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Tenth Dems Celebrated a Great 2019 at Annual Awards Dinner

Thanks to everyone who made the 2019 Tenth Dems Annual Awards Dinner in Deerfield so much fun. We loved hearing from Keynote Speaker Renato Mariotti and being able to honor some wonderful Democrats.



(Photos continued throughout newsletter)

The Real Meaning of Impeachment

By Laurence D. Schiller

There has been a great deal of angst amongst Democrats about whether the U.S. House should have impeached Donald Trump. Not because Democrats are divided on whether he has committed impeachable offenses—no, we are united on that point—but rather whether it was a wise political decision.

Since it is extremely unlikely that the Senate will convict or, if Moscow Mitch McConnell has his way, even have a semblance of a fair trial in that august body, the argument by Democratic opponents of impeachment is that Democrats will suffer political damage from trying to impeach Trump and that we should have just waited for the verdict of the ballot box. Additionally, some argue that an impeachment trial will disrupt the Democratic primary season and that, in reality, our first task should be to find a candidate to defeat Trump and not be distracted by an impeachment that will almost certainly result in his acquittal.

I disagree with this thinking. It is important to remember that while Trump has been impeached for two very specific issues—blackmailing a foreign leader to interfere in our election and obstruction of Congress—what he is really being impeached for is his general attack on the rule of law and on our Democracy. His complete disregard and contempt for how the founders put together our republic are palpable and this is why he needed to be impeached. Although House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, with her usual acute political acumen, understood that she had to find a very specific issue, Ukraine, to make sure that she could bring along her caucus and the

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American people, 50% of whom now want Trump impeached and removed from office (Fox poll). What is really at stake is our entire democracy. It is difficult to impeach on that more amorphous issue because far too many people literally do not understand the actual nature of our republic or how our freedoms were folded into the Constitution and Bill of Rights. I saw a letter to the *Chicago Sun-Times* this past month in which the writer was lamenting the impeachment of Trump and then went on to say that he must be acquitted to save our freedom and to defend the Constitution. The letter also included the usual screed of conservative phony 'patriotism' about the Founders' intent, displaying a total ignorance of what that document actually says and what the Founders meant in writing it.

To actually save our republic, we have only two options: First, 20 Republican senators suddenly grow backbones and do their duty (very unlikely), and second, the ballot box in 2020. The former will not likely happen because the GOP has become the party of dictatorship. To stay in power, Republicans suppress the vote, purge voter rolls, gerrymander, and cheat in every way they can because they know they can't win with the shrinking mostly white and aging base they actually have. The latter will only happen if we make sure enough voters are registered (or re-registered where they have been purged) in states such as Georgia, Texas, and Wisconsin, and we get out the vote. When more people vote, Republicans lose.

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But, understand the stakes and why impeachment had to happen even if the ultimate solution is the ballot box. We are actually talking about the survival of our democracy. There are times that we must do what is RIGHT, and the House Democrats did their duty to the Constitution.

Moreover, Speaker Pelosi is absolutely correct to withhold the articles of impeachment until she gets some assurance from the Senate that they will have a “fair trial.” McConnell thinks he is in control here, but he is twisting in the wind. We can already see some of his caucus expressing doubts about how he is handling this. His stupidest mistake was to go on Fox and boast that he was coordinating the trial with the White House. That put him on the hot seat and, at this writing, may force him to call witnesses. If he does not, then even if the articles go to the Senate and then they acquit with no real trial, the House can open up further investigations into Trump’s wrong-doing. Pelosi has the strong hand here, all the more so with Trump pushing to have a big show trial, not understanding that that will only damage him. It is my strong opinion not only that impeachment was the right call, but that the political damage it will do will be to Trump and the GOP, not to Democrats.

Meanwhile, we still have to deal with the likelihood that Trump will be acquitted by the Senate, to their everlasting shame, even if they allow witnesses and documents. If he were to be re-elected, just think how much more he would then be out of control. Moreover, if the Republicans still control the Senate, the game may be up for America, and we will become a petty dictatorship. You can already see what they have done to our judiciary, our civil rights, to the poor, to the environment, etc. The oligarchs will be in control, and we, and generations of Americans to come, will lament their exploitation.

There is no voting for a third-party candidate here. That is a cop-out, not an ethical choice. No matter how ‘radical’ or unprogressive you think some of the candidates might be, remember that they cannot implement their programs without the consent of Congress. Remember that.

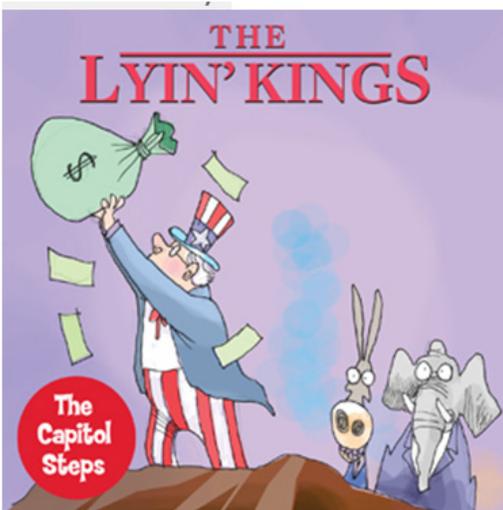
The key point is that Democrats must win. It is up to us. The time is now. November 2020 is almost here. Do it for generations to come and for generations unborn that will thank us for saving America and literally the planet—the future is in our hands.





Join Tenth Dems for Dinner and a Show on January 26

Join us on Sunday, January 26, 2020, for a performance of The Capitol Steps Comedy Troupe, the group that put the “MOCK” in Democracy. The 2:00 PM show will be followed by 5:00 PM dinner at Jameson’s Charhouse. Get your tickets now because the show sells out fast—the venue ran out of tickets last year after Tenth Dems sold their allotment! Come for dinner, come for the show or come for both! Get your tickets at tenthdems.org/capitolsteps to sit with like-minded friends—many attendees buy one ticket so join us!



Coffee and Conversation with State Rep. Mary Edly-Allen in January

State Rep. Mary Edly-Allen, D-Libertyville, is hosting two Mary on the Matters constituent meet-and-greet coffees in January. The first event was held on Tuesday, January 14, at the Ela Township Office at 1155 E. Route 22 in Lake Zurich from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. On Saturday, January 25, she will meet constituents from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Bagels by the Book, 870 S. Milwaukee Ave. in Libertyville.

“It’s my priority to hear directly from residents about their concerns, to share updates from the recent fall veto session and hear new ideas before we return to the capitol at the end of January,” Edly-Allen said. “I hope by offering these coffees, I will hear what issues local residents would like to see addressed in the upcoming year.”

“State government works best when elected officials listen to members of the community to solve the difficult problems we face,” Edly-Allen added. “I’m looking forward to a productive legislative session, and I’m eager to continue speaking with local families about the issues important in every single neighborhood.”



Spotlight on Tenth Dems Township: Fremont Democrats Year in Review

By Matt Lowry

The past year has been a very productive one for the Fremont Township Democrats. Coming off our victories in the 2018 midterm elections, we have extended the breadth and the duration of that Blue Wave into 2019 (and beyond).

We have held regular dinner meetings every month for years where we go over the latest in local and national politics, discuss various issues, host candidates, strategize, and socialize while having a delicious meal. I consider these dinner meetings to be the key to our success as a township organization because it makes politics sociable and fun. Anyone is welcome to join us at our dinner meetings, which are on the second Thursday of the month at Maya's Restaurant in Mundelein.

Building from these meetings, we held various other activities, including an envelope-stuffing party to get literature and voting guides out to Democrats and Progressives in Fremont. The effect of these local GOTV efforts was illustrated in the results of the 2019 municipal elections, where our chosen candidates won roughly 75% of the races for which they ran. These victories included numerous candidates being elected to local school boards, the Fremont Library Board, and two seats on the Mundelein Village Board (where our candidates were the top two vote getters!)

For a summer project, we decided to do a deep-dive on the 2018 midterm election data, breaking down the voter turnout and results by precinct for every race on the 2018 ballot. The results of these analyses have been quite informative, and they will further hone our efforts moving ahead into 2020 and beyond. We have since shared the methods and results of this analysis with other township organizations so as to encourage similar efforts elsewhere.

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At the Mundelein Days July 4th Parade, we grouped together with various other Democratic groups and candidates to make a strong showing, and we were (as always) very well received!

After autumn arrived, our efforts became more locally-focused when the question of whether or not to allow the sale of recreational cannabis came to Mundelein. Due to the efforts of Lauren Jackson – our new Vice-Chair – and others, the Mundelein Village Board was convinced to allow sales. And now Mundelein, as of the beginning of 2020, will be one of the few North Shore communities to sell recreational cannabis. This illustrates the power and importance of that old phrase: “All politics is local.” As we look back and reflect on our triumphs and failures of the past year, we also turn our eyes to the future. Looking ahead, we are already working with other Democratic township organizations and candidates to prepare for GOTV efforts for 2020. In addition, we have begun to actively recruit and organize for the 2021 municipal elections.

The Fremont Township Democrats wish you a Happy (Blue) New Year!

Democrat for President



Get your “Democrat for President” button or bumper sticker from Tenth Dems! The bumper sticker is a wonderful accessory for your car and/or laptop ... and it comes off easily. The button is great for your lapel or bag. The bumper sticker is FREE if you join or renew your Tenth Dems membership! You can do that by [clicking here](#) or going to tenthdems.org/contribute. The bumper sticker is normally 1 for \$3, 2 for \$5, 5 for \$10. Buy one or several here or call 847-266-VOTE (8683). Order buttons, bumper stickers, and signs at tenthdems.org/store.





State Sen. Melinda Bush Wins Award for Excellence

Big congrats to our great state senator, Melinda Bush of Grayslake, for winning Capitol Fax's 2019 Golden Horseshoe Award for Best Democratic Illinois State Senator. She's been an effective leader in Springfield and a strong voice for so many. As one commenter put it, "She works tirelessly to advance issues that matter to her constituents. She also passed sweeping reform to employment laws and was able to get more done on sexual harassment than anyone thought was possible. She made the Reproductive Health Act happen, which really looked like a dead end at times. She is a fighter. All of this while representing a somewhat purple district." Congratulations!



Voter Suppression in our Backyard: How to Help in Wisconsin

By Mark Rosenberg



In 2016, Hillary Clinton lost the state of Wisconsin by 23,000 votes. There are many reasons for her loss, including a drop in voter turnout in Milwaukee.

It's quite possible that the 2020 Presidential Election will again be determined by a handful of swing states, including Wisconsin. For those of us who live in the Chicago area, Wisconsin is a logical place to focus our efforts to make a difference.

It's not too soon to be thinking about this. Tenth Dems is working hard in our own 10th District and, through our WIN WISCONSIN! project, connecting volunteers with action opportunities. This is crucial because Republicans in Wisconsin have taken various steps to decrease voter

200,000 voters from the rolls because they did not reply to a mailing--perhaps because they have moved or are college students no longer living at the registered address. This, along with a restrictive photo ID law and gerrymandering, disproportionately impacts Democratic voters, and it also subverts the democratic process. That means more Republicans win -- because Democratic voters aren't heard.

So, how can we help? Fortunately, there are many ways, including:

- Help register voters in Milwaukee in a nice and warm INDOOR government building. A 3-hour weekday commitment to register voters (plus travel time).
- Phone bank to help the Democratic Party of Wisconsin recruit volunteers in Wisconsin.
- Knock On Doors in a suburb of Milwaukee: Tenth Dems and Indivisible Chicago will canvass on various dates.
- Write letters encouraging potential Wisconsin voters to register
- Join Tenth Dems WIN WISCONSIN!! Sign up [here](#) to help with any of these activities!

Save these dates for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin's Spring Days of Action. As many canvassers as possible will be needed.

February 8: 60 Days to Victory Day of Action

March 21 & 22: First Spring Weekend of Action

March 28 & 29: Second Spring Weekend of Action

April 4-7: Spring GOTV

April 7: Spring Election Day -- Presidential Primary



We all know that it's crucial that we defeat Donald Trump and the Republicans in 2020. It'll take a lot of hard work at the grassroots level, but together we can do it! YES WE CAN! We must.



Schneider Donates Frequent Flyer Miles to Help Wounded Service Members and Military Families: More than 57,000 miles donated by Schneider to Fisher House Foundation Hero Miles Program

U.S. Representative Brad Schneider was pleased to once again donate the frequent flyer miles he earned through his congressional travel to the Hero Miles program administered by the Fisher House Foundation. This program provides round-trip airline tickets to wounded, injured, and ill service members and/or their families who are undergoing treatment at a military or VA medical center.

In 2019, Rep. Schneider donated more than 57,000 miles accrued on his more than 50 flights between Illinois's Tenth District and Washington, DC.

“Making travel a little easier to connect the men and women in uniform with their loved ones is the least we can do for those who serve us every day,” said Schneider. “The Fisher House Foundation and Hero Miles program do such important work supporting service members and bringing military families together. This holiday season, I’m proud to again support the Fisher House’s work

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with a donation of the airline miles I accrued during my official travel in 2019.”

Schneider introduced legislation, H.R. 577, the Prohibiting Perks and Privileges Act, which would require Members of Congress to use airline miles accrued as a result of their service for official travel or to donate them.

The Fisher House Foundation helps both wounded, injured, and ill service members on approved leave travel to their homes, as well as enables families to visit their loved ones in the armed forces while they are undergoing treatment at an authorized medical center. Partner airlines include: Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Frontier Airlines, and United Airlines.





Flush Toilets or Flush Trump? By Mark Rosenberg

Trump has made this nation worse in so many ways. Chief among these is how he has turned back environmental protections. As Australia burns, and our nation grapples with unpredictable weather, droughts, and power outages directly linked to climate change, Trump and his administration have gutted or weakened many longstanding efforts to clean the air, water and



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food supply. After decades of progress in improving air and water standards, we are now seeing a decline in air and water quality. Fuel economy standards, readily agreed to by an automobile industry moving toward electric vehicles, have been lowered. And the list goes on.

In September, the administration repealed another set of Obama era clean water regulations that had placed limits on polluting chemicals that could be used near streams and wetlands. Polluters will no longer be required to have a permit to discharge potentially harmful substances into the water near their facilities. In addition to the impact on clean drinking water, this ruling impacts water runoff used near agricultural areas and threatens the drinking water of countless Americans.

Then there are the recent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rulings that roll back or eliminate regulations of chemicals. Last April, as *The New York Times* reported, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler ignored the EPA's own experts who recommended banning asbestos, a known carcinogen, and instead allowed its use with some restrictions. Last July, the EPA also announced that it would not ban the use of another toxic chemical, chlorpyrifos—a pesticide known to cause health problems in children, especially neuro developmental disorders such as autism. This chemical is also toxic to wildlife.

Instead of protecting children and our increasingly imperiled world, Trump has attacked water efficiency standards that aim to reduce the amount of water used by flushing toilets. Not worried about cancer-causing toxic chemicals or asthma-inducing toxins, the current White House occupant has focused on toilets. Maybe we should too—by working to flush Trump in November!





Editor: Amy Shriberg
Managing Editor: Jodi Butler
Editorial Staff: Barbara Altman
 Hon. Lauren Beth Gash
 Eric Herman
 Janie Seiden
 Allan Sperling
Contributors: Matt Lowry
 Mark Rosenberg
 Laurence D. Schiller
Layout: Kelsey Marx
Distribution: Roger Baron
 Ron Schwartz

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Email us:
newsletter@tenthdems.org
Visit our website:
www.tenthdems.org
Call us:
 847-266-VOTE (8683)
Write us:
 Tenth Dems, P.O. Box 523
 Deerfield, IL 60015

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