

To Whom It May Concern:

On June 3rd, the voters of Mariposa County District 1 elected me by a landslide to be their next County Supervisor. I owe a substantial debt of gratitude to many people for that success, not least of whom are Rich McIntyre, Steve Wilensky and the SNOPAC. Rich and Steve met with me and other concerned Mariposa citizens in June 2013 to encourage us to identify appropriate candidates for the two open supervisorial seats in Mariposa County. As early as that meeting, they encouraged me to compete for that seat. I was, however, convinced that I could identify and encourage at least one more qualified candidate to run – I was unsuccessful in that effort. Fortunately, Rich and Steve saw that not as a failure on my part, but rather as an opportunity to encourage me yet again to run for office.

Rich and Steve have provided truly valuable training and other support that definitely increased the probability of a successful campaign. My husband, who was my campaign manager, and I took the Organizer Academy Training (offered at Rich's instigation) by the Sierra Nevada Alliance a couple of years ago, which certainly helped us think more strategically about how to organize and communicate effectively in a rural area such as Mariposa. We also attended the SNOPAC Campaign Operations Training workshop in November 2014. That was very useful in defining a campaign framework and organization structure as well as identification of critical tools, such as Letters to Editors and Op Eds.

Rich and Steve also helped identify and establish relationships with unions, which was key to winning the votes of employees of the concessionaire in Yosemite National Park. They also assisted during the campaign by helping to frame issues and appropriate responses. Last, but not least, Rich helped by reviewing and editing key documents such as the Candidate Announcement and the Candidate Statement for the ballot. The professional quality of my Candidate Announcement established the credibility of my candidacy from the beginning.

I had a great campaign manager and a great team, so I might have won without the training and support noted above, but the margin of victory would have certainly have been more narrow, possibly even requiring a run off. As it is, I have established my credibility; won the June election and can now turn my attention to preparing for the job of governing. Which is, after all, what we all wanted from the beginning.

Yours truly,

Rosemarie Smallcombe
District 1 Supervisor Elect
Mariposa County