

Androscoggin County Democratic Committee

September 3, 2026, Meeting Minutes

- Call to Order at 6:30 pm by Chair Carl Wilcox
- Pledge of Allegiance
- People around the room introduced themselves
- Chris Beam spoke about how the Maine Peoples Alliance is jumpstarting a companion committee, the Maine Veterans Alliance.
- Carl Wilcox shared that the Coordinated Campaign office is now open on Main Street in Lewiston. On Sept 12 from 10-12, Hannah Pingree and Matt Dunlap will be speaking at the office.
- August Social was a huge success financially. Thanks to Sharon Vandermay and Alison Harris for soliciting items for the silent auction and for organizing the event. Thanks to Pocket Full of Mumbles for playing at the event.
- Secretary's Minutes June and August (no meeting in July): Jane Petheny made a motion to approve the June minutes. It was seconded and approved. Jane Petheny made a motion to approve the August minutes. It was seconded and approved.
- Treasurer's Reports – Mary Roussel presented the June, July, and August 2026 Treasurer's Reports. Roland Poirier moved to accept reports for June, July, and August - it was seconded and approved.
- Audit Report - Dave Projansky, Mike LaJoy, and Bill Coffin reviewed the reports. All recommendations from last year are being followed and it was a successful audit. The team made the following recommendations:

- Update the bylaws to move the annual review from January to March to allow for delivery of end of year bank statements
- Any expenditure outside ordinary expense should be approved by a majority vote in the ACDC meeting even if the Treasurer has the approval.
- Minutes should be included in the Treasurer's records

Elaine Makas moved to accept the report; it was seconded and passed.

- Henk Goorhuis spoke about a 501C4 committee called Healthcare for All Maine (HCAM) which seeks a 2027 ballot initiative to get the Maine Legislature to develop legislation to direct the establishment of a publicly funded system of Healthcare for all Maine residents. The group is seeking at least 67,682 valid signatures from Maine voters by the end of 2026. To volunteer, visit healthcareforallmaine.org/volunteer
- Treasurer's Recommendation and discussion of how much to invest on fall 2026 campaigns.
 - Treasurer reviewed our total bank balance and upcoming operating expense needs and recommends that we invest \$1450 n candidates this election cycle. Alison Harris made a motion to spend up to \$1450 on the Androscoggin County candidates this fall election; it was seconded and approved.
 - Most are Clean Election Candidates, which limits the amount and how we can spend.
 - Discussion how to best support Androscoggin County campaigns:

- Elaine Makas suggested two things: Set aside up to \$500 to buy postcards and stamps and have a postcard writing party to get seniors involved, and fund a get-together for the group at election night, for a party as the results come in, at Gippers.
- Jane Petheny noted that when she did a postcard campaign for No on One, handwritten postcards make a difference
- Cindy Peters is concerned about reaching people in assisted living complexes. Postcards can help.
- Holly Sysko supports handwritten postcards; can offer tips on streamlining as Lewiston Dems do so much. As there is a Republican PAC to spend \$40,000 on candidates; want us to spend the money on candidates rather than a party. Giving Shanna Cox direct funding is a good idea - she is very vulnerable.
- Jeff Harmon says handwritten postcards do help and recommends timing them to go out within the two weeks after ballots are mailed (Oct. 4) to impact the vote. He also recommended print advertising in Turner Publishing. Estimated cost is \$519 for ¼ page, \$700 half page, \$1000 full for each edition.
- Alison Harris suggested we spend up to \$450 on Facebook advertising. Would run multiple ads, grouping 3+ candidates together to ensure we comply with Clean Election rules.

- Elaine Makas moves that we approve the following; seconded and passed.

\$500 post cards

\$500 direct funding to Shanna Cox

\$450 facebook advertising

- Elaine Makas will head up the post card committee, Holly Sysko would like to coordinate with Elaine; Stephanie Parker (participating via Zoom) and Cindy Peters will help.
- Alison Harris and Diane Poirier will head up the Facebook advertising

Announcements

- Labor Karaoke with Troy Jackson at Baxter Brewing, Saturday Sept 6, 7p to 9p
- Bowser from ShaNaNa, will be here Oct 1 or 2 staying through Oct 5, will come to Senior centers to up to 5 events, including for Troy and Matt
- Oct 1 will be a televised Governor's debate
- Linda Dean - events for Labor Day weekend for candidates
- Chris Beam moved to Adjourn; seconded and passed