

## **INTRO REMARKS Dec 11, 2022 Making Waves for Democracy**

**WELCOME TO THE 57<sup>th</sup> meeting of MAKING WAVES FOR DEMOCRACY since we started in early 2017.**

**I'm optimistic for the future because of several things, despite our losses in November. (As Jeannette reminded me this morning: In a democracy, the other guy sometimes wins!)**

**I am buoyed by key victories across the country, and in LA city and County -- even if our beloved Christy Smith and Jay Chen lost, and Katie Porter had a much tougher fight than expected. (The Republicans desperately want the OC back!)**

**Our friend LA Mayor Karen Bass won bigtime, against \$110 million! And yes I know that today this meeting is up against her inauguration – Too much good stuff happening, I guess....**

**I want to take this moment at the end of the year to kvell about MAKING WAVES FOR DEMOCRACY. I've mentioned it before but let me say it loud and proud: We are the ONLY all-volunteer group of so many that sprung up after Nov 2016 that has survived and thrived. Our track record is second to NONE – and nothing**

short of a miracle – you’ll hear the numbers later, but because of you, this group is AMAZING! Together this VOLUNTEER group in 5 ½ years has knocked on over 80,000 doors and raised over \$2 million..... Try to find any volunteer group that matches those numbers! AND we’ve grown our membership, had fun together and are what’s called a learning community!

ALL groups have seen a decrease in volunteer activity in 2022, and the truth of that is just sinking in – you cannot sustain that kind of energy of the 2018 Blue Wave – BUT the future definitely looks bright! 2024 will give us the chance to take back the House districts we lost this year. We will increase voter turnout, because we will learn from this election, and BUILD ON THE STRENGTHS that we saw, such as an increase in YOUTH VOTER participation.

Today I have lots of things to say later on the agenda, so these remarks are shorter than usual. It’s a day for CELEBRATION, and, as Barrie mentioned, we particularly want to celebrate YOU in a number of different ways – *YOU, who make waves for democracy.*

But first let’s look at what we’ve done in this electoral cycle – 2021-2022.....