



**New 2023 Members:**

**Renewing Members:**

Antonio Martinez

Kathy Bohnsack

**General Meeting Minutes**  
**September 17, 2023, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

Room and Zoom

Any Questions: MarshCreekDems@gmail.com

**I. Call to Order and Introductions** (New members, Dignitaries) (3 minutes) 2:03 pm

**A. Zoom:**

1. All Zoom Attendees will be muted
2. Please rename your Zoom to your first and last name.
3. To ask questions: Raise Hand

**II. Minutes for August** (3 minutes)

- A. Motion to Adopt August Minutes: Motion DS 2<sup>nd</sup>        Approved by Acclimation

**III. Agenda Review** (3 minutes)

- A. Any changes to the agenda? NAACP Dinner has already happened.  
B. Motion to Adopt Agenda: Motion DS 2<sup>nd</sup>        Approved by Acclimation

**IV. Shannon Skinner – President** (5 minutes)

- A. General update: All MCDC committees are looking for additional help  
B. Committees are still in need of chairs.

**V. Upcoming Activities:** (3 minutes)

1. Oakley walk to Prevent Suicide – 10/7
2. East County NAACP Freedom fund Dinner – 10/9 this already happened.

**VI. Carolina Villaseca – Vice President** (3 minutes)

- A. Upcoming Speakers:
1. October – Monica Wilson, Four Term Antioch Councilwoman – Update on Antioch and the nonpolice 24 /7 response program.
  2. November – John Garamendi?
  3. December – Holiday Party
  4. January and February we are trying to get Adam Shiff and Katie Porter.
  5. March – Moms Demand Action
- B. If you have a person who would like to come and speak to our club, please contact Carolina Villaseca at (216) 570-1270 or [mcvillaseca@yahoo.com](mailto:mcvillaseca@yahoo.com)
- C. Carolina stressed how important it is to write in to our City Council members and planning commission what our concerns are. When they receive these, they write them down and discuss them with City Staff.

**VII. Today’s Guest Speakers** – (15 minutes)

**Stacey Plaskett**

**Congressional Rep from U.S. Virgin Islands**  
**Member of the January 6th committee**  
**( See Below)**

**VIII. Membership – Elinor Bell, Co-Chair (3 minutes)**

- A. To date, we have 86 members. We now have 88 members.
- B. Dues are \$20 \$10 for students
- C. Ways to join — Credit Card at <https://www.marshcreekdems.org/all-products> or Venmo MarshCreekDems (3416) or Check sent to Thuy DaoJensen/MCDC, P.O. Box 521, Brentwood, CA 94513

**IX. Renewing Members become Members in Good Standing and may vote as soon as dues are paid. New members become Members in Good Standing and may vote 30 days after their dues are paid.**

**X. Voter Outreach: Linda Smith (5 minutes)**

- A. Farmer’s Market Update – Thanks to Suzanne Cook, Carolina, Carole Main, Liz Fuller, Diane Alexander and Ray Cole for staffing our booth.
  - 1. We need help from September 23 through October 28– Shift is 8:00 am – 11:15 am.
  - 2. Liz Fuller is chairing the volunteer signup
  - 3. Ray Cole saves our spot at 7:30 each Saturday : )
- B. Letters and Postcards for November Election – Virginia – All 100 House of Delegates and 40 State Senators up for election. To date, **2000** have been prepared!! Updated to 2200
- C. In person letter writing at the Smiths – Sept 27<sup>th</sup> and Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 10 to 12.

**XI. Webmaster – Joe Ely [www.MarshCreekDems.org](http://www.MarshCreekDems.org) 3,122 Visitors this year**

**XII. Social Justice – Ray Cole, Chair – E-mail Ray at [raycole6s@outlook.com](mailto:raycole6s@outlook.com) to join the committee**

- A. We have 3 members – responsibilities have been divided up – Dr. Roberts – Educational issues Ray – LBGTQ We have divided up attending school board meetings. Carolina - DEI

**XIII. Precinct Chair – Gary Chambers**

**XIV. Issues and Legislation – Bill Nusbaum, Chair (3 minutes) – Saturday, October 7 11:30 am**

- A. Meetings are held via Zoom on the first Saturday of the month at 11:30 am. The
- B. Topics for Development – Basis for recommendations.
  - 1. Voter suppression
  - 2. Zoning and Growth
  - 3. Ethics Rules for Courts
  - 4. Gun Control
  - 5. Civics in the Classroom
  - 6. Poverty in Contra Costa County
  - 7. Infrastructure of Climate Change
- C. The committee is going to send out a poll to find out the interests that the Marsh Creek Democratic club has for the committee to look into.

**XV. DPCCC District 3 Update – Carolina Villaseca, DPCCC District 3 Director (3 minutes)**

- A. **Update** Next Month they are having a candidates forum – on the state level and federal level – Carolina will send out information so that people can attend.

**XVI. Carolina Villaseca, Chair of Publications and Social Media Committee (3 minutes)**

- A. **Contact Carolina at** (216) 570-1270 or [mcvillaseca@yahoo.com](mailto:mcvillaseca@yahoo.com).
- B. We are continually posting important items on Facebook regarding news and calls to action. Send any call to action to Carolina at [marshcreekdems@gmail.com](mailto:marshcreekdems@gmail.com). Check our Facebook page often for our frequent updates, and post your comments and “likes” whenever you can

**XVII. Swing Left – Doug McClelland (5 minutes) – Update** This group involves people who write letters and do precinct walking who are not members of the club. So far, they have written 600 postcards/letters. They have supported Josh Harder.

**XVIII. MCDC Movie Event – Co-Chairs Don Smith and Bill Randall (5 minutes)**

- A. **Who We Are – A Chronicle of Racism in America**
- B. September 6, 2023 from 6:30 to 9:30 – Trilogy Clubhouse
- C. 74 tickets were sold and 57 attended. 76 tickets were sold

**XIX. Treasurer’s Report – Thuy DaoJensen, Treasurer (5 minutes)**

**Marsh Creek Dems Treasurer's Financial  
Statement  
August 7 - September 3, 2023**

Date	Description of INCOME	Amount
	<b>BALANCE as of August 7, 2023:</b>	<b>\$ 2,781.44</b>
15-Aug-2023	SQUARE deposit	\$34.05
21-Aug-2023	SQUARE deposit	\$23.00
22-Aug-2023	SQUARE deposit	\$11.35
23-Aug-2023	SQUARE deposit	\$34.35
24-Aug-2023	SQUARE deposit	\$183.71
25-Aug-2023	SQUARE deposit	\$46.00
28-Aug-2023	SQUARE deposit	\$11.35
30-Aug-2023	CHECK donation	\$100.00
30-Aug-2023	CHECK movie tickets	\$24.00
30-Aug-2023	CASH movie tickets	\$12.00
30-Aug-2023	CASH donation	\$21.00
30-Aug-2023	SQUARE deposit	\$22.70
	<b>Total INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 3,304.95</b>

Check #	Description of EXPENSES	Amount
1087	RO COL Films Intl LLC	\$300.00
1088	2000 Postcards from Swing States	\$114.83
	<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$414.83</b>

**BALANCE as of September 3, 2023:                      \$ 2,890.12**

A.

**XX. By-Laws Changes First Reading – Linda Smith (See Attached)** Linda reviewed all the changes to the by-laws. We will vote on the changes at the next meeting.

## **XXI. New Business**

- A. Mac & Cheese Cook-Off Fundraiser – Possible Dates Friday, Jan 12 or Sun, Jan 14

## **XXII. For the Good of the Order (comments/suggestions) (3 minutes)**

- A. Don Smith: The meeting space that we now have and the one next to it is being used for next year by a church, so we will not be in this room next year. There is a room downstairs which is available but it doesn't have the AV equipment so we will have to purchase our own – microphone, speaker projector and screen. The room will be more expensive and we will have to factor that into our budget. We are proposing a Mac and Cheese Cookoff to earn some money for the club. We could also have a silent auction at the same time. Shannon will head up the group. We have two proposed dates – after work on Friday January 12 or Sunday, January 14. Suggestion for after work on Friday. Carolina suggested that Friday would be a better date because this is Martin Luther King Holiday. Others felt that Sunday would be better.
- B. Don Smith: He recalled that at one of the first meetings we had a speaker from the Tracy Democratic Club, Becky Ellen. She received a grant from the San Joaquin County Democratic Party which provided them the funds to rent an office space and meeting area for a year. He posed that we should approach DPCCC for a grant to support MCDC.
- C. Marisol Rubio: She is running for California State Senate from District 9 and went over why she is running and her qualifications. Here is a link to her site giving her background and qualifications: <https://www.marisolforca.com/> or call (925)587-3477.
- D. Chuck Carpenter: Follow up on what Carolina said on the bullies in education. We need to be more involved in local elections – Mayors, City Council members, board of education members. There is a real concerted effort by right-wing groups to destroy public education.
- E. Dr. Jag: She is one of the newly elected school board members of Antioch Unified School District who will have served for one year in November. We have in the County some of the lowest test scores and that is because of our demographics and it is unacceptable. We have three seats that are up for reelection and we are hoping to keep Antonio Hernandez who is an amazing member. She is a part of a group called School Board Partners (a progressive organization that helps progressive board members to become stronger.) They are partnered with an organization called Education Justice. If you know of anyone who is progressive who would like to run for board member, let Carolina know and we will put them in touch with these groups that will help them with how to run a successful campaign.

## **XXIII. Adjournment 4:20 pm**

I decided to transcribe much of Stacey Plaskett's talk. Please excuse any typos. I took the liberty of editing some of the speech but believe I stayed true to the message.

Stacey Plaskett talk:

In Contra Costa County the issue of affordable housing continues to be a pressing concern. Property values have escalated to levels that are nearly unattainable for many residents. It is a stark reminder that economic growth must go hand in hand with social equity. The consequences of this unbalance don't just stop with the inability to afford a home. The rise of homeless in Contra Costa County is a symptom of the broader societal issues that we are grappling with – not just in California but across the United States. Federal initiatives like increasing housing choice vouchers (commonly known as Section 8) and the expansion of low-income housing tax credit programs can go a long way in addressing this crisis – yet, the reality is that federal initiatives can only go so far. There is an indispensable role for community-based organizations and local governments. Local groups like the Marsh Creek Dems can be a catalyst for change insuring that these national efforts are tailored to meet the unique needs of your community. Know that what you are experiencing is happening across the country.

I sit on the Ways and Means Committee where Build Back Better unfortunately did not pass in the Senate. We attempted to make some real changes in the ability for families, young people, and middle-income families to be able to afford home ownership. We know that home ownership is the greatest and fastest accelerant for not just wealth for a family but for generational wealth. It is one of the issues and reasons why the black community has not been able to have as much wealth. Red lining and the inability to use the GI Bill after WWII were impediments that kept black families from being able to obtain home ownership- which we know, when you look across this country, is where generational wealth comes from. This is an issue that we are really working on in Congress. President Biden has put together a fabulous team, and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is really crisscrossing the country trying to understand creative ways to be able to get funding to developments and developers so that it can be affordable for them and drive down the cost for them to be able to make homes to meet the demand that is out there. Everyone wants that as part of the American Dream. (Stacey told us about how her family was able to use the equity in their home to fund education, medical, etc.)

As we work together to make progress, we can't lose sight of the fact that there are forces actively working against us. There is a countermovement growing at the grassroots level, one that is being emboldened by divisive rhetoric and increasing radical ideologies – it is pushing policies that are far removed from the interests of America. When we look at this - such as the rising trend of book banning led by far-right elements in local school boards across the country, this is more than just the actions of a local minority. Elected officials are getting involved, giving real life implications for educators and community members alike. In fact, in the first half of the 2022-2023 school year alone there were 1,477 instances of book banning. Teachers and Librarians are facing threats of imprisonment for non-compliance of book banning – of just making books available to their students. The far-right is using families fear of the unknown to push these policies. It is terrifying.

I am the ranking Democrat on a committee with Jim Jordan, The Weaponization of the Federal Government. Part of our work is doing investigations because we recognize that when Republicans say something and accuse the Democrats of something it is usually a projection of something that they are already doing themselves. When they have said the Department of Education is weaponized against the American people and its families, that is a key indicator for us that we need to look back at the Trump Administration and find out what they were trying to do to weaponize education. We learned in part of our education investigation that President Trump, through one of his Rasputin-like characters, they were trying to create an executive order that would remove federal funding from schools if schools had certain books. If schools were providing school lunches, classroom support, additional help for dreamers because their parents were undocumented and not just for dreamers but for those children that

were born in the United States to undocumented residents. We have seen that now in Congress in the Committee on Education in the Workforce where Virginia Fox, the Republican chair, has decided that schools just need to be defunded. They talk about us saying the police should be defunded – they want the Department of Education to be defunded and all the money to just be available to parents for school choice and let the chips fall where they may and that will determine what schools are going to be in place. We know that is a recipe for disaster in this country. We just need to look at what’s happening in Florida and recognize that that cannot be happening across the board in all of the United States.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, we have concentrated efforts on crafting supporting policies that directly impact the livelihoods of the American people – not taking our foot off the pedal, not for a moment, on the things that are going to effect American’s every day lives and the threats they have against them. Recently, there was a report that looked at child poverty and the fact that in the first half of the Biden-Harris Administration, when Democrats were in control of both House and the Senate, we were able to pass legislation that gave additional funding to families through a child tax credit. We were able to reduce child poverty to almost only a third of what it was before. We have seen that number skyrocket as the child tax credit expired and Republicans have been unwilling to put that back in place.

We have got to continually let Americans know that they cannot let their greatest fears of the unknown keep them from making the right decisions in elections. We know that the Republicans rely on fear, frustration that individuals have and a sense of alienation. They are using that to have people vote against their own best interests. They are trying to put a new tax bill together, and I can assure that there is no support for the middle class in that tax bill. This is once again the belief that if we give more money to corporations eventually, somehow, by osmosis later on down the line, that money is going to trickle down to you and me. Well, that isn’t happening. We have seen that because under the Trump Administration we know that the debt increased by trillions with the tax bill they put forward and we are just now, in the first part of the Biden-Harris Administration, trying to pull ourselves out of that and this government shutdown is just another means by which the American people are going to be hurt.

We really need you all to let people know what is really happening. We need you to help us in the work to provide relief to families who are struggling with inflation that is still impacting their lives and are concerned about their economic future. We need for you all to demand action instead of rhetoric from leaders.

We are also making job creation a priority. Since January of 2021, our economy has seen an addition of 13.9 million jobs, more than double the combined total of former President Trump’s first three years. Owing to funding in the American Rescue Plan, a record setting number of Americans are starting new businesses, a return to a semblance of normalcy. With the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, we have paved the way for direct negotiations between health and human services and pharmaceutical companies to lower prescription drug prices for Medicaid beneficiaries. Additionally, out of pocket costs are being capped at \$2,000 and the price of insulin limited to \$35 per month. Despite partisan opposition, that Inflation Reduction Act was a monumental stride toward improving health care accessibility and affordability. We passed the Chips Act. So many things have been done in this administration working with Congress. We know that when we hear people saying that Biden is too old and that’s a real problem, what’s t is the alternative. Even if it were not the alternative, Biden is getting a lot done and that is really what we need to think about at the end of the day. Whether you are young or old, can he get the job done? He has been able to get the job done. I’m a New Yorker and I like fast talkers and people who can talk and put words together. That is not our president, but behind closed doors he does what needs to be done to get the negotiations so that the American people can live a better life and that’s results and that’s what we should be looking at. I have to tell you that when people talk about Biden being too old and their fear of him being president, that is just code for their being afraid of a black woman being the president if something should happen to Biden. Press them on what Biden has done that makes them believe that he is not capable of getting

the job done. How many presidents, even the great Obama was not able to get as much monumental legislation done in such a short time with a divided Congress as Biden has. There has been nothing that has changed in the last three years to make people believe that he can't keep doing it. What they are trying to do is to give you that subtle dog whistle that what you really don't want is to have something happen to Biden and Kamala Harris take the position.

When we talk about your former Attorney General, Kamala Harris, coming from California, what has she done that makes her any different than any other Vice President. I will tell you that she is way smarter, way more committed, and works much harder than Dan Quayle did. She did a lot more work than even Biden did as Vice President. What they don't want you to know, (and thank God she is not trying to run the government like Dick Cheney did), is that what we have is a woman doing the job of Vice President and a President that is getting things done.

We need California to turn out as you guys always have, to remind the rest of the country that we need not go against our own self-interests because there are people looking different than us coming into this country. Yes, we need to take on immigration head on. Yes, we need to figure out how we fix our border. Fixing our border is not just about putting up a wall, it is about doing the diplomacy and the work in the countries where people are in fear of their life and looking for a better future – that is why they are risking their lives to come to this country. We need to help with that as well and that will dissipate the amount of border issues that we have in my belief. I know that California is going to get it done. I know that you all listen. It's a Sunday evening and the weather is great out there in California and you could be anywhere but you are here because you care and we in Congress can't get things done unless we continue to have that magnifying voice of you all – supporting us in the work we are doing, driving change.

There have been quite a number of districts in California that we lost in the last two election cycles. We need to get those seats back so that we can take the gavel back and Hakeem Jeffries can be the next Speaker of the House, continue to have Biden in the White House, keep Chuck Schumer as head of the Senate and work towards a better future, not just for us on this call but for our children and grandchildren. We have got to continue to be that beacon for the rest of the world to ensure that democracy reigns throughout this hemisphere and that we are able to go out and support those of us in need in other places, like Ukraine and what is happening in Africa with so many coups and Wagner and China trying to take over in those places, trying to be a support for the rest of the world while also continuing with the innovation and excellence that makes America great. We need to continually keep our doors open. We know that the reason that we excel and the Olympics, in technology, in innovation, in manufacturing, in education is because America is not afraid of diversity and that we are not afraid of new ideas. We are willing to recreate ourselves with every generation to continually be the best. And so, I want to thank you, Marsh Creek, for allowing me to speak and I will leave myself open for a number of questions.

Question and Answers:

Q: With the announcement of the ridiculous impeachment of President (of which they have no evidence because the Republicans have said they have no evidence) Jamie Raskin has come out saying that he is part of Biden's defense. Will you be part of the team as well?

A: I have been part of the smaller leadership group that has been having discussions about the strategy for this but we are hampered right now in not knowing which committees will be involved in the actual mechanisms and process for doing this inquiry. In most instances, you would see an impeachment vote come out of the Judiciary Committee which is run by Jerry Nadler. We know that there are investigations and whether that happens in Ways and Means where there are tax issues and records from banks (Ways and means would have jurisdiction over that) or if they will use Oversight in terms of government operations with Jamie Raskin, or the

Weaponization Committee that I am the ranking Democrat to look at how the office of the Vice President was weaponized would be determined. My opinion is that we should not be looking at just mounting a defense but let's take the fight to them as well. This is a great means for us to talk about the Trump crime family. Let's talk about a family where the children actually did hold office, did work in the White House, did have pecuniary interest. The President actually had a GSA lease of a property from the federal government named Trump Hotel in Washington, D.C. He used his position to make sure that heads of state and others used that hotel. What about the fact that Jared Kushner, a week after leaving the White House, received a two-billion-dollar investment from Saudi Arabia in private equity after that countries sovereign Wealth Fund Group all voted unanimously against giving him the money. Rather than our being on our heels being defensive, let's take it to them and come out swinging – that has been my position with leadership on this one.

Q: Is there a way to strengthen the Hatch Act or does it simply need to be enforced in order for what happened in the Trump administration to not happen again – to actually have a separation between government and political campaigning.

A: I think the Hatch Act is a very strong piece of legislation and I think that there are real guidelines for an administration that wants to follow the law to do the right thing. It is the enforcement of it that we need to be concerned with – whether referrals will be made to the Department of Justice and they will of their own volition go after violations of the Act and also whether if we have a Congress that is willing. We have not had a Congress where both the House and the Senate have been able to procure the necessary documents to do that. I think we have a strong enough Hatch Act; it is the enforcement of it that needs to be in place. The Hatch Act is what tripped up Mark Meadows in his request to have his case removed from State to Federal Court saying that he was within the bounds of his position as Chief of Staff. The Hatch Act was one of the primary mechanisms by which the judge said that no, what he was doing is not related to his official role but was outside his role as Chief of Staff to the President.

Q: In the fiscal year 2023 the Department of Education had 270.92 billion dollars distributed amongst it's ten subcomponents while the Department of Defense had 2.04 trillion dollars distributed amongst its's six subcomponents. I also believe we recently had a 45-billion-dollar surplus that went to the Defense Department as well. I am wondering what can we do differently to have some more accountability and have our tax dollars going to things that really impact us every day?

Q: That's a great question. I think that what we find is that what do American's prioritize – what do we feel is important. I am for a very strong defense. I understand the importance of our social issues and making sure that sufficient funding goes to our schools and all those other areas but I also don't think we are in a position at this time where we need to reduce some of our funding on the defense side because of what we are dealing with in terms of our global strategic postures with Russia as well as China. So, yes there is room – I agree that more funding should go to social impact areas here in the U.S. Those are not just in schools. Some of those areas are job training and other areas we talked about such as affordable housing and health care issues. In health care it costs way less to do preventive care for people than it does to deal with them once they have become sick. It depends on priorities of those who are in Congress and their priorities. We have members who every year vote against the defense bill not because they don't think that defense is important but they are concerned about the amount of money that goes to defense in comparison to the amount of money that even goes to diplomacy and other places. They feel if we spend more on diplomacy in a soft power in some of these countries, we wouldn't need such a strong defense. I think it is a matter of us as individuals talking to those elected officials and ensure that they are doing the values and taking the position that you feel is most valuable.



Q: We have a serious local problem that is actually pretty much nationwide on affordable income for both seniors on fixed incomes for people in the LAHTC area. I sent an email a while back and Mr. Tim Grayson is supposed to send a letter as well endorsed by other legislators as he promised and I have yet to hear from. But that email and that letter delineates the exact fixes that need to be done by the Congressional Subcommittee (I can't remember the name of it). My ask is that you put pressure on that committee to make those changes. The changes have to come under the tax codes and other codes that are administered here in California under the tax credit allocation committee and it has to do with ensuring that the low-income housing folks are not abused by owners that have a management company called Wynn. They are abusing them and raising their rents to just under the limit. They are trying to force people out here by doing that and by not taking care of their facilities. It is a horrendous thing. We need your help.

A: Thank you for that. We know that first there is an issue of the amount of funding that it's LIHTC (Low Income Housing Tax Credit). It is one of the most important resources for creating affordable housing in the United States used by developers. That is something that we are trying to increase the amount on. Also, we are trying to be creative with individuals while they are within that program to help them move towards actual ownership of some of the properties. The developers should receive their funding but people should be able to move into actual ownership of some of those properties. There has been quite a bit of discussion around this issue. Again, in that monumental legislation that never actually done in the Senate (Build Back Better) there was a whole section of BBB that dealt with LIHTC. I will reach out to John Garamendi.

Q: How can we help get weak Speaker McCarthy out of the Chair and back to Bakersville?

A: I think that one of the issues with Speaker McCarthy is there is not an individual who has larger votes in favor among the Republicans. Although they will continue to have arguments about him, there is no consensus as to a second individual to take that seat. They will go through the machinations and hopefully for me they will continue to have fights on the floor (that's great entertainment for us on our side of the aisle) but if anything comes out of it – I doubt it. What I think is more important I don't know whether he will go back to Bakersfield I don't know the demographics of that area. My husband did a lot of campaign work in Orange County two cycles ago and he said that is a who different world out there. We can take the Speakership away from him by electing more Democrats. I think the important thing is really amplifying the chaos that is happening in the Republican Party. Not just making people scared of Trump and what will happen with Trump but as an everyday what have they done for you? What in your life has been made better and you can't give me anything. You're going to give me large talking points about the Democrats and wokeness and all of that but you are not going to be able to list legislation that actually helped your life. I had a cousin and my husband and I were talking to him and some of his friends and he tried to tell me that Trump was better for the market and that really helped 401K plans and I was like dude you don't have a 401k plan. Stop the crap. You are voting against your own best interests. You are a black man and you may have a 401k plan but your son is going to get shot because he is emboldening people that are going to make you life worse. Your daughter is not going to be able to advance at work because of childcare costs that she and her child have which is going to make it more difficult for her and mate to be able to move up and be able to save and own a home because all of their money goes to childcare because there is no child tax credit under the Republicans. So those are the things we need to hammer into people and shine a light on along with the fact that these people are dangerous and they are about chaos and they are the tools of Donald Trump and Elon Musk and a host of other malcontents who are only about themselves and not about your own self-interest.

Q: We definitely need ethics on the Supreme Court. Where would that emanate from? I think that our group would be interested in putting some pressure on getting that done because right now the biggest damage to our country is being done by that particular body and we are supposed to have checks and balances but because there

is no balance on the Supreme Court, we can't get anything to stick. Everything that passes is getting overturned. Second part of the questions is: What can we do for you?

A: As in all legislation, it has to pass both chambers of Congress. I know that there is Senate Legislation as well as House Legislation to have discussions about ethics and for some of us, we believe that having the hearings and having the discussion could bring pressure on Chief Justice Roberts to begin having a discussion about themselves creating ethics rules. In this way, they would not feel that it is being imposed on them by another branch of government. That is something that we are continually trying to have. You know what they say that we didn't need to have these ethics rules before we just didn't know this stuff was going on. It might very well have been happening all along but the decisions that are being made by the justices are such that we have had such great reporting from the fourth branch of the government (investigative journalism) to be able to find that out.

Your second question about what you can do for me? At the end of the day, a lot of election is about financing. If you guys look and determine who are the candidates in California that can flip a seat from red to blue and support them. That helps the rest of us in the house to be able to get those gavels back and be able to be the chairs. We need to have Maxine Waters back as chair of Financial Services where they are dealing with housing issues or to have Bobby Scott be back at Education to work on issues of support for teachers and classrooms. We need to have Hakeem Jeffries back as speaker. That is really helpful to us because if you are looking at those individuals and working in a concerted manner to try to get those individuals in California elected. To flip a couple of those seats in California would be tremendous. Whether you are helping financially, driving out to do some electioneering, some poll work, some canvassing, that is incredible. A story that Stacey told us about: When I first ran for office, I remember going to one of our housing communities in the Virgin Islands, and I was knocking on doors to ask people for their support and this much older woman came out and said hold on a minute I have to get you something and she went behind a curtain and came from back there and she had a handkerchief and she opened it up and she pulled out a 20 dollar bill. I want you to have this. My stomach started hurting and I felt very sick and I said, "Oh no, I can't take this money from you." Why don't you come and do some work in my headquarters and make some phone calls for me. That would be way more helpful to me and then at the end of the election cycle and the next election cycle started and I saw how much money it takes to run a campaign I was knocking on her door and tried to get those 20 dollars out of her hands. If you guys want to support that way, that is great as well. It takes every little bit. As we say in the Virgin Islands, "one, one fills a basket" - a bunch of drops eventually fill a basket. Seeing all your enthusiasm and excitement is such a great driver for me to go back on Monday and deal with the chaos and share with my colleagues and go to DeSaulnier and say I met with some of your people. I was on a Marsh Creek Dem Zoom meeting and you guys have it going on out there.