil fuel money and what her plan is on fighting climate change. She responded that she would personally commit to Chair Gaskill that she would not accept fossil fuel money. Regarding climate change, she stated that first Democrats must be elected; we need to discard the jobs vs. environment framework; we need to have clear labor and apprenticeship standards; and we must invest in renewable infrastructure. She noted that she is the only candidate in the legislature who voted to prohibit offshore drilling, and that her team includes an environmental kitchen cabinet.

Marion Mann asked via the chat how Commissioner Hoyle plans to deal with threats, intimidation and pressure exerted by the opposite party. Hoyle responded that such threats are not new to her because of her past support for gun background checks, and she has had security assessments completed for her home.

Martin Desmond asked, “Here in Lincoln County, a number of us have assembled a climate action plan that would move Lincoln County towards becoming carbon neutral by 2035. Most recently, our local group has been meeting with the Lincoln County Commissioners to ask that they place a climate straw vote on the ballot that would ask this question: Should Lincoln County residents and businesses adopt a voluntary goal to become carbon neutral by 2035. Would you support the placing of this climate straw vote for Lincoln County on the November ballot?” Commissioner Hoyle responded yes, that she supports community solutions and stated that “the more things we can bring to a vote, the more things people weigh in on, the better.”

Secretary Carol Shenk noted that in addition to the housing shortage, an obstacle for people who want to work on the coast is the lack of childcare. Commissioner Hoyle stated that she supports this element of President Biden’s Build Back Better plan and agrees with him that people shouldn’t have to spend more than 7% of their income on daycare. But she noted it is also important to pay a living wage to child care workers.

Ben Goodlad asked, “What are some of your solution-based ideas for addressing homelessness?” Commissioner Hoyle answered she supports investigating housing

discrimination across the state, rent stabilization, HUD programs, and investments in different types of housing. She stated that she would advocate for funds to come to local communities for them to determine appropriate spending.

Jayden Fire asked, “where has the Democratic Caucus of the legislature fallen short in fighting for everyday citizens?” Commissioner Hoyle responded that she recognized that vulnerable people, people with less money, have less of a voice in legislatures than do lobbyists. At the same time she is proud of what the Democrats have accomplished and supports their platform.

County Commissioner Kaety Jacobson asked, “I look at our federal delegation (and our state delegation for that matter) as partners in trying to move Lincoln County forward, get funding for various projects and to help solve federal agency issues that impact our local community. How do you intend to communicate with and collaborate with local government?” Commissioner Hoyle responded that she is aware of the history of the coast not feeling heard by its Congressperson and that she commits to regularly visiting all six counties in the district, keeping in contact with local elected leaders, and holding town halls.

Jay Almarode asked, “At the state level, you've been a leader in attempts to get the corrupting influence of money out of politics. Do you have any ideas on how you may carry this forward in Congress to try to limit or prevent dark money contributions, support publicly funded elections, or other means of campaign finance reform?” Commissioner Hoyle responded that she objects to the Citizens United Ruling, which she is committed to overturning, and she stated that “publicly funded campaigns are the only way we can equalize access to the ballot.”

More information on her campaign can be found at <https://www.ValHoyle.com>

### **Report from Representative David Gomberg**

Representative Gomberg reported that this is an unusual short session. Because so much money is coming into Oregon, there is a lot of work to do. He said that his GOP colleagues want to postpone action until the next session. Big issues right now are the Governor’s work force proposal, a proposal to require overtime for agricultural workers, and a bonus to essential workers. His concern about the last item is that he feels it is unfair to people who were forced to stop working during the pandemic. He reported on the progress of the Forestry Accord, which includes setbacks for spraying.

### **Report from Commissioner Kaety Jacobson**

Commissioner Jacobson reported on ODOT grants for fire recovery that is funding public access roads and housing projects for fire survivors. The state is looking at different solutions such as tiny homes and hotels. A well and septic inspection, permit, and repair program for fire survivors was very successful, and the state DEQ has reached out to expand into non-wildfire survivors. Commissioner Jacobson is also working on a county-wide septic program. There was a land use hearing for the new animal shelter at the airport site, which was approved with conditions disallowing livestock unless under a

county-declared emergency. Commissioner Jacobson announced she is running for another term.

#### **Report from Lincoln City Mayor Susan Wahlke**

Lincoln City Mayor Wahlke announced that she will be running again for her current position in November.

#### **Report from Newport City Councilmember Cynthia Jacobi**

Councilmember Jacobi underscored that the affordable housing shortage is creating serious hiring issues in Newport for high-level jobs. She encouraged people to join local committees to bring progressive voices to the table. She noted that Secretary Shenk had been appointed to the city Budget Committee.

#### **Candidacy Announcement from Waldport Mayor Greg Holland**

Mayor Holland announced he is running for the open Lincoln County Commissioner seat. He described himself as a progressive candidate, and, as one of 58 out mayors in the U.S., he said he is proud of Waldport for electing an openly gay mayor. He also served as a councilmember for 12 years. One of his focuses is to help homeless people find services. To learn more about Mayor Holland's candidacy, visit <https://hollandforcountycommissioner.com>

Chair Gaskill announced that he will put together a candidate forum.

#### **Phone Banking for Democrats**

Danielle London, local representative for the Democratic Congressional Committee invited people to help with phone banking:

<https://www.mobilize.us/defazioforcongress/event/438733/>

The current campaign is to encourage non-affiliated people who vote Democratic to register as Democrats so that they can participate in primaries.

#### **CD4 Committee Member Jaiden Oquendo**

Jaiden Oquendo announced that there will be a candidate forum on April 3 for the CD4 seat. They are in the process of collecting questions for Democratic candidates from each county. They asked Lincoln County Democrats to compile the questions and send to them.

#### **Fundraising Event May 21!**

Lincoln County Democrats Publicity Manager Eliot Sekuler noted that there will be many candidate endorsements in 2022, and we will need to back up those endorsements with money. On Saturday, May 21, there will be a trivia night held at the Gleneden Beach Community Club. The Lincoln County Democrats Central Committee will provide pizza, and people can bring refreshments of their choosing. He asked for help from people who coordinated trivia events in previous years. He added that we don't know the future of COVID, so we will assume we can hold the event with vaccine and mask requirements, and will adjust if needed.

### **Report on the Democratic Party of Oregon Platform Convention**

Vice Chair Cherie Harbor described her participation in the December platform convention for the state Democratic Party. She noted that with Carol Shenk and Eric Sherman in attendance, Lincoln County Democrats were present of six different panels. She reported that this was the first virtual platform convention, which slowed down the process, but that the event still served as a valuable way to participate in development of the party platform.

Newport City Councilmember CM Hall noted that she is on the Stonewall Democrats of Oregon Caucus, and she thanked Jaiden Oquendo for their service there.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.