June 2020 Volume 1

TCDC CHAIR'S MESSAGE

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ITHACA PROTESTS ON THE COMMONS

HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH

Message from the Chair

BY JIM GUSTAFSON

My fellow Tompkins Democrats, It's impossible to write a message to you at this time without a heavy heart. It feels like we're living through 1918, 1932 and 1968 all at the same time. It is especially hard not to feel discouraged, depressed and even hopeless in times like these, and yet, that's exactly what we must fight against! The political forces that we are up against would like nothing better than for Democrats to give up the fight for justice, equality and peace! The TCDC will not give up that fight and we have been making the changes that are necessary to campaign for our principals in the environment that we find ourselves in. The TCDC has moved quickly to adopt the technology needed to carry on our mission in this virtual world, as you have seen with our widely watched candidate forums. We are going to campaign with all the energy and vision that we can muster in this vital election year, and we plan to celebrate a new day in our country on election night this November. We know you will be there with us in this campaign.

June 14th Statement from the TCDC

The TCDC shares in the communal outrage at the killings of Rayshard Brooks, Tony McDade, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Stephon Clark, Philando Castile, Alton Sterling, Walter Scott, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Andy Lopez, Oscar Grant, and so many others, who died at the hands of those that are sworn to protect and serve. These killings are emblematic of the everyday harassment that black, brown, and LGBTQ+ communities face when just trying to live a normal life. This systemic racism has been ingrained into every aspect of American culture and must stop. We need to do better. We, as individuals and as an organization, have failed to take action on the horrors that many in our community face daily. It is time to end aggressive stops and searches, violent treatment of arrestees from minority groups, and brutal police suppression of citizens exercising their rights of free speech and peaceful assembly. We support the goals of Black Lives Matter.This is a moment in which the TCDC can make the correct choices, and we invite your input. We commit to doing the work to make our committee more welcoming and accessible to all people, including those who are currently not represented or underrepresented on the TCDC.

Photos thanks to Stacey Dimas

Vote in the Democratic Primary- June 23rd

VOTE FOR ONE: 125TH DISTRICT NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

Subjata Gibson

I am a civil rights attorney, activist, mother, professor and native of this district. I've spent my career fighting for the planet, for racial justice, for the people and I am ready to go to Albany to fight for you.
Sujataforny.com

Beau Harbin

I am a County Legislator, Minority Leader, Appalachian Leadership Institute Fellow, and Global IT Professional with a proven, principled and progressive record of leadership.
http://www.voteharbin.com

Lisa Hoeschele

With deep experience in healthcare, education, and community leadership, I am passionate about achieving healthcare for all, equal access to quality education, and environmental sustainability in New York State.
www.lisahoeschele4assembly.com

Anna Kelles

I am an activist, scientist, and public servant. The issues that I have been championing for years are issues that must be fought and won at the state and federal levels. I am ready, willing, and able to be your voice at those decision-making tables and to take my experience and our community's values and priorities to Albany.
https://www.kelles4ny.com/aboutanna.

Jason M. Leifer

I am currently the Dryden Town Supervisor, attorney, married, and father of two. I support the N.Y. Health Act, municipal broadband, a green new deal, and an equality agenda to address systemic economic, gender, LGBTQIA, and racial inequities.
www.leiferforassembly.com

Jordan Lesser

I bridged Ithaca and Albany as a key policy person for Barbara Lifton for the last 10 years. I will bring critical reforms to the structural inequalities in our society from the school funding gap to the gender gap to racial disparities.
www.jordanlesserforassembly.com

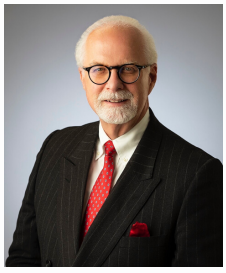
Seph Murtagh

I am an Ithaca Alderperson and have served as the Communications Coordinator for Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton. I am running for Assembly to fight for affordable childcare, public education, universal healthcare, environmental sustainability, and economic recovery that works for all New Yorkers.
https://sephmurtagh.com

VOTE FOR ONE:
TOMPKINS CLOUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

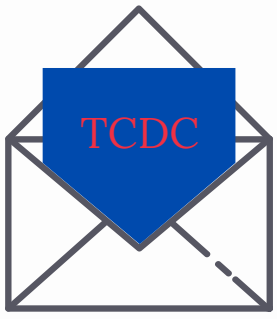
Matt Van Houten

Elected as District Attorney in 2016, I am a progressive prosecutor focused on alternatives to incarceration and decriminalization of lower level offenses while promoting public safety and equitable justice for everyone in Tompkins County.
www.mvh4da.com



Edward Kopko

I have stood up for constitutional rights for over 35 years and I am committed to fairness, justice, inclusion, and diversity. My passion and dedication to justice will guide every decision of mine as District Attorney..
https://www.kopkoforda.com



Save the Date

JUNE 27TH FUND RAISER 5:00 PM

VIA ZOOM WITH SENATOR SCHUMER

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

VOTE FOR ONE: CITY OF ITHACA JUDGE

Dan Johnson

I am currently a Tompkins County assistant district attorney. I have been with the office since 2006 and have worked in juvenile drug court, adult felony drug courts and Ithaca City Treatment Court. I have worked as a defense attorney and prosecutor for 20 years in New York and Colorado.
https://www.facebook.com/DanielJohnsonForJudge/

Seth Peacock

I am currently the Ithaca City Judge, a Cornell Law graduate, a 12 year ICSD/BOCES BOE member, and husband/father of 4. I am committed to treating everyone with dignity, respect, and empathy.
https://www.facebook.com/sethpeacockforjudge

Voting During Covid Times

BY STEPHEN DEWITT INTERVIEWED BY RENATE FERRO

This election season registered voters be voting for President as well as important state and local officials. The Democratic primary election in New York State is on June 23, 2020. Voters will be able to vote for a Democratic presidential candidate of their choice but also candidates for the NYS Assembly, Tompkins County District Attorney and City Court Judge if they reside in the City of Ithaca. Communications Director Renate Ferro sat down with Steve DeWitt, Tompkins County Democratic Election Commissioner to unpack the confusion that has flurried around the process of voting in the upcoming primary.

Renate: Thanks Steve for answering our questions about the election process this year. As I understand there are three ways that Democrats can vote in the Primary Election.

Steve: There are three ways to cast your vote for the primary election. These methods have been devised to protect workers at the polls and resident voters because of the COVID 19 pandemic. The first option is to cast your vote in person on Primary Day on June 23rd. The polls will be open between 6 AM to 9 PM. Voters can check on where their election polling place is on our Tompkins County Board of Elections website. https://tompkinscountyny.gov/boe/For_Voters/Where_to_Vote/Index_Where_to_Vote
The second option is to vote early between June 13th to June 21st. There are two sites in Tompkins County: The Town of Ithaca Town Hall at 215 North Tioga in Ithaca or the Crash and Fire Rescue Site at 72 Brown Road next to the Tompkins County airport. Hours vary so voters can check out the Board of Elections for full details. https://tompkinscountyny.gov/files2/boe/2020/EarlyVoting/2020%20Presidential%20Primary%20Early%20Voting%20One%20Up.pdf

The third option was designed to protect voters and workers at the polls in the age of COVID 19 pandemic. Governor Cuomo signed an executive order to send all registered voters in NYS an absentee ballot application. The confusing part for many voters is that in order to vote in the Primary Election via absentee ballot there is a two-stop process. All registered voters recently received an application for an absentee ballot. For those NYS registered voters who may not have received the application or have misplaced it, the application can be download or you can call the Board of Elections 607-2745522.
https://tompkinscountyny.gov/files2/boe/Forms/Absentee%20Application%2004232020.pdf
Renate: There are questions about completing the application ballot. Can you talk about the specifics on how to complete the application properly?
Steve: The state's constitution places limits on reasons that voters can cast mail-in ballots. Voters must designate a reason as to why they want to vote via absentee ballot. Governor Cuomo has decreed in his executive order that all registered voters may check the second box on the application "Temporary illness or physical disability" as a legitimate excuse in the age of COVID for any voter. The ballot also asks what election that the application is for. The application that you are completing currently is for the Primary Election only. Voters should realize that this application is only for the June 23rd primary election. By choosing the check box "Mail ballot to me," you will receive your absentee ballot through United States Postal Mail. The other important thing to remember is to sign and date your application before you return it in the postage paid envelope.
Renate: Are there alternative ways to send your application ballot to the Board of Election?
Steve: 1). Mail the Application to Tompkins County Board of Elections, 128 E. Buffalo Street, Ithaca, NY 148502). 2)Scan and email the application to elections@tompkins-co.org 3). Fax the application to the Tompkins County Board of Elections at (607) 274-5533
Renate: What do we need to know about completing the absentee ballot once we receive it from the Board of Elections
Steve: Once you file for an application, the absentee ballots will be sent out to you at your designated mailing address. All voters who do apply for an absentee ballot will get two ballots: one is for the Presidential Primary and the second is for State and Local primary elections. Both ballots should be filled out carefully. The two ballots should then be inserted into the absentee ballot envelope and sealed. The voter must then sign the oath on the outside of the envelope and date it. They then should put the oath envelope inside the postage paid return envelope and put it into the mail.Help for filling out absentee ballots can be obtained
here: https://tompkinscountyny.gov/files2/boe/For_Voters/Absentee_Ballet/Document14.pdf
Renate: What is the timeline for returning the absentee ballot.
Steve: All absentee ballots must be postmarked by June 23rd and received by the County Board of Elections by June 30th.
Renate: I understand that some of the polling sites have changed for those voters that decide to vote in person Primary Day, June 23rd?
Steve: Poll site changes for the June 23rd are as follows: Kendal of Ithaca changed to First Congregational Church, St. Luke's or Titus Towers changed to Town of Ithaca Town Hall, West Danby Fire Station changed to Danby Fire Station, Ellis Hollow Apts or College Circle con'd

Apts changes to South Hill Business Campus. These changes are for Primary Day Voting only.
Renate: When do you expect information about voting for the Village elections and General Election?
Steve: Voters can keep up to date on all election information and have access to sample ballots https://tompkinscountyny.gov/boe
Renate: Thanks Steve for reviewing some of the changes.

Stephen Dewitt, Election Commissioner
Tompkins County

A REMINDER THAT JUNE IS GAY PRIDE MONTH

A reminder to wear your mask.
TCDC Member Liz Hartman and her son

DON'T FORGET
Social Distancing
FROM THE TCDC

TC Democrats
tcdemocrats.org

Tompkins County Democratic Committee
1,082 likes
Like Page
Sign Up
Be the first of your friends to like this

@tcdems
Welcome back to Instagram. Sign in to check out what your friends...
instagram.com

TWITTER
https://twitter.com/TCDemocrats

Dates to Remember for Democratic Primary Voting

June 13 - 21	Early voting at designated polls
June 16	Last day to postmark application for absentee ballot
June 22	Last day in person to apply for an absentee ballot
June 23	Last day to postmark an absentee ballot
June 23	Primary Day- vote in person
July 30	All absentee ballots must be returned to the BOA

Questions call the Board of Elections (607) 274-5522
www.votetompkins.com

NEWS FROM THE TOWNS AND WARDS

We hope that all Town and Ward Committees will submit timely news and photographs for our upcoming September TCDC Newsletter. Here is a selection of news from June. Submit news to renateferroTCDC@gmail.com

The First Ward has not met since March when we had a meet up and Q&A with DA and City Judge candidates. We are actively looking for new members, particular those who live in our 3rd ED, and those who would be interested in taking an active leadership role, and those looking to run for Common Council in the future.

The 2nd Ward has been the site of Ithaca's protests in the wake of the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. We care deeply about the safety and well-being of all of our residents and support the protests that express outrage at the insidious racism in our country. We love our neighbors and celebrate the diversity of the 2nd Ward. We hope you will join us for this year's (Virtual) Southside Juneteenth Celebration, https://sspride.org/event/virtual-juneteenth-celebration-2020-southside-community-center-filling-in-the-gaps-black-consciousness/. To learn more about the history and importance of Juneteenth go here https://www.juneteenth.com/history.htm

Congrats to 2nd Warder Leslyn McBean-Clairborne for being elected Chair of the Tompkins County Legislature. We are so proud!

Town of Caroline: A proposal was passed by our Democratic led Town Board for a 180-day moratorium on site plan review. This moratorium will give the Caroline Planning Board the time it will take to complete our Caroline Comprehensive Plan. Public support for the moratorium was sparked by a sketch plan submitted for a retail store on Route 79 near Landon Road.

Town of Dryden: Village elections will feature incumbent candidates for Village Trustee, Dan Wakeman and Debbie Fisher.

Town of Ithaca-We are continue planning for the 3rd Annual Family Fun Day in Stewart Park, Saturday August 15 th from 10-2.This event, co-sponsored by The Town of Ithaca and the City of Ithaca Democratic committees,. is a fun way to get families out and engaged in local and state politics. The event is free and offers carousel rides, face painting, and games for kids while parents have an opportunity to meet the candidates for our local and state races as well as Town and City representatives.contact Yvonne Fogarty at Asia@lightlink.com for more information

The Town of Lansing has established a Broadband Committee to research and promote high-speed broadband/fiber-to-the-premises throughout the town. The Town has made face masks freely available at the foyer of the Town Hall and Town Clerk's office. The Lansing Community Library will start contactless curb-side pickup on June 15th. Simon Moll is running for the first time for one of two unopposed Village Trustee seats being filled this cycle.