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By Kay Burtzloff

- Special to the Leader & Times

The public is invited to a “Meet and Greet” with Secretary of State candidate Jean Schodorf from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday at the Rock Island Depot, 2 Rock Island Road. Sponsored by the Seward County Democratic Party, drinks and deserts will be available and participants are encouraged to bring a lunch with them.

“We want the public to have an opportunity to really meet and learn about this outstanding candidate against incumbent Kris Kobach,” said Jack Carlile, chair of the county Democratic Party. “While she will be making a short address at the event, she is more interested in hearing what people have to say about some of the current issues of this office – like voter registration and business resources.”



“I’ll be a full-time Secretary of State,” Schodorf said. “The taxpayers pay for a full-time Secretary of State. My opponent has earned a lot of money moonlighting as a lawyer, lobbyist and consultant for outside interests on our time. I think that’s wrong.”

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Noting that more than 17,000 Kansans are on the suspended voter list, Schodorf said, “The ability for Kansas citizens to register to vote has been hampered. Last year, more than one in four of our friends and neighbors in Kansas were denied their right to vote. The current ‘guilty until proven innocent’ method is not right, and it is not just. It is government at its worst.”

Schodorf is a former Republican member of the Kansas Senate, representing the 25th District from 2001 to 2013 and served as the Majority Whip. In the Senate, she earned positions as the Chair of both the Education committee and the Legislative Educational Planning Committee. She also served as vice chair of the Joint Committee on Arts and Cultural Resources and as a member of the Budget, Judiciary and Commerce committees.

In January 2013, Schodorf changed her party affiliation to Democrat.

Schodorf has a bachelor’s and master’s degree in communicative disorders. For the past 36 years, she has lived in Wichita where she raised her family and worked as a speech and language pathologist. After going back to school at Wichita State University to earn a doctorate degree in communicative disorders, she continues to work as a speech and language pathologist with children and senior citizens in the Wichita area. For 12 years, she served on the Wichita School Board, including three years as board president.

Schodorf’s father, Brigadier General William Kurtis, was one of the Marine Corps’ first 1,000 aviators. After serving in World War II, Brigadier General Kurtis retired from the Marines, moving his family back to Kansas. Schodorf’s brother is Bill Kurtis, a well-known attorney and television journalist.

More information about the candidate is available on her website at [www.jeanforkansas.com](http://www.jeanforkansas.com). For more information about the Liberal event, call 629-0203.

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