

PLYMOUTH AREA DEMOCRATS
General Membership Meeting
October 25th, 2023

Attendees

Joyce Weston, Chair
Val Scarborough, Vice Chair, Absent
Jane Helfrich, Secretary
Bill Nesheim, Treasurer
Jay Scarborough, Communications Officer
Gunnar Baldwin, Technology Officer

Gunnar Baldwin, Sr.
Heather Baldwin
Sallie Fellows
Gary McCool
Mike Machanic
Bill Nesheim
Melanie Nesheim
Dick Osborne
Stephanie Osborne

Paul Phillips
Deb Reynolds
Suzanne Smith
Fran Taylor
Tink Taylor
Sally Widerstrom
Jackie Wolff
Ken Wolff

AGENDA

Welcome. Joyce Weston called the meeting to order and welcomed current and past local members of the legislature. The minutes of the Sept 27th general meeting were approved. Joyce provided a brief overview of the evening's program, which was a "strategy session" on State Senate District 7 that included Grafton County Democrats, Mascoma Forward, and Merrimack County Democrats. PAD hosted the in-person meeting and others attended the session via Zoom.

Presentation Summary. Joyce introduced the two speakers: The main presenter is Steve Marchand, former Mayor of Portsmouth, NH, Democratic gubernatorial candidate in 2018, and founder of "Move the Goal Posts", a political action committee that aims to define the future and vision of the Democratic party in New Hampshire. The second speaker and meeting facilitator is Tom Oppel, currently Vice Chair of the Grafton County Democrats, and former chief of staff to Navy Secretary Ray Mabus (2009-2017). The subject of the strategy session was on Marchand's methodology and analysis of the 2022 New Hampshire elections, evaluation of the trend lines of previous statehouse elections, and where those trendlines "will take us" in 2024 and beyond. Mr. Marchand

discussed the importance of “down ballot” elections and tonight’s talk will highlight the State Senate District 7 2024 race (24 State Senate seats). Mr. Marchand introduced the concept of the Partisan Voter Index (PVI), which he developed, and which explains and measures how much more Democratic or Republican a precinct or district votes as compared to New Hampshire overall in statewide general elections. PVI analysis of each of the district towns votes helps to identify trendlines and ultimately the possibility for flipping a red seat to blue, taking into consideration the structural advantages the Republican party has maintained. According to Marchand, certain races and their outcome will determine the balance of power in Concord. The Partisan Voter Index (PVI) helps identify the most competitive races and he suggests the PVI has an important role in choosing which candidates to endorse and finance. Several other critical tissues were discussed in detail, to include an emphasis on the changing demographics of State Senate District 7 towns, the competitiveness of Democratic gubernatorial primary candidates, and the importance of early recruitment of good candidates for other down ballot seats.

The “*New Hampshire State Senate District 7 with Stave Marchand*” presentation was recorded and is available in its entirety on YouTube along with its full transcript. It is also embedded in the November 2023 issue of the PAD newsletter. The above summary and the YouTube video recording of the presentation are submitted as the PAD meeting minutes for October 25th, 2023.

Jane Helfrich
PAD Secretary

