

## Students, Others Learn at Straw Poll and Caucus at Stevenson High School



When you hold a convention with a presidential straw poll and caucus, you get a lot of energy. There was so much – folks are ready to elect a Democrat for President, and to work at the grassroots level to elect other Democrats too. Thanks to everyone who came out and participated in the January convention, and special thanks to the Stevenson High School Political Action Club for its help. ☺

(More pics on next page)



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# Women and Allies Marched in Drovers Despite Snow to Gear up for Change

Women’s March Chicago was fun and inspiring. So many Tenth Dems friends were there and are ready to work to make Donald Trump a one-term President come November! ☑

*(more pics on next page)*





# Schneider Releases Report Detailing NRA's Self-Dealing, Abuse of Tax-Exempt Status

Illinois 10th District Congressman, Brad Schneider, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, recently released a report detailing self-dealing, corruption, and other actions by the National Rifle Association of America (NRA) that should jeopardize the organization's tax-exempt status.



The report details a pattern of egregious spending by NRA leadership, extensive self-dealing and conflicts of interest, and pervasive efforts to evade transparency and campaign finance law.

The report, titled "Cheating the American Taxpayer: NRA's Record of Self

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*Dealing, Corruption and Abuse of its Tax-Exempt Status,*” also details Congressman Schneider’s efforts to hold the NRA accountable. In the past year, Schneider has sought documents from the NRA and its vendors relevant to the allegations, questioned experts on tax-exempt law who confirmed the seriousness of the allegations, and repeatedly called on the IRS to act.



“The NRA was established to be a social welfare organization, but recent reporting has revealed an organization seeking the private enrichment of its leadership with single-minded focus,” said Schneider. “The organization’s tax-exempt status means that American taxpayers are effectively subsidizing the NRA’s corrupt scheme. This is unfair to the thousands of law-abiding non-profit organizations as well as all hardworking taxpayers. My hope is that this report will further motivate the IRS to conduct the needed oversight to end this blatant abuse of our tax-exempt system.” ☒

## Let’s Talk Politics in Lindenhurst

Join Tenth Dems, Lake Dems, and the Lake Villa Democrats on Saturday, March 7, at 1:00 PM, in Lindenhurst for another edition in our Tenth Dems University's (TDU) *Let's Talk Politics* series. It will take place at the Lake Villa District Library, 40 N. Munn Rd., Lindenhurst, IL 60046. Doors open at 12:45 PM and the LTP



event starts at 1:00 PM. Admission is free, and the event is open to all Democrats. Join us for a breakdown and discussion of “Super Tuesday,” the upcoming Illinois primary, and more.

[To RSVP click here.](#) Hope to see you there! ☒



# 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. The button is great for your lapel or bag. If you have a favorite candidate, put it next to theirs!

The bumper sticker is FREE if you join or renew your Tenth Dems membership! You can do that by going to [tenthdems.org/contribute](https://tenthdems.org/contribute). The bumper sticker and button are normally \$3, 2 for \$5, 5 for \$10. More than 20, they’re only \$1 each. Great watch party favor.

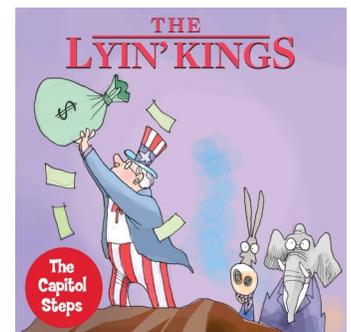
Buy one or several at [tenthdems.org/store](https://tenthdems.org/store) or call 847 266 VOTE (8683). Order buttons, bumper stickers, and signs. ☐



# Tenth Dems Enjoys a Capital Outing Watching the Capitol Steps



What a fun time in Skokie – many laughs at a performance by The Capitol Steps musical comedy troupe, followed by dinner with friends next door at Jameson’s Charhouse. Don’t be fooled by what you hear – Democrats are pretty united, even with the presidential nomination up in the air. ☐



# Trump Gets a Pass from Moscow Mitch and His Enablers in the Senate: But Has the GOP won?

By Dr. Laurence D. Schiller

Well, the vote on Trump's acquittal has taken place and, needing two-thirds of the Senate to convict to actually remove him, it was always a foregone conclusion that he would remain in office. The only surprise was Mitt Romney's vote to convict, which, while I disagree with him on most things, at least gives him an historical legacy of a man of conscience. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has now acquired the new moniker of "Midnight Mitch" for how he structured the trial presentations, walked out of the Senate on Friday, January 31 with a big smile and thumbs up, having whipped his caucus into line to vote to prevent witnesses from testifying or documents from the executive branch from being subpoenaed for Trump's "trial."



Smug Mitch believes he has won because he thinks that by quickly ending the trial and preventing any more damning evidence from becoming public, say for example, John Bolton's testimony or the emails the DOJ has that explicitly tie Trump to the Ukraine scandal, the American public will quickly forget about all of this. Perhaps. But are we really that stupid? Has he really won and outfoxed House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Adam Schiff, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer? Let's take a closer look.

First, understand that McConnell's motives in all of this are very simple. He wants his party to remain in power, and he has limited paths to do so. He doesn't like Trump. Actually, nobody really likes Trump. McConnell and other Republican leaders understand that Trump is an ignorant, narcissistic idiot. But he is their idiot, and they don't have any other candidate for president. As long as he is president, they can move their conservative agenda forward and keep the fervent base of Trump supporters voting for the GOP. Dump Trump and the GOP implodes and might not ever get control back on the national level.

Second, Moscow Mitch is also smart enough to understand that the GOP is very unlikely to take back the House anytime soon. Nothing that has occurred in special elections or polls suggests that there is a red wave coming in the suburbs, which is where the GOP would have to triumph. So, if he is to retain any real power, especially the power to confirm judges, cabinet officials, and a variety of other

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officials, he must retain control of the Senate. You will note that the ONLY thing he has been able to accomplish this term has been appointments. But these, especially judges, have been very important and will indeed affect our agenda for decades. No other bill of substance has come out of the Senate, nor will it this session. Hundreds of bills passed by the House are awaiting Senate consideration, but McConnell's plan is never to take them up and thus block a progressive agenda in favor of his corporate handlers.



So, what options did McConnell have, given that he wants Trump to win, which means minimizing the damage of the impeachment, and that he wants to retain the Senate, which means protecting vulnerable senators, especially in Arizona, Iowa, Colorado, North Carolina, and Maine, all states either blue or trending blue? Understand that these two things are not necessarily aligned, especially as his strategic choices were complicated by the fact that the American public, even a majority of Republicans, wanted a fair and impartial trial where witnesses were called and relevant documents provided. With these things in mind, McConnell had three options. First, he could simply have his caucus vote not to have witnesses or evidence, which would keep further damaging testimony from coming out during the trial but would expose the whole affair as a sham. Second, he could have witnesses and documents, which might be very damaging, but then simply have his caucus say, "Well, nothing here convinces me," and vote to acquit, which would leave anyone following the trial scratching their head in bewilderment and frustration. And third, he could actually have a fair trial, call witnesses, subpoena documents, and allow senators to vote as the evidence directs, which, if senators voted to convict, would enrage the Trump base, never mind the Twitter storm sure to follow from the White House. Note what has indeed occurred with Mitt Romney as he has been pilloried in the right-wing press. None of these are great options but they are all he had. Moreover, whether McConnell realizes it or not, this is exactly the position that Pelosi wished to put him in, and more importantly all those vulnerable senators up in November. Put your vote on record. Vote against witnesses, you are engaged in a cover-up of actions that many Republican senators have admitted happened just as Democrats have laid out. Vote to acquit after explosive testimony and documents and you look like a partisan who doesn't care about facts, just politics. Or vote to convict and lose the 40% who love Trump. It was really a difficult situation for the GOP.

Well, we know which option McConnell chose. He decided to ignore public opinion and have his people vote to shut the whole thing down. Only Mitt Romney actually objected on principle and

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followed through. Don't be fooled by Susan Collins who was allowed to vote for witnesses because McConnell didn't need her, in the hope it might give her some political cover next November. When it came to acquittal, she voted with Midnight Mitch.

Was it a win for him? I don't think so. As a matter of fact, I believe it was the best outcome.

How meaningful was Trump's acquittal when no legitimate trial was held? Schumer and all the Democratic presidential hopefuls have already said this, and it will appear in TV ads all over the country to counter Trump's inevitable vindication claim. Worse, for Trump, senators such as Lamar Alexander have publicly conceded, essentially, "Well, yes, Trump did extort Ukraine, but it wasn't impeachable." Trump claims he didn't do it. GOP senators admit he did, and it wasn't very smart. The ads virtually write themselves.

There are several outcomes to this. First, the GOP has gone against the wishes of the vast majority of the American public in shutting this down. Frankly, it matters not what Mississippi or any solid red state thinks, for in the states where it matters, opinion is against what McConnell did. In addition, the Democratic opponents of vulnerable Republican senators will not let the public forget it. This is a great talking point. Second, McConnell can shut down the Senate, but he cannot shut down House investigations or book publishers, so Bolton will get to tell his story, as will Lev Parnas, an associate of Rudy Giuliani, and more and continuing damaging information will come out against Trump, making the Senate look all the more complicit.

Package it any way you like, any thinking American knows that you can't have a trial without evidence and witnesses and understands that Trump must be hiding something. Otherwise, Republicans would have allowed people working in the Executive Branch to testify and wouldn't have ignored subpoenas. McConnell knows this, as do his colleagues, but they simply don't care because they hope that Americans will forget and still vote for them.

The GOP, as you can see, is desperate to stay in power and understands that the demographics of the country are against them, so they have literally suppressed the Constitution for the sake of power and money. It is truly a tragedy and one we cannot allow them to get away with. If we do, then future presidents will be able to do anything they want, and our republic may well come to an end. This year, 2020, is that important an election. More than anything, if your candidate does not get the Democratic nomination, remember that task one is beating Trump. We cannot afford to have anyone sit this one out. ☐



# February Volunteer of the Month: Bobbie Hinden

By Barbara Altman

Bobbie Hinden, our Volunteer of the Month, has always considered herself a Democrat. She says it's a matter of values. She believes that everyone is entitled to access to health care and a quality education and to have a voice in their community – regardless of their economic status or ethnicity.

Bobbie's career with Family Focus reflects those values. This not-for-profit organization serves low-income families in Lake County, offering dual language classes for young children and home visiting for low-income, primarily immigrant families with children from birth to three. Now director of one of Family Focus' seven centers in Lake County, Bobbie supervises a staff of 15. Bobbie also has served on many community boards and is currently on the board of the Highland Park Community Foundation.

Bobbie became involved with Tenth Dems following the 2016 election. She lost several nights' sleep that November, and she knew that ranting and raving wouldn't change anything. "I had to become active," Bobbie said.

So, she did exactly that. Bobbie arranged to visit one of Tenth Dems' offices to see what she could do, and then she volunteered to do whatever was needed.

It didn't take Bobbie long to find her niche. Applying her professional management skills to her love of event planning, she soon proved herself an invaluable member of our event planning team.

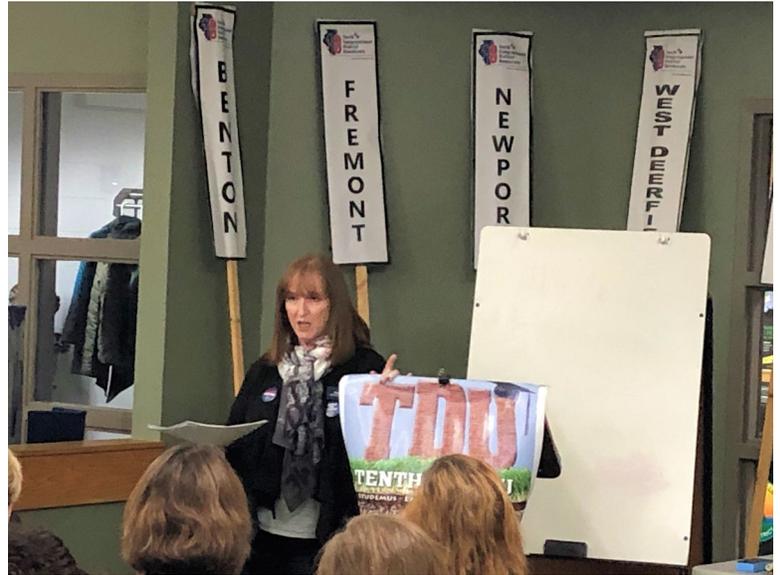
Now, as Events Chair, Bobbie takes a major role in planning and executing a wide variety of Tenth Dems activities. She helps organize every kind of Tenth Dems event, from theater outings to Debate Watch



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Parties and Annual Awards Dinners. Her tasks include finding venues and negotiating contracts, working with venues to ensure that the events go smoothly, organizing volunteers who staff an event, making sure we get the word out, helping build the agenda, and much, much more.

Most recently, Bobbie planned the highly successful Tenth Dems outing to the Capitol Steps comedy group – with dinner following the show. She’s now working on a party to watch results come in the night of the Illinois Primary.



November 6, 2016 was not a day to celebrate. But we’re glad it brought Bobbie Hinden to Tenth Dems.

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# Don’t Believe in Health Insurance? Here’s a Plan for You!

By Michael Millenson

Struggling to break free from Obamacare oppression, Idaho is offering low-cost health plans that achieve this goal by avoiding covering anyone who’s been sick in the past and skimping on coverage for any diseases that might make you sick in the future. These strategies are, inconveniently, explicitly banned by the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).



Fortunately, I have a solution perfect for Idaho and other GOPers eager to emulate Idaho’s example. My plan covers young and old, sick and healthy, fitness buff and couch potato, all for the same incredibly low price. No one, and no illness, is excluded.

Welcome to the Placebo HMO, dedicated to serving every American who fervently believes you don’t need real health insurance.

We’re a faith-based plan that offers empathetic, sincere and personalized advice from a broad range of highly skilled actors pretending to be doctors. Whether it’s a “seen everything” veteran like Tom Hanks or Meryl Streep in *The Post* or a bright-eyed idealist like Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling in *La La Land*, we provide

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unparalleled freedom of provider choice that plans dependent on actual doctors cannot match.

At Placebo HMO, we're committed to consumerism. Your beliefs, whatever they may be, always come first, since we want you to have a doctor you can trust. So, for instance, you might choose our popular "Dr. Cooper" model, available not only in male and female versions ("Bob" or "Betty" Cooper) and a variety of ages, but also in a choice of religions (Protestant, Catholic or Mormon) and races (black or white). We also offer "Dr. Garcia," "Dr. Gu," "Dr. Gandhi" or "Dr. Greenberg." Not all selections are available in all states; our Idaho plan, for example, does not include "Dr. Mohammed."

You choose who to see (or avoid). Whatever your choice, you need never worry that your faith will be shaken by an upsetting political opinion. Each of our "doctors" has been specially trained to enthusiastically agree with whatever President Trump may have said that day.

The way our plan works is simple. If you feel ill, you don't have to take off work or find a sitter for the kids while you trundle down to a crowded waiting room filled with God-knows-what contagious disease. Instead, just dial our toll-free number or FaceTime or Skype us, and you can talk directly to your "family doctor." If you believe you need a "specialist," no problem! Unlike real HMOs, we don't require a burdensome referral.

Our "doctors" are not distracted by computerized medical records or calls from the hospital, so they can focus only on you – your symptoms, your concerns, your medical history, your life. For patients who believe their doctor should be a true partner, we offer shared decision-making: working together, our "doctor" and you can Google your symptoms.

Most of all, our doctors truly listen – unlike actual doctors, they won't be interrupting you after 18 seconds to tell you what to do – and they truly care. To demonstrate their concern, our "doctors" will gladly write you a prescription for a placebo drug. It will either be a brand name (which we'll tell you ordinarily costs \$150 a pill because of its powerful ingredients) or generic (which we'll tell you ordinarily costs \$1.50 a pill but works just as well).

There are no co-pays, no deductibles, and no paperwork. Best of all, our plan costs just two dollars a day – exactly the price of a daily Powerball lottery ticket. You gotta believe!

Can a placebo really help you? Of course, it can. It's been shown, for instance, that placebos can offer powerful pain relief – putting the Placebo HMO on the leading edge of solving our nation's opioid crisis. No less an authority than the *Harvard Health Letter* concluded that "the placebo effect may be an integral part of good medical care," which suggests that the Placebo HMO might have been named the Harvard HMO! (Just kidding, Harvard.)

In sum, the Placebo HMO provides everything that Obamacare opponents have been agitating for: Freedom of choice. Patient-centered consumerism. Respect for local preferences. Affordability rooted in the power of faith.

And, if you get really sick, we give you directions to the nearest hospital emergency room. ☐

## Placebo HMO

### Health Insurance ID Card



Member Name	Vanilla Bunnyrabbit
Member ID	0000-0000
Group No.	911911
BIN	ZZZZZ
Effective Date	Soon

Plan	HMO
Office visit	\$0
Specialist Copay	\$0
Emergency Room	not covered
Deductible	\$0

# Postcards to Wisconsin



Tenth Dems’ WIN Wisconsin!! hosted a “Postcards to Wisconsin Party” at the Wilmette Library earlier in February. The postcards are filled out by volunteers, and then sent to Wisconsin voters, urging them to vote blue in Wisconsin’s primary on April 7th.

Turnout was great – about 15 people attended and each wrote about 25 postcards for a total of roughly 400 postcards. Wisconsin is one of three states, along with Michigan and Pennsylvania, that gave the 2016 Election to President Trump. Working together from Illinois, we can do our part to increase voter turnout right across our northern border.

If you’d like to host your own postcard writing party, you can request postcards at: [www.postcards2wi.com](http://www.postcards2wi.com). All supplies, except postage, are provided by Indivisible. Postcard campaigns helped increase turnout in 2018, and we can help increase turnout for 2020 so we can take back our democracy!

To help turn Wisconsin Blue, contact Priscilla Sperling and Laura Kushner at: [winwisconsin@tenthdems.org](mailto:winwisconsin@tenthdems.org) for information about canvassing, phone banks, and postcards! ☺



<p><b>For information or to volunteer</b>                  Email us: <a href="mailto:newsletter@tenthdems.org">newsletter@tenthdems.org</a>                  Visit us: <a href="http://www.TenthDems.org">www.TenthDems.org</a>                  Call us: 847-266-VOTE                  (847-266-8683)                  Write us:                  Tenth Dems                  P.O. Box 523                  Deerfield, IL                  60015</p>	<p>Editor: Amy Shriberg                  Editorial Staff: Barbara Altman,                  Hon. Lauren Beth Gash,                  Eric Herman,                  Janie Seiden,                  Allan Sperling                  Contributors: Dr. Laurence D. Schiller                  Michael Millenson                  Layout: Thos. Recht                  Distribution: Roger Baron,                  Joe Bongiovanni,                  Ron Schwartz</p>	<p>The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily endorsed by Tenth Dems.</p>
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