

OPENING REMARKS. May 5, 2019

Happy CINCO DE MAYO!

Welcome to the 18th regular meeting of Team TO Resist and Rise!

HOW MANY ARE NEW TODAY?

We started in January 2017, right after 1st Women's March

We are proud to have helped the Big Blue Wave of 2018

We resolved to turn our rage and despair into action: started doorknocking with Sea Change in March 2017 – WHO WAS ON THAT FIRST BUS TO CD 25 15 months before Katie Hill won the primary??

41,000 doorknocks

\$420,000 raised at 3 \$50 events

We plan to be just as active leading up to 2020 election!

We've been taking it a bit easy since Midterms, meeting every 6 weeks or so – doing POSTCARDING! -- but we'll start up again in Sept. with monthly meetings and more actions.

SOME THOUGHTS:

I recently decided to plumb my own 50 years of activism – as observer, foot soldier, leader -- from many perches: nonprofits, street organizing, government, philanthropy. There are lessons!

- I. On national situation – the Mueller report**
 - A. We've never been here before. TRUMPISM is neo-fascism and in my lifetime, in American history, never been here, where one political party has become the party of a traitor. And the media is OBSESSED with every Tweet that traitor puts out, left or right....They are obsessed with the horror show in DC. I'm ready to turn the channel! And I find for the first time, I have to take a break from the news quite often!**

- B. Mueller was never going to save us! I have a framed pic of him on my kitchen counter, but **WE ARE THE ONES WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR!** Not him. **WE MUST KEEP ACTIVE AND MUST KEEP THE FAITH.** It's still unfolding. Have patience. Mueller must and will testify. He's outlined the Obstruction case. Barr will go down in history as a toady, and Trump will take down the Republican party. **BUT** the action is at the grassroots – the civic uprising across the country that brought the greatest **EVER** midterm win last November!
- C. **IMPORTANT:** After a big **LOSS**, people hit the streets. They rise up. That's what happened in 2017. After a **BIG WIN**, they rest. It's human nature. We the People haven't gone away! We're resting. The seeds of 2020 are burrowing deep to bloom again! Don't be fooled by any quiet you see! We're more determined than **EVER**.

II. On the Presidential election:

- A. Unless your cousin is running, my advice is to **STAY OUT** and let the Primary process play itself out. **TRUST THE PROCESS. TRUST THE PEOPLE. WE HAVE FABULOUS CANDIDATES!!**
- B. There is a **POWERFUL PULL** into the race, to play a guessing game, to spend time on social media, to bitch about the sexism and racism, **BUT HOLD YOUR FIRE!** I give to 5 different candidates; you should too!
- C. **FINALLY** – it's **REALLY** important to avoid the circular firing squad. The Democrats and **EVERY** grassroots movement I've been part of has had this Achilles Heel: Oppression sickness is what the LGBT movement called it, Horizontal Hostility, the early women's movement. **WE FIGHT EACH OTHER, DIVIDE OURSELVES,**
"Infighting is the luxury of the powerless"
Let's debate! Not divide!

FEAR and EGO are our enemies – our greatest strength is our unity. Along those lines, I commend to you an article in Washington Monthly – couldn't find it today. It suggests that the Democrats need to think like a parliamentary system in Europe where you build a coalition. This Big Divide that the media likes to highlight – The Progressives vs. the Centrists. This is BS. I remember when I first learned that embracing diversity and inclusion meant POLITICAL DIVERSITY as well as demographic. The media, the Right, and those 1000 bots in the Ukraine paid by Putin, will ALL try to divide us. WE MUST NOT LET THEM!

D. TAKE THE INDIVISIBLE UNITY PLEDGE! 11 of 21 Dem candidates have taken it. Tens of thousands of grassroots activists have taken it. GO ONLINE AND TAKE IT RIGHT NOW. It has 3 sacred vows:

- **Make the Primary Constructive – about our hope for the future**
- **Rally behind the nominee – whoever that is!**
- **DO THE WORK TO WIN!**

WE MUST WIN IN 2020! WE MUST! History demands it!