

T.O. Opening Remarks June 28, 2026, *Making Waves for Democracy*

WELCOME TO THE 89th monthly meeting of Making Waves for Democracy...We've been here for nearly 10 years. I'm so proud of the over \$2 million YOU have raised at 14 different \$50 events, and the nearly 200,000 doors you've knocked on.

But we are older now. In Vegas in 2016, as I had done in 2008 and 2012, I canvassed my heart out. But now canvassing is harder for many of us (I have arthritis in both knees...)... So, I respect infinitely the 80-year-olds who still do it. While I laughed at POSTCARDING a few years ago, I love it now. Oh well. We live and learn.

Will all those who have canvassed in the past year, wave your hands! ...

HEY, how about that World Cup? FIFA is a living rebuke to MAGA. Every day, Americans are seeing immigration up close – especially those from African countries....!!! I'm a new fan; I find that soccer is quicker and more interesting than baseball. Just saying....Although we love our Dodgers, don't we?....

OKAY....

Voters are angry. And this country is changing, uniting around the patriotic majority -- consolidating around our core beliefs in NO KINGS, in the Rule of Law, the Constitution, racial

and gender justice, immigrants and LGBTQ rights, abortion, gun safety, and more. WE ARE THE DECENT ONES! There is an ever-smaller group behind MAGA. And, President Obama still tells the best story about this country! How about Michelle and him and their Obama Center opening on Juneteenth?!!!

Every day, with every horrible Trump or SCOTUS decision, the world moves a little more to the left. There's a NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY coming into being, led by young people, women, and people of color who bring progressive ideas and are reviving the Dem Party.....That's what Zohran Mamdani's three House wins in the New York primary was about. Not the primacy of DSA.....

As someone who was around at the founding of DSA, and spent much of my life identifying as a DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST -- I'm still a social democrat -- let me tell you what the media obsession with Mamdani and DSA means:

The Democratic establishment is scared shitless.

They are controlled by their own donors, who benefit from the current system of low taxation on the rich.

There is emerging a better Democratic Party: it is patriotic. It stands for the majority's values. It's a progressive mix of DSA -- AND the best of the alternative world.

It is feminist. That means its basic politics is a belief in a partnership model. NOT IN HIERARCHY. It's beyond democracy although that's the basis of it.

And we will see it next, after Trumpism fades away. Remember, the dying mule kicks the hardest. This is the beginning of the end of the patriarchal racism that has marked this country since its start.

PAUSE

BUT let me tell you what I also care about: VETTING. Vetting means surviving what they throw at you during a campaign -- including any skeletons in your closet. It's what Democrats did NOT do for Graham Platner in Maine. And he's running against that wily Susan Collins -- who has won by appearing moderate but votes with the Orange Fascist 95% of the time. Platner has not been VETTED, but we'll see what the voters of Maine do.... And, hell, the Right just makes stuff up from whole cloth -- like that James Talerico in Texas is transgender or a vegan. Huh???

A campaign is a street fight, let me tell you from experience. Now, both Platner and Talerico might well win their races....

***** NEW IDEA....**

The pandemic gave us POSTCARDING, and TEXT BANKING and Zoom -- And the Resistance has given us organized NETWORKS. Under Trump 2.0, since 2024, there are many more

of these Networks than in 2017 when *Indivisible* and *Swing Left* and the group formerly known as *Sister District* – now called *States Win* – were formed....And they all bundle money and support or organize protests. For starters, there's 50501 and Hopium Chronicles and Focus for Democracy....

And, newsflash -- there was a lot more money on the Dem side than the Reps in 2024. Our 6 million grassroots donors were a force to be reckoned with – although now we get MANY texts and emails DAILY....so.... YUK -- BUT this time, the oligarchs are pitching in to give the Reps the money advantage....So pick a couple of House seats and maybe one Senate seat and GIVE MONEY NOW. Early money is like yeast.....
And support our Making Waves Fundraiser Sept 13....You'll hear more about that later in the agenda....

I have a few messages today:

1) Our first job is to WIN – and win BIG -- IN NOVEMBER.

Now is the time when we cannot give up. We must not. We are all exhausted. There are alternatives to canvassing now - so make sure you do SOMETHING!....

(AND NO I don't know when he'll die or fade away, but this election in November is ALL- IMPORTANT. We must all participate, from now until Nov 3rd – that's only 4

months away....) We have to win so overwhelmingly that there is no doubt.

2) You must give \$\$ to flip both the House and Senate NOW.

In October, when folks wake up to electoral politics, it's too late! By October, *the candidates are defined. The race is defined.* There are 18 flippable seats in the House, and the Dems need to pick up only a few of them. Plus 4 Senate seats. To repeat, PICK TWO HOUSE SEATS and ONE Senate Seat and give \$\$ over and over again. Go to the candidate's website and sign up as a monthly donor TODAY.

3) VOTE EARLY. Voting early increases turnout! So tell everyone you know to do it. Build a culture of early voting.

4) AND, sign up to volunteer to be an POLL WORKER or for ELECTION PROTECTION. They are gonna do whatever they can to suppress turnout and WIN in November. If you've never done anything like that, this is the year to learn. It's easy peasy....

THAT'S IT FROM ME TODAY.....

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