

T.O. Opening Remarks – July 24, 2022 MAKING WAVES

OMG that video rocked! You're in for a treat soon.....But

I want to start by crowing....

**WELCOME TO THE 53nd meeting of MAKING WAVES
FOR DEMOCRACY!**

I'm so proud of us – We have continued non-stop over 5 and a half years -- ALL VOLUNTEER, mind you—We are all about ACTION – We've canvassed over 60,000 doors in swing districts and raised over \$1.7 million at low-dollar events!.....

TODAY I want to touch on two topics:

- 1) A brief preview of what you're gonna hear today!**
- 2) Why I'm convinced this is not a normal election cycle and we're totally gonna win in November....**

First, after Rep Porter's segment, Dr. Jeanne Miranda will present really important info on abortion care. She'll take on the misinformation -- There are LOTS of myths out there that persist --

that the Right has exploited to its advantage. If we are going to advocate for abortion rights, we should know our facts. Do NOT MISS IT! As the saying goes: Don't leave just before the miracle!

OKAY My main point today: Why I believe we will TOTALLY win in November -- which means HOLDING THE HOUSE and gaining at least TWO seats in the Senate (while holding what we got)...

I want to give credit to a paper I read recently called The Democratic 2022 WINBOOK: A messaging guide for triumph over a radicalized Right –

First key point: This isn't a normal election cycle. There is NO conventional wisdom that's relevant! No previous polling or punditry. PERIOD! Our fundamental rights are in genuine peril, so we must fight fiercely -- be UNITED and hard-hitting and clear with our messaging. EACH OF US must become an ORGANIZER in our spheres of influence as never before.

Let's REBRAND THE GOP as unfit to govern, and dangerous to democracy and American life. As the paper says:

“Crazy’s all the GOP has now.” They’re un-American. Anti-democracy. Let’s retake the flag, folks!

WHAT’S THE MESSAGE?

Only the Democrats are on your side.

The GOP has allowed the extreme fringe of their party to promote as acceptable ideas that most of us would consider wholly un-American. For example:

a. The GOP wants to criminalize abortion and turn frightened, desperate women and the healthcare providers who help them into hunted felons.

b. The GOP believes children and teachers being gunned down at school is a perfectly acceptable price to ensure that anyone – including criminals, terrorists, and the mentally ill – can purchase and carry a gun without limits.

c. Too many Reps have sided with White supremacists, anti-Semites and Christian nationalists while the rest of the Republican Party has stood silent.

Only Democrats will protect a woman's right to choose when to have a family....pass commonsense gun laws – promote ALL of our rights.

If you're like me, it's almost too much...what to focus on? Anti-trans laws and anti LGBT campaigns across the land? Voter Suppression? Lies about Critical Race Theory or Book banning? Political violence? Attacks on Social Security and Medicare, let alone the ACA? The planet burning up???

FIRST AND FOREMOST, remember that WE who believe in freedom ARE THE MAJORITY and in a democracy the MAJORITY rules. We have waged WINNING social movements on every issue that they are trying to roll back and WON majority support – often super majorities of 66% or more!

And, as Winbook says (QUOTE)“Although a few prominent Republicans are demonstrably evil, the great majority of people who call themselves Republicans are NOT. They are the victims of a profit-for-hate right wing media complex led by Fox News and the RNC that push false narratives and pervert American values to

boost ratings and keep power.....If one of these folks shows up in your world and asks a question that feels like a hateful attack or just plain crazy, go HARD ON THE ISSUES but easy on the person.

...(as in) ‘I understand what you’re saying but that’s a lie the Republican Party has told you and the rest of us. Here’s the truth’:.....” (END QUOTE)

GO HARD ON THE ISSUES, EASY on the person. Focus your attack on the GOP, the Republican Party or “the extremist Republican” in the race – like MAGA Michelle Steel in CA-45 or MAGA Mike Garcia in CA-27....

These are the times that try all of our souls! But honestly, those pollsters and pundits are WRONG – that keep changing their prognostications anyway – most recently – “OMG the Dems are tied with the Reps!....”

The truth is that the future belongs to us – to ordinary people who raise our voices and speak the truth....about our lives and ORGANIZE and MOBILIZE for a future we can believe in!

Finally....we all have our bellwether on politics – that person who we turn to for a reality check - for me that’s my Republican friend who has NEVER been an activist – didn’t even attend the Women’s March in 2017 - but hated the Orange Fascist so much that she made it her business to doorknock for Democrats for the first time in the 2018 midterms. Well, she laid low in 2020, but she’s come alive since the Jan 6 Hearings have laid bare the stakes, and the heinous anti-abortion SCOTUS ruling – she’s now planning to take two months off from work and doorknock her butt off in several swing states for the Democrats.

And then this morning I asked my mostly apathetic 25-year old niece -- who flew in from New Jersey late last night to visit me -- what she and her friends think about politics these days....She said that she is surprised at the level of anger and determination since the fall of Roe – she’s never seen this before – ALL her friends are posting furiously and planning to get active this midterm, even those who haven’t voted before.

Folks, I believe we are making our own future NOW – each minute of each day – THIS IS NOT A NORMAL ELECTION CYCLE we're in – and look at today's turnout in the middle of the summer, the unbridled bipartisan enthusiasm for Katie Porter, the break-through brilliance of the Jan 6th Hearings, the mobilizing of previously unengaged young women on this abortion issue....

WE ARE THE ONES WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR!....

And now, on to our main speaker for today....