

Chair's Corner: Evan Sorce, Chair, Marion County Democratic Central Committee
October 11, 2019

As we move towards 2020 and the next Presidential election, the Marion County Democrats are ramping up operations to get ready for the most important campaign of our lifetime. It is true that for a generation, politicians have said that every election is the most critical election of our lifetime. However, with Donald Trump in the White House, I think we can all agree that this is the most important of our lifetime.

So the question is, what are you going to do to ensure that Democrats win next November? At stake in 2020 is not only winning back the White House, which we must do. We also need to work to make sure that Senator Merkley and the rest of our Congressional Delegation return to Congress. We also have to work to maintain our supermajorities in the Oregon Legislature, and that we continue to elect progressives here at the local level.

President John F. Kennedy once said, "If not us, who? If not, now, when?" Now is the time to get involved with your local Democratic Party. One of the most basic ways that someone can get involved in the Democratic Party is to become a Precinct Committee Person (PCP). These folks are the most grassroots-level building block of the Democratic Party of Oregon. They are the driving force behind registering voters, supporting local candidates and helping Democrats understand the party's structure, process, and platform. A PCP is a representative of the party in their precinct and represents their precinct at the Central Committee meetings. You can become a PCP by either running for election in the primary election during even years, or by appointment by the Central Committee.

The Oregon Legislature made some changes to the PCP process during the 2019 Legislative Session to simplify and streamline the process. Changes include:

- Eliminate gender identity requirements to become a PCP.
- One PCP for every 250 voters, with a minimum of 2 PCP's per precinct.
- The date to calculate the number of PCP's per precinct is 251 days before the primary election. (September 11, 2019)
- The first day to file is 250 days before the primary election.
- The interested person can file in their resident precinct, or adjacent precinct, or any precinct in their State Representative district, within the same county.
- Write-in votes will only be tallied if the declaration or nomination forms have been filed by the deadline.
- A minimum of 3 votes is still required to be elected.

This election is too important to sit idly by. If you are interested in becoming a PCP or want to get more information, please contact our Membership Chair, Mary Nikas at membership@mariondemocrats.org or contact me at Chair@mariondemocrats.org