



2022 - Suggestions for Activism

Dear Democrat,

Last week, on the anniversary of the January 6 Capitol riot, [President Joe Biden gave a speech](#) accusing his predecessor of holding a "dagger at the throat" of American democracy. That is a serious claim, but sadly, he is right.

Since the storming of the Capitol, a Republican Party in the thrall of a demagogue has made it harder to vote, gerrymandered congressional district lines, and enacted laws empowering partisan legislatures to intervene in election processes.

If there is a coup in 2024, it may well be an administrative one in which not a single shot is fired.

What can we do to fight back in 2022?

There are as many answers to this question as there are people, so do what you can and what you find rewarding. But below we offer three possibilities.

Just remember, the only bad option is to do nothing – the stakes are too high for the country we love.

Help win two key congressional races

Control of the U.S. House of Representatives is hanging on a thread this year: with all 435 seats up for grabs, Republicans need only flip 5 seats to take control.

We cannot let the party of Kevin McCarthy and Marjorie Taylor Greene capture the House, because if it does, democracy loses.

In California, redistricting maps based on the 2020 Census have been finalized. Two of the newly-drawn congressional districts are only a few hours away in the Central Valley, and have competitive races we can influence in CA-13 and CA-22.

In CA-13 east of Tracy, [Democrat Josh Harder will seek re-election](#) in a re-drawn district. Harder is worthy of our support: he has raised money and paid attention to the agricultural issues that drive his district's voters. His new district leans Democratic. However, it is not a safe seat according to the [Cook Political Report forecast](#), making this an opportunity for our local party to have an impact.

Further south in CA-22, [the Cook Report forecasts](#) a toss-up, giving us a chance to oust incumbent Republican David Valadao should he declare his



candidacy. Valadao positioned himself as a moderate to win election in 2020, and then once in Congress, shamelessly voted against establishing a House select committee to investigate the January 6 riots.

Get involved in local races

In Santa Clara County we will be choosing a district attorney, county supervisors, the next Mayor of San Jose, and scores of school board members and other local representatives this year.

There is nothing to prevent candidates who have fallen in line with the radicalized Republican Party from entering these officially non-partisan races – nothing except our vigilance. We need to hold all candidates in these races accountable for upholding democratic values. Watch for the SCC Dems' endorsements in March.

Act on Democratic values in your communities



Tom Urquhart is 70 years old and a life-long Democrat, but he had never been politically active till January 2020, when the thought of Trump getting re-elected scared him so much he walked into the SCC Dems' headquarters building in San Jose and asked what he could do.

He has been active with our local party ever since. Working with a close-knit team of other volunteers, he has helped newly-sworn citizens register to vote, written postcards to get Dems elected in swing states, and delivered materials to neighborhood captains in the No on Recall campaign.

Currently, Urquhart is recruiting Dems to help distribute food to needy families in the South County, where he discovered there was a shortage of volunteers for this purpose. He's getting satisfaction from acting on his Democratic values, knowing he's doing something to prevent families from going to bed hungry.

"What party other than the Democrats would take this to heart?" he asked.

We can do it

SCC Dems must campaign against Republicans on every level to prevent another January 6.

We helped flip the House in 2018. We contributed to the election of a Democratic President in 2020. We worked to flip the Senate last January, and to trounce the recall of Gov. Newsom in September.

There will be ups and there will be downs, but we can make a difference again.

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