



Waterford NY Democratic Committee Newsletter for July, 2025

The WDC holds regularly meetings at 6:30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month

[Click Here to Join The WDC Zoom Meeting Wednesday Night, July 2, at 6:30!](#)

Meanwhile, on July 16 at 6:30 pm the Waterford Democratic Committee is hosting a Zoom Town Hall Event with our District 108 Assemblymember, John T. McDonald III. The primary focus will be on issues relating to how New York and New Yorkers Can Respond to the ***GOP's Billions for Billionaires Bill***



Many of you already know John, and are aware that we could not hope for a more responsive and concerned person to represent Waterford in NYS State Government. Many Waterfordians are probably not aware, however, of how important a player he is in the Assembly. You can read John's [full biography HERE](#) on his [Assembly webpage](#). But to quickly point to the roles he plays in the Assembly, consider his committee assignments:

- *Chair of the Government Operations Committee*
& Member of the following committees

- *Ways and Means*
- *Health*
- *Alcoholism & Drug Abuse*
- *Higher Education*

It's hard to imagine an Assembly committee assignment list that is more relevant to services and benefits the maga-regime is seeking to obliterate with its "Billions for Billionaires & Pain for Everybody Else" budget. John will outline just how disastrous the budget will be to New Yorkers, and what, if anything, the New York State Government can do to ameliorate the pain caused by this unprecedented transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich.

Given the insights John has from his years of work in the legislature and his long record of collaboration with civic development projects, there's nobody better qualified to comment on, and give advice on how to survive this blow to the quality of life in Upstate New York.

Please Join Us for This Critical Zoom Town Hall Event!

Reserve the Date! - 6:30 pm on Wednesday, July 16th!

Register by Clicking [HERE!](#)

Note that this free Town Hall meeting will be open to all New Yorkers. If the number of registrants should exceed the maximum number allowed for our Zoom link, Waterford Democrats will be prioritized, followed by residents of the towns and villages in John's district and registered Democrats in Saratoga County.

Pre-Registration will be required to reduce the threat of heckling and to ensure that we have space for our priority audiences. Questions will be pre-screened to ensure appropriateness and reduce redundancy.

Please submit questions in the fields on the Registration Form. Following registration, you may submit questions submitting questions to McDonald@waterfordnydemocrats.com as you think of them

The Saratoga County Democratic Committee (SCDC) Published a Statement condemning the "*unconstitutional, unjustified, and dangerous*" bomb strike on Iran."

At its quarterly meeting on June 24, the SCDC approved a resolution condemning Trump's bombing of Iran, and urging that any further acts of war must have congressional involvement and approval. The resolution has been published on the SCDC Website, and distributed to elected officials.

The resolution was approved by an overwhelming 80 percent of the more than 50 members present at the meeting. Those opposing the measure, however, were strident in their resistance, and made a motion to table (kill) it before the actual approval vote could move forward. That motion failed, in a 70%/30% vote.

Judging from the reasons voiced for opposing adoption of the resolution, nobody disagreed with the content of the letter. There was a strong feeling expressed by some members that the process was too rushed. Although the draft resolution had been distributed to committee chairs several days earlier, some

committee members at the meeting said they had not seen the statement before that evening. There were suggestions that perhaps another motion could be made to temporarily table the resolution with the caveat that a tight deadline be imposed for another vote on its approval. That idea was abandoned, however, due to the difficulty of conducting another general vote in time to ensure the resolution's relevance.

Some members also argued that it was simply not the function of county and local committees to make such statements. In [a personal opinion](#) below, Waterford Town Chair, Max Kintner, argues against that concept, either for the County Committee or for Local Committees.

Occasional Sunday Socials with Fellow Democrats

Last Sunday, June 22nd, some of the members of the Waterford Democratic Committee got together at one of our members' homes for a face-to-face social gathering. The idea was to hang around and talk about politics or anything else for a couple hours over snacks and drinks just to get to know each other. We ended up having such a lively, interesting, and thoroughly enjoyable discussion about many things, ranging from places we've lived and seen, to local songbirds, to freedom of choice, that 3 hours flew by before somebody pointed out that it was late and they had to leave!

Because it was so enjoyable, and because it's good for the mind and the soul to commune in person with [mostly] like-minded people, we plan to keep this gathering going on a regular basis. Maybe once a month? So maybe mid-July?

The Democratic Party of Waterford is currently invisible to the point of being a non-entity. Who even knows we exist! So along with manifesting a political presence in Waterford, we'd love to expand the social horizons of our members by offering our hands and support in friendship.

If you're interested in getting to know your Moderate, Liberal, Progressive Democratic neighbors, shoot us an email by clicking [HERE](#) to introduce yourself or express interest. We'd love to get to know you!

Note from WDC Chair Max Kintner about the SCDC statement and the WDC

For the record, I completely understand and respect the objections by some members to the County Committee's adoption of the statement. The people who raised them are clearly very smart, and very dedicated to the Party. I sympathized with those who felt the measure was too rushed and would have voted to table it for a few days to give local committees some time to review it. Voting rules and logistics made that course of action impossible, however, and the motion was considered.

So I voted – enthusiastically - to approve the statement because I agree with the content, and to my mind it is absolutely the role of local and county committees to endorse such position statements.

My feeling, in fact, is that if a local committee's role does not include proclaiming collective values and beliefs, the committee is relegated to the status of "functionaries" with no real purpose other than to serve

as foot-soldiers in the machine run by party elites. That vision of the party is, to my mind, a real reason why the Democratic Party is at historic levels of disapproval. The young, the passionate, minorities, and most importantly, local communities, are essentially told by this view of normative Party functioning that only the priorities and preferences of elected officials and policymakers are relevant. I see that as emasculating for the leading edge of authentic groundswell movements that *should* be driving elections and policy.

In more than 50 years of voting, I have never once cast a ballot for a Republican, on the simple grounds that I have never seen an election in which I thought the Republican was the better candidate. Equally important, I know that politics is *always* a team sport, and no matter how honorable and reasonable (unlikely as that is) a Republican candidate might be, they will be playing on the wrong team and will inevitably work against me and my vision of what a good community, state, and world should be.

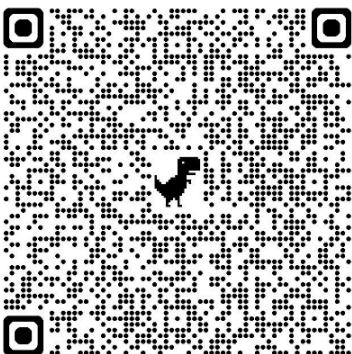
At the same time, I have *always* worked for and refrained from publicly criticizing Democratic candidates once they were nominated, even if they were my second or third choice. And in the context of an internal committee issue, such as the current Iran bombing resolution, I will *always* accept and support (albeit with varying degrees of enthusiasm) decisions made by the majority of members.

My dedication to the party, however, is always in service to my beliefs and values. I think most people, most Democrats, feel the same way. And I believe that members of local committees, and the Party in general, feel their voices and beliefs are trivialized by a view that “committees” are not supposed to express the collective views of their membership.

I believe that it is *critically important* to empower the membership of local committees by amplifying their personal beliefs and priorities through group statements that are supported by consensus – however grudging it may be.

For that reason, I will propose at the next WDC meeting – [this coming Wednesday, June 2, at 6:30](#) – that we endorse the Saratoga County Committee’s resolution to condemn the bombing in Iran, with its important admonition that further military action must be undertaken only with the involvement and approval of Congress. Beyond that, I will suggest that the Waterford Committee should feel enabled to issue its own statements and resolutions, as approved by majority vote of Committee members, for any very important issue on which we feel it critical to speak out.

[Please join us at the meeting at 6:30 Wednesday evening](#), July 2, to discuss these ideas, and help us plan for the upcoming Big Event of the Summer, with John McDonald’s Zoom Town Hall on July 16th at 6:30 pm.



You can register for that event with the QR Code at left, or by [Clicking Here!](#)

QR Link: Registration for the John McDonald Town Hall Event on July 16th at 6:30 pm