



From the Club's President

by Katie Ricklefs

President, Lamorinda Democratic Club

Happy New Year to all members and friends of the Lamorinda Democratic Club! We have a lot to look forward to in 2016, and I hope you will join me in getting "Ready, Set, to Go" and WIN this year.

Looking back, we started 2015 on a high note, sending our trusted friend, Mark DeSaulnier, to Congress to fill Congressman Miller's very large and accomplished shoes. Congressman DeSaulnier's departure left a big hole in our State Senate, resulting in a hotly contested Special Election for Senate District 7.

On the positive side, Contra Costa had several outstanding Democratic candidates for SD7; on the negative side, millions of dollars from "outside funders" were spent in negative ads that seemed to turn everyone off to voting. Welcome to the world of Citizens United and Independent Expenditure Committees and lots of money in politics.

As progressive people, we have plenty of reasons to feel depressed. Listen to the Republican presidential candidates; look at the headlines of police shootings or terrorist acts or bigotry or gun violence; feel the polarization over wages, climate change, women's rights, income inequality, immigration, health care, taxes, etc. It's enough to make anyone cynical.

That's why it is crucial, now more than ever that we let our cynicism move from (mild) outrage to action. In 2016 we MUST get Democrats out to VOTE because when Democrats vote, Democrats win.

When we recently asked 100 Democrats in Lamorinda and Rossmoor about their priorities for the 2016 election, the responses revealed that the economy/jobs, the environment, education, and healthcare were top of their list. The path to achieving legislation that supports these "public goods" is to elect leaders who will fight for our shared priorities.

To accomplish this will require all of us working together to Get Out The Vote!

Please join us and fight for the Candidates and Initiatives that excite you. Come to our annual Brunch January 30 at 9:30 and sign up to work on campaigns for Bernie, Hillary, and Kamala; or work on Cheryl Cook-Kallio's AD16 campaign; or work on one of the ballot initiatives that matter to you; or offer your time to a Candidate in a local race. **No matter what your interest, there is an important role for you.**

And finally, please renew your membership in the LDC. Our dues are increasing for very important reasons (please see the "Join/Renew Now" item in the left column of this website). But we've decided to stop collecting the \$5 donation at the door, so anyone attending 7 or more meetings this year will come out ahead as compared to previous years.

We need everyone to do this vital work to move our state and country forward.

I look forward to working with you in 2016 to achieve some great WINS.

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