

Devastated.

Tenth Dems' motto has long been that politics is about more than just elections. It's the process of working together to improve our community, state, and country – to make our world a better place.

Like most Americans, we were devastated by George Floyd's murder. In the days since, people have taken to the streets to demand not only justice, but that concrete steps finally be taken to address systemic racism. To build a better future, we have to acknowledge our painful past.

The direct line running from slavery and the slave labor of incarcerated black men in the Jim Crow South to lynchings and these modern-day murders of African Americans must come to an end. Protesters march not just for Floyd, but for Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many more boys and men, sons and fathers, and mothers and daughters.

Elections matter, but they aren't enough to bring about the change we need. Peaceful protests, vigils, and marches bring attention to the cause, and should be met with nods of agreement and an urgency for more solution-oriented dialogue, not shut down with mounted troops, rubber bullets, and tear gas. But we still must work to help elect (and re-elect) candidates who share our values.

As President Obama said this week, "The bottom line is this: if we want to bring about real change, then the choice isn't between protest and politics. We have to do both. We have to mobilize to raise awareness, and we have to organize and cast our ballots to make sure that we elect candidates who will act on reform."

We're ready to keep moving forward in the struggle together.



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All the News That Fits

For information or to volunteer:

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

*The opinions expressed are those
of the writers, and not necessarily
endorsed by Tenth Dems*

Tenth Dems' "Stay Inside Now, Turn Out the Vote Later Party" Garner Many RSVPs

During the height of Illinois' "lockdown," Tenth Dems issued a unique invitation to reach supporters.

Keep your fancy clothes in your closet. Don't get in your car. And, whatever you do, forget about fussing with your hair. That's because you're invited to the Tenth Dems Stay Inside Now, Turn Out the Vote Later Party. No parking. No Zoom. No problem. It starts whenever you read this, and you can leave early if you want.

It's really easy to get dressed for—attire is literally whatever you want to wear. There's no hiring a babysitter, finding directions, or even charging your phone.

[Get your tickets now for the Tenth Dems Stay Inside Now, Turn Out the Vote Later Party! Sponsorships available!](#)

(Continued)



Stay Inside Now, Turn Out the Vote Later Party

No parking. No Zoom. No problem.

Your Absence Is Requested!

[Click here for tickets.](#) Sponsorships available.

Help support our all-volunteer grassroots group as we work to elect Democrats this November!

Sponsorships

Gas saved by not driving	\$7	Daydreamed about Trump losing re-election	\$46
Dry cleaning bill avoided for outfit you didn't stain	\$14	Parking spot you didn't need	\$55
Watched Chicago Bulls documentary instead	\$23	Babysitter you didn't hire (+ pizza)	\$77
Thought about FDR's first victory	\$32	Other amount	\$_____

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We're all doing what we can to follow guidelines to combat the spread of the coronavirus. When it comes to political organizing, it means no in-person events. This makes it really hard to have typical fundraisers that help bring in money for our all-volunteer grassroots group. But Trump and the Republicans will still be on the ballot this fall, and we still need to work to elect Democrats to every office.

We're holding our Tenth Dems Stay Inside Now, Turn Out the Vote Later Party so we can have the resources to help Democratic candidates now through Election Day, regardless of what campaigning might look like.

Join us for this simple, fun event you can "attend" with the click of a button or the stroke of a pen. [Click here](#) to purchase your tickets online, or address your check to: Tenth Dems, P.O. Box 523, Deerfield, IL 60015.

Legislating During the Pandemic

by State Rep. Dan Didech

The General Assembly recently met in Springfield for the first time in over two months, as the COVID-19 crisis has caused severe disruptions to daily life for everyone. For two months this spring, instead of attending committee meetings and debating bills, we had been working from home helping people apply for unemployment benefits and ensuring our first responders have adequate protective equipment. Returning to Springfield was not only a welcome change of pace, but also a critical opportunity to ensure that our government is adequately responding to this once-in-a-lifetime challenge.

When we finally arrived in Springfield on May 20, the setting made it immediately apparent that we are not living in normal times. Instead of meeting at the State Capitol, the House of Representatives held its session at the Bank of Springfield Convention Center. We wore masks, sat far apart from each other, and promptly isolated in our hotel rooms at the conclusion of each day. No members of the public were present, other than a small group of maskless protesters who have been whipped into a frenzy by Fox News propaganda.

Despite the unusual environment, the General Assembly was able to make significant progress during the four long days we spent legislating. One of our top priorities was taking steps to ensure COVID-19 does not keep anyone from participating in the upcoming election. We sent a bill to Gov. JB Pritzker that makes it easier to vote by mail, expands access to curbside voting, and allows county clerks to establish drop boxes where anyone can securely return their completed ballots.

We also expanded access to tele-health and mental healthcare, and passed this year's state budget, which includes an additional \$416 million for COVID-19 testing and other services being performed by local health providers. The Lake County Democratic House Delegation also secured an historic level of funding to mitigate our region's persistent flooding issues. One of the highlights of the week was working with Reps. Mary Edly-Allen, Joyce Mason, Rita Mayfield, Bob Morgan and Sam Yingling to secure \$122 million that will be invested in our area's flood

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prevention infrastructure. Our community benefits greatly from the positive working relationships that our region's legislators have developed during our time serving in office.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the nurses, doctors, first responders, and frontline workers in our community who are battling COVID-19 on a daily basis, and putting themselves at risk to keep us safe. This is a momentous challenge, but we are all in this together. I am confident that we will come out on the other side even stronger and more united than we were before.

Trump's Vision of America: Banana Republic 2.0

by Dr. Laurence D. Schiller

In 1901, the American writer O. Henry (aka William Sydney Porter, 1862-1910) coined the phrase "Banana Republic" to describe the Central American country of Honduras, which was fairly typical of many Latin American countries at that time. He would go on to use the term for his mythical Republic of Anchuria in his 1904 book *Cabbages and Kings*. This original kind of banana republic, Banana Republic 1.0, consists of very unbalanced and stratified social classes with a ruling plutocracy composed of the political, economic, and military elites who exploit the generally one or two cash crop plantation economy for their private benefit. In Latin America, this meant colluding with such multinational companies as United Fruit to exploit labor as much as possible, to produce as much profit as possible for the elites. As Wikipedia puts it, "In economics, a banana republic is a country with an economy of state capitalism, whereby the country is operated as a private commercial enterprise for the exclusive profit of the ruling class. Such exploitation is enabled by collusion between the state and favored economic monopolies, in which the profit, derived from the private exploitation of public lands, is private property, while the debts incurred thereby are the financial responsibility of the public treasury."

In 2020, we have a president who is doing his best to create Banana Republic 2.0 right here in the good ol' USA. The economic oligarchs, such as Wilbur Ross, Donald Trump, Betsy DeVos, Rex Tillerson, Mike Pompeo, and their colleagues, the Koch Brothers, Sheldon Adelson, et al, have taken over our government with the aid of Representatives

Steve Scalise and Kevin McCarthy, and other very rich Trump Party senators and congressmen who use state power for their personal and corporate profit. It is important to understand, however, this did not begin with Trump. The takeover of the Party of Trump began with Ronald Reagan and his conservative movement, which has sought to benefit the very rich by removing government oversight and minimizing regulatory powers. This is not a suddenly erupting boil on our republic created by an incompetent egomaniac, but a long and gradual takeover by the oligarchic class and their GOP hirelings. Trump has merely been their very willing tool.

The United States was created to be a government of checks and balances, one where the elites were balanced by the commons and where oversight by the legislative branch over the executive branch was built into Article I of the Constitution. Economic power was also vested in the House, not the executive branch, and freedoms were specifically delineated in the first 10 amendments. Among those key freedoms are freedom of the press, which institution has historically been a welcome thorn in the side of elected and confirmed officials when they have strayed off the ethical track. The judiciary was also created as a coequal branch, and it was assumed that we would be a country of laws and that no one, not even the president, would be above the law. While the executive branch controls the enforcement of the law, the norm has always been that the Department of Justice is to be a neutral arbiter and enforcer of the law, not a tool of the executive.

To create Banana Republic 2.0, Trump and his party have broken down what the Founders created in 1787 and what Americans have considered normative for 233 years in order for the oligarchic dictatorship to be able to feed at the public trough. Consider the following points of Trump's attack on our republic and democratic norms:



1. Trump and McConnell's attack on a free judiciary: Trump has consistently derided the courts. He has attacked judges by name and even jurors while trying to put his thumb on the scale of justice when it comes to the trials of his cronies, such as Roger Stone and Paul Manafort. He and McConnell have colluded, with the assistance of the Trump Party caucus in the Senate, to pack the courts with unqualified judges who believe in the primacy of executive power and oppose the rights of the people.

2. Trump's attack on the rule of law: He has ignored lawful court orders to release documents and has been fighting hard to avoid turning over his tax returns or allowing any third party to do so, even in response to a subpoena. Abusing the concept of executive privilege, he has refused to allow nearly any member of the executive branch to testify before Congress, even when subpoenaed. Trump has been removing the Inspectors General whose job is to oversee their departments and identify abuse. As



a proper dictator should, Trump is refusing to allow anyone to contradict him and if they call him or his swamp creatures out, they are fired. Four Inspectors General have been fired in the past two months. Worse, the agencies that are supposed to enforce the law have become political tools of the president. Under Bill Barr we have seen investigations halted that threatened Trump and investigations begun against his perceived enemies. At this point, we can trust nothing that Barr says and question the motives of every investigation begun or halted. The latest outrage is Barr's attempt to drop charges against the confessed criminal Michael Flynn.

3. Trump's use of the government and its agencies to attack political opponents: Trump has removed or driven away career people in every part of the executive branch and replaced them with people whose primary qualification is loyalty to Trump. Worse yet, he's left countless openings unfilled. This is a key feature of a banana republic. Most of his department heads are now completely unqualified to do the jobs they are supposed to be doing or, in the case of regulatory agencies like the EPA and Department of the Interior, are lobbyists for the very industries

they are supposed to be policing. Having removed anyone who might interfere with his plans, he has used government agencies to attack his political opponents. His attempt to manufacture a case against Biden in Ukraine was a pure abuse of power which led to his impeachment. Now he's fabricating "Obamagate," pure fantasy. All this is from the same book as the eight investigations into Benghazi that found no wrongdoing but were designed to weaken Hillary Clinton.

4. Trump's attack on the appropriation power of the House and general corruption: Another feature of a banana republic is the executive's control over the financial sector, not only for graft but also for political ends. For example, it is illegal to spend money allocated by Congress for purposes other than stipulated by the appropriations bill, yet Trump has diverted funds from the military budget to build his wall. The bidding process has been abused, for example, by Jared Kushner who simply gave out contracts for protective medical equipment to Trump's friends and donors, irrespective of whether they had any experience in producing this sort of equipment. Trump himself has made tens of millions off his properties by making his security detail stay at his properties with him and overcharging them for rooms and service while he plays golf. During the COVID-19 crisis, he has cynically forced people to go back to work at meat packing plants, despite recorded virus outbreaks. And, finally, and equally despicable, he is threatening to withhold federal aid to states such as Michigan and Nevada that implement voting by mail because he thinks Democrats will do better if it is easier to vote in those battleground states. As with Ukraine, a quid pro quo: give me what I want or no money.

5. Trump's attack on the free press and flow of information: Finally, as with all autocrats from Putin to Pinochet, Trump and his party not only attack the press but withhold information that should be freely given to the American people. The latest example is the suppression and then dumbing down of the CDC report and guidelines to reopen the American economy. GOP governors are following his lead as Nebraska and Iowa won't release information on virus cases in meat packing plants or nursing homes. And Georgia and Florida actually doctored their statistical reports of cases to make it appear that they were declining.

In sum, Trump and the oligarchs are using the authoritarian playbook of a banana republic to concentrate power in the executive, to bend the economy through state power to fill their pockets and oppress the working and middle classes, and to suppress the vote so they may stay in power against the will of the majority of Americans. If we fail to oust these people come November, Banana Republic 2.0 will become the new normal for America. We must not allow them to succeed.

Tenth Dems Hosts a (Virtual) “Conversation with Congressman Schneider”

Thanks to everyone who joined us in May for our “Conversation with Congressman Brad Schneider.” It was great to be together—if only virtually since we can’t meet in person right now. Over 60 people participated. We had a terrific discussion about the response to COVID from Washington, how it’s impacting folks in our area, and what recovery might look like.

Things are tough in a lot of ways but enthusiasm is still high to make sure we work hard to elect Democrats up and down the ballot. Conversations like the one with Congressman Schneider help keep people engaged as we head closer to Election Day. Given the uncertainty around us all, it’s more of a challenge than ever ... but we’re up for it!



Why I Support Eric Rinehart for Lake County State's Attorney

by Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins

Thirty years ago my sister, her husband, and their unborn child were murdered in Winnetka, Illinois. That watershed event changed everything about my life, propelling me into a lifetime of advocacy against violence, for criminal justice reform, and for victims' rights.

I have been literally everywhere that becoming an expert on the criminal justice system would require—prisons and jails, courtrooms and judges' chambers, prosecutors' offices and victim advocates' offices, public defender, clerk, private attorneys, and criminal justice reform advocate meetings. I have worked with the best and the worst that the criminal justice system has to offer, and I have worked effectively within the political system on all of these matters.

And I have accomplished important reforms for Illinois residents, most notably with the passage of Marsy's Law in 2014, putting forever into the Illinois Constitution enforceable rights for crime victims in criminal justice proceedings in violent crime cases. I care deeply, as a private citizen, about making sure that the State's Attorneys each county in Illinois elects are people committed to ending violence, protecting public safety, and victims' rights, and have the skills to do their jobs protecting rights and enforcing the law.

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I am, therefore, thrilled to enthusiastically endorse Eric Rinehart for Lake County State's Attorney. His planned reforms for this important office are well-thought-out and promise a much improved quality of life for Lake County residents. After practicing criminal law in Lake County for 17 years, he has the experience, the skills, and the expertise to deliver the strongest functioning Lake County State's Attorney's office in decades.

While there are many reasons to vote for him, here is just one story that exemplifies why electing Eric is so important:

A friend of mine was a victim of domestic violence in Lake County – a truly terrifying and life-changing experience for her. As a DV survivor myself, I stood by her side supportively, even attending phone meetings with Assistant State's Attorneys and victim advocates under the current Lake County State's Attorney's office. The current State's Attorney was handed a virtually airtight case against a truly guilty offender with an articulate and brave victim able to testify against her abuser. And he bungled it. The abuser got off. Further, my friend's victims' rights under Marsy's Law were not enforced by the office charged to protect her. I came to understand at that point the real need to change the leadership in the Lake County State's Attorney's office.

I know that other cases like my friend's are exactly what motivated Eric to run for the Lake County State's Attorney's office.

When I read Eric Rinehart's campaign platform, it was as if I had written it myself. Ending domestic violence in Lake County will be a top priority in his administration, to protect victims of domestic abuse and other violent crimes by moving resources from the prosecution of nonviolent crimes and civil forfeiture litigation to the prosecution of violent offenses, to establish a Victims' Advisory Panel, and to comply fully with Marsy's Law.

Please join me in telling everyone you know in Lake County to spread the word – Lake County NEEDS Eric Rinehart.



Thank You, President Obama

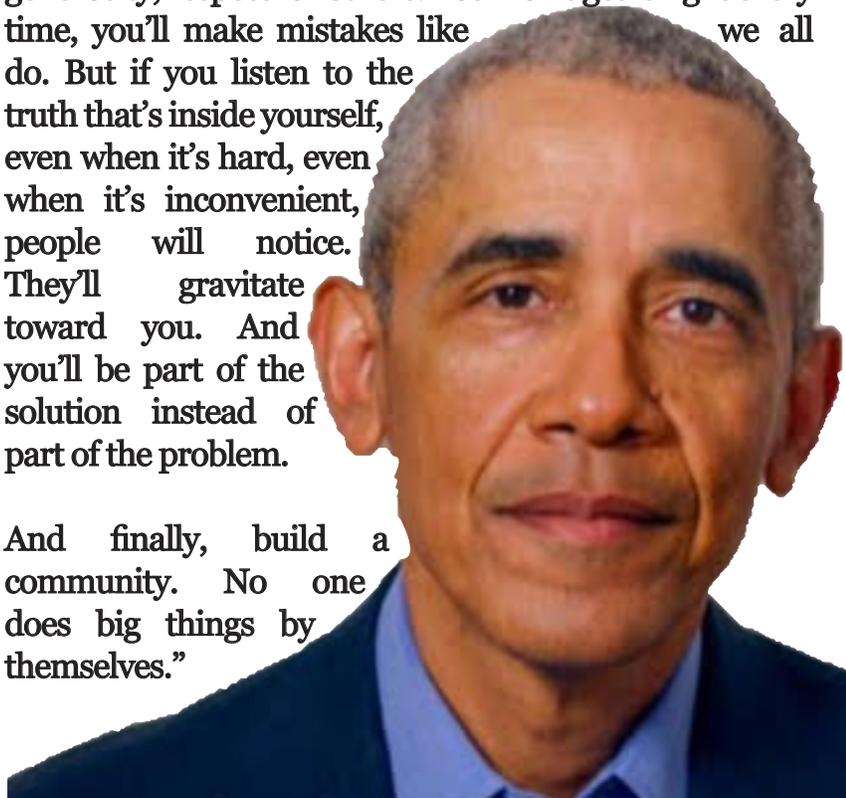
Former President Barack Obama spoke to graduating seniors across the nation on May 16th, reminding us all just what a president should sound like:

As part of a longer, inspirational address, Obama told graduates:

“First, don’t be afraid. America’s gone through tough times before – slavery and civil war, famine and disease, the Great Depression and 9/11. And each time we came out stronger, usually because a new generation, young people like you, learned from past mistakes and figured out how to make things better.

Second, do what you think is right. Doing what feels good, what’s convenient, what’s easy – that’s how little kids think. Unfortunately, a lot of so-called grown-ups, including some with fancy titles and important jobs, still think that way – which is why things are so screwed up. I hope that instead, you decide to ground yourself in values that last, like honesty, hard work, responsibility, fairness, generosity, respect for others. You won’t get it right every time, you’ll make mistakes like we all do. But if you listen to the truth that’s inside yourself, even when it’s hard, even when it’s inconvenient, people will notice. They’ll gravitate toward you. And you’ll be part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

And finally, build a community. No one does big things by themselves.”



How Do We Put Americans Back to Work? FDR Had a Plan for That

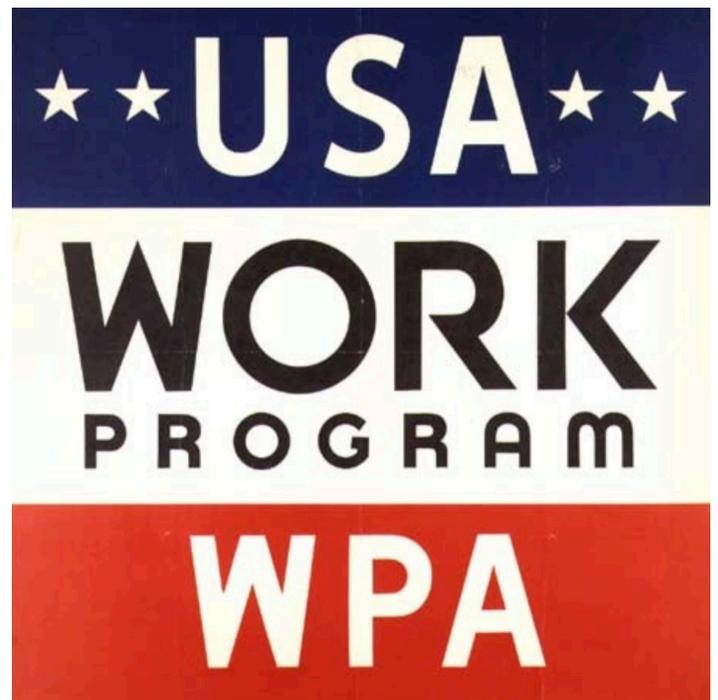
by Amy Burke Shriberg

The best way to put Americans back to work--when it is safe to do so--is through a large-scale public jobs program, the likes of which this nation hasn't seen since the New Deal. In fact, one of the New Deal's central relief programs, the Works Progress Administration, provides a road map for how the federal government can quickly and effectively provide millions of jobs rebuilding and repairing decaying infrastructure across the country.

When Franklin D. Roosevelt became president in March of 1933, our country was in dire straits. The Great Depression had begun more than three years earlier, and President Herbert Hoover did not rise to the occasion. Hoover was stymied by his expectation that the economy would right itself more quickly than it did, as well as by his belief that the federal government shouldn't intervene directly to deal with the crisis.

Does any of this sound familiar? President Donald Trump neither believes the federal government should lead amidst the COVID-19 pandemic nor understands how to govern under any circumstances. Yet, the crisis deepens each day, just as the Depression did under Hoover's watch.

By the time of FDR's inauguration in March of 1933, about 25 percent of the labor force (and roughly 33 percent of non-farm workers) was out of work. FDR immediately launched the New Deal to stabilize the economy and to let Americans know that the federal government would now lead the charge to bring the nation out of depression. He created the WPA in 1935 to confront the Great Depression's staggering, ongoing unemployment.



The work program's legacy is wide and deep. In total, it employed about 8.5 million Americans between 1935 and 1943, who provided labor for 1.4 million public works projects. According to the *Final Report on the WPA Program*, its workers built 16,000 miles of water lines, 650,000 miles of new or improved roads, electrified rural communities, produced more than 380 million articles of clothing, and served more than 1 billion school lunches. WPA workers also constructed schools, gyms, parks, beaches, libraries, post offices, airports, stadiums, bridges, dams, and more. You name it, and they probably built it. The WPA also hired writers, artists, and musicians who wrote, painted, performed, and directed numerous cultural productions. Still others were hired to preserve historical records, including recording oral histories and writing WPA guides for each state. The arts program not only provided jobs for needy artists, but also, as a recent National Public Radio piece pointed out, created "a version of American culture that everyone could rally behind."

Today, unemployment is already higher than at any point since the Great Depression. COVID-19 has forced the economy to slow and/or shut down in many places, revealing to all what many of us already knew: low unemployment figures and a robust Dow Jones have coexisted within a system in which many American families cannot even weather an emergency of \$400 without adding debt, let alone the months and months of economic insecurity now facing so many of us.

Even during good times, unemployment data don't fully reflect the economic pressure facing so many Americans.

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Low unemployment figures often omit those who no longer qualify for unemployment benefits, those who have stopped looking for work, and those working part-time because they can't find full-time jobs. They also don't account for the millions and millions of workers whose jobs will never provide family-supporting wages. FDR understood, as is dangerously obvious these days, that true freedom requires both political and economic freedom. As FDR told the nation in 1944, "Necessitous men are not free men." A new version of the WPA would constitute a major step toward creating a truly free nation.

While our federal system still makes national policy implementation uneven and challenging at best, our need for such projects today runs deep---and did so even before the pandemic arrived. The American Society of Civil Engineers gives U.S. infrastructure a D+, and that was as of 2017. In the same report, the ASCE calculated that about \$2 trillion is needed to repair highways, streets, bridges, and other aging structures. What better way is there to put Americans back to work en masse than to employ millions to rebuild our nation's infrastructure?

The WPA provides a blueprint for how to do so quickly and effectively because that's exactly what the program did under far worse conditions. Conservatives have long lamented the New Deal and its big government approach to problem solving. Since the Reagan Administration, Republicans have been destroying government from within. However, it turns out that a vibrant federal government is actually necessary to handle big problems, such as the Great Depression, Jim Crow, and more recently, COVID-19. We certainly have our work cut out for us, but if we heed history's lessons, we can overcome this crisis too. As FDR explained in his famous Commonwealth Club address in 1932, "failure is not an American habit; and in the strength of great hope we must all shoulder our common load."



Illinois Offers Mental Health Support During These Stressful Times

A graphic titled "MENTAL HEALTH & COVID-19 Be Kind to Your Mind". At the top, it says "STAY HOME SAVE LIVES" with a house icon, and "ANYONE CAN GET AND SPREAD COVID-19. EVEN PEOPLE WITH NO SYMPTOMS CAN SPREAD THE VIRUS." Below the title is a list of five numbered steps: 1. PAUSE. Breath. Notice how you feel. 2. TAKE BREAKS from COVID-19 content. 3. MAKE TIME to sleep and exercise. 4. REACH OUT and stay connected. 5. SEEK HELP if overwhelmed or unsafe. At the bottom, it says "Find information and resources: lakecountyil.gov/coronavirus" and the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center logo.

While staying home and socially distancing remain the best tools we have for reducing transmission of COVID-19, many of us are struggling. To help, Illinois has launched Call4Calm, a free emotional support text line for Illinois residents experiencing stress and mental health issues related to COVID-19. To speak with a mental health professional, text "TALK" or "HABLAR" (for Spanish) to 552020.

The Health Department also continues to offer mental health support through its Crisis Care hotline, available 24/7 at (847) 377-8088. Services are free and confidential.

Thanks to County Board Member Jessica Vealitzek for including information about this in her May 22 newsletter.

All the News That Fits

by Marla Sundh

In the past, we seldom questioned whether the news we consumed was real. We had several daily newspapers and weekly newsmagazines. We had ABC, CBS, and NBC, PBS, and WGN. We had news shows anchored by respected, proven journalists such as Tom Brokaw and Walter Cronkite. Without the multitude of nontraditional sources confronting us today, the news was more straightforward and credible.

What has changed? The internet and cable television multiplied our choices a thousandfold. The impact of daily newspapers and network television is now greatly diminished. News is available 24/7, from diverse sources such as Facebook and satellite radio. Online sources are innumerable. The advent of Fox News was the first time in U.S. history that a TV network was created to promote a political agenda. And let's not forget Donald Trump. Many are accustomed to believing what the President says because they are used to trusting the highest officeholder in the land. Abandoning all restraints, Trump and his party refined the art of using disinformation as a political tool. The lies are repeated until "fake news" and "alternative facts" become part of our vernacular and the most ludicrous conspiracy theories are then circulated as if they were facts.

As a result, many people have withdrawn and pay little attention to the news in any form. Young people often

get their news from unreliable sources such as Twitter and YouTube, which have the benefit of being dished out in small, digestible portions.

The majority of folks may attempt to sift through all the information to separate fact from fiction. Here are some suggestions to help do that.

1. When you are perusing an online article, check the source. Is it a source you've heard of? If not, move past, or confirm its background. See if you can find any known reputable source to corroborate. Check the date on the post to ensure it's current. If you notice that the URL is something other than .com or .org, you are well advised to check a little further.
2. Try to avoid sharing posts, as it may put you on a list for future unwanted contact. If the post is from a group to which you belong, you can feel safer posting it.
3. Use one of the nonpartisan sites dedicated to checking facts and exposing untruths. The best known are Politifact, Snopes, and FactCheck. Researching a quote or a URL is very quick and easy on these sites.
4. If you read a particular publication and find its news to be credible and reliable, return to that publication regularly.

People are drawn to information that confirms their preexisting beliefs - an obstacle to changing minds. But we can impact the decisionmaking of the unaligned and Democratic news consumers. When engaged in a discussion with a person who holds opposing views, bring empathy to the conversation. Try to disprove the "fake news" without insulting the person you are talking to. Human minds are hard to change. But it's worthwhile to try. November is approaching. Democratic hopes of victory up and down the ticket depend on us.



GIVE A

Father's Day

GIFT THAT LASTS!

You can help make sure we have people in office standing up for Democratic values ... and give a great Father's Day gift at the same time!

[Click here to make a Father's Day contribution to Tenth Dems. Comes with a special Father's Day certificate — can be printed or emailed — for the father or father figure in your life to know about your support in their honor.](#)

A membership with our grassroots Democratic group for your father or father figure in your life — or just a contribution in their honor — is a simple but meaningful way to help make our community and world a better place.

Editor: Amy Burke Shriberg
Editorial Staff: Barbara Altman
Hon. Lauren Beth Gash
Eric Herman
Janie Seiden
Allan Sperling

Contributors: Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins
Rep. Dan Didech
Laurence D. Schiller
Marla Sundh
Layout: Kelsey Marx
Distribution: Roger Baron
Ron Schwartz

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