

Minutes
Lincoln County Democrats of Oregon
General Meeting
Wednesday, August 24, 2022 6:00 pm

Chair Michael Gaskill convened the meeting at 6:02 pm. He noted that this was the last meeting before the candidate filing deadline for the 2022 election.

Celebrating Passage of the Inflation Reduction Act and other Democratic Party Wins

Chair Gaskill stated that although the federal Inflation Reduction Act passed by Congress and signed into law does not include many provisions of the proposed Build Back Better Plan, most relating to climate action were adopted, marking the most significant climate action investment in history. Likewise, the student debt relief, while not what many had hoped for, still represents relief of half of student loan debt in the country. Gaskill reminded everyone of the passage of the infrastructure bill and the CHIPS bill incentivizing microchip manufacturing within the US.

Gaskill thanked Treasurer Wendy Gaskill and Publicity and Fundraising Chair Eliot Sekuler, as well as everyone participating for helping make the Summer picnic a success.

Gaskill also noted national movements to support women's freedom and access to abortion and birth control, including the recent success in Kansas in defeating a measure that would have taken away women's rights.

Newport City Councilmember Cynthia Jacobi commented that California Governor Gavin Newsom's approach to promoting Democratic Party values has been effective, and she encouraged a more aggressive stance by Democrats, fair criticisms with some humor.

Update on Candidate Endorsement Process

Chair Gaskill explained his proposed approach to voting on endorsements by sending an email with a ballot as soon as the candidate filing deadline is closed and the cities have all sent their information to the county clerk. Candidates need the full endorsement SEL form by September 12. There was a question of whether the endorsement decision will be made only based on the ballot result, or whether there will be further discussion. There was discussion over criteria for endorsement, and it is agreed upon that an endorsement vote, in a case where two Democratic candidates running for the same seat, only requires a simple majority. There was discussion over the risk of splitting the vote to the benefit of the Republican candidate. Mary Margaret-Hite felt that one candidate needed to be endorsed, and that no endorsement would have the same effect or worse as endorsing both. Gary Lahman expressed that he felt that it should be up to Lincoln City, but at the same time we needed to follow bylaws. Chair Gaskill invited interested people to follow up to continue this discussion.

Candidate Pitches

Lincoln City Mayor Susan Wahlke: Mayoral Candidate

Lincoln City Mayor Susan Wahlke explained why she is seeking reelection, stating that she is excited to continue the many projects underway that she has begun with City leadership.

She stated that she was elected to this position and that she is a strong candidate with a proven record.

Lincoln City Councilmember Riley Hoagland: Mayoral Candidate

Lincoln City Councilmember Riley Hoagland described his years as a civic volunteer, with experience making connections in the community and more widely. He emphasized issues and opportunities in public safety and health; economic development; cultural heritage, diversity, and awareness; creating a vibrant community; and environmental health.

Vice Chair Cherie Harbour invited questions to the candidates. Mayor Wahlke noted her success in filling vacant Council and Committee positions and the construction of new low-income housing. Both candidates responded to questions about housing issues, especially as it impacts the workforce. Wahlke described new affordable housing being built and planned, and Hoagland emphasized providing support for homeownership.

Newport City Councilmember CM Hall

Newport City Councilmember CM Hall announced that she is running for reelection and asked for support for her campaign. She described her commitment to the region and her appreciation for the community, and she listed her endorsements from a range of progressive organizations.

Casey Miller Candidate for Lincoln County Commissioner

Casey Miller described how his values aligned with Democratic Party values. He then responded to questions about what issues he would like to work on as Commissioner and how he would allocate work relating to community advisory committees. He was asked how his values differed from those of the Democratic Party and why he is not registering as a Democrat. Miller stated that he wanted to keep doors open by remaining unaffiliated. Newport City Councilmember Cynthia Jacobi asked how he would respond to the overturning of the citizens' initiative limiting short term rentals in unincorporated areas. Miller stated that he would seek to regulate STR's and that citizen action has shown the need for change in policy. Chair Gaskill reminded everyone that Miller's opponent is a conservative Republican whose policies would be bad for Lincoln County, and he stated that Miller would lead the county in a progressive direction.

Door-knocking for State Representative David Gomberg

State Representative David Gomberg's Campaign Manager Jonah Liden announced upcoming door-knocking events in Newport and Toledo.

Updates

Carol is seeking a potential replacement for her role as LCDCC Secretary. She also reported that the City of Newport is celebrating Pride in September and the Lincoln County Democrats may have a table at the fair.

Mary Margaret-Hite announced a privately hosted fundraiser for U.S. Congressional District 4 candidate Val Hoyle.

The next meeting of the Lincoln County Democrats will be a hybrid meeting at the Newport Visual Arts Center.

Chair Gaskill announced he would be hosting a Precinct Committee Person training on Thursday.

Judy Bowman announced that the Lincoln City Club will have a booth at the Senior Fair on Tuesday, October 4, at Salishan.

Griffith ____ announced himself as the new DCCC organizer in tandem with the Val Hoyle Campaign for our region.

Mary Margaret-Hite announced that there is a request to vote to appoint a PCP, Dave Haun. Mr. Haun was no longer in the meeting and the appointment was postponed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.