

OPENING REMARKS – April 28, 2024 by Torie Osborn

Welcome to our 70th meeting of Making Waves for Democracy since January 2017!

This is one place you will NOT hear nonstop about the orange fascist and his legal problems, although I agree with pundit Simon Rosenberg that:

- **1) The Presidential election is moving from a referendum on Biden/Harris to one on Trump, and that**
- **2) A good rule of thumb is that we should each be 2/3 POSITIVE about Biden/Harris and 1/3 negative about Trump.**
- **And I also agree with Simon that QUOTE “Something broke inside the Republican Party with the Dobbs decision” UNQUOTE – They’ve lost EVERY election where abortion is on the ballot since then....**

Abortion is now a winning issue! (and we can finally say the word!!!)

HEY, do you believe Dobbs was 2 years ago now! –

By the way, if you haven’t donated yet to Biden/Harris campaign, now is the time! Even \$5 matters....

I LOVE our newest partner: the California Grassroots Alliance. They made the video you saw at the start of this meeting, which is front and center on their website. Finally, a video that uses NO jargon and that follows “the 3 Vs” of messaging guru Anat Shenker-Osorio: “Values, Villain, Vision” -- And when we win in November – and that eloquent Hakeem Jeffries becomes Speaker of the House -- and we get the Blue Trifecta back in DC -- we’ll get MAJORITY positions codified: such as pro-abortion and gun safety – a focus on climate change, voting rights, labor rights. Even the Pride Act might well pass!

When we win in November, the REAL WORK BEGINS – building a better world. That world begins with a shared analysis and ORGANIZING! So I want to share a bit of my own analysis:

I'm so struck these days by the epidemic of loneliness in this country, the pervasiveness of mental health issues, even of suicide. The isolation, the atomization, was only reinforced by Covid – (although we seem to be in mass denial about the horrors of that pandemic...).

The only antidote to that isolation, that atomization, is community, connection. But the hunger for it is ravenous and it seems to be eclipsing EVERYTHING these days. I look at the mass protests on campuses and here's what I think – (and YES, I plan to stay in our electoral LANE here).

The current mass protests on campus blot out nuance. This is not new: the Left has always tended toward political purism; it likes to marginalize heretics who hold positions that diverge from ideological purity. Oh, how I remember my own freshman days at Columbia in the fall of 1968 with the radical men (and they all WERE men back then!) slinging slogans at me about the “imperialist genocidal war in Vietnam.” (As an aside – the Columbia administration seems as hapless now as it did then – I think history is repeating itself....BUT I DIGRESS...)

HERE's what I learned over the years about street protest: Nothing builds community faster or better.

Street protest can be a spiritual experience. By that I mean: that powerful, freeing energy that breaks down walls and joins us with others – the coming together of individuals for a higher purpose.

These days the far left is doing a better job than the progressive majority at building community. And, unfortunately, so is the Right.

So, we should listen and learn. And maybe pivot. I believe moral clarity IS possible but **ONLY if we reach out to those who don't 100% agree with us. Talking only to those who agree with us might feel good, but it's not how we ORGANIZE.**

There's no need to talk to MAGA folks, but there are lots of us non-fascists out there – moderate to progressive. The anti-MAGA voters are the majority of voters – a new but unorganized movement. Our job is to make sure they are not driven into the arms of the Right, to remember that there are big bad forces who want us to splinter so that fascism rises in the US as well as globally.

BUT first things first. Let DEMOCRACY WIN!

As Patti Crane of the California Grassroots Alliance says:

ACTION IS A WONDER DRUG, so sign up to canvass TODAY.

Let's win in November!! Let's HOLD on to CA-47!

I now have the honor of introducing our special guest, California Senator Dave Min.....