



Tenth News

Tenth Dems Hosts Campaign Filings Forum

Thanks to everyone – over 60 people – who joined us on June 24th for our Tenth Dems University presentation, “The Nuts and Bolts of Campaign Finance Filings.” It might not seem exciting at first, but it’s necessary to help elect Democrats. Election law attorney Ed Mullen did a terrific

job making it understandable and interesting. Thanks so much, Ed! We hope this made things a little less scary for Democratic candidates, staffers, and volunteers – current and future ones. There will be more events like this soon. Stay tuned.



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Schneider Statement on U.S. Supreme Court Decision on DACA



On June 18th, Congressman Brad Schneider (IL-10) released the following statement on the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy:

“The Supreme Court’s decision to uphold DACA is a historic victory that shows the true heart of our country and furthers the vision of our founders. Today, I am given new hope that the United States will again be the beacon of democratic values other nations aspire to. For the 6,000 Dreamers in our district and the 700,000 across the country, home is here. Welcome home!

“While this decision gives me incredible joy, in Congress the work is far from over. We’re not going to stop fighting to make the DACA policy permanent by law, as proposed by H.R. 6, The American Dream and Promise Act.”



Volunteer of the Month: Dr. Laurence Schiller

By Marla Sundh

Say hello to Tenth Dems' "Volunteer of the Month," Dr. Laurence "Laurie" Schiller. Now retired, Laurie spent almost 45 years at Northwestern University, where he taught and coached fencing. Tenth Dems is lucky to have him on board as he contributes so much, including taking on many leadership roles.

Growing up, Laurie planned to become a history professor. To that end, he studied at Rutgers University and later earned a PhD at Northwestern University. He went on to teach history and other curricula at Northwestern. Laurie taught courses in the day school, the School of Continuing Education, and in the Alumnae College. He also has published articles and books on issues in African history and the American Civil War.

Interested in fencing from his youth, Laurie became involved in NU's fencing program. After completing his doctoral research in Kenya in 1978, he took over what was then a club program and ultimately built the fencing program into a top 10 team. Laurie retired as the winningest NU coach in any sport and also as the second winningest fencing coach in NCAA history. When Laurie became coach, the program had little funding. He and his wife Cathy built the program from the ground up. Cathy became the team armorer, the technician who keeps all the equipment, including the

weapons, working, while Laurie went on to become one of the most accomplished fencing coaches in the United States. Even in retirement, Laurie enjoys refereeing competitions at the local and national levels.

Laurie was born in Brooklyn, New York, and grew up in Long Island with New Deal Democratic parents who marched in the civil rights protests of the 1960s. His education in Democratic politics came at a young age. Laurie was involved with anti-war protests at Rutgers University that shut down the university. (At the same time, in Ohio, protests at Kent State University led to the killing of four students by the National Guard.) He also participated in a number of anti-war marches in Washington,



D.C. His wife also participated in many marches in D.C. and was a student at George Washington University. They first met as graduate students at Northwestern.

Laurie came to Tenth Dems after being contacted by Tenth Dems Founder Lauren Beth Gash, who called him after spotting his numerous letters to the editor. He began volunteering for Tenth Dems by writing for the newsletter, which he continues to do, and ultimately moved on to help with many tasks, including anything from folding and stuffing literature to setting up ahead of events. For many years, Laurie wrote the “Congress Watch” newsletter feature, and he continues to weigh in nearly each month.

Laurie is also a leader on the Communications Team, and he serves as the Dean of Tenth Dems University (TDU). Laurie handles the scheduling, curriculum, and logistics for various TDU programs. He is the lead facilitator and moderator for the Let’s Talk Politics series, which is a part of TDU. Laurie is also the Vice-Chair of the Vernon Township Democrats.

According to Laurie, Tenth Dems has had a major impact on politics in our district and beyond.

“Lauren and all the people at Tenth Dems have been a force for mobilizing Democrats in this district. As the district has become more blue, we have worked hard to field candidates at every level to take power away from the Republicans.

Without the organization, skill, outreach, and generosity in terms of funds that Tenth has provided, I do not believe we would have as many Democrats in positions of power in our district, and especially in Lake County as a whole.”

Tenth Dems is very fortunate to have Laurie as a volunteer. He readily takes up the leadership mantle and does great things with it. That is why we are proud and happy to recognize Laurie as our “Volunteer of the Month.”



For information or to volunteer

Email us: newsletter@tenthdems.org

Visit us: www.TenthDems.org

Call us: 847-266-VOTE
(847-266-8683)

Write us:
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The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily endorsed by Tenth Dems.

Protests, Marches, and Vigils Across the 10th District



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Protests, Marches, and Vigils Across the 10th District

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Great Lakes in Peril

By Aniket Dixit, a Tenth Dems intern

The Great Lakes are in trouble. I bring this up because the Trump Administration, unsurprisingly, has been scaling back increasing numbers of EPA regulations under the cover of the COVID-19 pandemic. *The New York Times* described an “aggressive timeline” of rollbacks that would continue into June and potentially would involve cutting funding to more than a dozen agencies. While many of these regulations don’t, and likely won’t, affect the Midwest, the Environmental Law and

Policy Center as well as numerous other wildlife organizations have warned of the potential danger to the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes, of course, are a colossus of Midwestern ecosystems; the largest freshwater system on the planet and a bastion for maritime industry, these five lakes alone contain over 20% of the world’s fresh water. Yet among the biological issues (invasive species along the coastlines and the never-ending cycle of climate change), are deeper problems in pollution, industry, and the general well-being of the lakes themselves.

Let’s take perhaps the most pressing and most damaging challenge facing the Great Lakes. The slow advent of climate change is among the most dangerous threats to the lakes, both industrially and biologically. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Research Manager Ram Yerubandi says that ice temperature across Lake Michigan is rising, in conjunction with the overall trend of declining “sea ice” across all the Great Lakes (primarily Superior). Another common indicator of climate change, and a much more common one than sea ice, is water level. This too has been very unsteady in recent years. As recently as March, there has been a spike in water levels across Lake Michigan, an average displacement of +1 foot. Let’s not pretend like this, however, is unexpected, especially when a report from the International Joint Commission (IJC) between the United States and Canada reported a similar trend back in the 1990s.

The other major biological problem, which has much less awareness and a smaller public footprint, is the excess of toxic waste in the lakes. Again, this was predicted by the IJC, in 1998, and warned about as a potential issue in Illinois, which even after a cleanup, was not made clear enough to be dealt with adequately. These chemicals include methylmercury, the kind of mercury found in fish species (most of which happen to live in or near Lake Michigan) and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE). Apart from ethylene oxide, another chemical toxin, albeit one in the public eye, methylmercury is a silent threat. A 2017 study in Minnesota found that 8% percent of tested newborns had levels of methylmercury higher than the EPA advised standard. This trend is not going completely unnoticed. Committees along the St. Lawrence River are calling for an increased \$2.2 billion to fund Action Plans for the preservation of the Great Lakes, a process which has been in place in Illinois, particularly in Chicago, for years. We may need that soon as well.

Along the Tittabawassee River in Michigan, fears of a flood carrying dioxins into local towns called for the EPA and Great Lakes and the Energy Department to step in and lend a hand, although they reported that “no damage was done.” This



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highlights another, more direct danger – the industry of the Great Lakes region itself. We are a powerhouse with 200 million tons of cargo moving through the area, generating a \$6 billion “GDP.” Among the states, Illinois ranks highest for its purchase of Canadian imports. Despite this, Illinois industry has participated, at least slightly in this matter. Surfers, for example, sued U.S. Steel in 2018 over alleged pollution of Lake Michigan. The EPA toured the shoreline in May of this year to monitor instances of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which might have runoff from farms. While this is not necessarily an issue that can be fixed immediately, nor is it something that has gone completely under the radar (Trump himself is admittedly boosting the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative), this is a topic that should be widely acknowledged, more widely than it is at least. After all, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler admits, “The Great Lakes are certainly a treasure for the American public.” But there’s a difference between the Trump Administration’s words and its actions.



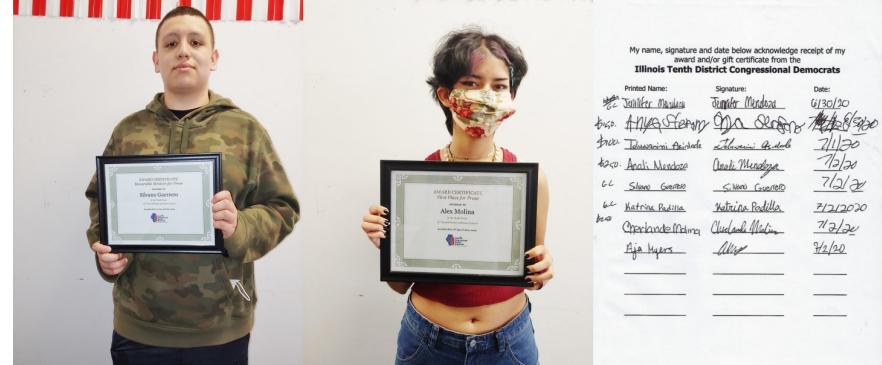
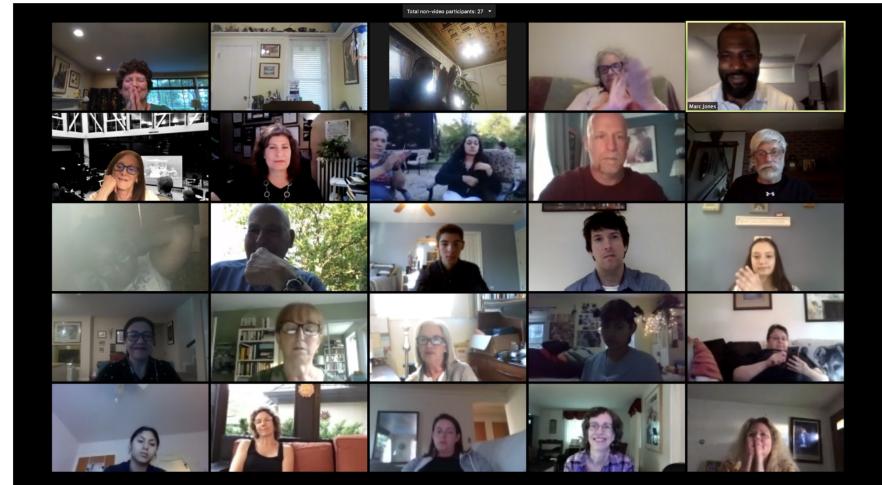
Poetry and Prose Contest Awards Night a Virtual Success!

By Carolyn Cerf

Dedicated local Dems and literature lovers gathered, albeit virtually, to honor young writers and their self-expression at Tenth Dems’ 10th Annual Poetry and Prose Awards Night on Wednesday, June 17th. As Tenth Dems Vice-Chair Barbara Altman stated, “As Democrats, we believe that we’re all in this together. We believe that politics is about more than just elections. It’s about making our community and world a better place, and what better way to do that than to try to make the world a better place for young people?”

The prompt for this year’s contest was CHOICES, which produced a variety of poems and stories about life’s choices large and small. Every young writer who participated received a certificate commending their participation, and prizewinners in poetry and prose, whose anonymous works were judged by panels of local published poets, received generous cash awards in the form of gift cards.

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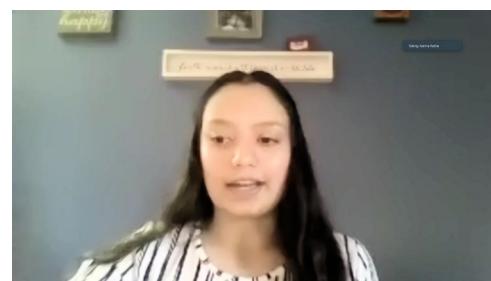
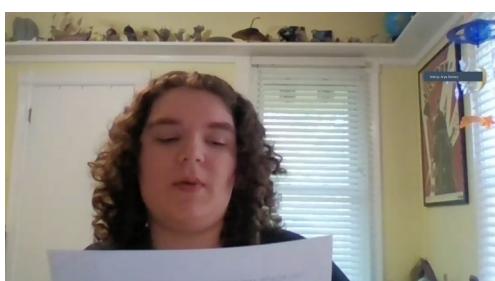
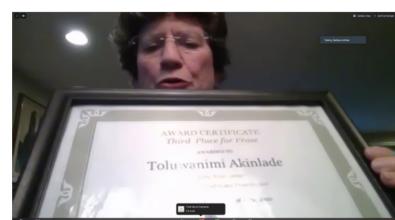


The evening began with brief, but warm remarks from State Rep. Joyce Mason (D-51st), whose district includes Zion and parts of Waukegan, and 10th District Congressman Brad Schneider, who were introduced by Tenth Dems Co-Chair Eric Herman. Mason told the students, “The art and work that you are doing is so incredibly important. We need your voice. Democracy relies on it, and I welcome hearing what you have to say so I can raise your voices in Springfield.”

Congressman Schneider also addressed the young writers, expressing his genuine excitement about hearing again from these talented young people. He quoted the last lines of “Invictus,” by William Ernest Henley, famously cited by Nelson Mandela as having helped him persevere through his time in prison. Responding to the theme, CHOICES, Rep. Schneider quoted “... I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul,” which he said gives him comfort amid the tumultuous world of politics and which he also called an empowering message for these young artists.

Marc Jones, a Waukegan Park District Board Member and the Board’s immediate past president, once again hosted the evening. He introduced each of the young writers who read, and even without the proximity of a live event, managed to convey warmth and encouragement to each of them.

Not only did every one of the prizewinning student writers read their winning entries, but several other participants presented their poems and stories, including several of those whose work earned honorable mention. The judges, who were present to congratulate the authors of the works they’d cited for awards, remarked how exceptionally difficult it was this year to make those choices. Look for the *Special Poetry and Prose Edition* of the Tenth News, in which we publish the 12 award-winning stories and poems, list their authors, and include biographical information about the volunteer judges.



Have We Proven That We Have a Right to Healthcare?

By Mark Rosenberg, MD



Fast forward to January 2021, a new Congress and President Biden. Don't we all wish that to be the case? By then we will have survived the worst global pandemic since the Spanish Flu of 1918. What do we hope to change with respect to healthcare?

Despite being one of the most divisive periods in our nation's political past, we came together to ensure our survival. We had to. We needed to achieve social distance, to remain in our homes, to respect boundaries and above all to care for one another. Whether it was my neighbor buying groceries for me or waiting my turn to enter a store or to bake cookies for the little guy down the street having a birthday without a party, we cared.

Yes, there were some who defied the stay-at-home order, the social distancing and the need to wear a mask, which were meant not to inconvenience you but to protect those around you.



There were a vocal few who actively protested, indeed some brandishing Nazi images and Confederate battle flags. That told you who they are and they were a very small number compared to the large majority who agreed with our Governor who maintained the restrictions.

Yet when we emerge from this dark period, as many as 25% or more of us will not have health insurance, some because they are no longer employed, others because they cannot afford it, and still others because of their immigration status are not eligible for government assistance. What sets the United States apart from every other developed nation is our failure to recognize the right to healthcare as a fundamental human right. That would ensure that during an economic downturn, whatever the cause, we would still retain our healthcare without worry over premiums.

What should that healthcare look like?

There are many options, none of which will be acceptable to everyone. That much we know from experience with both the Clinton healthcare proposal in 1993 and Obamacare in 2010. Expansion of Medicare to both ends of the age spectrum, lowering the eligible age below 65 and providing coverage for children and young people would be a relatively easy way to begin. Whatever happens in the middle group could be negotiated, maybe not easily but possible, nonetheless. While the Democrats do not agree on the structure of future healthcare, they do agree on its necessity. The Republicans do not even acknowledge that there is a need for universal healthcare, a fundamental difference between the parties and one that should be at the top of the Democratic Party platform. Republicans cannot recognize a right not to go hungry by denying the expansion of food assistance in this pandemic crisis, a right understood by our most democratic President, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Especially in times of crisis, healthcare must be considered to be a basic human right.



Intergenerational Politics: A New Initiative

By Victor Shi

We are still facing the devastation of COVID-19 and its impact on the most vulnerable communities. We continue facing systemic racism in the United States of America. We are witnessing people across the country struggle to secure an adequate minimum wage, healthcare, and a living. It is because of these struggles that so many Americans are now demanding changes that will finally reform our systems from deep within so everyone can thrive.

As members of Tenth Dems, we must use our voices, no matter how young or old we are, to effect positive change, for it will be on our organizing efforts, our relentless phone calls, and our passion for electing Democrats that will save this nation. That is why I, a frequent Tenth Dems volunteer, a Joe Biden delegate, and a recent graduate of Adlai E. Stevenson High School, could not be more excited to launch “Intergenerational Politics,” a video series dedicated to weekly unfiltered political discussions on various topics facing our nation today that is relevant and engaging for all generations. To do so, I’m thrilled to be joining forces with Jill Wine-Banks, the only woman who worked on the case against Richard Nixon during the Watergate scandal, author of *Watergate Girl*, and currently an MSNBC legal analyst.

I recognize the urgency for people to make their voices heard – and that starts with learning more about the issues facing our nation. I hope you will watch these episodes. Each week will feature a different political topic, featuring experts in their respective fields. It is only when we understand these issues that we can begin engaging in more productive dialogue and ultimately enact the reforms we strive to see. The stakes have never been higher.

Follow us on our social media pages to learn more about upcoming events and watch our latest videos. We’re on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).



Hear POC Gathering Raises Voices

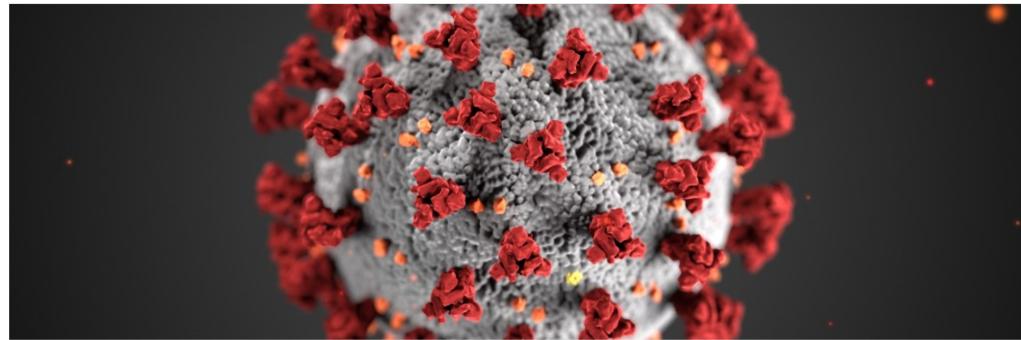
Organized by Deerfield and Highland Park students, Hear POC brought people together to hear the voices of people of color, most especially many young people who bravely shared their stories of growing up in Deerfield and Highland Park as a person of color.



Flushing Out the Virus – Using Our Sewage to Monitor COVID-19

By Debra Shore

You've probably been reading news coverage of a number of studies trying to determine if sampling sewage flowing into treatment plants can provide early detection of the presence of the virus (SARS-CoV-2) that causes COVID-19 in communities. When you flush your toilet in Cook County, did you know you're contributing to that research? (You can insert your own snarky exclamation here – I'll delicately decline to do so.)



In any event, I wanted to share what we know so far and what the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) is doing to assist several research studies underway. I'll also describe efforts by a team at Northwestern University to develop a new rapid test that can be widely deployed to detect the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in sewage samples.

First, let's remember that human waste – urine and feces – contains trillions of bacteria, viruses, and other potential pathogens. Always has. Waterborne diseases from untreated water used to plague large cities (and still do in many places), which is why the invention of more modern sanitation and sewage treatment has been viewed as one of the most significant contributors to today's longer life spans.

The sewage flowing into a wastewater treatment plant – called *influent* – contains information not only about the presence of diseases in communities, but also about pharmaceutical use, genetic information, and so on. Indeed, mining the data embedded in sewage influent may be the next frontier in resource recovery. (Researchers once sampled sewers surrounding a college campus in Washington state to determine if amphetamine use was higher during midterm and final exams. It was.)

Now, scientists believe that screening sewage can offer clues about how and where the SARS-CoV-2 virus spreads on a larger and less expensive scale than testing individuals, helping shine a light on the extent of the pandemic by complementing data from nasal swabs and antibody tests.

What Sewage Surveillance Can Do

People with COVID-19 begin shedding the virus as soon as three days after infection, whereas other symptoms may take longer to develop. This means there may be a signal in sewage before people begin to seek care or get tested. Sewage samples from two treatment plants in the Netherlands showed presence of the virus six days before the first reported case. Trends in the concentration of the genetic material in sewage might give clues about whether the outbreak is declining, or whether a second wave is on the horizon. Scientists at the Hampton Roads Sanitation District in Virginia have shared how they use these data to identify trends.

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Depending on the air temperature, distance to the treatment plant, and number of infected people in the area being monitored, researchers estimate tests can be sensitive enough to detect one infected person in a population of 100 (in warmer areas) to one in 2,000,000 (in cooler areas).

Sewage monitoring will not completely stop the spread of the virus, but it can tell decision-makers when to consider restricting certain activities or stepping up contact tracing and isolation efforts. By anticipating possible waves rather than responding to them, decision-makers will have more tools available to them sooner, which could mean an improved quality of life for all of us during a future wave if pockets of outbreaks can be identified and quickly snuffed.

In late April, the Water Research Foundation convened a four-day virtual summit — international experts from research institutes, universities, federal agencies, professional organizations, and utilities (including a microbiologist from MWRD) — to discuss research questions and needs in sewage surveillance. The MWRD has been sending weekly samples to a research study at Stanford since early March.

Julius Lucks, Associate Professor/Associate Chair of the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, and member of the Center for Synthetic Biology at Northwestern University, has been seeking to develop a new way to detect trace pollutants in water using “biosensors.”

“Microbes, especially, are constantly surveilling their external and internal environments to see what’s changing. What are the molecular mechanisms that allow them to do that?” Lucks told me recently. “Can we repurpose what we learn from natural biology for use in our own environments?” Now, Lucks wants to harness these natural biosensors and rewire them to detect SARS-CoV-2.

Previously, Lucks and his team had been working with biosensors to detect plant viruses, such as diseases that harm various crops. They developed a set of inexpensive, easy-to-use test kits that don’t require a lot of equipment to operate. Assisted by a talented postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Khalid Alam, Lucks began to focus on water quality monitoring ... and then came COVID-19. “Clearly there’s a big need for a low-cost, distributed diagnostic test and we can reconfigure biosensors to detect the COVID pathogen,” Lucks explained. “I want to send out testers with a little hand-held device and an array of test strips and test [samples of sewage] on site. We’re trying to change the scale of how you conduct these tests. These could be done on every street corner several times a day.” Gathering all this data would allow decision-makers to pinpoint where a local outbreak may be occurring and to enact containment strategies in that area.

Lucks and Alam formed a company called Stemloop, which with Northwestern has received a grant from the National Science Foundation for its COVID-19 research. “We’re using the Center for Synthetic Biology’s expertise in computational modeling to simulate how biosensors work and design experiments. Many people think the pandemic is not a single eruption,” Lucks added. “It will come back.” Indeed, Lucks and colleagues at Northwestern and Argonne National Lab are gearing up to be able to test samples with the help of MWRD.

One important caution: there is currently no evidence to suggest that people can become infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus through contact recreation, such as canoeing or kayaking in waterways where combined sewer overflows or broken sewer pipes have flushed raw sewage, or through professional work at a treatment plant or laboratory. The virus does not survive the wastewater treatment process or the water filtration process.

Wash your hands. Wear a mask. Stay tuned for more reports from the waterfront.



Why I Support Biden

By Grant Huebner, a Tenth Dems intern

This year, there are two people running for president – only one will win.

As Americans, we are blessed to live in a country where we have the privilege of electing our leaders, as well as the great honor of running to serve the people ourselves. I speak from the bottom of my heart when I say that, as Americans, each and every one of us has a sacred civic duty to preserve the democracy that we know and love. I wholeheartedly believe that we should vote for whom we truly believe is the best candidate. We must educate ourselves on the issues that matter and not simply listen to the ideas of others.

I am by no means here to tell you for whom to vote for; we have so much of that these days. Rather, I am here to respectfully tell you my story – why I, a young person who has canvassed for Bernie Sanders, now support Joe Biden. I hope that this will shed some light on me and the beliefs of many of my fellow youth, as well as demonstrate the support that my peers and I have for Joe Biden – despite the worries of Democrats and Republicans alike.

I have always been intensely interested in history, politics, and people. From everything that I have seen, and often despite it, I believe now more than ever that America can be the greatest country in the history of the world. Simply put, I am an optimistic patriot. I also believe that there are numerous issues that are endemic to American society: its structure is still inherently racist, polarization is tearing us apart, and consumerism has us barreling toward catastrophic climate change. However, I fundamentally believe that we will rise above these grave issues and, as a united nation, fix them. To do so, we have to begin the necessary work of bringing this country together again. Inherently, we must elect a leader who will work to unify us—not tear us apart. In a time where we have two distinct choices for President, I believe it is crystal clear who will begin the long road of reform, understanding, and, at times, bipartisanship that this country so greatly needs.

That person is Joe Biden.

However, Joe Biden was not always my first choice for President – but this only makes my support for him stronger now. Originally, I fully supported Bernie Sanders and canvassed for him. However, it was and is undeniably clear that vastly more people approve and support Joe Biden; the beautiful thing about our democratic system is that, although many people may run for an office in the beginning, we the people – through our votes – whittle this number down to just one. I respect this fully, and likewise I full-heartedly support Joe. He is now the head of the Democratic Party, and I truly believe that he is this nation's best chance to create the change we all need and want.

Like Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden has spent decades fighting to promote justice, equality, and to better the lives of all. I fully understand that he has supported issues in the past that we frown upon today, but I also understand that no one is



perfect. Every politician – including Sanders – has done so, and times change. At the same time, however, I firmly believe that we as a nation must hold our leaders to the highest of standards: there is no more distinct difference than the one between Donald Trump and Joe Biden. This contrast is no more clear than when the words and actions of President Trump are compared with those of Joe Biden. The divide between these two candidates is nothing less than the difference between progress and collaboration versus regression and polarization:

- While Joe Biden has promoted civility, Donald Trump has spent his presidency dividing our country.
- While Joe Biden has decades of productive legislative experience, Donald Trump has spent four years antagonizing the American people.
- While Joe Biden has fought to extend healthcare to all Americans, Donald Trump has fought to take it from us – even during a global pandemic.

Despite this great juxtaposition, many Democrats worry (and Republicans gleefully believe) that young people – like many Sanders supporters such as myself – will not vote for Joe Biden come Election Day, thus helping to return Trump to the White House.

I firmly believe otherwise: we will vote for Joe Biden – not just because he's "not Donald Trump," but because he himself has a long record of working to make this nation stronger, better, and more fair. Still, many reading this may point to 2016, when Hillary Clinton lost because too many people failed to turn out to vote. While the worry is valid, 2020 is not 2016. To twist an old adage, hindsight is 2020. We have endured more than three years of a president who divides rather than unites, lies rather than tells the truth: and most of us are very sick of it.

Today, we have a candidate who is significantly more popular than Hillary Clinton was, and Biden is running against an unprecedentedly despised president among Democrats. Despite these strengths, I firmly believe that we must use our hindsight and aid the cause of this party – the betterment of America – rather than sit back on Election Day and simply hope for victory. The road to a Biden Presidency begins today through donating, social media support, and canvassing. If we want a better America, we must all do our part not just to vote for whom we support, but to help make sure that others do so too.

Regardless of whether we are young or old, liberal or conservative, we are all Americans who bleed the same red blood. We are still all in this together.

The future of this Great Experiment rests in our hands. Let us vote to make America Greater.



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