

## Fundraising Committee Report

By Ilene Bell

MWD July 14, 2024 meeting

This is the most important election of my lifetime. I imagine many of you would say the same.

Despite reading Sinclair's Lewis's novel "It Can't Happen Here" when I was a kid, I never really digested the reality that *it could and it is happening here*. Our democracy is under threat and attack—and only **WE** can protect it.

I have taken Torie's mantra to heart:

**"ACTION IS THE ANTIDOTE TO DESPAIR"**.

**NOW, MORE THAN EVER** is a crucial time to step up!

**WE MUST REGAIN CONTROL OF THE HOUSE.**

With all that in mind, I am asking **YOU** to **JOIN ME** as a **Co-Host** for our final fundraiser of this election cycle. This is a fundraiser for Democratic Congressional candidates Dave Min (CA-47) – Katie Porter's district, and George Whitesides CA-27) MAGA George Garcia's current district. The fundraiser will be a virtual event held on Zoom, September 15, from 4-5 p.m.

We have an amazing line-up for the event: Along with George Whitesides and David Min, Ted Lieu, Katie Porter, Adam Schiff, and Jaimie Raskin, will speak, and the fabulous Sheila Kuehl will MC and do the Pitch.

The money we raise will go to the ground game for these candidates. **And, the ground game will propel these candidates to Washington!**

Our fundraisers have been incredibly successful. We are a relatively small but remarkably robust group, and over these past seven years we have raised 2.1 million dollars. We now need to raise more.

How have we been so successful? Because **YOU** have stepped up! Our fundraising effort consists of people we call “co-hosts”, many of whom like me never fundraised in their lives, but stepped up and took it on beginning in 2017 when Trump moved into the White House.

How did I or others do it – we were polite though persistent, shared our deep concern for our Democracy, reached out to all we knew who might be interested, and took it on with determination because **the road to a Blue Congressional House moves through California**. With our help, we can make sure both of these seats are held by Democrats.

Here is how Co-hosting works!

Co-hosts commit to donating or raising at least \$500. A co-host can donate that amount themselves, they can reach out to out to their family, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances, asking them to buy a \$50 ticket to the event, and they certainly can do both! Raising \$500 means selling just ten of these tickets—often less because many people donate more.

**That’s it!**

Think for a minute about how many people you know who would be willing to donate \$50 to help regain the house majority. You know lots of people who feel the need in these dire times to do more, therefore lots of people who would contribute.

**You just need to ask!** When someone *they know* asks them—when this becomes more personal—they pay attention. And we are all here today, because **attention needs to be paid**.

So that, in a nutshell, is our ask:

We’re asking **you** to volunteer to co-host the September event.

We’ll provide you with all the information and support you need.

We'll share sample emails you can send out.  
All **you** have to do is reach out to the people **you** know.

My personal mantra is the book I read in childhood:  
*Horton Hears a Who* - The more people we galvanize to  
get involved and make noise,  
the better for these campaign,  
**the better for you, the better for me, the better for our Democracy.**  
Onward!

If you'd like to be a co-host or are interested in hosting but unsure about  
doing it, I'm happy to send you an email with further information about  
how it works, or talk with you on the phone. Contact me at contact me  
at: [bell.ilene@gmail.com](mailto:bell.ilene@gmail.com)