

Benton County Democrats Executive Committee Meeting (Special)
Online meeting via Zoom

05/20/2020

Attendance: Shir Regev, Justin Raffa, Judi Johannesen, Carl Baker, Kendall Miller, Alisha Victorine, Jessica Wadsworth, Kate Moran, Sabastian Marichalar, and Micki McKinley.

Meeting to order, 6:15 PM

Agenda:

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Candidate Endorsements
- 3) Adjourn

Candidate Endorsements

Motion to endorse Justin Raffa for Benton County Commissioner District 1. Seconded.

Justin's path to being a local candidate has been many years in the making. Many times I've been approached about doing this and in the past I've always put it off by saying that the time was not right for me. But this time he couldn't say that anymore. The leadership situation in Benton County has become so challenging to ignore for any longer. He's spent many years working in the non-profit arena. In that work, he's always tried to use his art to encourage people to be better human beings all around. He chose to run in this race because he sees the need to have candidates that advance Democratic values and that often isn't the case in our region. The other candidates who have filed for this position are all Republican, male, and white. He's always wanted to see diversity amongst our leadership and did not think it appropriate to contest against folks who had less privilege than he did. In this race, he doesn't see his unearned privilege as something that would give him any sort of unfair advantage. We have seen lots of challenges with the Benton County leadership in transparency and access. Meetings are held at a time that inhibits citizen attendance. He wants to bring transparency and integrity into the county leadership. He has served as a lead staff member in the non-profit sector for almost 20 years. His roles have included oversight of organizations, budget development, and accountability to numerous stakeholders. He's ready to help our county govern with thoughtfulness, compassion, and integrity. He will work to properly fund the health district, create video archives of public meetings, permit public comment under all circumstances, and rekindle our fractured relationships with neighboring jurisdictions.

In discussion, questions were asked of Justin.

Q: While it's clear that the Commission is aggressively limiting public comment, I've seen some links to some recordings of commissioner meetings on their website. Have you seen that?

A: My understanding is that there are audio recordings of some meetings available. I'm intentionally using the "video" modifier when describing the type of recording for which I'm advocating. Seeing people as they speak with body language and facial expressions and having a better understanding of

who is talking and when is important for our inhabitants. I understand that the only routine recordings are audio. The only video presentations available are if you tune into their live-streaming at the time the meeting is taking place.

Motion carried.

Justin is still in process of establishing the campaign bank account and completion of his PDC filing. Skye White will be his treasurer.

Shir Regev is running for the Position 1 legislator in the 8th Legislative District. Her opponent is the incumbent, Brad Klippert.

Motion to endorse Shir Regev for State Legislator Position 1 for the 8th Legislative District.

Seconded.

Carried.

Adjourned at 6:40 PM