

-dash-

February, 2022



Welcome to the February edition of -dash-, the Tompkins County Democratic Committee Newsletter. Our Newsletter's name, -dash-, refers to our intention to provide you with a "dash of substance" every month, from up to date information, election news, summary of the Tompkins Weekly Democratic View, notes from the National Committee and more.

The next edition of -dash- will be published during the first week of March.

If you have something notable to share or important dates for our calendar, please send to renateferroTCDC@gmail.com.

TCDC Democratic Calendar

February 10, 2022 Town of Ithaca Democratic Meeting, 7 to 9 pm via zoom

February 23, 2022 Town of Caroline Democratic Meeting 7:30 pm via zoom

February 24, 2022 Town of Danby Democratic Committee, 7:30 pm by zoom

March 3, 2022 Town of Ulysses Democratic Meeting, 7 pm via zoom

Photo Credit: R. Ferro,

February is Black History Month.

So many of our Tompkins County organizations join together to offer virtual resources to share for Black History Month. There are two events we pass on to you reprinted below.

The Greater Ithaca Activities Center is featuring 28 days of Black History Month. Everyday there will be interesting facts and information focusing on African American history. Follow GIAC on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/IthacaGIAC/>

Also, GIAC will be presenting the annual Black History Month Community Talent show virtually on Feb. 25th at 6:30 pm. Stay tuned for details and links! At GIAC, Black History Month is every month.

Also, don't miss activist and community leader Dr. Nia Nunn's presentation called "Black Consciousness Explorations in Ithaca." The free event will take place via Zoom on Tuesday, February 15 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and launches the Story House Ithaca's "Placemakers" series. [Story House Ithaca](#) is an organization that brings people together to share stories in all their forms. It is a project of the nonprofit [Center for Transformative Action](#).

You can register here

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckd--vpjqgE9VmGfjAoEfuE0ipDAF5LyqY>



Chair's Message

submitted by Linda Hoffmann, Interim Chair, TCDC

A Special Hello to Members and Volunteers,

On the evening of January 27 at the TCDC General Meeting I was elected to serve as the chair of the Tompkins County Democratic Committee. I accepted this position with a commitment to enhance the mission of our county committee with the recognition of the needed support of you, members, volunteers, and community groups. Being chair of the Town of Ithaca Democratic Committee and the Political Action Team provided me vast experiences and has fostered a strong commitment to being politically engaged.

I would like to extend to Stacy Dimas, our first Vice-Chair a warm thank you for stepping in under such sad circumstances. We know how proud Jim was of you Stacy, but also how thankful we all are for your leadership and unwavering abilities to organize under pressure.

As the calendar turned from January to February, the floodgates opened to finalize "Redistricting" across the local, state and federal

now the 3rd which will span the Southern Tier, Finger Lakes, and Central New York and appears to include Tompkins, and parts of Tioga, Cortland, and Broome Counties.

Tompkins County, in its entirety, will be included in 22nd Congressional District which includes all of Syracuse and Onondaga County as its base. But the district will grow to the east, west and south, adding parts of Madison, Cortland, Cayuga, Seneca, Ontario, and Schuyler counties. The State Assembly map is staying largely the same with changes in the lower Battery Park City and other areas of lower Manhattan. For more information and links see the article in this month's Newsletter below.

Stay tuned for the TCDC upcoming news on meeting the candidates, petitioning and primaries in the month of February. Also, a reminder to support and participate in the special events and activities in our community celebrating Black History Month.

Our county committee is defined by each of you as members and volunteers. Working together we can make great strides in connecting with voters ~ listening to their concerns, broadening our diversity, and building relationships with community groups.

Linda

Updates on Redistricting

submitted by Linda Hoffmann, TCDC Interim Chair

New York State lawmakers took over the mapmaking process after the bipartisan New York Independent Redistricting Commission failed last week to reach a consensus on new legislative maps for Congress, the state Assembly and Senate.

For more detailed information on the City and State <https://www.cityandstateny.com/politics/2022/02/takeaways-new-redistricting-proposals-new-york-state-senate-and-assembly/361442/>.

The Tompkins County Independent Redistricting Commission have held three of four public sessions for input on redrawing lines for local legislative districts. The remaining session is scheduled for February 22 in conjunction with the City of Ithaca's Redistricting Working Group. Sessions are accessible via Zoom and will be live-streamed and archived on the Tompkins County YouTube page. For those unable to join who would like to submit written public comment, you may do so by visiting the Tompkins County redistricting web page <https://www2.tompkinscountyny.gov/redistrictin>

To subscribe for updates from the Commission, visit: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NYTOMPKINS/subscriber/new?topic_id=NYTOMPKINS_10

Archived Sessions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAs8gXKaaKk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnoZiN9C5co>

Remaining Session:

Eastern & Southern Tompkins County (Current Legislative Districts 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14)

- Tuesday, February 22, 4:30pm
- Register online at: https://tompkinscountyny-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GYwiA9lxQXSPziSV4tvxFA
- View live or archived at: <https://youtu.be/Y45YJHv1rF0>

In late breaking news the Republican Party has filed a court challenge against the mapping.

<http://www.democracydocket.com/cases/new-york-congressional-redistricting-challenge/>

The TCDC Political Action Committee Needs a Chair

The Election of Linda Hoffmann as the TCDC Chair has opened the position of Chair of the Political Action Team. "Taking Action" is the central core of the Political Action Team which covers a range of activities in communications engaged across key elements, fieldwork, voter registration, writers, volunteer coordination, researchers and outreach to community groups and organizations.

An exceptional group of dedicated individuals manages the ongoing projects and tasks. The chair provides overall management and

essential responsibilities will vary dependent on the political calendar and the delegation of responsibilities which will be carried out in consultation with TCDC chair and PAT Members.

Does the role of chair pique your interest? Want to explore this further? Contact Linda Hoffmann at chair@tcdemocrats.org.

Poll Watchers Needed by Board of Elections

At our January 27th TCDC General Meeting Democratic Board of Elections Commissioner, Steve Dewitt, made a plea to all. In Tompkins County more than 300 people are needed to work as election inspectors and operate the polls on Election Day. You must be 17 or older, a registered voter in Tompkins County (or pre-registered if under 18), represent either the Republican or Democratic Party, and enjoy people and service to others. For more information please visit the BOE website

<https://www2.tompkinscountyny.gov/boe/pollworker>

Looking Ahead: The 2022 Political Calendar has been released

Here's a link to the recently-published NYS 2022 Political Calendar:

Take a look at the full calendar, but we are all anticipating the beginning of petition signing season beginning on March 1st and extending throughout the entire month of March.

Additionally Primary Elections will be on June 28th and Election Day is November 8th. Open this link for more details.

<https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/law/2022PoliticalCalendar.pdf>

Membership Dues for 2022

submitted by Lori Gardner, Treasurer

Dear Democratic Committee Member,

We have all seen what is happening in many Republican controlled states. Their transgressions range from trampling on a woman's right to choose to destroying our democracy by tampering with the electoral processes. With a Supreme Court that is undercutting human rights and control of the Federal Government at stake this election, it is critical that Democrats maintain control of NYS government. We must keep New York a beacon for democracy, freedom and equality. We must pick up as many Congressional seats as possible while holding on to the ones we now hold. This will require a lot of hard work and money.

Funds contributed by our committee members through dues provides operational expenses for the committee. These funds will help us maintain a campaign headquarters (COVID permitting) and finance a coordinated effort to support all our Democratic Candidates to help them get elected.

Your dues and Victory Club contributions are critical to this effort. We urge all of our members to give as much as they can.

2022 County Dues \$20

Victory Club 2022 \$122

Combined \$142

Please send your generous contribution to, Lori Gardner, 124 Old Peruville Rd, Groton, NY 13073

Make checks payable to TCDC

You may also pay online

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/tcdemsdues>

Additionally, please send \$5 to your ward or town dues for your local committee.

National Democratic Committee Training Opportunities

We need you. Whether you want to run for office, work on a campaign, or drive progressive values through local leadership, the National Democratic Committee is just a website away to provide the tools and training you need to be successful. Information is available 24/7 and all for free.

<https://traindemocrats.org>

Democratic Candidates Endorsed by TCDC

At the January 27th general meeting of the Tompkins County Democratic Committee, the body endorsed these democratic candidates for the 2022. Endorsements for New York State officials included Kathy Hochul for governor. "Governor Kathy Hochul prioritizes communities of all sizes and is a passionate leader who continues to embody true Democratic values that will make our state flourish," said Linda Hoffmann, Interim Chair of the Tompkins County Democratic Committee was quoted in a release sent out by Hochul's press office Hoffman continued, "We are honored to endorse the Governor for a full term and look forward to advancing the policies and goals that will make New York a model State for the rest of the country." (edited)

Additionally, Tom DiNapoli, who has been a guest of the TCDC on several occasions, was recently lauded for achieving a record 33.5% investment return for the State pension fund, protecting the pension fund by divesting from coal and oil sands companies while investing in sustainable and low-carbon opportunities, returning \$348 million in lost money to rightful owners, among other accomplishments.

Additionally, Tish James was endorsed by the TCDC committee for attorney general and Chuck Schumer for US Senate. On the local level, Maureen Reynolds for Tompkins County Clerk and Derek Osborne for Tompkins County Sheriff were endorsed.

Other regional and local candidates will be endorsed at a later date. .

Democrats Taking Action

Submitted by Linda Hoffmann for the Democratic View published in the *Tompkins Weekly* for February, 2022.

I am deeply humbled to be elected as the Interim Chair of the Tompkins County Democratic Committee. My political inspiration has been influenced and energized by the diverse democrats I have met as I knocked on doors, made phone calls, and listened to voters. Volunteering for local election campaigns deepened my understanding of local government and likewise has strengthened my political convictions. As the chair of the Town of Ithaca Democratic Committee and the Political Action Team, I have employed innovative, critical thinking that has allowed me to support new ideas and positive change. Collectively organizing communications, fieldwork, voter registration, volunteer coordination, and outreach were essential for our committee's success.

Being the newly elected TCDC chair, I would like to take a moment to honor Jim Gustafson, a friend to many and our former TCDC Chair, who passed away in December. His legacy is an exemplary example of the power of grassroots politics.

Who is the Tompkins County Democratic Committee? We are your neighbors in the towns of Caroline, Danby, Dryden, Enfield, Groton, Lansing, Newfield, Ithaca, Ulysses, and the City of Ithaca encompassing five Wards. As chair of the TCDC, we continue Jim's legacy, with a commitment forward to develop and implement an action plan to broaden the diversity across our towns and wards. With a focus on a unified visual map, TCDC members and volunteers join together "taking action" throughout the year. We are working together at the grassroots level with renewed purpose to engage new members and volunteers to discover new candidates for office, deepen representation across Tompkins County, and generate democratic progressive ideals.

Our mission for 2022 will be to connect to our democratic voters with a "Voter Engagement Campaign" to visit, ask and listen to concerns, then determine next steps for involvement. Building relationships is critical with other Tompkins County groups and organizations in establishing an active conversation of understanding. I am dedicated to seeing through these initiatives to enhance the mission of the TCDC and we need your help.

right or slimming redistricting, we will have a spirited primary for the State Senate race as well. Other state races will include our 125 Assembly seat with the re-election of Anna Kelles, New York State Governor, Comptroller, and Attorney General. The City of Ithaca will have a mayor's race and locally in Tompkins County we will seek to re-elect Tompkins County Sheriff, Derek Osborne and County Clerk, Maureen Reynolds. There may be other positions yet to be announced throughout the county, but we all anticipate an intense campaign season into November.

Take a few moments to go back to the visual map of Tompkins County. We are fortunate to live in a diverse and vibrant culture. We have rural and urban environments, rich farmland, fruitful vineyards, institutions of higher learning, a wealth of work opportunities, and rich cultural assets. The Democratic Committee is charged with "taking action" across our county. We invite you to explore the opportunities in bringing your talents, life experiences, new ideas, energy, and political commitment to the TCDC membership and volunteer team. For more information about us you can visit <https://tcdemocrats.org/tc-democrats/get-involved-in-tcdc/>

Bio: Linda Hoffmann is the newly elected Interim Chair of the Tompkins County Democratic Committee. She is the former Chair of the Town of Ithaca Democrats and the Political Action Committee of the TCDC. Her professional journey started in the field of Art Therapy, taking on an administrative role in a medical teaching institution, next launching into the field of fundraising in the non-profit sector and political campaigns. She has embraced a lifetime commitment to volunteerism locally with Vitamin L, the women's movement, Planned Parenthood and End Abortion Stigma.

TCDC Town and City Ward Reports

1st Ward as reported by John Johnson, Chair

As part of the plan to diversify membership of the 1st Ward Committee, John Oakley, George McGonigal, and John Johnson will take the lead in directly reaching out to residents of West Village, Cayuga Gardens, and Spencer Road beginning the second week of March. We will walk the streets and knock on doors. Other members of the ward may join as well. No date yet for our next ward meeting.

3rd Ward as reported by Ann Sullivan, Chair

The Third Ward held its first meeting of 2022 on Sunday, January 23rd. It was both lively and informative. Among the items we discussed were increasing membership, potential candidates in the June primaries, especially the upcoming race for a new mayor for the City of Ithaca. Our present and recently retired city councilors also filled us in on the progress of the Re-Imagining and the City Manager proposal.

4th Ward as reported by Gwen Guo, Chair

Ward 4 committee is watching redistricting plans with great interest, as we may be impacted by this. Our district is not large geographically, but it includes some student dorms and other high-density student housing.

Our new city council members are Jorge (George) Defendini and Patrick Mehler.

Please contact Ward Chair Gwen Guo at gnr3@mac.com for more information on the March meeting if interested.

5th Ward as reported by Jen Lyons, Chair

The 5th Ward Committee welcomes Ann Reichlin, who was seated on the TCDC during the general meeting on 1/27. Ann served two terms on the ICSD's Board of Election and has been a long-time volunteer on local campaigns. We are thrilled that she's joined the committee!

Deb Mohlenhoff's last day on Common Council was December 31, 2021, after serving our Ward and the City for 12 years. Deb was also Acting Mayor for much of her time on Council.

Rob Cantelmo was sworn in on January 5, 2022 to represent the 5th Ward alongside Laura Lewis on Common Council, as he takes over Deb's seat. He will chair the City Administration committee.

Laura Lewis was sworn in as Acting Mayor at the January 5 meeting of Common Council, a position she'll continue to hold through the

The Reimagining Public Safety Working Group anticipates submitting its recommendations to Common Council in March.

City Committee as reported by Ed Swayze

Svante Myrick, Ithaca's longest serving Mayor will step down from his position following the first City Council meeting in February. Current Acting Mayor, Fifth Ward City Council member, Laura Lewis, will assume the Mayor's position until the end of 2022. Council person Lewis has not confirmed an intention to stand for election at this time, but has not ruled out the possibility.

The Tompkins County Independent Redistricting Committee is seeking public input. City voting districts are included in the process. Join a TCIRC public input session here: [TC Ind Redistricting Com](#)

The City of Ithaca is heavily involved in Reimagining Public Safety study. City residents are encouraged to submit their ideas for consideration here: [TC RPS](#)

Town of Caroline submitted by Emily Adams, Chair

The Town of Caroline will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, February 23rd, by zoom, starting at 7:30. We expect to interview all 3 local State Senate candidates (roughly 30 minutes each), and we've invited the Town of Ulysses Dem Committee to join us. Other committees are also welcome! Our chair will pose a series of 5 fixed questions to each candidate (2 minute responses), each candidate will also get an opening and closing statement, and then there will be roughly 7 minutes for Q&A from viewers. (Ideally, questions will get posted in the chat, so that a moderator can sift through them and consolidate or summarize as needed.)

The Town of Caroline currently has no zoning and is in the process of considering the addition of zoning laws. It is a sticky situation and locally elected Democrats are asking for support from party members: If you hear your neighbors complaining, please encourage them to write down their concerns in detail, and make suggestions for better language or better formats or better boundaries, because everything is in an exploratory phase. Nothing has been decided yet and the zoning commission has not even presented its first proposal to the town board. We have enough stress and conflict in the world without people getting upset about what they imagine the possible new developments will be.

The Town of Caroline Democratic Committee has openings for new members and would welcome more input. Naturally, we will need members to help us support candidates and get petition signatures in March -- but we could also use new members to help us plan some fun activities. For example, we would like to host the film "The New Corporation" (see <https://thenewcorporation.movie/see-it/>) in cooperation with other committees or organizations. With some extra time/energy, we could organize a panel discussion and Q&A for after the film.

Town of Danby submitted by Pat Woodworth, Chair

The next meeting of the Danby Democratic committee is Thursday, February 24th at 7:00pm by Zoom. All registered democrats in Danby are welcome to attend meetings. Membership on the committee is open to any registered Democrat in Danby.

The local committee is ready to help with state and national elections this year beginning with gathering signatures on petitions.

If anyone has questions, please contact Pat Woodworth, Danby committee chair, at woodwrth@ithaca.edu.

Town of Groton as reported by Lori Gardner, Chair

We meet every first Sat morning at 10am on Zoom. We plan to give candidates an opportunity to meet with us, but probably not until after primaries.

Town of Ithaca reported by Linda Hoffman, Chair

The Town Committee is opening the year with the ToIDC virtual Meeting on Thursday, February 10th ~ 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; if interested in joining the meeting please contact Linda Hoffmann ~ chair@tcdemocrats.org.

"Notes of Appreciation" for Pat Leary and Tee-Ann Hunter who retired from Ithaca Town Board in December can be accessed at <https://tcdemocrats.org/town-of-ithaca/>.

Here are direct quotes from the "Notes of Appreciation" in honor of their public service.

Pat Leary

"The Town of Ithaca Democratic Committee is grateful for the service of Pat Leary, who retired in December after a total of 24 years as a

Tee-Ann Hunter

"The Town of Ithaca Democratic Committee would like to congratulate Tee-Ann Hunter on her retirement from the Town of Ithaca Board and thank her for her many years of distinguished public service. Tee-Ann served on the Board for over 12 years, after having served for 6 years as Town Clerk. During her tenure on the Board, Tee-Ann became a knowledgeable and accessible representative, often prioritizing residents' concerns in the formulation of public policy".

Town of Newfield as reported by Chair, Richard Driscoll

Newfield Democrats have been in winter pause since the November General Election when 2 incumbent Town Board Members, and the Supervisor were elected to terms of 4 years. The intrepid and valiant Vanessa Greenless who made a first toss into the ring of her new political hat, was immediately primaried and won handily. Not too soon after a Newfield Republican appeared from the shadows and launched his first go for the General. Lifetime local Randy Brown took the lead and kept it but the final count showed 8 year resident Greenlee close enough but no banana, 787 to 687. The banana would have been closer to hand but for Bob Lynch. He lost to Greenlee in the Democratic Primary but had declared as an independent and took 81 votes in the General.

The Newfield Committee hiatus will end with a meeting in early spring, date to be announced. Tasks at hand include giving ourselves an assessment with a view to begin a recruitment drive to swell our ranks by capitalizing on the success Vanessa made in turning out 787 Democrats. Vanessa ran 2 indefatigable campaigns assisted by volunteers from Enfield and Newfield and the Democratic Committees from each of the Towns. I also think that her choice for blazing her campaign visibility was boosted by the hand made - and stenciled - wood campaign signs planted across the 8th District. Fact in the ground pointing to her platform on advancing climate change at a local and individual level.

Town of Ulysses Submitted by Cynthia Mannino, Chair

The Town of Ulysses Democratic Committee meets the 1st Thursday of every month via zoom at 7pm. All Democrats in the town are invited to join us. Those interested should contact chair Cynthia Mannino. Thank you to our Committee Officers: Krys Cail - Vice Chair; Carolyn Kreisel -Treasurer, and Carissa Parlato - Secretary.

VILLAGE CAUCUS News: Congratulations to the Trumansburg Village Democratic Candidates! On Sunday, January 23rd, the Ulysses Democratic Committee held a caucus at the Trumansburg Fire Hall. The propose of the caucus was to give registered Village Democrats the opportunity to make nominations for the Democratic ticket in the March Village election for Village Offices.

Those chosen were: Rordan Hart, Mayor, Ben Carver, Village Trustee and Ben Darfler, Village trustee. If elected in the March 15th Village election, they will each serve a four-year term. The Village election will happen at the Village Office at 56 E. Main Street.

Vacant Town Board Seat Updates: It is so exciting to see that there are many Ulysses Residents interested in serving on the Town Board! There are 4 applicants for the vacant Town Board seat: Dorianne Allman, Roxanne Marino, Tom Myers, and Teressa S. Naylor.

Public Feedback to the Board: The public is welcome to give feedback on the candidates by sending written comments to the Town Board, via the Town Clerk (clerk@ulysses.ny.us) by Thursday, February 10th.

Appointee to be announced at special meeting: Friday, February 11th @ 8am via Zoom. The Board will incorporate into the record any feedback received from the public. As a reminder, the Town Board is not required to fill the seat, but may choose to do so at that time.



At the recent Caucus in the Town of Ulysses, Ben Darfler (left) and Ben Carver answer questions after being nominated for second full term and third term as trustees.



Produced by the TCDC Communications

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