

**Draft Minutes**  
**Lincoln County Democrats of Oregon**  
**General Meeting**  
**Monday, April 22, 2024, 6:00 PM**  
**Waldport Community Center**

This meeting – in which all 49 attendees participated in person, as Zoom was unavailable – was called to order by Chair Cherie Harbour at 6:00 PM.

**Chair Update**

Chair Harbour encouraged the attendees to volunteer for one of our many committees. She then mentioned our intention to participate in the Newport Loyalty Days parade (May 3-5). She concluded her remarks by briefly introducing our guest speakers.

**Guest Speakers**

**Kathryn Benfield** (Candidate for Lincoln County District Attorney)

Apologized that she was unable, because of another commitment, to stay long but said she could take some questions from the audience. When asked if she was a Democrat she explained that her parents were Republicans and she had been too. The scales have since fallen from her eyes and she has been a Democrat now for several years.

**Greg Holland** (Mayor of Waldport)

Mentioned that he was running for mayor again in November and that the Lincoln County Democrats has supported him in his last two campaigns. He then provided an update on the many building projects underway, or soon underway, around town; most notably: Louis Southworth Park (just east of downtown at Highway 34 and Crestview), a recreation center and library adjacent to the park, the Lincoln County Animal Shelter (in the industrial park on south Crestview), and a new 300,000 gallon water tank that State Representative David Gomberg supported and helped realize.

**Ryan Parker** (Candidate for Lincoln County Board of Commissioners)

Began his remarks by describing his experience on the Newport City Council where he has, among other things, promoted improvements in the municipal water/sewer infrastructure. He is for sensible gun control and described himself as a LGBTQ ally and climate champion. He believes the county should seek federal funds available for disaster preparation, increase its support for its drug court, and expand its employee recognition program. In response to a question about homelessness from the audience he said that empathy should be our initial response and that every effort should be made to ensure that the homeless are aware of the many services created to assist

them, but, in the end, the homeless must exercise personal responsibility and try to help themselves.

**Ty Halbrook** (Candidate for Lincoln County Board of Commissioners)

Began his comments by briefly summarizing his background as a mental health worker; he then went on to say that he lives outside of Waldport and that this has given him an insight into the concerns of county residents who live outside of its cities. His priorities are: fiscal responsibility, providing first responders with the support they need, and increasing the stock of low-income housing that would be made available not just for those falling below federal poverty standards (which are much too low). He mentioned, in passing, that the county might be able to save money if those sentenced to perform community service, could carry out backpack spraying of herbicides in forested areas.

**Budget**

The current bank balance is \$8,480.50. Approximately \$2,000 has already been spent this year on campaign expenses. In answer to a question from the audience, it was pointed out that we receive about \$100 a month in donations.

**Committee Reports**

**Coordinated Campaign Committee** (Lisa Spence-Bunnett)

Mentioned the effectiveness of the Neighborhood Leader Program (NLP) and its importance in this year's elections. She described our county-wide NLP efforts and said that the 18 Neighborhood Leaders who have volunteered so far have committed to contacting 15% of the Democratic voters in Lincoln County. This group, she said, is "small but mighty" but we need more volunteers for the general election. She reiterated that Neighborhood Leaders need only contact other Democrats and that this can be accomplished by phoning, sending postcards, or canvassing door to door. She closed her comments by drawing attention to David Pepper's important book *Saving Democracy*, in which he demonstrates how local activism can influence national elections.

**Communications Committee** (Lynetta Richardson)

Pointed out that you can sign up to receive our LC Dems newsletter at our web site.

**Technology Committee** (Judy Bowman)

Be sure to contact Judy if you have anything (and don't forget photos) that could be added to our web site.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the March 20, 2024, meeting were approved unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Chair Harbour adjourned the meeting at 7:13 PM.