Yes, “It’s NOT the best of times, it IS the worst of times”—or at least close to any “worst of times” that I can recall. So, what do we do after the hand wringing, the apprehension when checking cellphone messaging each morning, the commiseration sessions with friends of like minds, the appointments at the counseling center?

What do we do? Listen to Tom Friedman, NY Times: “… that’s why I have only one thought for this election:

“Get power. Get a lever of power that can curb Trump. Run for the House or the Senate as a Democrat; register to vote as a Democrat; help someone else register to vote as a Democrat; send money to a Democrat; canvass for a Democrat; drive someone to the polls to vote for a Democrat.

Democrats are never going to win the news cycle from Trump. He’s an attention-grabbing genius. But they can, and must, out-organize him, out-run him, out-register him, and out-vote him. Nothing else matters now.”

A Tale of Two Cities or is it today’s tale of two countries within a country? From one view of the nation, this is the worst of times as we watch the abandonment of what once was a shared commitment to the aspirational America—the beacon of welcome, hope, and opportunity. And what of the other view—that what the President does is exactly what they had in mind when they voted, what they wanted. Why? For me, this is a time for reflection, conscience searching, and determination that what I must do as a citizen is to keep the country I have loved all of my life from falling into a chasm of failed experiments in government.

We, the Democrats of Rossmoor, can be thankful and hopeful as we come together to wage war against the abandonment of everything we hold dear from the future of the planet to the reunification of a small child with her mother. It is all about the same thing—commitment to a country characterized by justice, integrity, honesty, mercy, and generosity.

We, the Democrats of Rossmoor, can be grateful for the many workers among us who, under the leadership of Susan Lewis, have texted more than 100,000 voters throughout the country to make sure that they vote. We’re grateful to Tricia Spiegel and her postcard writers who have sent more than 5,000 messages to Democrats. We're grateful to Carol Weed for organizing more than 170 voter registration volunteers who go out every week to various locations to find and register voters. We can be grateful to those who call legislators to oppose the dangerous repeal of treaties; the Paris Agreement; the Clean Power Act; protection of oceans, land, sky, health care; and food for the poor programs.

We are committed to freedom of the press, voting rights, and, since all of us at this point have at least one preexisting condition, a defense of the ACA rules.

Continued on page 2
Walnut Creek City Councilman Kevin Wilk updated DoR members who attended our Thank God We’re Democrats discussion group last month on the state of Walnut Creek. He reported that Walnut Creek is doing very well and is solidly on its progressive path. He said that the city’s portion of the gas tax is already funding several projects, including “improving roads, pedestrian paths, sidewalks, and bicycle paths.” All good reasons to NOT repeal the gas tax on the November ballot.

Wilk said he’s proud of Walnut Creek’s environmental accomplishments. “We’re updating our climate action plan through 2020 and will also update it in five years. We approved 100% clean energy on all city buildings and have been replacing [compact fluorescent] lights with LED for the last year. Over their lifetime this will save many thousands of dollars.”

Wilk went to Japan in April to learn about environmental practices there. He said he was impressed with SPREAD, the country’s largest indoor agriculture business. He visited a facility where four types of lettuce—which typically require up to 100 gallons of water per head—are grown. “SPREAD lettuce uses just one gallon indoors, and 95% of that is recycled,” he said. Wilk added that SPREAD is seeking a location in the United States and that the Shadelands area of Walnut Creek is one of its candidates.

As for the perennial concern—traffic—Wilk said that Walnut Creek has the most time-sensitive, synchronized traffic lights in the state. Parking meters are now cheaper outside of the immediate downtown area.

And we just have to give a shout-out to the downtown’s latest sculpture: *Bullman and Bulldog* at the corner of Mt. Diablo and Main. Wilk said it’s already included in many travelogues. *The Floating Head*, a couple blocks down Main in front of Mechanics Bank, made Condé Nast’s international list of best fountains.

There are now 70,000 residents within the incorporated area of Walnut Creek. With 10,000 in Rossmoor, Wilk says we’re 14% of that total—and we vote!
TGWD will be in the Creekside Club Room on July 12. Social time is 4:30–5:00 p.m. and the speaker will follow at 5 p.m. $5 a glass wine and $1 soda will be served. Please bring finger food to share.

The speaker will be Marissa Lapointe, the student leader of the Walnut Creek March for Our Lives that took place last spring and was attended by many Rossmoorians.

Marissa was already writing her senior thesis on how reasonable gun control would reduce shootings. When the Parkland High School massacre happened, she re-focused her thesis on mass shootings and joined fellow students who were appalled and deeply affected by the shooting. One of the student leaders of the Walnut Creek Women’s March asked Marissa to lead a March for Our Lives in Walnut Creek, and Marissa agreed.

Marissa and her colleagues later formed the Student Demand Action Group, focusing on gun control and, in particular, on AB 2103 which would require at least eight hours of fire arm training in order to purchase a gun in California. Now the group is working to register voters in order to “flip” the House of Representatives so that their gun control legislation will become law.

Marissa is a recent graduate of Walnut Creek’s Las Lomas High School. She will attend the University of Colorado, Boulder, in the fall and plans to major in political science.

The Democrats of Rossmoor invite you to hear Marissa speak about the student movement, its goals, and progress made.

The August 9 TGWD event will be a Candidates’ Forum featuring Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Lynn Mackey, Iman Novin, Cherise Khaund (MDUSD board candidate), and others to be determined. Social time is 4:30–5:00 p.m. and the speaker will follow at 5 p.m. The venue is yet to be arranged, so check the weekly DoR emails or our website www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for details.

"What I’m asking for is hard. It’s easier to be cynical; to accept that change isn’t possible, and politics is hopeless, and to believe that our voices and actions don’t matter. But if we give up now, then we forsake a better future." —Barack Obama

July 26 — General Meeting

President of Restore the Delta and former Assemblyperson Joan Buchanan will speak at the July 26 General Meeting in the Event Center at 7 p.m. The town square and social hour will be at 6 p.m.

The documentary Over Troubled Waters, produced by Restore the Delta, will also be shown. The short film narrates the story of a movement to protect the region and to encourage sustainable water policies for all the people of California.

Buchanan previously served in the California State Assembly, representing our District 16 from 2008 to 2014, when she termed out. Before that, she served on the board of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District for nearly two decades.
ELECT DEMOCRATS
America’s under attack. Gotta sign up...

New rule: the Senate cannot confirm a Supreme Court Justice during an impeachment year.

Plenty of stories about citizens using assault weapons to kill multiple people at once. Not one single story about how someone actually used one to defend themselves.
Congressman Mark DeSaulnier will speak at the DoR’s General Meeting at the Event Center on Thursday, August 23, at 7 p.m. The town square/social hour will be at 6 p.m.

Mark DeSaulnier was sworn in to the 114th Congress in 2015. He represents California’s 11th Congressional District, which includes the western, central, and southern areas of Contra Costa County. He currently serves on the House’s Education and Workforce Committee and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform’s subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets.

DeSaulnier served at the local level on the Concord City Council, as Mayor of Concord, and as a three-term Contra Costa County Supervisor. As supervisor, he served on the California Air Resources Board, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

DeSaulnier was elected to the State Assembly in 2006 where he served one term and received the distinction of being the first freshman in history to chair the Assembly Transportation Committee. He was elected to two terms in the California State Senate in 2008 and 2012.

Bring your questions. As with all Democrats of Rossmoor events, everyone is welcome, regardless of political affiliation.

DeSaulnier is the California Democratic Party endorsed Candidate for U.S. Representative, 11th Congressional District. His website is at www.desaulnierforcongress.com.

Cosponsored by the DoR and the Rossmoor LGBT Alliance Club, Democratic Party politician Willie Brown will speak at the Event Center 4:00–5:30 p.m., followed by social time.

Two-term mayor of San Francisco, renowned speaker of the CA Assembly and widely regarded as the most influential African American politician of the late twentieth century, Willie L. Brown, Jr. has been at the center of California politics, government, and civic life for four decades. Brown’s career spans the American presidencies from Lyndon Johnson to George W. Bush, and he’s worked with every California governor from Pat Brown to Arnold Schwarzenegger. Brown has left his stamp on every aspect of politics and public policy in California.

As mayor of San Francisco, Brown refurbished and rebuilt the nation’s busiest transit system, pioneered the use of bond measures to build affordable housing, created a model juvenile justice system, and paved the way for a second campus of UCSF that will serve as the anchor of a new development that will position the city as a center for the burgeoning field of biotechnology.

Now a frequent commentator and columnist, Brown also heads the Willie L. Brown, Jr., Institute on Politics and Public Service, where he shares his knowledge and skills with a new generation of California leaders.

The Rossmoor LGBT Alliance is asking for a $10 contribution to help fund their projects.
Candidates Red to Blue

There are 435 seats in the House of Representatives, 53 of which are in California. According to The New York Times, 48 seats are considered competitive (tossup or one-party-leaning). Republicans hold 41 of these competitive seats, and Democrats hold 7.

Only 23 seats are needed to flip to take back the House in 2018. There have been swings of 24 seats or more in half the midterm elections since 1994. 25 Republicans are up for election in districts that Hillary Clinton won. 12 Democrats are running in districts that Donald Trump won.

Volunteer…tweet…write…call…canvass…donate. WE CAN DO THIS!

Republican-held California districts that Clinton won in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>2016 Presidential Margin</th>
<th>2016 Congressional Margin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49th, Derrell Issa*</td>
<td>Tossup</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th, Jeff Denham</td>
<td>Tossup</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th, Steve Knight</td>
<td>Tossup</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39th, Ed Royce*</td>
<td>Tossup</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>48th, Dana Rohrabacher</td>
<td>Tossup</td>
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<tr>
<td>45th, Mimi Walters</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st, David Valadao</td>
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* Incumbent is not running

Source: New York Times, June 1, 2018

IN CALIFORNIA

49th District—Southern Orange County and Northern San Diego. The 49% Republican vote share in the primary suggests Democrats have a strong chance of flipping this seat, soon to be vacated by Derrell Issa, who won reelection in 2016 by around 1,600 votes. His GOP replacement, Diane Harkey—the state tax board chairman who won first place in the primary—has better name recognition than her Democratic opponent attorney, Mike Levin.

10th District—Central Valley, including Modesto. Republican Jeff Denham’s attention to issues like Central Valley water and immigration has kept his constituents happy. His opponent, young firebrand Democrat Josh Harder, has proved a good fundraiser. But even if Harder can consolidate support that went to other Democratic candidates in the primary, his success may hinge on his ability to get some moderate Republicans’ votes.

Continued on page 7
Candidates Red to Blue, continued from page 6

25th District—Northern Los Angeles County and Simi Valley. Republican Steve Knight, long targeted by Democrats in this swing district, had a strong showing in the primary, receiving 53% of the vote. Winning the most votes among the four Democratic Party challengers, Democrat Katie Hill is new to campaign politics but has deep roots in the area and was an Emily’s List-endorsed candidate in a year where female candidates seem to be getting a boost from voters.

39th District—Northeast Orange County, eastern Los Angeles County and part of San Bernardino County. Former GOP Assemblywoman Young Kim won the primary as Royce’s anointed successor, and she has a big advantage on what is still conservative-leaning turf. But voter registration is trending Democratic, and Gil Cisneros, a Navy veteran who used his millions in lottery winnings to fund his primary campaign, starts off the general election campaign with more cash to spend.

48th District—Coastal Orange County. Republican Dana Rohrabacher won only 30% in the primary, so Democrats have a good shot at unseating him. The contest with local businessman Democrat Harley Rouda should be intense given Rohrabacher’s national profile. Rouda is wealthy enough to have self-funded much of his primary coffers.

45th District—Inland Orange County including Irvine. Incumbent Mimi Walters kept a fairly low profile during the primary while a crowded field of Democrats fought among themselves. She has enjoyed the support of her district by large, albeit shrinking, margins in previous elections. Walters has raised nearly $2.6 million. Her Democratic opponent, U.C. Irvine law professor Katie Porter, had to spend most of her impressive $1.1 million primary haul in an intra-party primary battle and had just a sixth of what Walters had in the bank in mid-May. Plus Porter has cast herself as a progressive, which could make it tough for her to flip this district without high Democratic turnout this fall.

21st District—Central Valley including part of Bakersfield. Though the voter registration in Republican David Valadao’s district is lopsided against Republicans—Democrats have an 18% advantage—he outran Donald Trump by 16% and Hillary Clinton by 2%. Valadao’s Democratic opponent TJ Cox joined the race late and must make up for a fundraising deficit. Still, Democrats will try their best to get over the line in a place that, by the numbers, may be winnable for the party.

Source: LA Times article by Christina Bellantoni, Julie Westfall, and Allison Wisk, published September 13, 2017, and updated June 8, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOP</th>
<th>Democratic Party</th>
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<tr>
<td>DON’T</td>
<td>Strengthen civil rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>DON’T</td>
<td>Create jobs without defunding important social programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>DON’T</td>
<td>Improve access to education</td>
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<td>DON’T</td>
<td>Reduce our dependency on foreign oil</td>
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<td>DON’T</td>
<td>Stop discrimination in all forms</td>
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<td>DON’T</td>
<td>End poverty and income inequality</td>
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<tr>
<td>DON’T</td>
<td>Fight for women’s rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DON’T</td>
<td>Make health insurance work for everyone</td>
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Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
Older Statistics (but still worth a look)

Comparing Taxes in Wealthy Countries
Total tax revenue as a percentage of 2015 GDP

- Denmark
- France
- Belgium
- Finland
- Austria
- Italy
- Sweden
- Hungary
- Norway
- Netherlands
- Iceland
- Luxembourg
- Germany
- Greece
- Slovenia
- Portugal
- OECD average
- Spain
- Estonia
- Czech Republic
- New Zealand
- United Kingdom
- Slovak Republic
- Poland
- Japan
- Canada
- Israel
- Turkey
- Latvia
- Switzerland
- Australia
- United States
- Korea
- Ireland
- Chile
- Mexico

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
Join the Democrats of Rossmoor

Membership runs January through December and costs $20 per person.

Check One: [ ] New member [ ] Returning member

Name(s) __________________________________________________________ Date ____________

Please print.

Address __________________________________________________________

Phone __________________ Email ________________________________

Are you a registered voter at this address? ______ As a Democrat? _______

(We need this information for the Democratic Party, Region Two)

Volunteer for any of the following? ______Voter registration ______ Event set-up

On behalf of Democratic Party candidates & issues: ______ Write cards/letters ______ Phone ______ Table

Place your check (made out to Democrats of Rossmoor) and this form in an envelope and:

✓ Leave it in the Democrats’ mailbox at Gateway during office hours,
✓ Mail it to Sue De Carlo, 901 Terra California Dr. #6, Walnut Creek, CA 94595,
✓ Or bring the form/check to the Membership Table at any meeting.

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information