

DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WILLOW VALLEY

NEWSLETTER

July 2025

Paid for by Democratic Club of Willow Valley
Treasurer, Steve Wright
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Addressing the Issues

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We Can Lose that Democracy



CIVIL DISCOURSE



"We are a democracy. But we can lose that democracy."

Joyce Vance June 12, 2025

This afternoon, Washington Senator Patty Murray, who has been in the Senate for more than 32 years, rose to condemn the treatment of California Senator Alex Padilla, who was manhandled out of a press conference being held by DHS Secretary Kristi Noem, after saying he had questions to ask and identifying himself as a United States Senator.

Noem [said afterwards](#) on Fox News that Padilla lunged toward the podium where she was speaking and failed to identify himself.

But the video doesn't seem to reflect that, although it starts midway into the incident. Watch it from various angles and judge for yourself. [This version](#) is circulating on a number of senators' accounts. [This one](#) starts a little earlier and is from a different perspective. [In this video](#), agents shove Padilla to the ground and order him to put his hands behind his back before someone tells the person taking the video it isn't allowed there.

DHS had this to say. You can watch the video and make up your own mind about whether this reflects what you see on tape.

This is not hard. Every Republican member of Congress should join Democrats in condemning this administration's vicious treatment of Senator Padilla. "A Republic if you can keep it" is now.

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We Can Lose that Democracy (cont'd)

Senator Murray spoke off the cuff, full of the emotion of the moment, on the floor of the Senate. She said exactly what needed to be said. As I listened, my reaction was, "Everyone needs to hear this." So tonight, I'm sharing her words, which her office was gracious enough to provide, with you. If you're as moved by her words as I was, I hope you'll share them with friends and family.

"Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon, to the United States Senate, a place where people are elected by their constituents to come here to be their voice, every one of us. Republican, Democrat, elected by the people who we represent, to come here and be their voice and to do the job.

What is that job? To make sure that we are being their voice and speaking out for them, and part of that has to be asking questions. Part of that has to be demanding accountability. That has to be getting information so we can do the best job possible.

It is unacceptable that a United States Senator, in his own home state, elected by millions of people, went to ask a question for his constituents, to get an answer, and was brutally thrown to the ground and handcuffed.

That is wrong, and I cannot believe that we don't have Senators on both sides of the aisle calling this out as outrageous.

This is what a democracy is about, Mr. President. Mr. President, it is about us coming to the United States Senate, speaking out, asking questions, getting information, so we can be their voice.

What happens when that voice is stifled? What happens when that voice is thrown to the floor and handcuffed? Our democracy is lost.

Mr. President, I have been here more than 32 years. I have come to this floor often to speak out, to be angry, to be a voice for my people. I have never come this close to having tears in my eyes, as I speak to both sides of this aisle, about this horrendous incident that occurred.

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We Can Lose that Democracy (cont'd)

We are a democracy, but we can lose that democracy. It can be gone, unless all of us speak out and forcibly reject what happened to a United States Senator.

And to send the message that in this democracy it is just, it is right, it is part of our responsibility to speak up, to ask questions, and to be able to have the knowledge we need to represent the people that we come here for.

We use our voices, Mr. President. We use our votes, Mr. President, to be a part of this democracy. Not violence.

When violence is done by someone representing this administration, in a forceful way, against a United States Senator, how does any one of us go home and tell our constituents that they can be part of a democracy, speak out about what they believe in?

This is so wrong. This is so wrong.

Mr. President, I hope others speak up and speak out, and as a voice we say we want our democracy to succeed, and in order to succeed we need to be able to use our voices and to use our votes and to ask questions without being forcibly thrown to the ground, without being arrested by speaking up.

I say to the entire country, we have a democracy. We will lose it if we can't use our voices. We will lose this democracy. None of us should be silent. None of us."

There will be days of legal arguments about what happened here. But tonight, just sit with the emotion for a minute.

"We use our voices. We use our votes." Senator Murray is exactly right. None of us can afford to be quiet, because we can lose this democracy if we don't take steps to protect it.

We're in this together,

Joyce

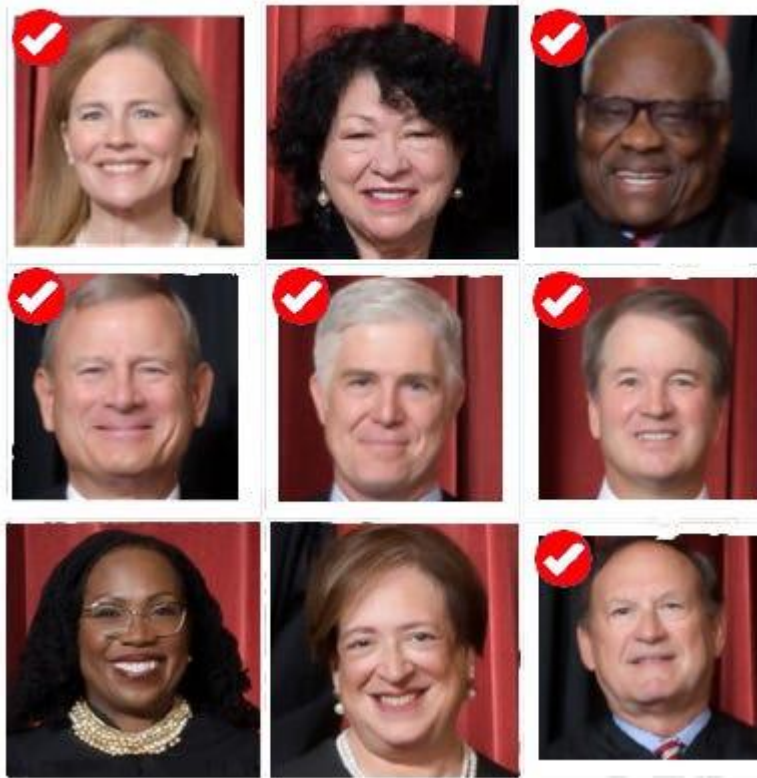
Chop Wood, Carry Water

Chop Wood, Carry Water 6/27

A tough day.

Jess Craven June 27, 2025

Select all squares coming
after **American freedoms**



This has honestly felt like one of the longest weeks of my life. I suspect I'm not alone. It's not just the (continued) loss of my beloved cat, for me. It's that it feels like the news—mostly bad—is accelerating at an almost impossible-to-believe rate. So much is happening, and a large majority of it is unbelievably dark. The forces of evil seem to be gaining footholds everywhere. My inbox is absolutely inundated with articles bearing alarming headlines—it's an absolute deluge of grimness.

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Chop Wood, Carry Water (cont'd)

And yet, here all of us are. We are still showing up. We are still in this fight. Each of us is tired, each afraid, each heartbroken, and yet we wake up each day and make a conscious decision to return to battle. Why? Because we know the stakes. We love humanity, we love our children, and we love each other. And we refuse to let the forces of greed and oppression win.

Sometimes, these days, our side reminds me of the residents of Whoville. Remember how, [in Dr. Seuss's poem](#), they hold hands and sing Christmas carols, even after the Grinch has stolen all of their gifts? The sound of that singing, fictional though it may be, keeps ringing in my ears. For collectively, we are doing the same. We are insisting on joy. We are clinging to community. We are cleaving to a vision of unity even when powerful forces are trying to stop us from doing so.

This isn't just beautiful—it's how we will prevail.

So while the Supreme Court issues disastrous rulings, Fox News spews lies, and Republicans foment racism and hate, we will keep doing what we do.

We will stand steadfastly on the side of right. We will help those targeted by this regime. We will repeat the truth to whomever will listen. We will love. We will care. We will honor those who came before us in this fight. We will continue their work no matter what our chances of success. Because that's what patriots do.

This is harder than we expected it to be —and we knew it would be brutal. But for one day more we can return to the front, knowing that not just our country but the world is depending on our courage. It feels bleak as hell right now, but feelings aren't what determine the future. Our actions are. So let's keep acting like patriots until this thing is won.

Call Your Senators

Hi, I'm a constituent calling from [zip]. My name is _____.

First, I want the Senator to support Tim Kaine's War Powers resolution when it comes up for a vote. Donald Trump and his administration launched an attack on Iran without Congressional approval and then lied about what they achieved. He's out of control. The Senator must support the Resolution.

Second, I'm upset about the Supreme Court's ruling yesterday allowing states to block Medicaid recipients from using Planned Parenthood. And I'm extremely upset that Republicans are trying to defund Planned Parenthood in their vicious budget bill—which I oppose, by the way. Defunding or otherwise limiting access to Planned Parenthood would put over a million patients at risk of losing access to health care. It's chaotic, cruel, and dangerous. Congress needs to stop these attacks and support access to Planned Parenthood.

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Chop Wood, Carry Water (cont'd)

Finally please tell the Senator to vote no on Emil Bove. He's a fundamentally dishonest and corrupt person and cannot be confirmed as a judge. Thanks.

Call Your House Rep

Hi, I'm a constituent calling from [zip]. My name is _____.

I understand that the Trump administration [plans to deport Kilmar Abrego Garcia as soon as he's released on bail](#). So let me get this straight: They wrongly deported him because of an administrative error, then refused for months to bring him back despite court orders to do so, then finally brought him back so they could criminally prosecute him on made up charges, and now that a judge has shown those charges to be nonsense they're going to deport him—again with no due process? Why is Congress not stepping in to protect this man? And more importantly, what has happened to due process in our country? I'm appalled at the Trump administration's abuse of Abrego Garcia and so many others. Congress needs to stand up for the Constitution and stop these abuses now. Thanks.



Humor

OHMP TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY
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TRUMP UNIVERSITY



TRUMP VODKA



**WHAT
COULD
GO
WRONG?**

**TRUMP
AIRLINES**



**TRUMP
CASINOS**

WE LOST MONEY?



**TRUMP
STEAKS**



**TRUMP IRAN
STRATEGY**



**Here's a joke
circulating in
Germany:**

**What borders on
stupidity?**

Mexico and Canada.

Humor (cont'd)

The attendees at Trump's parade did an amazing job of social distancing



Scholarship Winner

A thank-you note to Scholarship Chair Sharron Nelson:



Dear Dr. Nelson, 2025
I am so honored to be the
recipient of the Democratic Party
OF Willow Valley Scholarship. It means
so much and I appreciate your
generous support towards my education.
I look forward to excelling at
Thaddeus Stevens.
With Gratitude
Mason Heiserman

This young man has a bright future. In fact, he should become a politician!

No Kings Event Lancaster



Total crowd was estimated at four thousand.

No Kings Event Lancaster (cont'd)



Lots of Willow Valley folks participated.



Coming Events

Understanding Our Democracy

Tuesday, July 15th at 10 AM
Cultural Center Education Room

Housing and Homelessness

We will look back at the origins of today's crisis, the inadequate responses over the years, and how we can best address both housing & homelessness. Please join us.

Understanding Our Democracy

Monday, July 21st at 10 AM
Cultural Center Education Room

Healthcare Challenges

Nancy Mannion will be our speaker on Monday, July 21, 2025 from 10:00 – 11:30 AM. She is a nurse, advocate, humanitarian, and author who recently spoke at a local rally protesting federal budget cuts to healthcare and science. She is anticipating running for US Congress to challenge Representative Lloyd Smucker.

Dems Club General Meeting

Tuesday, August 26th at 1 PM
Cultural Center Education Room

Come and hear from our three local candidates:

- Sarah Cook for L-S School Board
- Kirk Williard for L-S School Board
- Tracy Arnold for West Lampeter Supervisor.

Note: There is no general meeting in July. Instead we offer two field trips to Milagro House (see next page).

Coming Events (cont'd)

Milagro House Field Trips

Chose between:

Tuesday, July 23rd 1:30 – 3:30 PM or

Wednesday, July 29th 9:30 – 11:30 AM



Contact Ross Fairweather to register at rossfair63@gmail.com or 717-405-8447. She will arrange transportation for you due to limited parking at Milagro House.

Milagro House is not just a safe place to stay but also a place to call home for the mothers and their children who live there. The mothers residing at Milagro House work together to care for their home and often to care for and support one another. While living at Milagro House, women are committed to pursuing their education full-time, with a focus on completing their high school equivalency degree and/or a post-secondary degree or certification.

Note: There is no business meeting in July.



Meeting Minutes

Democratic Club of Willow Valley

General Meeting

June 24, 2025

President Jen Porter opened the meeting at 1p.m. and introduced two guest speakers.

Guest Marla Garza-Friel, Committee Person Manheim Township 4: Ms. Garza-Friel spoke briefly with information on two subjects.

- Nancy Mannion of Manheim Township has agreed to run against U.S. Representative Lloyd Smucker in 2026 and has begun organizing her campaign. Ms. Mannion, who has had an extensive career as nurse leader, educator, and consultant, asks for support in her candidacy.
- Secondly, Ms. Garza-Friel spoke of the need for more Democratic voters, both in terms of voter turnout and in new registrants, a number that has been flat since 2013. She cited the work of the League of Women Voters in registering young new voters with its First Vote Program.

Guest Speaker Izzy Smith Wade-EI, PA State Representative 49th District, Lancaster County.

- Rep. Smith Wade-EI gave updates on what is happening in Harrisburg as the legislators work toward passing a yearly budget, due on June 30.
- The June 30 deadline for passage has been delayed. Legislators will continue to work until the bill is passed.
- A bipartisan move toward reform in cyber charter schools is ongoing with an emphasis on transparency in expenditure of tax payer money.
- PA's transit systems such as SEPTA and others face deficits statewide and will need more funding.
- Several areas throughout the state are seriously underfunded: child care, pre-Kindergarten, disability and sexual assault services.
- Funding is lacking for affordable housing and repairs to existing homes to bring them up to code, including lead abatement and senior housing.
- Two revenue drivers are under discussion: legalization of adult-use marijuana and management of skill games found in bars, gas stations, and convenience stores.

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Meeting Minutes

- Rep. Smith Wade-El also spoke of the importance of voting for judge retention in upcoming elections. These judges hear many cases involving issues such as voting and reproductive rights. Their removal may lead to disenfranchisement of women and minorities.

A Q&A session followed. Several of the topics raised were:

- consequences of non-passage of the budget by June 30 deadline and its impact on government
- consequences of non-passage of legalization of adult use marijuana on the budget
- how salaries for a legislator's staff are set
- need for a state-wide uniform cap on student expenditure in cyber charter schools
- alignment among Democratic minority in the Senate in regard to education, housing, and transit. President Porter thanked Rep. Smith Wade-El for his informative talk and insight into his work in Harrisburg.

Business Meeting

No Kings Rally: held on Saturday, June 14, at Binn's Park in Lancaster was a success with approximately 4,500 attendees.

Treasury: current balance is \$3,914.85 with a Scholarship balance of \$3,557.00. The deficit is cleared.

Membership: Membership is at 35 with more applications coming in through the website.

Advocacy:

- President Porter explained this month's Jimmy Carter advocacy effort to honor his work in the field of energy.
- President Carter established the Department of Energy in 1977 in response to the 1973 oil crisis, had solar panels installed on the White House (removed by President Reagan in 1980), and worked to end American dependence on foreign oil.

In the U.S. 33 states now are heavy producers of solar energy. The top three states are California, Texas, and Florida.

The actions for June are to contact State Senator Scott Martin and State Representative Steve Mentzer to encourage them to support funding for public schools in the upcoming budget vote. Also members are asked to contact U.S. Senators Dave McCormick and John Fetterman as well as U.S. Representative Lloyd Smucker to oppose the passage of Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill" now in the Senate.

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Meeting Minutes

Barbara Bonanno gave several reports on Advocacy:

- Contacts for two organizations that offer information and actions for advocacy are
 - Indivisible Manheim Township (IndivisibleMT.org) and
 - *We the Seniors* whose information may be found at (<https://grassrootsconnector.substack.com>).
- The total number of member contacts to legislators since the May 27 General Meeting was 150. She encouraged members to continue the effort.
- The Letter Writing group is being organized. A signup sheet was available.
- A signup sheet for volunteers to visit legislators was also available.

Upcoming Events

Field trips to Milagro House

Wednesday, July 23 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 29 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Registration is required. Contact Ross Fairweather at rossfair63@gmail.com or 717-405-8447

Understanding Our Democracy:

Tuesday, July 15 – Housing and Homelessness

Monday, July 21 – Healthcare Challenges with Nancy Mannion, speaker.

Both meetings take place in the Cultural Center Education Room, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Next General Meeting:

August 26th at 1 PM. Cultural Center Education Room with three local candidates speaking:

- Sarah Cook for L-S School Board
- Kirk Williard for L-S School Board
- Tracy Arnold for West Lampeter Supervisor.

No General Meeting in July. Trips to Milagro House are planned.

Lucy Painter, Secretary