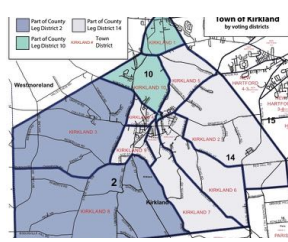


Vote!

Absentee, Early,
or Election Day



Local
Candidates:
Pages 2-4



BLM protest, June 5

THE KIRKLAND DEMOCRAT

Newsletter of the Town of Kirkland Democratic Committee



Gathering on the Screen, September 12, 2020

Thoughts from the Chair - Welcome to our 2020 Newsletter

Every time I set out to write this letter, the news comes up with yet another game-changing surprise. I don't suppose the pace of change is going to stop anytime soon, so we'll just have to accept that by the time you read this, we may be in a whole different scenario.

For now, we need to keep our eyes on the goal — turning out the vote to elect Democratic candidates at all levels of government.

The founders of Indivisible, Leah Green and Ezra Levin, sent out good advice in their newsletter October 4. As they point out, the polls show Biden comfortably ahead, but we



are all traumatized by 2016 — and that's okay; we *need* to work as if Biden were behind, just don't panic or give up in despair! "We're part of a multi-racial, multi-faith, cross-class movement that believes in an America where we all belong, and when we all join together and vote, we will win." *We* are the ones who have the power!

They have more good advice: "Don't reinforce Trump's messages, don't post on Facebook about how Trump has stolen the election -- that just teaches the algorithms to boost more alarmist content." Trump is *trying* to cheat and steal the election, but we will win by voting, turning out everyone we can to vote, and making sure that our votes are counted.

Don't expect a result election night; with the unprecedented number of expected mail-in and absentee ballots, it will likely be days before we know for sure who won the election. We should normalize the idea that we will have to wait; accuracy is way more important than speed!

The best antidote to your worries about the election is **action**. See the volunteering opportunities in this newsletter, and VOTE — while wearing a mask and social distancing.

Kathy Collett

Our Democratic Candidates

Anthony Brindisi is running for re-election for his second term in the 22nd Congressional District. Congressman Brindisi is a native Utican, graduated from Siena College and received his law degree from Albany Law School of Union University. Prior to his election to Congress in 2016, Congressman Brindisi worked in private practice and served on the Utica Board of Education and in the NYS Assembly representing the 119th District.

Congressman Brindisi's first term in Congress has been highlighted by his willingness to work across the aisle to insure that legislation beneficial to Central New York is considered. He consistently brings a dedication to bi-partisanship to enhance the lives of everyone in his district and this country. Congressman Brindisi's dedication to constituent services has enabled his office to help many local residents with federally related concerns. He is always willing to listen carefully to whomever needs his assistance. As he stated on his campaign website, "I believe working together is the key to finding solutions that can make a difference for our families and community. 95% of my bills are bipartisan, and by bringing people from both parties together, we have made real strides and delivered results for the district -- and we're just getting started."

Visit <https://brindisiforcongress.com/> for more information.

Rachel May is running for re-election as NYS Senator in the 53rd District. Senator May received her BA from Princeton and graduate degrees from Oxford, Stanford and SUNY College of

*Democrats in Kirkland,
canvassing in pre-
pandemic times, with
Anthony Brindisi*



*Anthony Brindisi with
Hamilton College students
and Millie, September 2018*



*Rachel May with
Kirkland Democrat
Mona Perrotti*



Candidates, continued

Environmental Science and Forestry. Previously she taught and was the SU Coordinator of Sustainability Education.

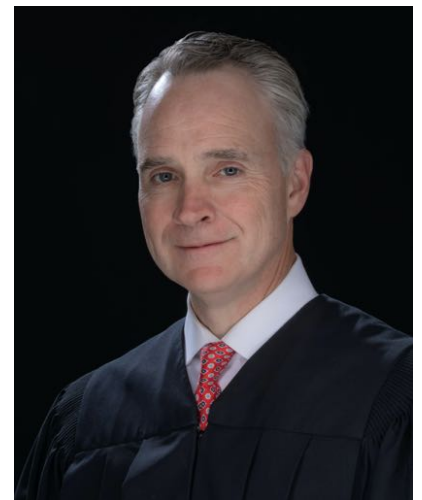
In her first term in the NYS Senate Senator May has become a leader in progressive issues: climate change, early voting, health care and education. In addition she has striven to educate urban area legislators about the unique resources as well as the divergent needs of rural districts.

Senator May is always extremely knowledgeable about all the issues that she must face, can relate warmly to her constituents and is always available to the residents of 53rd District. As she stated on her campaign website, "I am excited and honored to represent this dynamic and diverse region in Albany, and to chair the Senate's Committee on Aging and the Commission on Rural Resources. My colleagues know me as a fierce advocate for upstate interests and a thoughtful legislator. For my constituents, I strive always to be a good listener and a creative problem-solver."

Visit <http://www.rachelmay.org/> for more information concerning Senator May's legislative activity and positions.

Rory A. McMahon is seeking election as New York State Supreme Court Judge for the Fifth District, which includes Onondaga, Oneida, Oswego, Jefferson, and Herkimer Counties. Currently Judge McMahon serves as Syracuse City Court Judge, a position that he has held since 2011, and acting Onondaga County Court Judge. He is a Syracuse native and received his law degree from Syracuse University.

With over 20 years of legal and public experience Judge McMahon has served as an Assistant District Attorney for Onondaga County, Syracuse Corporation Counsel and Syracuse Common Council member. In addition he has worked in private practice and as a Commissioner of Aviation for Hancock International Airport. The wealth of knowledge and practical experience that Judge McMahon brings to the Judgeship will guarantee his success in this new position. As he commented in 2019 on Syracuse.com, "As a judge for the past nine years, I have attempted to consistently advance the cause of true justice in the face of evil."



Melanie O'Neil is running for a full term on the Kirkland Town Council. She was appointed to this seat following the recent death of her husband, Michael. Mrs. O'Neil is a native Clintonian and a graduate of Clinton Central School and Mohawk Valley Community College. She worked at Zebb's Restaurant as its head baker for 15 years and has been a Teacher's Assistant at the Clinton Methodist Church Pre-School for the past three years.

Mrs. O'Neil serves as the liaison for Parks and Recreation and is very interested in insuring the continued use and enhancement of Kirkland's parks and recreation facilities. Recently she met with people involved in the Kirkland Trails project. Over the years Mrs. O'Neil shared these community assets with her daughter and she wants all residents to have equal opportunities to enjoy these

outdoor/indoor spaces.

Her commitment to the Town of Kirkland is strong and she will ensure that it remains a safe and supportive place to call home through her work on the Town Council.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

How can I help with the November 2020 Election?

The upcoming election is considered by many to be *the most important* of our lifetime. As we confront a global pandemic, record unemployment, disastrous climatic events, and the erosion of democratic institutions, including a degradation of mail service, it is essential that massive numbers of registered voters make their voices heard on Nov. 3. We need to Get Out the Vote as enthusiastically and as strongly as we ever have!

Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, our usual Get Out the Vote activities have been suspended or moved online. We will not be canvassing door-to-door and we won't be distributing print campaign literature in person. In the past, Kirkland Democrats have been outstanding participants in these crucial election events. You have baked cookies and made signs for the Gathering; you have stuffed candidates' pamphlets into bags to be hung on doorways; you have distributed literature throughout the district; and you have made phone calls to registered Democratic and Independent Voters; you have hosted fundraisers in your homes and made generous financial donations. Your collective efforts were crucial in helping elect Anthony Brindisi to Congress and Rachel May to the State Senate. **THANK YOU!**

Even though our 2020 GOTV campaign will be different, we still **NEED YOUR HELP** in the days leading up to November 3. If you would like to volunteer with Kirkland Dems for such activities as calling registered voters in Kirkland, please contact Kathy Collett at katherine.collett@icloud.com.

You can also volunteer through Indivisible Mohawk Valley (<https://indivisiblemv.org/>), a local progressive political action group, which encourages volunteering to support the campaigns of Anthony Brindisi for Congress and Rachel May for State Senate. Please volunteer for phone and textbanking for Anthony Brindisi at brindisi.vote/GOTV or <https://www.mobilize.us/brindisiforcongress/>, and for Rachel May at <http://www.rachelmay.org/contact/>. Go to IMV's All Things Voting page at <https://indivisiblemv.org/all-things-voting/> for detailed information about voting.

For more information about how to help Indivisible Mohawk Valley, please contact IndivisibleMohawkValley@gmail.com. If you want to make an impact through phonebanking, textbanking, or letter writing for the Presidential campaign or Senate and House races in key battleground states, IMV also recommends volunteering with [Indivisible.org](https://indivisible.org) at the [2020 Windivisible page](https://indivisible.org/2020-windivisible-page), or directly with <https://joebiden.com/call/>.

Important Dates

Friday, Oct. 9 Last day to register to vote
Tues., Oct. 13 Climate Task Force Public Meeting, 6:30
 via Zoom; www.kirklandclintonclimatesmart.org
Wed., Oct. 14 Monthly Kirkland Dems meeting, 7:00 pm
Wednesdays Racial Justice webinars:
<https://www.hamilton.edu/academics/centers/levitt/speaker-series>
 or <https://community4justice.org>
Saturdays/Sundays Weekly Rachel May texting and calling
Every day Anthony Brindisi texting and calling
Saturday, Oct. 24 First day of Early Voting
Sunday, Nov. 1 Last day of Early Voting
Tuesday, Nov. 3 ELECTION DAY, 6 am – 9 pm

Early voting in Oneida County Locations:

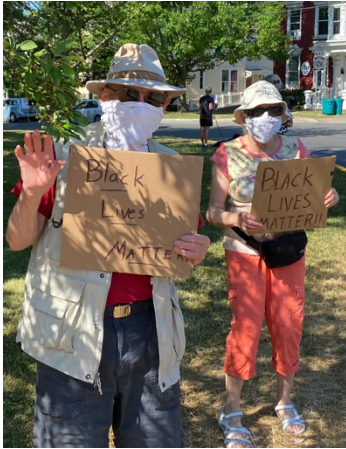
Vote at any site: all accessible to voters with physical disabilities

- Mohawk Valley Community College
Jorgensen Center
1101 Sherman Drive, Utica
- New Hartford Town Hall
The Orchards (Old Gander Mountain)
8635 Clinton Street, New Hartford
- South Rome Senior Center
112 Ridge Street, Rome

Dates and Hours:

October 24 – November 1
 Saturdays and Sundays: 10 am - 3 pm
 Monday – Friday: 10 am - 6 pm
 Tuesday and Thursday 6 pm - 8 pm
 (New Hartford site only)

**(If you vote early,
you cannot vote on November 3!)**



Black Lives Matter Protests

The Kirkland Democratic Committee joined nation-wide protests following the death of George Floyd when it held its first Black Lives Matter protest on June 5. These protests have continued each Friday afternoon (4pm to 5pm) since that day and draw a diverse group of protestors. The participants stand in silence, masked, socially distant, and display a variety of signs that recognize the Black members of our society who continue to suffer from police brutality and the devastation of racial injustice. Each protest serves as a reminder that the elimination of institutional racism from our community, nation, and world is the responsibility of every citizen.

In Memoriam

Town of Kirkland Council Member Michael O'Neil died in July following a brief illness. He was a life-long resident of Clinton and a Clinton High School graduate. Mike's commitment to the Clinton community was complete; he served on the Town Council for 13 years and in the Clinton Fire Department for 28 years, and was the proud owner of two local businesses: O'Neil Electric and Kirkland Property Management. Mike is survived by his wife Melanie, his daughter Stephanie and other family members. Our community is grateful for his dedication to our town and village.

Gathering on the Screen

The Kirkland Democrats held the 2020 Gathering on the Screen on Saturday, September 12. Candidates on the ballot in Kirkland spoke about their campaigns to the Zoom crowd of 35+ people. Speaking were Kirkland Town Councillor Melanie O'Neil; State Senator Rachel May; Congressman Anthony Brindisi; and Denise Murphy McGraw, a representative for the Joe Biden/ Kamala Harris campaign. Judge Rory McMahon, Supreme Court candidate for the 5th Judicial District, was not able to attend.

Arlene Somer, a past Kirkland Democratic Committee member, was posthumously awarded the Democracy in Action Award, which was presented to her children, who attended virtually.

The Kirkland Democrats shared information on voter registration, absentee ballots and early voting, volunteering to Get Out the Vote, and obtaining candidate signs, along with slide shows and a showing of a short film *John Lewis: His Last March*.

The Gathering on the Screen can be seen again on the Kirkland Democrats' Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/The-Town-of-Kirkland-Democratic-Committee-312056158978>.

Find us at <http://www.kirklanddemocrats.org>; donate at <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/kirkland-dems!>


Kirkland Democrats
More than Ever... Your Vote Matters
 ☆ Vote Democratic and Vote for Every Office ☆
Vote Absentee, Early, or Tuesday, November 3, 2020, 6 am - 9 pm

Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris
President and Vice-President

Anthony Brindisi
U.S. Congress, NY 22nd District

Rachel May
NYS Senator, 53rd District

Rory McMahon
NYS Supreme Court Justice
5th Judicial District

Melanie O'Neil
Kirkland Town Board

*First thing: check your voter status at <https://www.voterlookup.elections.ny.gov>

Three ways to vote this election. Make a plan and vote!

By Absentee Ballot - follow instructions carefully; absentee ballots can be deposited in drop boxes at all polling places during early voting and on Election Day
Or, in-person Early Voting
Or, in person on Election Day, November 3