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Community Connection Corner: During ArtWauk, Dems Debate and Strategize

By Barbara Altman

Mary Turley, candidate for Lake County Board, contributed to this article.

The weather was perfect as local residents and visitors from around the area strolled through Waukegan's old downtown area on Saturday evening, June 18, to take advantage of ArtWauk. An open door, a table



full of snacks, and the promise of a chance to engage with other Democrats drew more than 30 people to the Community Connection office on Genesee Street, just south of the Genesee Theater.

The main order of business was talking politics. For nearly 90 minutes, Tenth Dems leaders and

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Tenth News

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Dold Talks Big But Helps His Party Block House Vote On Gun Violence Prevention

By Barbara Altman

If you had a seat in Congress and wanted a bill to become law, would you be in favor of a vote on the bill on the House floor?

The answer seems pretty obvious. The only way for a bill to become law is for it to be passed by a majority VOTE in both houses of Congress and then signed by the President.



Speaker of the House Paul Ryan shakes hands with his buddy Bob Dold.

So how can Bob Dold claim to support enactment of the No Fly, No Buy bill the Democrats have been trying to get to the House floor when he repeatedly votes for the House to move on to other business rather than consider the bill?

It's obvious that if Bob Dold really wanted to send the No Fly, No Buy bill to the President's desk, he'd support Democrats' efforts to obtain a floor vote and then vote for the bill.

But that's not what he's done. In fact, on June 14 and 15, Dold did exactly the opposite. Twice,



Democrats sought to use House procedures to obtain a Yea or Nay vote on H.R. 5293, the No Fly, No Buy bill. On both occasions, notwithstanding the horrific slaughter of innocents in Orlando just days before, Dold voted with his party to take up other legislation rather than hold a VOTE ON THIS LEGISLATION TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE.

Despite his nonstop characterization of himself as "bipartisan," and "independent," Dold has not deviated from the Republican Party/NRA line on guns with anything other than lip service. In fact, the June 14-

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Turn to page 2 for our regular monthly Congress Watch column.

CONGRESS WATCH:

DOUBLE-TALK DOLD IS NO FRIEND OF THE ENVIRONMENT

By Laurence D. Schiller

Bob Dold has a problem. In a district that voted for Barack Obama twice, he has to appear to be independent and moderate. Yet he also depends on right-wing PACs and conservative Speaker of the House Paul Ryan to help fill his campaign coffers. Dold's dilemma became worse when Donald Trump became the presumptive Republican nominee for President after winning the majority of votes in the 10th District's Republican primary and the endorsement of Speaker Ryan. How to appeal to independents, who reject Trump's racist, misogynist, and downright dangerous policies, while keeping the Trump voters in his camp and Republican PAC money flowing in?



Chameleon Bob's solution? Create an illusion. Talk like a moderate while fully supporting the right-wing Republican agenda.

An analysis of Dold's votes on key bills by the nonpartisan VoteSmart.org shows that on over 40 key votes during his tenure in Congress, Dold has voted **against** the values he claims he holds in common with the 10th District. And every one of these key roll calls broke down essentially on party lines, with the self-styled independent Dold voting with his fellow Republicans.

This month, we focus on what Dold has and hasn't done in Congress to protect our planet. Here are some of his votes:

- Dold opposed Clean Water Act regulation.

Dold voted for SJ Res 22 (January 2016) which sought to overturn President Obama's expansion of the authority of the EPA and Corps of Engineers after the Flint water disaster. In other words, Dold opposed strengthening the EPA's ability to protect other communities' water supplies from the kind of pollution that has exposed Flint's residents to toxic levels of lead in their water. The bill was sponsored in the Senate by Tea Party darling Joni Ernst (R-IA). President Obama vetoed it on January 20.

- Dold has aligned himself with Republican climate change deniers.

In June 2016, Dold voted with every other Republican in the House in favor of a resolution stating opposition to a carbon tax, thereby aligning himself with vocal climate-change deniers in his

party like Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA), who sponsored the resolution. During his first term, in 2011, Dold also voted along with his party's climate-change deniers to bar the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases. (Energy Tax Prevention Act; HR 910; vote number [11-HV249](#), Apr 7, 2011).

In January 2015, Dold voted to approve the environmentally dangerous Keystone XL pipeline (HR 3, January 2015, <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2015/roll016.xml>). Notably, then-Congressman Brad Schneider voted against approval when a similar bill came to a vote in May 2013 (<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/votes/113-2013/h179>).

In 2010, Dold signed the so-called No Climate Tax Pledge sponsored by the right-wing Institute for Liberty Americans for Prosperity (AFP).

In May of 2011, Dold voted to repeal President Obama's ban against drilling for oil in the continental shelf in another straight party-line vote (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll320.xml>).

- Preservation of National Forests

In October 2011, Dold voted for a land exchange where valuable Arizona national forest lands were given to Resolution Copper Company for exploitation (HR 1904 October 2011).

In July 2015, Dold voted to make it harder to mount environmental challenges to projects, such as logging, in national forests (HR 2647 July 2015).

- Protection of waterways and endangered species

In February 2012, Dold voted to stop environmental restoration efforts in the San Joaquin Valley, including overriding the Endangered Species Act and ending the reintroduction of salmon (HR 1837 February 2012).

We could go on, but our point should be clear. Bob Dold is no friend of the environment. No wonder Brad Schneider has earned the endorsement of the Sierra Club.

Bob Dold is clearly NOT the environment-friendly moderate he claims to be as, again and again, he follows the party line on key environmental votes. Dold does NOT represent the values of the 10th Congressional District. Time to elect Brad Schneider, who does.



A Lesson From Jane Austen About How We Judge Character

By Eleonora di Liscia

Jane Austen didn't write about politics. She stuck to what she knew—the narrow society of the early 19th century English gentry. But the themes she explored through that society are still instructive today—even when applied to the 2016 Presidential campaign!

Let's take *Pride and Prejudice*, casting Hillary Clinton as Mr. Darcy, Donald Trump as Mr. Wickham, and the American public as Elizabeth Bennett. Who will win Lizzie's heart?

Lizzie first meets Darcy at a ball. He is aloof and his manners are not sufficiently ingratiating for the gentry. He lacks superficial charm. He won't dance, and Lizzie overhears him making unflattering observations about her and her family. She, and other residents of Hertfordshire, don't like him very much. There's something about him they just don't like.

But as the story unfolds, we learn that things are not what they seem. To some extent, Darcy/Hillary is a victim of prejudice. His real character has been obscured by the media of the day—word of mouth—with some malicious gossip thrown in to stir the pot.

Soon after the ball, Mr. Wickham arrives with the militia. Wickham has history with Darcy, and he reports that history as innuendo and half-truths, all in a way designed to make Darcy look bad. According to Wickham, Darcy was really, really mean. Darcy cheated Wickham. He was just really, really unfair. Because Lizzie/the American Electorate already doesn't really like Darcy/Hillary, she is all too happy to hear bad things and to believe every word Wickham/Trump has to say.

Not only that. Lizzie is attracted to Wickham because she thinks he is frank, open, and charming. (OK, our analogy breaks down a bit there. Trump is hardly charming, but his supposed "frankness" is touted by his supporters.)

It takes some time, but Lizzie is eventually undeceived. She learns that Wickham is a first class liar. Turns out Darcy wasn't really unfair to him. The truth is that Wickham tried to run off with Darcy's sister. Darcy made a deal with him, paid him off, and now Wickham wants more money. Lizzie rethinks her whole dealings with Wickham and luckily realizes her mistaken judgment about his character before she votes for him for President. Now, she reflects, why was he telling me all that stuff when we just met? What a big mouth! Maybe all that apparent frankness isn't so hot. And he was lying to me the whole time.

Gosh, how did I get suckered by that narcissistic creep? Except when Jane Austen writes it, she puts it a lot more elegantly.

After Lizzie learns the truth, she keeps it secret to spare Darcy's sister from becoming an item on TMZ. Wickham attempts to run off with and thereby ruin Elizabeth's sister, Lydia, the quintessential low-information voter.

Now Darcy comes to the rescue. Darcy/Hillary knows how to get things done. First, demonstrating his superior administrative abilities, he finds the wayward pair. Then, he uses his negotiating skills, honed from dealing with world leaders, to save the Bennett sisters from a life of disgraced spinsterhood.

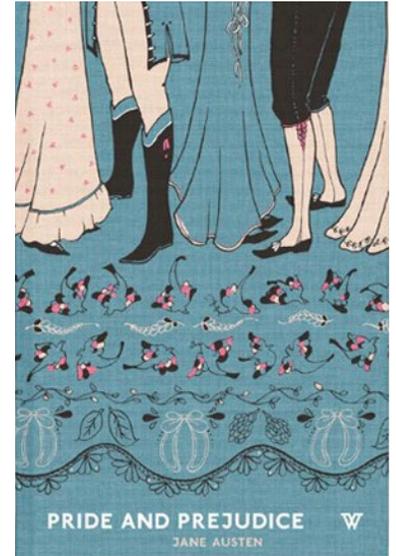
Elizabeth falls deeply in love. You see, once you get to know him, you learn that Darcy/Hillary is the real deal. In Jane Austen, good character trumps glibness and facile likability every time. You marry the guy/girl you can count on, the one who thinks about other people, not the amoral, narcissistic charmer.

As Elizabeth says of Darcy and Wickham: "One has got all the goodness, and the other all the appearance of it."

OK, the analogy breaks down again. Trump hardly has the appearance of goodness. But let's substitute the word "leadership." Trump's supporters think he'll make them safer in the world by standing up to terrorists and that he'll get things done. Like Wickham, however, Trump is really just a lot of hot air.

If you want real leadership, you've got Hillary. She's worked successfully in the Senate and as Secretary of State. She's also got real goodness. Contrary to the media's storyline, Hillary, like Darcy, is much warmer and more genuine than how she is portrayed.

If Elizabeth Bennett could learn to get past appearances and pick a real gem, then so can America.



Brad Schneider Meets with Moraine Township Democrats

On Sunday afternoon, June 12, Brad Schneider joined Moraine Township Democrats at their 2016 organizational meeting and addressed the group.



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Dold Talks Big But Helps His Party Block House Vote On Gun Violence Prevention

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15 votes against consideration of No Fly, No Buy marked the 12th and 13th times Dold joined his party to prevent a floor vote on this important legislation.

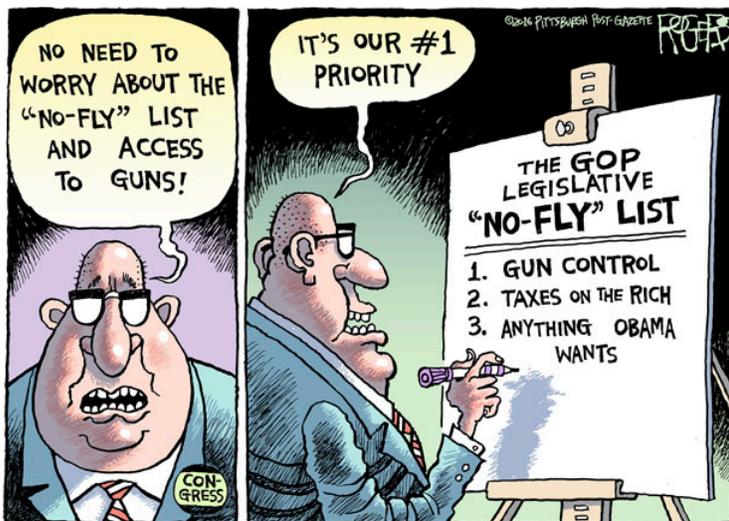
Then, on June 24, Dold saturated social media with self-congratulatory posts about how he “broke with his party” and voted against adjournment in the middle of the night during the Democrats’ sit-in to demand a vote on No Fly, No Buy bills. But he didn’t tell constituents that the adjournment he opposed lasted for less than an hour. And he didn’t tell constituents that it was after Speaker Ryan called the House back into session for an hour for two roll-call votes (both measures passed on a party-line vote, Dold included) that proceedings were again adjourned, without a peep of protest from Congressman Dold.

It was that 3:30 a.m. adjournment that thwarted the Democrats’ sit-in, at least for the time being, as the House Republicans—Dold among them—fled Washington early and returned to their districts for an extra-long Fourth of July break.

So when Dold tells you that he has broken with his party and the NRA to support gun safety legislation, ask him whether he’s ever voted for such legislation. And when he claims that he “just hasn’t had the chance,” ask him why that is. Ask him why he has repeatedly helped his party PREVENT such a vote.

Maybe, just maybe, the pressure of such questions from reporters and well-informed constituents—who are starting to greet Dold’s self-promotion with more skepticism—will move Dold and some other Republicans who are afraid of losing their seats in November to allow commonsense gun violence prevention legislation to come to a vote. Regardless, doesn’t the 10th District deserve a Congressman who doesn’t have to be pressured to do the right thing?

If you think sensible gun safety legislation is badly needed, go to the polls November 8 and send Brad Schneider back to Congress. He’ll not only *talk* about voting for laws to reduce gun violence; he’ll also *act* to bring such bills to the House floor where he can, and will, *vote* for them.



In the Doldrums

Throughout his time in Congress, Bob Dold has consistently supported the Ryan budget, which would turn Medicare into a voucher system and end Medicare as we know it.



Community Connection Corner: During ArtWauk, Dems Debate and Strategize

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summer interns; community organizers and professional educators; longtime residents of Lake County and new arrivals; active volunteers and folks just looking for a way to help out; two Lake County Board candidates--Democrats Mary Turley and John Idleburg; Bernie supporters and Hillary supporters; volunteers for the Brad Schneider congressional campaign, the Tammy Duckworth senatorial campaign, and Democratic state legislative candidates; and passersby drawn by the food and conversation engaged in a lively dialogue about our current politics. Gathered more than three-deep around a large conference table, we exchanged ideas about a range of issues of concern to Democrats—gun violence prevention, education, and the Affordable Care Act, to name just three—and how to engage our voters. We also heard briefly, by telephone, from Rev. Jesse Jackson, who sent his warm regards and talked about the next week’s 45th Annual Rainbow PUSH conference in Chicago.

Both of the Democratic candidates for Lake County Board who were at the event, Mary Turley and John Idleburg, emphasized the critical role of local government and its influence on the social and economic issues that matter to the electorate. As those present discussed the importance of voting, the conversation turned to races up-ballot and down-ballot. Ideas were exchanged about how to persuade disappointed Sanders supporters not to skip the top of the ballot—if only to ensure against a Trump victory—and how to persuade those less engaged to vote for offices all the way down the ballot—to and including County Board. We talked about canvassing and phone banking to build support for the Democratic ticket and educate people about the issues.

Regardless of which candidate they’d supported in the primaries, everyone agreed about the threat that Donald Trump poses to our democracy and how crucial it is that we make sure he never becomes President of the United States. With that goal in mind, we discussed Democratic values and Democrats’ common ground on issues.

We talked about the importance of helping Tammy Duckworth defeat Mark Kirk in the Senate race and ensuring that Brad Schneider regains the 10th District Congressional seat. We talked particularly about the hypocrisy of incumbent Republican Congressman Bob Dold, who markets himself as “independent” but uses his seat in Congress to fully support the right-wing Republican agenda. We discussed the misleading and self-serving publicity that comes out of the Dold campaign—and

his congressional office—and the importance of making sure that 10th District voters get the facts about what Dold actually has been doing in Congress. An important case in point was Dold’s press releases falsely crediting him with supporting legislation to keep guns out of the hands of those on the terror watch list. In fact, after speaking in favor of the legislation on the House floor on June 14, Dold then voted with his party to keep that same legislation from coming to the **House floor that same day for an up or down vote**. Tenth Dems has been working to spread the truth about this discrepancy between Dold’s rhetoric and his actions.

As Lake County Board candidate Mary Turley observed, “We as citizens must vote on the facts, and not just our feelings.”

Community Connection looks forward to hosting similar strategy sessions, as well as Donuts and Democrats and Let’s Talk Politics events, and more, this busy election year.



Some of the Tenth Dems 2016 interns and other volunteers hard at work on a summer afternoon.

Women (and Some Good Men) Show Support for Brad Schneider

The crowd at the Women for Brad event on June 14th filled the room to capacity with energized, ready-to-work supporters.



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Women (and Some Good Men) Show Support for Brad Schneider

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The room was filled to capacity as Brad addressed his supporters.



Brad surprised Karyn Davidman with a birthday cupcake.

Trump Through the Eyes of a Child

by Pam Idleburg

Let me share a conversation that I had with my seven-year-old granddaughter last week.

We were riding in the car and I was listening to POTUS on the radio. This is a channel on my radio I listen to regularly, and Daija and I spend a lot of time together.

We have had several occasions to talk about politics and the different candidates. I know that Daija thinks that Hillary Clinton should win and the other old guy should be second, but I didn't see this one coming.

We were listening to President Obama's endorsement of Hillary Clinton. I mentioned to Daija that Hillary Clinton had won the Democratic nomination and President Obama's support.

At first, she didn't understand and exclaimed, "OH NO! HE won?"

I told her, "No, Trump didn't win." Trump is the HE in our world. I explained to her that now, "Trump and Hillary Clinton will be in a race for the President of the United States. We will all vote again in November." Daija went with me the last time I voted, so this made



sense to her.

"We are voting for Hillary, right?"

"Yes, we are," I reassured her.

"Good," she said. Now this is from a seven-year-old, mind you.

She continued, "I hope he doesn't win, because then he is going to send me back."

"Send you back where Daija?" I asked.

"Back to where I came from. If he wins, he will send me back," she replied.

I had to pull over to the curb. She was seriously worried. Again, I asked her, "Where are you supposed to go?"

"Back to Denmark, Sweden and African American," she said.

"Which part of you is going where?" I asked. Now I'm teasing her a bit, but she is holding her own.

"I don't know, but my friends and I talk about this at school, and two of them will have to go back to Mexico."

These are first graders having these conversations. "Were your friends born here in America?" I asked.

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Off the Mark

Mark Kirk has opposed measures for student loan relief, Pell grants, and free community college.



“Yes, but he is going to send them back if he wins. That’s what they said because they are Mexican American. They would have to leave,” Daija explained. She’s got a little tear in her eye.

I told her that she and her friends are American with heritage (try explaining heritage to a seven-year-old) from those other countries and that she and her friends aren’t going to have to go anywhere. I also told her that Hillary will be President and that Hillary will have our backs.

She gave a big sigh.

I was reeling.

These are seven-year-olds, first graders. They talk about if this bad guy Trump wins, he will send them away back to where they came from.

This is little kid FEAR.

This is serious. This terrible man has managed to invade the peace and happiness of innocent seven-year-olds through his bigotry and hatred. Not only is he scaring grown adults, he’s scaring the kids. Even the KIDS know that considering this man for the Presidency of the United States is a terrible mistake.

So, how much simpler can the message be to adults? There is only one major party candidate fit to be President, and that’s Hillary Clinton.

The other guy is just plain scary to everybody.

Daija’s grandpa, John Idleburg, is a candidate for Lake County Board.

A Personal Perspective: When Will These Massacres Stop?

By Steven Gan

A few weeks ago, I was planning to write for this month’s issue about the Trump University debacle in which the shameful presumptive GOP nominee outrageously claimed that Federal Judge Gonzalo Curiel was biased and a Trump “hater” because of Trump’s promise to build the wall of walls between the U.S. and Mexico.

I’m sick and tired of this self-aggrandizing and narcissistic low-life attempting to assassinate the character of anyone with whom he disagrees. The fact that Judge Curiel has had an exemplary career, not only as a judge, but also as prosecutor who put his life on the line by prosecuting the leaders of Mexican drug cartels, was less relevant to Trump than where the judge’s parents happened to have been born.

Although I have much more to say on this subject, events require that I turn my thoughts to the unfortunate victims of the Orlando shooting. I’ve been in such a terrible funk regarding this last mass shooting at the Orlando gay nightclub, Pulse, I can’t tell if I’m depressed, angry, or numb. To say that we Americans have been down this road countless times before is such a worn-out cliché—except that, this time, we’ve set a new record for the number of innocent people who have lost their lives for no reason at all.

While watching the talking heads on cable news either condemn the sale of assault rifles or insist that the Second Amendment protects civilian ownership of weapons of mass murder, I was struck by two frightening truths. First, as long as Republicans have sufficient power in Congress, and the NRA can keep Republicans in line, there is little hope of enacting sensible measures to reduce gun violence. And, second, this means that even the horrific mass shooting record set in Orlando is likely to be broken one day.

I can’t imagine what those families are going through. Their young son, daughter, parent, brother, or sister go out to a club for a little fun and end up dead. I can’t imagine how parents can go on with such a horrific tragedy weighing down on their emotional shoulders every day. Don’t the powers behind the NRA have sons, daughters, parents, brothers, and sisters?

One of the pieces to this tragedy is that although the shooter had been on a no-fly list, he was still able to obtain a gun without any special scrutiny. Although we can all agree that those who are suspected of being terrorists should not board airplanes, the NRA has asserted that restricting the ability of those same individuals to purchase firearms would be an infringement of their constitutional rights. I can’t cope with this irrational and selfish line of logic.

Guns enable, empower, and enfranchise those who should not have them to perpetrate heinous crimes. There’s no excuse for a system that allows anyone with any kind of mental instability or criminal behavior in their background to obtain a firearm, let alone one that can fire hundreds of bullets a minute. Firearms like the semi-automatic rifle that was used by the shooter in Orlando were banned for ten years, in the 1990s, until, under pressure from the NRA, the ban was allowed to expire during the Bush administration. Since then, tens of thousands of these firearms have been purchased throughout the country. For what? For protection? That’s what our police and armed forces are trained for. For hunting? To decimate a squirrel with a hundred bullets? No, these are weapons designed to kill a large number of people quickly and efficiently. Where in the Constitution is there a right to kill people?

As Richard Martinez stated after his 20-year-old son, Christopher, was killed in May 2014 along with five other innocents: “Why did Chris die? Chris died because of craven, irresponsible politicians and the NRA.”

Yes, we are at the mercy of craven Republican politicians who flinch when the NRA says flinch. Only when we get rid of the NRA’s stranglehold on more than half of our elected leaders will we be able to begin the process of making this country safer, more secure, and truly free—free for those of us who might want to go to a club for a little dancing and not worry about some crazy nut mowing us down with an assault weapon.



Shifting the Focus: How to Move the Democrats Left Without Electing President Trump

By Eleonora di Liscia

Bernie Sanders' candidacy has been all about shifting the Democratic Party's focus to the left. But if you really want to change the Democrats, you first need to change the Republicans. And there is a simple solution: Don't let Trump and the Republicans win.

One day after the horrible 2014 election when "disgusted progressives" stepped aside to let Bruce Rauner move into the State House, I tuned in to *The Jeff Santos Show* on WCPT. A caller commented about Americans voting for Republicans. Jeff said he didn't blame the American people, because if the choice is between Republican and Republican Lite, you might as well vote for the real thing. "Or not vote," the caller responded. "Or not vote," Jeff agreed.

Because Tenth Dems works so hard to ensure that every eligible voter can cast a ballot, I found this exchange particularly painful and vowed never to listen to another word from Jeff Santos.

These same sentiments, however, are now echoed by some Bernie Sanders supporters. They call in to WCPT day after day saying how they simply can't vote for Hillary Clinton because "she is not a true progressive." Actress Susan Sarandon even opined it would be OK if Trump got elected because then the revolution would come. Never mind that we had this discussion in 2000, and the revolution is now 16 years overdue.

It is understandable that progressives want the Democratic Party to more closely represent their views. Many progressives are firm lefties while the party is closer to center.

The desire to move the party left is not misguided, but the method of attaining the goal is. Snubbing Hillary at the ballot box will not make the Democratic party more progressive. Quite the contrary.

You see, Democrats know that to win an election they need the independents and voters in the middle. With Republicans being downright scary, Democrats can't risk a loss by playing exclusively to lefties. Unfortunately, there simply aren't enough of us. Democrats also know that thanks to the Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United*, Republican big money, the Supreme Court's gutting of the Voting Rights Act, and voter suppression, they must work that much harder to win anything.

I contend it is not the Democratic Party that progressives need to move left—it's the Republican Party. Forcing the Republicans to become centrist will actually free Democrats to retake their rightful (leftful?) place on the political spectrum.

And there is one simple way to do that. Let the Republican party crash

and burn.

Republicans are already on that path. Losing badly in November will force Republicans to rebrand. Republicans know they are in trouble with Trump and that their main demographic of angry white male voters is shrinking. Republicans will have every incentive to pull away from their racist, misogynist, anti-middle class, anti-environment, anti-immigrant platform.

That is, of course, unless you help Republicans win in November by not voting for Democrats.

To rebrand after disastrous election results, Republicans will have to court the middle and independents. That means Republicans will have to shift to the center.

When Republicans move center, Democrats can move left.

In 1980, wonderfully left-wing President Jimmy Carter lost to Ronald Reagan, a candidate so right-wing that I once naively thought he could never get elected. (Well, I was like 20 years old at the time, so what did I know?) After that, Democrats lost two more elections. Then,

along came Bill Clinton, the one Democrat before President Barack Obama who knew how to win. And how did he do that? In part, by moving the party to the right. By co-opting some Republican issues, he stayed in office and accomplished many things lefties really liked. Some things didn't work out so well, but you're never going to be happy with everything.



This November, Democrats could retain the presidency, retake Congress, and—bonus points—flip the Supreme Court. A resounding defeat to Republicans will force them to regroup and move left.

But if Democrats lose, all those hateful Republican policies will be validated. Democrats will have to shift further right to keep up, especially because Democratic Party leaders will have learned once again that they can't count on the left.

If we want a center-left government, we have to marginalize the far right and not ourselves. If Hillary loses, the only lesson learned will be that right-wing nut talk wins elections.

Compared to today's Republicans, the Republicans of the mid-20th century were a bunch of radical yuppies. (What was that Eisenhower speech about the industrial military complex taking money away from schools? Did the Environmental Protection Agency really start under Nixon?) Then came Reagan. Republicans moved right and Democrats inched rightward to catch up.

Well, it's time to drive this car in reverse.

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