



January – what a month it was!



Photo by [Jose Moreno](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Dear Democrat,

January – what a month it was!

It brought continued inflation, but also confirmation of the [American economy's remarkable resilience](#) under President Biden's watch.

It brought Kevin McCarthy's continued subservience to Donald Trump, but also the release of a poll showing Trump [losing ground](#).

It brought news of [a 95-year-old man in Texas](#) struggling to get a mail-in ballot under his state's recently-passed voter suppression law – but also [a court decision in Ohio](#) throwing out that state's GOP-gerrymandered congressional maps.

The news gave us reason to fight but also to hope.

Holding the House

This year, we will pitch in to help win three congressional races in the Central Valley - CD 9, CD 13, and CD 22. Each of them is [considered to narrowly "lean Democratic" after redistricting](#). Why these three races? Because they're in our backyard, because they're winnable with work, and because by winning them, we can contribute a net gain of one seat to help hold the House.

In the first race, we'll join other Bay Area activists to help [re-elect Democrat Josh Harder](#). Harder's roots in the Central Valley run deep - 150 years ago his great-great-grandfather settled in Manteca to start a peach farm and raise his family. Harder will run in the new CD 9, which includes Manteca in his current district, as well as areas outside of it where we'll work to introduce him to voters.

In the second race, we'll push for a Democratic win in newly-drawn CD 13 just

to the south of CD 9.

And in the third race, we will continue our months-long work with Kings and Kern County Dems to flip the congressional seat they narrowly lost in 2020. That seat now represents newly-drawn CD 22, just to the south of CD 13.

Watch for opportunities on our [Action Page](#) to get involved in these races, starting with [a trio of phone banks into CD 22](#) on February 27, March 6, and March 13. If you haven't phone banked before, these three are a great entree. We'll simply be listening to peoples' concerns, with no asks for votes. We're working on developing relationships, so when we do call back to ask for votes, we might be listened to in return.

Resist! The Relentless Attack on American Democracy

On Jan. 30, in partnership with the Democratic Volunteer Center and others, we co-sponsored a Zoom presentation by David Pepper, a lawyer, former head of the Ohio Democratic Party, and author of *Laboratories of Autocracy: A Wake-up Call from Behind the Lines*. Over 250 people registered for the webinar, from 54 cities across California and from 20 other states. Over 150 watched live.

Pepper's talk, on how to resist the relentless attack on our democracy, was informed and inspirational. Watch it [here](#), where you'll also find another talk in the DVC's Defending Democracy speaker series, from Professor Larry Diamond of Stanford.

South County Democratic Club anxious to begin canvassing

In 2020, the [South County Democratic Club](#) made it a priority to get two progressives - Rebecca Armendariz and Zach Hilton - elected to the Gilroy City Council. They succeeded, and it was a breakthrough. Now the Council has two voices championing affordable housing and other issues key to making Gilroy a community that is livable for all.

This year, with several more elections in the offing, including for congressional and state representatives, county supervisor, and city council seats in Gilroy and Morgan Hill, the club of about 50 members is anxious to get to work again on behalf of Democratic candidates.

And with 3 seats up for grabs on Gilroy's 7-member City Council, they hope to play a part in bringing more Democratic voices onto the Council.

Joanne Fierro, president of the club, stays involved for a simple reason:

"It's addictive when you feel like you're making a difference," Fierro said.

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