

**LCDCC October 13, 2020 VIA ZOOM**

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Call to Order and Introductions: Quinlan O'Connor (Chair)

- **Quinlan** called the meeting to order at **7 PM** via Zoom. Quinlan welcomed all, and asked for introductions. In attendance (by ZOOM identification): Shawn Whyte (Treasurer), Carol and Mark Mackin, Tonia Bossell (Vice Chair), Kate Dramstad, Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell, Rep. Moffie Funk, Rep. Mary Caferro, Sen. Jill Cohenour and Joe Cohenour, Kev Hamm, Catherine Scott,) Tom Rolfe (for County Commission), Shani Henry, Erin Vang, Sacha Baniel-Stark, Lori Hamm.
- Per the agenda, two speakers addressed the group prior to usual business.

Speaker: Tom Rolfe for Lewis and Clark County Commission

- **Mr. Rolfe** is running in this newly non-partisan race. He grew up in Bozeman and has lived in this county for more than 30 years. Like his opponent, he identifies as a Republican, and has served as one in the Legislature. However, Tom said he listens to all sides, doesn't have a pre-set agenda, does research, and can disagree without being disagreeable while working toward solutions. See <https://www.tomrolfe.vote/>
- In contrast, his opponent is a "Tea Party" Republican managed by a party operative. Tom's opponent actually received the most votes in the primary that eliminated more progressive candidates. Previous Democratic commissioner Mike Murray and other Democrats support Tom.
- Mr. Rolfe asked for questions. **Rep. Dunwell** said she received good advice from Tom about communicating with Republicans when she first ran. She noted his advocacy work with NAMI, and asked his plans to address mental health. Tom said a place to serve those in crisis is a priority. **Rep. Funk** mentioned that John Ilgenfritz of LCCDCC endorsed him. Tom said bipartisanship is essential. **Rep. Caferro** said she worked with Tom in Kiwanis, and he displayed her yard sign. **Mark** asked if he was willing to move some law enforcement funds to mental health. Tom said he supports a mental health emphasis in law enforcement, and that restorative justice saves money. **Linda** asked about the controversy over the proposed county zoning plan. Tom said he had been to all 7 public meetings and proponents had failed to build public support. In his experience as a salesman, he would try to learn what the public really wants (which is not necessarily what they are asking for), and then work for compromise.
- **UPDATE:** Tom won with 53% of the vote and 47% for his opponent.

Speaker: Sacha Baniel-Stark, MDP director of voter protection)

- **Sacha** shared the MDP plan to make voting smooth and successful. It is important that voters not be discouraged by impediments to voting. There is a 15- person voter protection team statewide prepared for rapid response, and litigation if necessary. Additional volunteers (200 to 300) are being recruited and trained to observe and protect the vote.
- Sacha noted that the Board of Elections in Lewis and Clark is one of the most efficient and organized. In some counties, Republicans are sending people in force to election sites and making voters uncomfortable. In this area, only Powell and Broadwater counties will have polling place elections on November 3.

- The site 406votes.com has extensive information about voting locations and ballot drop boxes in each county. There is also a voter protection hotline (406-272-4046) which has received many calls. **Kate** noted that she is volunteering on the hotline. Montana allows “official” ballot drop boxes if attended by two election judges.

Minutes and Financials: Group

- Secretary **Linda Beischel** submitted September minutes to the chair, who posted the link on ZOOM. **Jill** moved, **Shawn** seconded to approve. MMSC.
- Treasurer **Shawn Whyte** submitted her report of approximately \$3300 in checking, including receipt of additional contributions. Shawn noted that funds to candidates are in the process of dispersal. See the minutes for the August 2020 meeting where a motion was passed to donate **\$499** to each of 6 state-wide candidates (Governor, Auditor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Supt. of Public Instruction, and Kathleen Williams) as well as **\$250** for each local legislative campaign (Funk for HD 82, Dunwell for HD 84, Scott for SD 40, Abbott for HD 83, Farris-Olsen for HD 79, and Caferro for HD 81). The group agreed to donate an additional \$1800 to the Montana Democratic party, to be split evenly in support of the campaigns of statewide campaigns.

Business: Update on outreach and social media

- **Quinlan** noted that ads featuring the slate of local Democratic candidates were running on Facebook. Recorded interviews with these candidates can be found on the LCCDCC website at <http://www.lccdems.com/interviews> and the LCCDCC YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq-kVL1GUGniKmtY-RwRx8Q>.
- **Shawn, Shani, and Tonia** noted that Friday outreach on the Walking Mall in September and October led to many voter interactions and yielded numerous sign-ups to the LCCDCC email list. **James** initiated this as an alternative to the Farmer’s Market table.

Candidate Updates and Requests for Assistance:

- **Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell** (for HD 84) introduced **Erin Vang**. Erin declared a last minute write-in campaign (on Facebook) against Republican Becky Beard. Beard’s only opponent for re-election is a Libertarian. Erin is a Montana native and has successful careers and accomplishments in diverse areas from music to tech (see <https://erinvang.com/>). She is a “Damn liberal” but was encouraged to run by Republican neighbors. Since the deadline to file as an official write-in candidate has passed, her campaign is symbolic (this time). The group thanked her for coming forward and strongly encouraged her to stay involved and consider a future run for office.
- **Catherine Scott** (for SD40) said she would appreciate supportive letters to the editor (she will provide information). Contact her at 505-269-9829 or via her website <https://catherinescottformontana.com/> .)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM. **Next meeting (after the Election!): Tuesday November 10** at 7 PM via Zoom. Respectfully submitted, Linda S. Beischel, secretary