



When it comes to courting voters, Butte and Shasta are the most populous counties in District 1.

MAGA activists, secessionists, vaccine resisters and self-described militia members ousted a longtime board member and won a 3-2 majority on Shasta County's all-Republican—but officially nonpartisan—main governing body.”

That panel has since issued a declaration against state vaccine mandates and refused to accept a proclamation recognizing the local LGBTQ community during Pride Month. There have been documented threats against voters and politicians not aligned with far-right politics since Trump first ran for office. In Redding, in 2020, peaceful Black Lives Matter protesters were met by Proud Boys and armed militiamen who claimed the county's then-sheriff personally asked



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—Max Steiner

them to be present.

“There are a lot of Republicans there who are thinking, ‘Oh my God, my party has left me, the radicals have taken control, and Doug LaMalfa has definitely thrown in with these radicals,’” Steiner said.

He's met—and says he's made ground reaching out to—people who previously backed LaMalfa.

“Even if he wasn't their first choice, he was the Republican, so they hosted fundraisers and voted for him, and now they feel betrayed. They can't ignore how radical their party has become, they have to live with it, and they feel a little personal animus towards Doug.”

Steiner talks a lot about reaching out to non-MAGA Republicans, but just how does he find them? County fairs are one place (he said he's campaigned at nearly all of them), but he said he has better results at gun shows.

“I've gone to every gun show in the district, because I don't think Democrats ever go to gun shows and talk to people,” he said. “They're fun, and honestly, I have way less negative interactions at a gun show than at a county fair.

“At fairs, you say you're a Democrat, and you often get, ‘I hate Democrats, you guys stole the election and kill babies and you all work for Nancy Pelosi!’ But at a gun show, they say, ‘I hate Democrats ...

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