
Celebrating Organized Labor and Working Families

By Kevin Hendrick: In My View September 3, 2026

Labor Day is more than beaches and BBQs. It is a celebration of all the rights that workers have gained due to the efforts of organized labor. We can thank labor unions for the achievements that American workers enjoy today, including higher wages, better benefits, safer working conditions, and job security.

According to the US Department of Labor, “Labor Day is rooted in the late nineteenth century, when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America’s strength, prosperity, and well-being.”

“The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City. On February 21, 1887, Oregon was the first to pass a law recognizing Labor Day. On June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal federal holiday.”

In celebration of Labor Day, the Del Norte County Democratic Party is sponsoring our FREE Annual Labor Day BBQ “Honoring labor and working families,” this SATURDAY September 5 from 12-2 PM near the Gazebo in Crescent City Beachfront Park.

Our featured speakers include Damon Connolly, Assembly Member and candidate for State Senate District 2 and Sally Lieber, Chair of the Board of Equalization and our representative in District 2.

Damon Connolly is running to represent Del Norte County in the State Senate. Since 2022, he has served in the State Assembly and has focused on issues such as wildfire management and climate change. Before this he was active in local politics, advocating for community needs and environmental issues.

Sally Lieber was elected to represent the California State Board of Equalization's Second District in 2022. District 2 is home to 10 million Californians living in 19 counties along the California coast, from Del Norte County to Ventura County. Sally Lieber is running for reelection to the Board of Equalization.

In addition to Assembly Member Damon Connolly, and Board of Equalization Member Sally Lieber, we also want to thank our Assembly Member Chris Rogers, for sponsoring this event. Assembly Member Rogers has done a great job for us in his first term and is running for reelection in November.

We are especially grateful for the support from our labor union sponsors:

The Building and Construction Trades Council of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties represents the collective strength and expertise of our region's skilled trades, with 15 local affiliate building trade unions representing

more than 3,000 highly trained and highly skilled workers.

The Association for Better Citizenship (ABC) is the political action arm of the California Teachers Association (CTA) and provides campaign funding for local affiliates. The CTA/ABC is providing bipartisan support locally and making donations to both the Republican and Democratic Parties.

We hope you can join us this Saturday on the 144-Year Anniversary of the first Labor Day, to recognize the contributions of labor unions and celebrate the workers who built our country and continue to toil every day to keep America working.

For more information, please contact the Del Norte County Democratic Party. dndems@gmail.com

Kevin Hendrick is the Chair of the Del Norte County Democratic Central Committee