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KNOX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 1, 2023 (No. 10)

131st Legislative Session Has Begun



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR KNOX COUNTY LEGISLATORS

Committee assignments for Knox County senators and representatives were recently announced. Comments from those legislators who submitted them by our deadline are also included.

Sen. Anne (Pinny) Beebe-Center (Dist. 12):

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Marine Resources, Chair

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Committee on Senatorial Vote

Rep. Vicki Doudera (Dist. 41):

Energy and Natural Resources

Marine Resources

Rep. Valli Geiger (Dist. 42):

Labor and Housing

Energy, Utilities and Technology

"The Labor & Housing Committee will be different this year. Due to the statewide crisis in housing availability, leadership has created a temporary House Select Committee. They will be focused on housing and Labor and Housing will be focused on Labor issues this session. I am very much focused on how we move Maine from a minimum wage of \$12.75 to a living wage... We are seeing the end results now..."

Read her full comments [here](#).**Rep. Ann Matlack (Dist. 43)**

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Taxation

Rep. Holly Eaton (Dist. 15, which includes Vinalhaven and Isle au Haut in Knox County)

Marine Resources

Rep. Stanley Paige Zeigler (Dist. 40, which includes Appleton in Knox County)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Rep. Clint Collamore (Dist. 45, which includes Friendship and Washington in Knox County)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Independent Rep. Bill Pluecker (Dist. 44)

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Chair

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The list of preliminary bills for the current legislative session has been published. You can view the [list by sponsor](#) to see bills sponsored by Knox County legislators. You can also view bills by [broad subject or department and agency](#).

One non partisan bill returning for consideration concerns electoral reform: the National Popular Vote (NPV). LR 183, sponsored by Rep. Art Bell of Yarmouth, would bring Maine into the interstate pact that guarantees the presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The League of Women Voters of Maine recently launched a new campaign in support of NPV as well as other reforms to the democratic process. More information can be found on the "[Maine Issues](#)" page of the League of Women Voters of Maine website.

MAINE DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Elections were held in January for the Maine Democratic State Committee (DSC) leadership. Bev Uhlenhake was elected DSC Chair. Prior to her election, Bev had served as DSC Vice Chair for two years. She is the former mayor of Brewer, Maine. One of her primary focuses will be supporting Democrats in rural Maine. The complete list of newly elected DSC leaders can be viewed [here](#).

MDP RUN LOCAL TRAININGS



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should run for local office? The MDP runs free, live, online trainings on how to run a winning local campaign. This training covers important topics like: direct voter contact, signs, mail, and letters to letters-to-the-editor. Any Democrat can sign up!

[Upcoming trainings](#) will be held on Thurs. Feb. 2 and Thursday, Feb. 9, both from 6-7pm.

JOIN US FOR THE FEBRUARY 14, 2023 KCDC MEETING

Please join your fellow Knox County Democrats at the

KCDC MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023

6:00 PM

ROCKPORT MASONIC CENTER

361 MAIN STREET

ROCKPORT, MAINE 04856

A separate invitation and draft agenda will be sent by email the week before the meeting. This is an opportunity to gather with other KCDC members and local Democrats to discuss important issues, listen to invited speakers, meet local elected officials and candidates, and conduct KCDC's business. Most meetings are preceded by a social gathering that includes light refreshments. All KCDC members and enrolled Democrats are all invited. Masks are optional. All meetings are now in-person only.

At our January meeting biennial elections were held for officers. Our Board members for 2023 and 2024 are: Zachery Annis (Chair), Mary Winchell (Corresponding Secretary), Linda Souers (Recording Secretary) and David Souers (Treasurer and DSC Representative). Bill Kelly was elected as the KCDC representative to the MDP Rules Committee.

OBITUARIES

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Pene Padden: Last month we announced the sudden death in December 2022 of our dear friend and colleague, Penelope "Pene" Padden of Rockland.

Since that time, her [obituary](#) has been published. Her family has informed us they are working with Riposta Funeral Home on a memorial service which will take place in the Spring. KCDC will share the date and time once details have been finalized. In the meantime, if you'd like to share your memories of Pene with her family, you may do so via the "Tribute Wall" link from Pene's obituary.

Bonnie Post: Just before publication, we learned of the the passing of Bonnie Post of Owls Head. Bonnie served four terms in the Maine House from 1975-1982, representing what was then Dist. 56. She is remembered by former KCDC Chair Arthur Dumican and longtime KCDC member Sally Merchant as being willing to help anyone and instrumental in maintaining an active Democratic presence in Knox County and organizing Headquarters for a number of years. KCDC will share details of her obituary and any planned services as they become available.

Please help support the KCDC's [mission](#) by making a one-time or recurring contribution of any amount by clicking the link below. Thank you!

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