

CALIFORNIA BLUE: HOLD TWO, FLIP TWO
Making Waves for Democracy September 13th Fundraiser
By Ilene Bell

This is the most important election of my life.

I imagine many of you would say the same.

Despite reading Sinclair's Lewis's novel "*It Can't Happen Here*" when I was a kid, I never really considered that *it could and it is happening here now!!* Our democracy *is* under threat and attack, _and only **WE** can protect it. **It is up to us all!** _I hear this from every scholar on authoritarianism, every social-action group like Indivisible or Mobilize, every political Podcast.

NOW, MORE THAN *EVER* IT IS TIME TO STEP UP!

WE MUST REGAIN CONTROL OF THE HOUSE.

YOU and ME.

For almost 10 years, this group has been committed to fundraising and canvassing in the service of a **BLUE HOUSE In Washington**. In that effort we rallied to Pass Prop 50 and now must rally to support **four** California seats that are absolutely critical to our taking back the

House.

With that in mind, we are holding a virtual Fundraiser on **Sept 13**.

CALIFORNIA BLUE: HOLD TWO, FLIP TWO

TWO SEATS ARE CHALLENGING HOLDS

Derek Tran in Orange County's District 45, who squeaked into office by only 653 votes, many of which came from our ballet curing efforts.

and **Adam Gray** in the Central Valley's District 13, whose margin of victory in 2024 was only 187 votes.

TWO SEATS ARE FLIPS

This is the year for us to unseat Republican David Valadao in Central Valley's District 22, and bring **Democrat Randy Villegas** to

Washington. Valadao voted for the One Big Beautiful Bill, even though over 60,000 of his constituents will lose their MediCal funding, so he's more vulnerable than ever. *It's time for him to go.*

And Darell Issa in San Diego's District 48 is retiring. That district was redrawn by Prop 50 so **Democrat Marni von Wilpert** has a real shot at defeating Republican Jim Desmond and flipping the seat **Blue**.

The hard work we put into passing Prop 50 will help in these races—but each will be close, nothing is guaranteed. So together let's do our part to make sure these districts are **BLUE**.

Since our first fundraiser back in 2018, Making Waves has raised over *2 million dollars*. Think about that. It's unbelievable that a small group like ours could do that.

Making Waves is truly the Little Engine That Could.

And that engine is driven and propelled by **YOU – each and every one of YOU!**

So, I am asking ***YOU*** to **JOIN *ME*** as a **Co-Host** for this

California Blue: Hold Two, Flip Two Fundraiser:

The money we raise will go to the ground game for these candidates.

And, the ground game will propel them to Washington!

Here's how Co-hosting works!

Co-hosts commit to raising or donating **at least** \$500. A co-host can reach out to family, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances, asking them to buy a \$50 ticket to the event, or donate that amount themselves.

Best of all, a co-host can BOTH make a donation and raise as much as they can from their personal network.

That's it!

Think about how many people **you** know who would be willing to donate \$50 to help **regain the house majority**. I'm sure you know lots of people who want to *DO* something, and feel the need in these dire times to do more.

YOU just need to ask! That's really the key.

Getting an email or a phone call from someone *you* know is *SO* different than getting the daily deluge of texts and emails from candidates across the country.

When someone you know reaches out, it becomes personal – people pay attention. And, they are often grateful that someone they know is active, engaged, and thoughtful about where their money will really count.

I can imagine some of you don't feel comfortable asking for money. I never fundraised in my life until I joined this group and I have to say that once I got past the initial apprehension, I took it on with

determination **because of the need to protect our republic.**

Folks often thanked me for reaching out, told me they felt energized by the fundraising event, and appreciated the work we were doing.

If you agree to co-host, we'll be with you all the way. We'll provide you with all the information and support you need. We'll share sample emails you can send out, and tips we have developed over the years. I will be glad to have you contact me with any co-host questions.

All ***YOU*** have to do is reach out to the people ***You*** know.

We are all here today, because **ATTENTION NEEDS TO BE PAID.**

So, take the plunge, give it a go!

There's a sign-up sheet on your table. Add ***your*** name to the co-host list!

There's another way you can help.

Our fundraising committee is committed to contacting co-hosts from previous years **to ask them to step up again this year.** We need help contacting people. Please consider signing up for this on the sign-in sheet as well.

When ***I*** think of fundraising and being a co-host:

My personal mantra is the Dr. Seuss book I read in childhood:

Horton Hears a Who. The more people we galvanize to

get involved and *make noise*, **the better for these campaigns,**

the better for you, the better for me, the better for our republic, our

Democracy, our country, our children and grandchildren.

ACT...ION...Action, Action we need Action.....