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I unfortunately have a poor report to deliver on the end of the legislative session. Several major policy bills failed because the two houses and the Governor’s Office did not work together. This with a super majority of Democrats.  Core Democratic Party policy bills, that are vital to us – like broadband and wildfire funding - were pushed out of becoming law because of inter-house acrimony.  We have to wonder if election year politics are at play. But we also should give everyone the benefit of the doubt because of the unbelievable stress we are all under and the difficulties of remote legislating due to Covid. I bet many of our allies are genuinely sorry the session ended so poorly.  My first instinct is to lobby the Governor’s Office to call a Special Session, which would certainly be dramatic. They are exceeding rare, only the Governor can order one, by proclamation, and it must be confined to one topic, which for me, would be **broadband**. It does not have the optics of the budget, police reform, housing, or wildfire funding, but it is essential for the state to move forward.  A Special Session would be the right thing to do.  At the very least, I recommend we, the Rural Caucus, voice our frustration in a joint letter to the Governor, Senate Pro Temp and the Speaker of the House, asking them to take up broadband and other core policy bills as priorities in January, spend the next few months to cool off, think, and be ready to deliver bills for the Governor’s signature as expeditiously as procedurally possible.  Swift action on broadband especially is required because the current source of state funding sunsets next year.  On a positive note, I am very excited about the success of the **virtual fundraisers**. We seem to have hit on a “telethon” format, with a combination of political speakers (primarily elected officials, party officers, regional candidates) interspersed with three-minute sets by local musicians.  It originated in Butte County in June with a two hour “Tubing with The Butte County Democrats” political variety show, live streamed on Facebook Live and YouTube.  The Sonoma Democrats hosted Demopalooza last week – same format, a blend of speakers and musicians. It took five or so people, three months - meeting weekly the last month, to put it together, mainly thanks to the help and guidance from our friends in Butte.  And now Shastapalooza is coming up Sept 20th. This format works. The original, prototyped by the Butte County Democrats, raised $10,000. The Sonoma Democrats raised $11,500.  Along with everything else, we need to pitch in on **Census 2020**. A federal judge ordered the Census Bureau on Saturday to stop shutting down operations and resume its full-scale nationwide population count through September 17, when the judge will consider the Trump administration’s plan to end the census survey a month ahead of schedule. This is just a short reprieve. Please [**click on this map**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001RafBw4zJsKzUpuk0Hbd_Gp9L20BPd8wcWtH7PntOHtPAZ0VUt-JM2hsp3fkIWA1lbLxrQx3vR1R3_AT9JaBa6ljekd9VZE8yFZwWJjY0ip_vQcAZYrAlCPdQGROh9tN6p59dlVjNoESwJHQ2pRoI-B4X9lUt0-iAFvqvfXTija84hSy1RvjBCirT4OTwF_8yySW19Sii1bc=&c=Wk1yV6MC9ULaAdcugph3qdr-YWMIbzcAJhYYbqWHTJTRFM9N5bsaXQ==&ch=KUSuwi46i9Z4mNpJUaUxIPciUcnNbiHOMuiEXsi5a-WpUjwN8NZtEA==) and input California by county to see where we have work to do. And, [**here is a flyer**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001RafBw4zJsKzUpuk0Hbd_Gp9L20BPd8wcWtH7PntOHtPAZ0VUt-JM2hsp3fkIWA1l_-AQur0U2MSX4f_SfvrhTl9knJyskJ7_cAt5nBWVM6JJJYjx9F6cuLFNp_oakzaAtLlrs9rghCE7W8Humlcpd40lrc9cfjUSSZFbYyFcgONUTTVqR5tcrmJ2iRvW97l3-DuQmnRoaYLVkoDiw9nrntb_qstJh3lbUIayfY0Js6Q=&c=Wk1yV6MC9ULaAdcugph3qdr-YWMIbzcAJhYYbqWHTJTRFM9N5bsaXQ==&ch=KUSuwi46i9Z4mNpJUaUxIPciUcnNbiHOMuiEXsi5a-WpUjwN8NZtEA==)with 10 ideas from postcard campaigns to sidewalk chalk art for Get out the Count (GOTC).  Finally, we must do our utmost to **dispel** mi**sinformation, clarify the mail in voting process and encourage our rural communities to make a real difference on November 3.** Each county registrar is setting up secure ballot drop-off sites. Getting that information out will be imperative. The State Party is hosting a webinar tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6pm on how we can help. Please [**register here**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001RafBw4zJsKzUpuk0Hbd_Gp9L20BPd8wcWtH7PntOHtPAZ0VUt-JM2hsp3fkIWA1lFQh0NusB2XEPOTn4EE2DtN6TDW3YF0-72IKFNpzT8y3LyMYZ-mtsgXZJbYqIzhNBMBZ8blv0Gwo4GrQhspLvhCvKJGRaZDfm39YuTMOHzjXtRX-sdX4FaArQxhW66EZr4cYHtCMGLZkZQBp8RqkyQw==&c=Wk1yV6MC9ULaAdcugph3qdr-YWMIbzcAJhYYbqWHTJTRFM9N5bsaXQ==&ch=KUSuwi46i9Z4mNpJUaUxIPciUcnNbiHOMuiEXsi5a-WpUjwN8NZtEA==)**.**  Know how much I appreciate you and all that you do.  Sending cool thoughts,  Joy | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Joy Sterling | Rural Caucus Chair | 707 484 0013 | [joy@ironhorsevineyards.com](mailto:joy@ironhorsevineyards.com)  [www.cdpruralcaucus.org](http://www.cdpruralcaucus.org) | |  |  | | --- | |  | | | | | |
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