Torie's OPENING REMARKS -- MWD Nov 15, 2026 (911 wds)

Welcome to the 92nd monthly meeting of Making Waves for Democracy!!

It's the year of the FIRE HORSE in the Chinese Zodiac and we did it!! It was "too big to rig", indeed! <u>This election was transformational</u>, so <u>HUGE</u> that I think we get to celebrate for weeks…. I only feel badly for my old friend Mayor Karen Bass who was seen as the Establishment candidate – huh?? -- and lost her race. <u>It was a change election, bigtime, and Mayor Bass was caught up in it</u>…

*** * ***

Let's look at the election more closely:

Hillary said <u>It's as if a toxic cloud has been lifted</u>.

Rebecca Solnit said <u>The dam broke</u>. And, as you will hear from Brian and Brandon later, IT'S THE END OF MAGA!

<u>We are in the beginning of the end of the Trump era</u>….With Stephen Miller in charge, it will be a cruel two months. But I think we will have a veto-proof Senate in January….we can find 4 Republicans to overturn the lame-duck orange fascist's veto.

*** * ***

I just returned Thursday from Costa Rica…..…. <u>I was reminded what a country with more equality could look like…</u>. They celebrate the 1948 abolition of the military with dancing and music every year

on Dec 1 – it's not World AIDS Day for them as it is for us. <u>And there is free healthcare and education</u> in Costa Rica that attracts other Central Americans…. There, the men act different from U.S. men: <u>they collaborate</u>! Our two male guides had never worked together before and they did it seamlessly. One was titularly in charge and the other was a natural leader AND they successfully elevated the bus driver, also a guy, to their level. This trio acted in perfect harmony….

***<u>As an aside</u>*: I will NEVER leave the country again for another big election night. I wanna be in front of my TV…. When I returned, I wondered what happened with Prop 40, the BILLIONAIRES TAX, and I noticed that folks were celebrating our big victory so much that it didn't matter that Prop 40 failed (and 42 passed)…..**

By the way, I've noticed over the years that in California where Propositions are concerned: *money wins*. <u>You just need to plant doubts in voters' minds and they vote the prop down</u>. And money for TV and social media ads does that….When I heard (before I left on my trip) that the grassroots did not organize a coalition, and progressive groups did not take a position on it, I knew we would lose Prop 40….I guess in the future we will have to look to other states like Colorado or Washington to lead on taxing

wealth. And how about Montana banning corporate campaign donations!

Ok. We are free to dream again now that the anti-MAGA movement -- the grassroots, the PEOPLE -- have weighed in electorally and kicked the shit out of the Epstein class.

How about raising the Federal Minimum Wage, which has been stuck at $7.25 forever? Or, defunding ICE? Or reversing the Big Ugly Bill? Or, enacting Medicare for All? Or, finally passing Gun Safety measures? Or affordable Child Care for all? A "care agenda" makes sense now that we have a Congress and statehouses that look more like the rest of us…76% of Americans live under a Dem governor! And an astonishing 83% are represented in Congress or in their Statehouses by a Democrat!

Or, how about Supreme Court reform? ….or getting money out of politics?…Or, how about we say for once and for all that CORPORATIONS are NOT people?…..or, we could enshrine DEI in the constitution. The possibilities are endless.

This is who we really are. Alaska, a formerly Red state, elected a Democrat as Governor for the first time in forever, and I'm thinking Mary Pelolta will win the Senate seat there…

And the old South is dead. Dixie is gone when what Stacy Abrams' fought for comes true and Georgia elects a Black woman, Keisha Lance Bottoms, as Governor…. And, Mississippi saw 92%,

nearly Presidential, turnout for Black voters -- and elected the first Black Senator since Reconstruction, Scott Colom! And South Carolina and North Carolina elected Dem Senators! And mark my words: Angie Nixon will win in Florida in 2 years!

There was broad consensus, even from so-called moderates like James Talerico -- who was a high school teacher swept into Texas state office earlier with the help of Beto O'Rourke's near-win…James Talerico was clear that the OLIGARCHS are the problem! Economic populism won big….

The economic inequality that we progressives have been crying in the dark about for decades was front and center: affordability and corruption were the top two issues. We of the anti-MAGA coalition are the true patriots. This is the death knell of the patriarchal confederacy. (Democrats beware: corporate interests are well-entrenched in DC and will come after you with sweet talk!)

*** * ***

I will leave it to Brian and Brandon to fill in the picture….But for my part: It was bigger than I -- always the optimist – ever imagined. This is bigger than the 30-year pendulum swing….this is the defeat of the bad guys, the Right, the Reagan "Trickle down" theory. This triumph is as big as 1933 when FDR was elected!

Maybe this time, Dems won't snatch defeat from the jaws of victory! Maybe we will stay united. We'll see. <u>The country is firmly and clearly there.</u>