

WELCOME TO THE 56th meeting of *Making Waves for Democracy* since we started in March 2017....

Today, I have 5 points to make, not necessarily related to each other, but all about the midterms.... But first, let's just crow about the overall victory nationally: it was a good day for democracy indeed!! The American people spoke clearly and loudly **NO RIGHTWING EXTREMISM. NO ELECTION DENIERS in charge of elections! As Michael Moore said: "...I love how you all knew that if for some reason we couldn't create a blue tsunami on Election Day, our second-best choice was to make sure there would be **NO RED WAVE.**"**

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS (to piggyback on Linda's comments earlier)

a) 65-70% of Gen Z voted BLUE... And 72% of young women voted Democratic -- 77% for Fetterman in PA!! THE FUTURE LOOKS GREAT...

b) It's impossible to overstate the importance of *Dobbs* on voter turnout nationally. **PERSONAL FREEDOM matters to voters! We won **EVERY SINGLE** abortion measure, including KY.**

c) 450+ LGBT candidates won across the country, a record. And we have **TWO new blue lesbian governors in MA and OR!**

d) They were unable to throw out ANY Democratic US Senator, and we won that open seat in PA. (By the way, John Fetterman's emails were the best I've ever seen!)

... AND SEN. WARNOCK CAN TOTALLY WIN IN GEORGIA Dec 6. We NEED that seat: 51 means NOT sharing power on committees. We have three weeks to help Warnock win – True to our focus, we're raising money for **UNITE HERE's doorknocking in GA – They are the best in the country – everywhere they've gone, Democrats have won!— And we **ARE 2/3** of the way**

toward our goal of \$75,000! So give now through the link in the chat....If you give \$500 we'll list you as a GEORGIA GO-GETTER!

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/mw4dgeorgia2022>

FINALLY – we lost the House by a historically slim margin, sending a big message to the Rightwing Republicans:

WE are the majority. Don't tread on us!

So, on to my 5 main points today, then we'll hear lots more from Brian....

1. In terms of Making Waves for Democracy's work: We won 2—Katie Porter and Karen Bass -- and lost two, which I'm still grieving, as I bet you are too. Our team doorknocked our hearts out countless times for Christy Smith up in CA 27 -- and spent all fall canvassing for Jay Chen.

We had two wonderful, smart, energetic, excellent candidates; we fell in love with Christy and with Jay, and if you did too, please send them notes – their campaign websites have addresses. I know from personal experience what it's like losing a race for office, and it sucks. Help them heal.

But I'm here to tell you that THIS IS THE LONG GAME and we are super-invested in the Antelope Valley. We will work hard to flip that last Republican seat in LA County. We know that MAGA Mike Garcia does NOT represent the views of his district and HE. MUST. GO.

We will follow the lead of those in-district, particularly in Orange County. My friends at WAVE -- Women for American Values and

Ethics -- promise a deep dive into the voter data once ballots are fully counted -- but we must remember that despite too-narrow wins by incumbents Katie Porter and Mike Levin, the OC is NOT a blue area yet. MORE TO COME ON THAT... As Rachel Maddow says: Watch this space....

2. SWITCHING GEARS....

TWO – I had a rare and wondrous experience yesterday. I went to a Liberty Hill Foundation event with Karen Bass for the first time since she won. I’m not exaggerating when I say it was transcendent – a spiritual experience. I saw my friend of 33 years in a new light. Karen Bass is a woman in her glory —she is destined for this role. She’s always been my teacher but yesterday I caught a glimpse of HOW SHE LEADS, and, in particular, how she will forge a new path on the tough issue of homelessness...

When I first met her in 1989 it was the middle of the AIDS epidemic and straight people were NOT caring or understanding much – I had an epiphany back then when she said “my community and yours are facing similar challenges: a public health tragedy being treated as a crime...LAPD sends battering rams into South LA to fight the crack epidemic and the government neglects the HIV virus because it’s gay men who are dying. AIDSphobia is homophobia.” I’ll never forget her wisdom that day....

But yesterday, I saw more than a wise teacher. She SEES the way forward – and shines the light for the rest of us. Lots of politicians

TALK about bringing people together but she is the most skilled I've ever seen at really doing it. Her vision and clarity of purpose are infectious; she empowers people. She brings out the best in us, and makes us BELIEVE in her solution – SHE MAKES US SEE THE WAY OUT OF NO WAY, as John Lewis famously talked about.

Karen Bass is a powerful, transformational leader who puts her vast experience as an organizer and public servant in service of REAL change. Concretely, look for LA's new Mayor to create new energies and mobilize a brand new coalition toward her goals.

- 3. NUMBER 3. I walked for Jay Chen and Christy Smith, but when the returns came in, I learned something about myself: My heart lives in local races. I was ELATED that Robert Luna beat that lunatic Sheriff, that Karen Bass bested the billionaire, and that my friend of 12 years Lindsey Horvath beat the establishment choice and won Sheila Kuehl's seat at the Board of Supervisors. When the good guys win, I'm happy, but when my friends win I'm ecstatic!**

- 4. FOUR....Rachel Bitcofer is my favorite political scientist – she opened my eyes to the fact that 2018 was also a Republican surge election – A couple days ago, she issued a strict warning to the national Dems that I want to acknowledge here today: DO NOT TAKE the House Republicans seriously...MOCK THEM now that they control the House – DO NOT GIVE THEM THE DIGNITY of responding to their ridiculous ideas.**

In the next two years, We **MUST NOT** give into the typical Democratic handwringing and anxiety. Too much is at stake. **LET'S ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT WE ARE THE MAJORITY!!!** This election was a historic win for us. **WE WOULD NOT HAVE LOST THE HOUSE** were it not for **gerrymandering on the east coast** (and NY's underperformance). Once again, **WE ARE THE MAJORITY**. And by defying the odds, the midterms only underscore our power. Now it's time to act like it. They always act bigger and scarier than they really are. **NOW** is the time to take our power; let's take a page from Karen Bass' playbook!

Along those lines, we are gonna end today with a song by Woody Guthrie – this version sung by Rhiannon Giddens, thanks to you Susan Sheu... This song should become an anthem for this moment in American history: **"All You Fascists Bound to Lose!"**

5. Finally, today we debrief and start to turn the corner on one helluva year in politics... and begin to plan for 2023 and 2024. **What do YOU want us to do next year?** We will not be going away, but you will co-create our future, as you'll see later.

NOW, on to the main event:

We all **LOVE** Brian Colker for his analytical mind, his humor, his lack of ego. We cannot wait to hear what he has to say....

BRIAN, you're up!