

## Introductory Remarks October 23 – Torie Osborn

**WELCOME TO our 55<sup>th</sup> meeting of MAKING WAVES for DEMOCRACY! since January 2017.**

**There's 16 days to go till the midterm election, and, like many of you, I'm so tired. Tired of the Right wing relentlessly attacking everything I've worked for my entire life.....I'm STILL ENRAGED about the reversal of Roe v. Wade! And I saw somewhere that 60% of Americans have an election denier on their ballot! WHAAAAA????**

**In LA we just have so-called progressives on the City Council who turn out to be racist and homophobic, a petty vindictive misogynistic Sheriff and a white would-be Mayor billionaire developer vowing to solve homelessness who's never built one unit of affordable housing. And this is BLUE LOS ANGELES..... OY. What's a progressive to do?**

**Before we turn to our guests for some thoughts on that question, I want to share a few things rattling around in my brain:**

**I. FIRST, Do NOT listen to the Media Spin Machine: Brian Colker has a great presentation later in this meeting that is the perfect antidote to the BS in the press.....but to quote Robert Hubbell: "Nearly every media outlet has begun Election Night coverage even though the REAL Election Night is 2.1/2 weeks away... BUT POLLS ARE NOT ELECTIONS....and treating polls as if they are election results can lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy ... DO NOT LET THAT HAPPEN. There is ample time to affect the result of the midterms....Most media outlets are controlled by conservative interests promoting the MAGA GOP....It will all come down to turnout. It always does. We prevailed in 2018 and 2020; we can do so again in 2022. Do NOT let any pollster or media personality tell you otherwise!"**

**2. TWO, I want to briefly address the painful City Council and Labor Fed leak incident. When I read the transcript two weeks ago, it hurt my heart: the ugly racism directed at Oaxacans and at my friend Mike Bonin’s son Jacob, and the awful homophobic slur about Mike – But as things have settled over time – I feel as though the silver lining has shone brightly: so many across LA from all communities have risen up and with one voice called for those so-called leaders to RESIGN – and, just as Sheila Kuehl experienced after being victimized by the Sheriff, support for Mike and for his husband Sean and son Jacob has Poured forth from all over the world! ...**

**AND I’ve come to see that the key sin here was the BETRAYAL by so-called PROGRESSIVE leaders. We expected better from at least some of those folks. The labor-Latino alliance that has been so key to progressive wins in LA over the past twenty years has been tarnished. But what’s become clear is that the majority of people do NOT want that kind of behavior in our leaders; MOST people in LA stand for a true multiracial progressive vision, not a zero sum game that pits one faction against another. I am sickened by creeping Trumpism, even in liberal LA. BUT, ultimately, I am hopeful for the future of LA.**

**3. This past week, a new book came out that I recommend to all of you. Steve Phillips is a Black progressive activist and writer in the Bay Area, founder of PowerPAC and Democracy in Color. His book’s title says it all: How we Win the Civil War: Securing a Multiracial Democracy and ending White Supremacy for Good. His “Liberation Battle Plan” highlights how good organizing by great leaders- like Stacey Abrams - turn red states such as GA,**

**AZ, VA blue....I stayed up all night and read the book, cover to cover. It reminded me:**

**--We – the good guys across ALL races who believe in the ideal of democracy are the majority! The MAGA Trumpists (SLASH) /confederacy (SLASH)/ patriarchy have always been here; its most virulently Right (even crazy!) wing has now taken over the Republican Party, and therefore has great political power – but WE ARE STILL THE MAJORITY.**

**Yes, DEMOCRACY itself is on the line in two weeks with a dying confederacy fighting viciously to beat us. But ultimately WE WILL WIN! And just remember that the ROAD TO HOLDING THE HOUSE THIS YEAR RUNS THROUGH Southern California! SO...let's get out there and show them what we showed in 2018 and 2020....**

**NOW on to our main speakers....**