

Orleans County Democratic Committee – Ways to Get Involved

We're glad that you are eager to help, so here are a variety of possibilities. One size does not fit all, but we hope some of these opportunities will work for you! A variety of approaches leads to greater impact and gives greater visibility to our efforts

1. We need **letters** written – e-mail or through the US Mail. Written letters take a little longer to reach their destination but are believed to have more impact. Your message can be brief: "Don't repeal the Affordable Care Act!" Or lengthy: "Don't repeal the Affordable Care Act, and there are three reasons why ...". Here are the people and places to write to, contact information is available on their web pages:
 - [] The White House - President and Vice-President
 - [] Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand - tell these Democratic senators that we are counting on them to stand strong on our behalf, thank them for positions taken and votes cast.
 - [] Congressman Collins – insist that he hold public meetings with constituents, protect our health care, and demand the release of President Trump's tax records, etc.
 - [] State Senator Robert Ort and Assemblyman Steven Hawley – pressure them on the latest Trump initiatives, ask them if they support his most egregious policies and statements. For extra credit send the same kind of messages to town officials.
 - [] Buffalo News, Democrat & Chronicle, The Daily News (Batavia), The Orleans Hub, The Batavian - the print publications have restrictions on length and frequency of submissions, while the on-line news sites have fewer restrictions.
2. Make **phone calls** to the above. Especially to Congressman Collins who does not appear to read e-mails or respond to them. You can also rotate your calls among his Geneseo, Williamsville, Washington offices. Always ask a question: "when will the Congressman be in the district next to meet his constituents?", or "what does the Congressman plan to offer constituents who stand to lose their health care?" or "I'd like to see the Congressman's explanation for his "insider" investments in health care companies".
3. Get connected on **the web** to Orleans County Democrats, Genesee County Democrats, GLOW, GLOW Progressives, Orleans Progressives. Some of these are "closed" web sites and you need to ask to join. Once on, submit your own material, or add your comments to the postings of others.
4. Consider becoming a **representative** for your town as a member of the Orleans County Democratic Committee. We have open seats available for almost every town in the county. We are especially needing stronger representation from Murray, Clarendon, Shelby and Ridgeway. We generally meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Hoag Library in Albion, 7:00 PM. Get on our e-list and we'll keep you informed about local meetings.
5. Participate in and help plan **public actions** – vigils, protests, visitations, outreach, placement of candidate lawn signs, and circulation of ballot access petitions. We also operate a County Fair booth for a week in July every summer, and welcome the involvement of volunteers. Please note: each town has its own regulations for lawn signs. Some have no restrictions, but others do.
6. Consider a **run for office** at the town or county level. We can tell you how it's done. Sometimes we have money available to help your effort.
7. To run candidates, to generate printed materials and signs, we need **money!** Create or attend a fundraiser.
8. Know someone with **expertise** in an issue affecting Orleans County? Bring that to our Forum Committee. We are arranging a series of quarterly forums during 2017.