

Opening remarks

Making Waves for Democracy Meeting
October 4, 2026

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Hello, and welcome – we are 30 days out from Election Day – and you have all received thick packets – your ballots. *Hold it up...* Look at this – 13 ballot measures, local and national candidates, judges – You and I will do the research to figure it out – voting is so important to all of us – we're passionate about speaking up and making sure our voices are heard. But there are sooo many folks who find voting to be overwhelming, confusing or not important.

Today we focus on VOTING and what we can all do in these next 30 days. We have a mission! GET OUT THE VOTE! Get Dems to the polls!

Xiomara Flores-Holguin and I will fill you in on protecting the vote, how to talk with people about voting and voter protection actions for all of us to do in the next 30 days.

We want to remind you to inform people about the Blue Voters Guide as a resource for deciding which propositions and candidates to vote for. The link will be in the chat, and we'll send it in our post-meeting notes.

Another aspect of our election: The conversations these days about socialism – confusion about what it is, excitement about what it promises, and reactions about how it is influencing our elections. So we're digging into this, and today Jeanne Miranda will clarify what this is all about.

In case you've been feeling down and anxious, let's talk about recent good news:

2 giant pandas arrived at Zoo Atlanta this week in a rare loan from China!

A growing number of Republicans are publicly **breaking** with Trump, a sign that a party normally in lockstep views him as a liability in the midterms.

By a 12-point margin, registered voters say they would **prefer to elect a Democrat** to Congress, according to the latest NPR/PBS News/Marist poll. And The Cook Political Report **moved** 15 House races toward Democrats.

The Iowa Farmers Union **endorsed Democrats** in all federal elections. What a shift for Midwest farmers!

550,000 people registered or updated their voter registration as a result of National Voter Registration Day.

House Democrats **are preparing a sweeping oversight agenda** if they win control of the House in November, with investigations focused on Trump, his family, and his administration.

As Jessica Craven says, “we must never forget that the many have beaten the money over and over again, and we can do so again now. So our job remains the same: take nothing for granted, talk to everyone we know about the importance of voting, check our voter registration, encourage others to do the same before the big deadlines this week, and work as hard as we possibly can to turn out every anti-GOP voter we can.”

Today we'll let you know where and when to show up for ACTION, and We'll have our usual exchanges in the chat – please use it for questions, comments and sharing information.