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**KNOX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
NEWSLETTER
APRIL 1, 2023 (No. 12)**

April 11, 2023 - Plan to Attend the KCDC Meeting with Special Guest Reese Remington, Chair, Diversity Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee of the Maine Democratic Party (Zoom-only Meeting)

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The Knox County Democratic Committee (KCDC) will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, April 11, at 6pm, via Zoom.

Our guest speaker will be Reese Remington, Chair of the recently launched Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee (DEIB) of the Maine Democratic Party. She will provide an overview of the committee's goals and strategy, followed by a Q & A session.

Originally from St. Petersburg, Florida, Reese was introduced to politics and social advocacy work at a young age and hasn't looked back since. Taking her knowledge and passions from Florida, Reese applied that to her work here in Maine. She has been a resident and student in Farmington, Maine for two years and was introduced to Maine Dems when she became the Vice President of the UMF Dems and shortly after the President of Maine College Democrats. Reese is a proud young Democrat who hopes to cultivate permanent change within the Maine Dems and amplify the underrepresented voices in Maine!

KCDC has also invited our Knox County legislators to provide updates on the current legislative session and their priority bills.

All Knox County Democrats and unenrolled progressives are welcome to attend KCDC meetings. For this presentation, we've also invited Waldo and Lincoln County Democrats.

Pre-registration is required in order to receive the Zoom login and/or phone-in details. Register at <https://forms.gle/r1JujBsdF3ZYkTEp8> before Noon the day of the meeting to ensure access, or email knoxdems@gmail.com. KCDC will do its best to accommodate last-minute registrations.

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Knox and Lincoln County Democrats held a nominating caucus Sunday, March 26 at Medomak Valley High School to elect the Democratic candidate for the June 13 special election for Maine House District 45. The caucus was arranged and run by a joint committee of members from Knox and Lincoln Democratic Committees with assistance from Sean Smith, Chair of the House Democratic Campaign Committee. Forty-nine registered Democrats in HD 45 attended from Knox County's towns of Friendship and Washington, and Lincoln County's towns of Bremen and Waldoboro. Zachary Annis, Knox County Democratic Chair, was elected to chair the meeting. Kelli Whitlock Burton, Lincoln County Democratic Chair, was elected to be secretary.

Wendy Pieh of Bremen was elected as the Democratic candidate for the June 13 special election in House District 45. Wendy presented her qualifications and reasons for requesting nomination. Having served in the House before and being a member of Bremen's Select Board, she described the value of the citizen legislature and how important it is to have communication and experience with the municipal select boards and communities being represented.

Wendy served in the Maine House from 1996-2000 and again from 2006-2010. She served four years on the Marine Resources Committee and six years as chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry.

We have just two months before the election, so it's all hands on deck if we're going to keep this seat blue. We'll have more information soon and a link for how you can sign up to help with the campaign. For now, if you live in the district, you can help Wendy qualify for Clean Elections funds by making a \$5 contribution on the [Clean Elections website](#).

Stay tuned for more information soon!

Your Town May Have Upcoming Elections!

While elections for municipal offices are non-partisan, it is still important that we elect individuals who reflect the values of the Democratic party.

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contact your town directly. Click on the name of the town to be directed to its website.

[Appleton](#)

Election Date: June 13, 2023

Planning Board - 2 positions

Planning Board Associate– 2 positions

Select Board – 2 positions

Appleton Village School Board – 1 position

Five Town CSD School Board– 1 position

Road Commissioner – 1 position

[Camden](#)

Election Date: June 13, 2023

School Board (RSU 28) – 2 positions

Select Board – 2 positions

[Hope](#)

Election Date: June 13, 2023

Select Board – 2 positions

Five Town CSD School Board – 1 position

Budget Committee – 1 position

School Committee – 2 positions

Select Board – 2 positions

Road Commissioner – 1 position

[Rockport](#)

Election Date: June 13, 2023

School Board (RSU 28) – 1 position

Select Board – 2 positions

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School Committee – 2 positions
Select Board – 3 positions

[South Thomaston](#)

Election Date: June 13, 2023

Select Board – 1 position

[Union](#)

Election Date: June 13, 2023

School Board (RSU 40) – 1 position

Select Board – 2 positions

Budget Committee – 4 positions

[Vinalhaven](#)

Election Date: June 13, 2023

School Board (RSU 8) – 1 position

Select Board – 2 positions

[Warren](#)

Election Date: June 13, 2023

School Board (RSU 40) – 1 position

Select Board – 2 positions

Focus on the November Ballot

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"An Act To Prohibit Campaign Spending by Foreign Governments and Promote an Anticorruption Amendment to the United States Constitution"

Ballot Question: Do you want to ban foreign governments and entities that they own, control, or influence from making campaign contributions or financing communications for or against candidates or ballot questions?

Although foreign governments are barred from contributing to the campaigns of political candidates, the Federal Elections Commission allows contributions for ballot measures unless specifically banned by the state government. This referendum, backed by Protect Maine Elections, would close that loophole in the State of Maine. Maine would thus join seven other states that have banned the practice. According to its website, Protect Maine Elections is "a nonpartisan campaign launched by Maine citizens from across the political spectrum for the sole purpose of passing a groundbreaking citizen's initiative to eliminate foreign influence and corruption in Maine elections".

The referendum would ban a foreign government-influenced entity from contributing or influencing a referendum initiative or candidate. "Foreign government-influenced entity" is defined as a foreign government or other entity in which a foreign government owns a stake of 5% or more or plays a role in the decision-making process.

The referendum is supported by a bipartisan group of Maine legislators and a number of outside pro-democracy groups, such as the League of Women Voters of Maine and Maine Citizens for Clean Elections.

Background Media Articles:

"Maine Prohibit Foreign Spending in Elections Initiative (2023)

<https://ballotpedia.org>

[/Maine Prohibit Foreign Spending in Elections Initiative \(2023\)](#)

"Measure to prevent foreign government spending on referendum campaigns makes 2023 ballot" <https://mainebeacon.com/measure-to-prevent-foreign-government-spending-on-referendum-campaigns-makes-2023-ballot/>

"Legislature, instead of voters, may decide to ban foreign influence in Maine referendums"

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Maine Secretary of State Resources:

Draft Question, Legislation & Proponent Information

<https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/citizens/index.html>

LTEs Needed for State Budget Support

As you probably saw, Democratic leaders in the Maine House and Senate on Friday, March 31, passed a "continuing services" state budget. This bill will avert the risk of a government shutdown and give leaders of both parties more time to negotiate new initiatives to be included in a final budget bill later this spring.

But Republicans refused to cooperate and are going on the offense, attacking Democrats, and making false claims about the budget process. Our elected officials need our support! Let's tell voters that we support the Democrats' approval of a continuing services budget. A government shutdown would be disastrous to Maine families and workers. Passing a two-part budget eliminates that possibility. There will still be plenty of opportunity to negotiate on remaining issues and programs before the end of the legislative session.

If you would like a letter to the editor (LTE) toolkit, which has recently been updated with talking points, including info on what's in the proposed budget bill, please email knoxdems@gmail.com or sign up directly via the MDP website [here](#).

Help Wanted

KCDC is looking for motivated Democrats to keep our organization strong! In particular:

Fundraising Team: We're working on our annual fundraiser and would welcome folks with experience in event planning, marketing, etc.

Technology: If you have experience with coordinating the technical side of things, especially sound systems or video editing, we'd love to chat!

Please email us at knoxdems@gmail.com to volunteer!

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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