

Minutes of the Androscoggin County Democratic Committee

December 4, 2025

Edward Little High School—In person only

Chair Carl Wilcox called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. David Projansky led the group in the “Pledge of Allegiance”. Members and guests present introduced themselves.

Adjustments to the Agenda:

Snow policy: It was recommended that Carl e-mail people no later than 4 p.m. if the weather is inclement for the meeting day. If school is cancelled in Auburn there will be no meeting that night. No vote was taken on this item. (recommendations only)

Candidate Jordan Wood: (for Congress District 2)

Jordan explained that he is running to stand up to Donald Trump and to fix the broken system in Washington D.C. He has two major issues: to reform the political system in Washington, D.C. and Affordability. Under affordability he is concerned about our current health care system, childcare, and the cost of rents. He supports universal Medicare coverage. He also feels that we need to work with state governments to solve the medical care crisis.

Jordan continued by giving his background. He has a background in field organizing and in advocacy politics. He had worked in Arizona. He is glad to be returning to this area as he was brought up in Lewiston.

He has been having a series of town halls to meet with people. He also takes no money from corporate PACS or from lobbyists. His donations come from people in which he has received \$80,000. He will be having house-warming parties in Auburn.

Candidate Dr, Nirav D. Shah (for governor)

Nirav explained that his background was rural. His parents emigrated to Wisconsin in a small rural town of Medford (5000 people). He moved to Chicago to study at the University of Chicago where he earned degrees in both medical and law. He worked as a lawyer before realizing that he had to do more for people in the medical field. He was called while he was at the University of Chicago to head the Illinois Department of Public Health (a department of 2000 people) where he served for four years. When the governor he worked for did not get re-elected he knew that he needed to move on. So Janet Mills called him and he came to Maine. He was pleased to state that under his department work here Maine had the highest vaccination rate in the US. and also the lowest death rate from COVID. When Biden was elected he was called to Washington, D.C. to work for the CDC.

Nirav explained that he has several priorities: to fix the housing crisis, make sure that our kids are fed, to fuel up our economy, fight Trump, fund health care in Maine, and to help business develop more in Maine. This election is important because we need to work in the state for our rights. He has been working with people and heard their concerns about lack of housing (Janet Mills has stated we need

84,000 more homes). He would re-institute the State Planning Office to help with the need in housing. He would also like to see free community colleges for the trades, and a system of honoring those licenses of people who come here from other states so that the process is not so complicated nor drawn-out. He would also work to get teams together to work toward these goals.

After the candidates spoke the regular meeting commenced.

Secretary's report: Notes for the November 6th meeting: Cynthia Peters

It was moved by David Projansky and seconded by Jane Pentheny to accept the minutes for November. It was accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Roussel

The report for November was given. The motion to put the Treasurer's report on file for audit was made by Jane Pentheny and seconded by David Projansky. The motion passed unanimously. Dick Grandmaison volunteered to count the money for "Pass the Hat" collected at this meeting.

Report from the State Democrat Party: Alison Harris and Elaine Makas

Alison explained that the members had broken up into groups on the issues and were moving along well. One can go on-line to see the platform of the Democrat Party.

Elaine (in a written report) stated that there are 10 working groups—she is working on the civil rights issue.

Fund-raising: Elaine Makas is working on this as the chair of an ad hoc committee she is asking for volunteers to come up with ideas. The meeting should be only for one half hour or less. You can send her ideas via e-mail.

Caucus Updates Carl Wilcox

The state caucuses will be held on February 28 and March 1st in the towns. Each caucus chair for the 14 towns in Androscoggin County have been contacted. This year they will be cutting down on the number of delegates to the state convention (to be held in South Portland).

Report of the Audit Committees: David Projansky

David reported that he had conducted the audits of 2017, 2022, 2023, and 2024. He recommended that an audit committee be formed for members to serve for 2 years; then a new committee should be formed to serve another 2 years. The Treasurer audit should be done on an annual basis. The by-laws state that the audit should be done in January—he would recommend that it change to March or April. The Treasurer's report should be included in the minutes of every meeting. Any expenditures outside of the regular ones should be approved by the ACDC committee. He also recommended that the Treasurer try to find a free online meeting software service. He recommended that the Secretary's Minutes should be kept separately from the Treasurer's minutes--preferably by the Secretary. (currently the Treasurer has kept both of these records). He felt the Treasurer was very organized and had done a great job.

The treasurer Mary Roussel explained that she had taken over part way through 2017. She also recommended that the Lewiston Armory be contacted that we are no longer using their facility so that the facility can be leased to other people.

Other announcements:

Abbe Ramanan (Chair of the Lewiston Democrats) announced that the caucus for the Democrats to choose a candidate for the District 94 Seat in Lewiston (vacated by Kristen Cloutier) will be held on December 13th. Only Democrats living in that district can attend.

In February there will an announcement for people to serve on the by-laws committee.

Adjournment: On a motion by David Projansky and seconded by several people the meeting ended at 7:52 p.m.

Attendance: Members: Ed Bearer, Diane Grandmaison, Dick Grandmaison, Alison Harris, John Myrand, Alyssa Nile, Jane Pentheny, Cynthia Peters, Roland Poirier, David Projansky, Abbe Ramanan, Mary Roussel, Eric Samson, Carl Wilcox,

Guests: Dan Jenkins, Kira Leinonen, Cecilia Natale, Hal Phillips, Nirav Shah, Jordan Wood

