



Race for control of Congress tightens



Photo by [Colin Lloyd](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Dear Democrat,

It's been a rough season in America: Uvalde, the overturning of Roe v. Wade, and then a Supreme Court ruling limiting our President's ability to fight climate change.

Many of us are profoundly sobered, wondering what's happened to our country.

And yet, the hard truth is that this, of all times, is no time to give up. We need to continue the difficult work of seeking success at the ballot box, knowing that it's mattered in the past, it matters now, and it will matter in November.

For the first time in decades, our nation has passed gun safety legislation. While it falls short of all that needs to be done, it's what we could accomplish now. It happened because in 2020, we elected a Democratic Congress and President.

And because of that, we have a presidential administration that is fighting each day on behalf of our core values.

A tight race for control of Congress

[A recent New York Times/Siena College poll](#) shows a tight race for control of Congress in the November midterms, giving us an opportunity - if we don't let our guard down. Remember what happened in 2016, when Clinton was judged to have a more than 90% likelihood to win.

The only sure way to lose is to quit trying to win.

At the Santa Clara County Democratic Party we're focusing on nearby swing races.

For the House, we're working to re-elect Josh Harder in CA-9, and to pick up two seats in the Central Valley: CA-13, where Assemblymember Adam Gray is our nominee, and CA-22, where Assemblymember Rudy Salas is running to unseat Republican David Valadao.

We can win all three seats, but we have to do the work.

We're also focused on keeping the U.S. Senate seats held by Democrats Catherine Cortez Masto (NV) and Mark Kelly (AZ).

What could it mean if Dems successfully defend all open Senate seats and win just one more? That Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia could lose his stranglehold on meaningful climate change legislation.

You can help by [writing postcards](#), [making phone calls](#), or [joining an in person canvass](#) to the Central Valley. Look for these opportunities and more on our [Action Center](#).

California Shows the Way

At a time when Democrats are thwarted nationally, they are wasting no time in California showing the way.

Our Democratic-controlled state recently adopted [a \\$308 billion budget](#) that, among other things:

- puts \$53.9 billion into climate change initiatives
- launches the largest gun buyback program in the nation
- invests in universal preschool and other true pro-life measures

The budget also puts money in a rainy day fund, and provides inflation-relief tax refunds of up to \$1,050 for middle-class families. Check [here](#) to see if you are eligible.

Passing the Torch

Credit Parisa Braun's U.S. government class for sparking her interest in politics. Instead of reading from dry textbooks, students spent class time debating the issues of the day.

"It showed me that politics is the most direct way to make changes," said Braun, a rising senior at Palo Alto's Castilleja School.



In 2020, she joined the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee as a field organizer, working remotely. Then she wrote grants for Texas-based Rideshare2Vote, which provides free round-trip transportation to polling places for voters supporting progressive candidates.

Now she is the youth representative on SCCDP's Central Committee, voicing youth concerns.

On July 7, she chaired the SCCDP's Youth Takeover, where the party leadership handed the gavel over to youth delegates, who introduced and voted on 8 resolutions they were passionate about, from school safety to creating an open, inclusive environment for LGBTQ students.

Braun and the other Youth Takeover delegates are an inspiration to all of us to

keep the faith.

Being a citizen is hard

In closing, we'd like to offer this quote from [former President Barack Obama's 2015](#) speech at a Washington D.C. naturalization ceremony:

"The truth is, being an American is hard. Being part of a democratic government is hard. Being a citizen is hard. It is a challenge. It's supposed to be. There's no respite from our ideals."

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