



## LCCDCC September 14, 2021 VIA ZOOM

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### Call to Order and Introductions: Shawn Whyte, Vice Chair

- **Shawn** called the meeting to order at **7:00 PM** via Zoom, welcomed all, and asked for introductions. Shawn explained that although Chair Tonia Bossell is watching, she is ill and asked Shawn to chair this meeting. In attendance (by Zoom identification): **Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell, Mark and Carole Mackin, Trent Bolger, Jan Clinard, Kyle Joiner, Thai Nguyen, Jacob Linfesty** (moved from Billings), **Kev Hamm, Tim Mielke** (with Kev Hamm for PSC), **Mayor Wilmot Collins, David Nielsen** (treasurer for Troy McGee for City Commission).

### Speaker: Wilmot Collins (for re-election as Helena Mayor, non-partisan election)

- **Mayor Collins** (<https://www.wilmotcollins.com/> , <https://www.facebook.com/MayorWilmotCollins> ) described his priorities for Helena as fully funding public safety providers (police/ fire), using the Helena housing trust fund to improve access to affordable housing, and continuing his work to reduce the number of unhoused in Helena.
- Wilmot noted that he is running for re-election to continue on the progressive track he started. That includes more investment in Helena's aging water, sewer, wastewater, and street infrastructure. He noted that "we have done good work", but citizen support is needed for his re-election.
- Wilmot asked for questions from the group. **Rep. Dunwell** asked about the Independent Record (IR) decision to "front page" a minor campaign finance filing error (that was immediately corrected) after an announcement of violation from the Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP). Wilmot noted that "we are doing what we need to do the right way", and that COPP had dismissed other spurious complaints against his campaign.
- Wilmot noted that he is focused on issues and meeting with the IR editorial board as well as participating in candidate forums with the Helena League of Women Voters and Hometown Helena.

### Welcome Sheila Hogan: new Executive Director Montana Democratic Party

- **Sheila** noted this was her second day on the job. She has always been a proud Democrat, and wants others to be as well. She previously served 4 years as head of the state Department of Administration, and 4 years as head of Public Health and Human Services under Governor Bullock.
- Sheila will be calling on us in the future to help restore Montana.

### Candidate/ Elected Official Reports

- **Kev Hamm** (for Public Service Commission District 5) at <https://www.kevinhamm.com/> . Kev reported that he joined the Montana Democratic Party on a driving tour to Lewis and Clark, Lake, Glacier, Flathead, Teton, and Pondera counties. He is getting support from non-Democrats in his campaign. Kev is requesting volunteers to help make fundraising calls for him. He is working with new MDP Director Sheila Hogan to organize a comedy tour of Montana this winter in support of Democratic candidates.

- **Rep. Dunwell** (<https://www.maryanndunwell.com/>) noted that she is running for Montana Senate District 42 (encompassing her current HD 84 and HD 83) and welcomes support. She reported that MDLCC has been holding monthly candidate recruitment calls with central committees and partner organizations, yet LCCDCC has not been represented. Shawn thought only one person per central committee could attend, but May Ann said some groups had several attendees. Both **Tonia** and **Shawn** said they would attend in future or arrange a substitute.
- **David Nielsen** introduced himself as treasurer for **Troy McGee** (for City Commission) <https://www.mcgeeforhelena.com/>. Shawn noted that Mr. McGee will speak at the October monthly meeting.

### **New/ Old Business: Group**

- Marches for Reproductive Freedom are scheduled around Montana on Saturday October 2. Helena's March is at noon at the Capitol. (UPDATE: LCCDCC had a table at the event and 16 attendees signed up for our email list).
- The MDLCC is holding a Caucus Quarry Fundraiser BBQ on September 19 (outdoors). House and Senate Leadership teams are speaking on the state of the Legislature and this upcoming election cycle and 2022 candidates will be introduced. (UPDATE: Information and link for tickets was emailed to the LCCDCC group on September 16).
- Last Chace Community PowWow is October 1. **Thai** said that the MDP was not planning to formally participate since this is primarily a cultural event.
- **Shawn** noted that the current wave of COVID infections necessitates virtual meeting via Zoom. Tonia, Shawn, Linda, and any other volunteers will monitor and discuss the COVID situation and decide when in-person meetings might be possible.
- Even though Cascade County Democrats did hold fundraisers earlier this summer, the group agreed to postpone in-person fundraisers. **Shawn** and **Tonia** asked for volunteers for the fundraising committee to plan events for summer 2022.
- There were no requests to fill vacant precinct representative seats at the meeting.

### **Minutes and Financial:**

- Secretary **Linda Beischel** submitted August minutes to the chair, who shared them in Zoom chat for participants to access. After attendees had time to read the minutes, they were accepted without objection.
- Treasurer **Jacob Torgerson** was excused to attend a funeral. The unchanged balance is approximately \$1900.

The meeting was adjourned with the acting Chair's thanks at approximately 8:00 PM. **Next meeting Tuesday October 12, 2021 via Zoom at 7 PM.** Respectfully submitted, Linda S. Beischel, secretary