

June 23 Opening Remarks. TORIE OSBORN

Happy SUMMER! Happy PRIDE Month!

Welcome to the 19th regular meeting of Team TO Resist and Rise!

HOW MANY ARE NEW TO US TODAY! If you like what you hear, please be sure to sign up on the clipboard on your table so we can invite you to future events.

We started as Team T.O., with 162 of us traveling to Vegas to doorknock for Hillary in November 2016. In January 1917 right after 1st Women's March, we vowed to continue.

We believe in ACTION as THE antidote to DESPAIR and RAGE. Our action has been canvassing and grassroots fundraising in two purple Congressional Districts – and recently a little postcarding, and lots of collaboration with sister Resistance groups...particularly Karen Bass' Leadership PAC, Sea Change.

We started doorknocking in Antelope Valley in March 2017 with Sea Change to Say Good Night to Steve Knight and flip CA 25 for Katie Hill – then we also adopted CA 48 to kick out that homophobic creep Dana Rohrabacher – YAY Harley Rouda!

TTRR achieved an incredible 41,000 door knocks later and \$420,000 raised at three \$50 events...For a small group we are mighty! We plan to be just as active this cycle....We plan to adopt the AZ US Senate race of Mark Kelly – and travel to Arizona a couple times – as well as help hold CA-25 for Katie Hill and CA-48 for Harley Rouda....

OK

COUPLE THOUGHTS:

The media and the Republicans (and likely the Russians) like to conspire to make themselves SEEM more powerful, and to diminish us.

Does that Big Blue Tide of fall 2018 sometimes seem like a mirage to you? It was EXTRAORDINARY! Unprecedented in my lifetime to have NEAR PRESIDENTIAL TURNOUT for Democrats across the country – YOU DID THAT! WE DID THAT! It was a grassroots civic uprising that exploded beyond any structure....

Remember to trust your own experience....WE KICKED BUTT in 2018 – in fact we are steadily rewriting the political playbook, CHANGING WHAT IS POSSIBLE POLITIALLY IN AMERICA!

That's why I crow whenever I get the chance about TTRR's HUGE accomplishments last cycle.....41,000 doorknocks.....\$420,000 raised.... WE PLAN TO BEAT THOSE NUMBERS THIS TIME!!!

So, two points here:

1) I don't know if you saw MSNBC this past week, Steve Kornacki at the Big Board had amazing statistics that are relevant: 30 years ago (1990) Gallup did big poll of Americans and 50% found POLITICS IMPORTANT (somewhat or very important). 50% didn't. They just redid the poll – in 2019, 87% of Americans today find POLITICS IMPORTANT. Only 13% don't think it matters. THIS IS HUGE, FOLKS! Civic engagement – grassroots electoral excitement – is how we take back our country! It's how we took back the House in 2018 – and how we'll take the Senate and the White House – and many statehouses too – next year. This is an important backdrop to our work!

2) I've been struck by how many folks I know who are active – among you today even! – are FEARFUL that the Orange Fascist will be re-elected.

In my view, FEAR is our GREATEST ENEMY THIS ELECTION CYCLE. As the great man said: the only thing we have to FEAR IS FEAR ITSELF. Obviously complacency is not good, but with 87% engaged it's simply NOT an issue. The non-voter is our target but look at the midterms! we're doing all the right things to get turnout up.... When we organize, we WIN!

I have learned a big lesson from the Domestic Violence movement – Abusive husbands seem more powerful than they are. They control through FEAR. BUT it's NOT TRUE.

When I was very small, my Dad took my brother's little stuffed Teddy Bear and did this shadow trick where he made it into the GIANT BEAR on our wall (we were in bunkbeds, me on top.....) so this cute little toy bear seemed big and scary..... SEEMING BIGGER AND SCARIER THAN THEY ARE IS PART OF THE ENEMY'S PLAYBOOK....

Or think of the Wizard of Oz – Remember....: “I AM THE GREAT AND ALL – POWERFUL OZ -- Pay no attention to that old man behind the curtain....”

Remember too that other lesson of the Wizard of Oz -- YOU all already have the heart and the courage and the brains to do everything you dream of! The

power resides in YOU, in all of us. Not in that white supremacist misogynist cruel pig of a man in the White House...

Part of his MO is to make himself big and scary, more intimidating. And we're traumatized by his win in 2016, so we go there. BUT, honestly 77,000 votes in 3 states – if we do our job, he'll get washed away in a giant blue tsunami....If we saw near Presidential voter turnout last November, let's beat that by a mile....we absolutely can do this!

In the Obama campaign, I learned about the science behind FEAR vs HOPE. When you are afraid, your brain neurons don't fire as quickly or as accurately. It suppresses creativity, action – you can't think well, you get depressed.

That's why despots rely on campaigns of TERROR.

HOPE is different. It releases energy – the brain fires more quickly, plus it releases all those good neurochemicals – oxytocin etc – that empower individuals and build communities. HOPE CHANGES THINGS. It's certainly why Obama won. AND It's why we took the House – we transformed our anger into ACTION and then HOPE. We defy the odds when we organize. When we organize, we win.

OK on to today's organizing!

Let me bring up our FACILITATOR for today:

She's one of our quiet leaders: reliable and witty and just the BEST:

JENNY JACKSON