

## **Benton County Democrats General Meeting**

### **Online via Zoom**

**07/22/2021**

### **Call to order**

**Motion to approve agenda, seconded, approved by all**

### **Secretary's Report (Julie)**

Not present, zoom recording not available to create minutes. Looking for input from the meeting to help fill in the minutes.

### **Treasurer's Report & Communication (Durga)**

### **Chair (Judi)**

Judi got on local TV. She had more time than the people at John Dam Plaza. The TV person was Ellie.

### **VC1 & Organization (Allison)**

A new set of training from the State. Votebuilder training especially.

### **VC2 (Dori)**

No report

### **SCM #1 (Shir)**

The 8th LD had met with state last week. There are likely-party groups we can target such as No-Data, etc. Purged voters. Dems who didn't vote. Local party can opt into 1 of 4 state programs. It's being done to prepare for 2022. Rural and Ag Summit later this week. Also hoping to step away from Vice-chair of the 8th. Shir is resigning as SCM-1.

### **SCM #2 & Young Democrats (Sabastian)**

Not present

### **Events (Carl)**

March for Medicare for all Saturday July 24 at 3 at John dam plaza (includes opportunity to sign I-1362)

Tri-City Dems meeting August 13 potluck - Separation of Church and State

TCD&IC August 7 - Faith and Cultures event

Benton County Fair

Signup - <https://signup.com/go/cZqHTeC>

Call for pictures, photo editor, furniture, parade walkers, candy buyers

Draft an entry announcement (used the second paragraph from our platform document)

Potential Miller dinner?

## **Elections (Justin)**

The elections committee has conducted interviews with the following candidates in two person races that will automatically advance to the General—

- Elizabeth Vann Clark, Semi Bird Richland School Board Pos 3
- Ben Griggs, Rick Jansons Richland School Board Pos 2
- Maricela Sanchez Prosser City Council Pos 2
- Josh Skipper Kinna-Benton School Board District 2 unopposed
- Gail Brown West Richland City Council Pos 3
- Michael Alvarez, Richland City Council Pos 7

Ben Griggs formally asked for a recommendation. The committee elected NOT to make a recommendation in this race and will not be asking this body for any recommendations during the Primary election season

The following candidates declined our invitation to interview—

- Ryan Lukson, City of Richland Pos 4
- Ken Hohenberg, Port of Kennewick Commissioner unopposed
- Brent Gerry, West Richland Mayor

Attended the Benton County Republican Party meeting on July 1. They have done two rounds of endorsements for current non partisan election cycle which can be viewed on their Facebook page

Our response to the Tri-City Herald's op ed about partisan meddling in local nonpartisan elections was printed on July 4. I have remained in touch with Cameron Probert and Annette Cary about elections related issues I've observed.

Hosted a candidate meet and greet fundraiser at my home on July 8 for Danica Garcia, candidate for RSD Board Pos 1, for a target audience of area arts teachers and non profit arts leaders.

Attended the Tri-City Democrats second candidate forum round on July 9

The non GOP-backed school board candidates held a candidate forum on July 11 at the HAPO Stage in John Dam Plaza

Will be attending a fundraiser for Ginger Wireman, Richland City Council Pos 4 candidate, this Sunday at the home of Randy & Bob Slovic

Many voter guide materials are now available, including the Benton County Auditor's Voters' Guide both online and in print, the League of Women Voters of Benton & Franklin Counties candidate forums, the Tri-City Regional Chamber candidate forums and questionnaires, the League of Women Voters 411 Elections Guide, Tumbleweird candidate questionnaires, a number of articles from the Tri-City Herald, and several videos from local news stations.

Candidates need our help for one last push leading up to the Primary. I talk with many of them regularly and can help get you signs if needed. They are having a lot of issues with disappearing

signs more than usual for this election cycle. They also need help boosting FB algorithms, so follow their campaign pages, like, comment, and share their posts.

### **Resolutions (Kitty)**

Awaiting more information on agri-voltaics resolution.

### **Labor (Jessica)**

Not present

### **8th LD (Chris)**

Not present

### **16th LD**

Not present

### **New Business**

We will only chase ballots after 8/3.

The 8th LD will have a general meeting on 8/26.

The Party can recommend people to observe the ballot counting.

### **Old Business**

The lease for Uptown Theater. Problems with finding an alternative meeting place.

Motion to sign the lease. Justin Raffa commented that venues are hard. Uptown Theater hosts all kinds of events even though it is owned and operated by a Christian church.

### **Good of the Order**

Many good Democrats have passed. It was suggested that we have a Memoriam page on the website. Some recent passings include: Floyd Hodges, Ann Eaton, Bob Parazin, Naomi Scherer, Adra Johnson

The Scout Energy Wind project is still moving forward.

Justin Raffa will do a venue search for us.

**Moved to adjourn, seconded, approved by all**