

# DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WILLOW VALLEY

## NEWSLETTER

September 2025

Paid for by Democratic Club of Willow Valley

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## Addressing the Issues

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# Dems Found Their Message

## Democrats Have Found Their Message—and Trump Is Freaking Out

Zohran Mamdani and Elizabeth Warren know that this is the party's best chance at taking back power in the 2026 midterm elections.

By Alex Shephard      August 5, 2025

President Donald Trump has been mocking Elizabeth Warren—usually in unfunny and racist ways—for years. But he has never seemed as angry at the Massachusetts senator as he was on Monday morning. The cause? Warren laid out the simplest, strongest argument that Democrats can make as they attempt to retake power in next year's midterm elections.



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# Dems Found Their Message (cont'd)

“Remember, Donald Trump ran for office saying he would lower costs on day one. Costs of groceries are up, cost of housing is up, cost of health care is up,” Warren said on CNBC. “And where is Donald Trump? He’s passing a signature bill to throw people off their health care so he can do tax cuts for billionaires. Democrats are the people who say ‘billionaires actually should pay their fair share’ and that we need to focus on affordability for American families. And that’s what we’re fighting for.”

Trump was furious. “In just 6 months, I cut costs, especially Energy and Taxes, Tremendously. Elizabeth ‘Pocahontas’ Warren, on CNBC, said costs have gone up,” he [wrote](#) on Truth Social, using his long-standing offensive nickname for the senator. “She is just angry that I blew up her terrible Presidential Campaign. Call her out!!!”

Trump’s wrong. Prices are [going up](#) on just about everything. “Government data, including from the Commerce Department this week, show that prices rose in June on items heavily exposed to tariffs, such as home furnishings, toys and appliances,” *The New York Times* [reported](#) over the weekend. That’s Trump’s Commerce Department. He may be trying to [cook the books](#) in other areas—notably by firing the federal official tasked with collecting (recently disappointing) jobs data—but he can’t hide the fact that the economy is getting worse.

On Friday, a Morning Consult [poll](#) found that nearly two-thirds of surveyed voters blamed Trump for rising prices—and that nearly eight in 10 of them, including an astounding 70 percent of Republicans, believe Trump’s tariffs will increase the price of everyday goods. On Monday, an AP-NORC poll [found](#) that more than half of respondents were stressed about rising grocery prices—prices that are likely to continue to rise. Everywhere you look, voters are telling pollsters that they’re stressed about skyrocketing costs.

Trump’s trade war has handed the Democratic Party a winning message in a moment in which they badly need one. As the party slowly figures out what it stands for in the Trump 2.0 era, the cost of living crisis is quickly emerging as an issue that will decide the 2026 midterms—which will, coincidentally, occur right as the full force of Trump’s tariffs is being felt across the economy and in everyone’s wallets.

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# Dems Found Their Message (cont'd)

Many national Democrats have spent the last few months fretting about the rise of Zohran Mamdani, the young Democratic socialist who won the Democrats' mayoral primary in New York City. They are so worried about [baseless charges of antisemitism](#)—all related to Mamdani's decision to make opposition to Israel's apartheid state and genocide in Gaza a plank of his campaign—that they have failed to see a model for the midterms. The national media's obsessive focus on Mamdani's comments about Israel and Palestine has obscured a [remarkably disciplined campaign](#). On the stump, again and again, Mamdani talks about the high cost of living in New York City.

His breakout arguably came with a video about the [skyrocketing cost of street food](#)—a phenomenon he dubbed “halalfflation.” The success of his campaign is rooted in large part on message discipline. Mamdani portrays New York City, accurately, as a diverse, buzzing city that is too expensive for many of its residents to live with any degree of comfort. His solution is a host of programs aimed at lowering costs: free buses, government-run grocery stores, a \$30 minimum wage.

Many Democrats balk at these proposals—or rather, at the (in most cases modest) tax hikes that would pay for them. That's fine. Not all Democrats have to embrace socialistic concepts like free childcare. But they should embrace the central premise of Mamdani's campaign: Everything is too expensive now, and it's Trump's fault.

Trump's tariffs are already causing costs to spike. Coffee is skyrocketing thanks in part to tariffs on Brazil that are designed at [helping a political ally](#), Jair Bolsonaro, who is currently facing charges related to an alleged coup. Proctor & Gamble is [applying](#) a 2.5 percent price increase to goods in August because of the rising costs associated with tariffs. Price increases are likely inescapable. As the *Times* [reported](#), “Many businesses chose to absorb the additional tax during the early days of President Trump's trade war. But evidence is emerging that they are running out of options to keep prices stable in the face of deteriorating profit margins, suggesting that the tariffs could have a more pronounced effect on prices in the months ahead.” And once those prices go up, they're unlikely to come down.

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# Dems Found Their Message (cont'd)

Warren, meanwhile, is exactly right. Trump was elected because Americans were furious about post-pandemic inflation. He promised to lower prices. Instead, he embarked on a stupid, reckless, and unnecessary tariff regime that is accomplishing the exact opposite. So voters who felt financially squeezed during Joe Biden's presidency, and were expecting some relief under Trump, are in for a rude awakening. Next year could make the inflation of recent memory look mild. If I were the president who was responsible for this, I'd be freaking out too.

## Alex Shephard

Alex Shephard is senior editor of *The New Republic*, where he has covered politics and culture since 2015. His work has also appeared in *New York*, *GQ*, *The Atlantic*, *The Nation*, and other publications.



## Five Ways to Fight Trump's Fascism

Watch this  
five-minute video.

<https://ineq.us/s/yBorvR>

# What You Can Do Now

## What You Can Do Now

A baker's dozen of important steps to fight Trump fascism

Robert Reich     August 7, 2025



Friends,

In light of Trump's worsening cruelty, vindictiveness, and ever more belligerent attacks on democracy, many of you ask: "What can I do *now*?" Here are a baker's dozen of recommendations. (I've shared some of these with you previously but wanted to give you a revised and larger version.) If you have others, please feel free to share them with all of us in the comments.

**1. Protect the decent and hardworking members of your communities who are undocumented.**

This is an urgent moral call to action. As Trump's ICE accelerates its roundups, detentions and deportations, many of our hardworking neighbors and friends are disappearing. ICE is rapidly becoming Trump's police state enforcers.

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# What You Can Do Now (cont'd)

One of Trump's executive orders allows ICE to arrest undocumented immigrants at or near schools, places of worship, health care sites, shelters, and relief centers — thereby deterring them from sending their kids to school or getting medical or legal help they need. This is nuts.

So-called “sanctuary” cities and states have laws prohibiting their schools, public hospitals, and police from turning over undocumented individuals to the federal government or providing information about them.

These are sensible policies that are good for us all. Otherwise undocumented people who are ill, including those with communicable diseases, won't go to public hospitals for treatment. Parents will be afraid to send their children to school. Crime victims who are undocumented will hesitate before reporting crimes for fear that they could then face being deported.

If you trust your mayor or city manager, check in with their offices to see what they are doing to protect vulnerable families in your community. Join others in efforts to keep ICE away from hospitals, schools, and shelters.

If you hear of ICE raids anywhere in your city or county, let others know: establish a hotline of ICE raid information and a “first-responder” list of people who will go where those raids are occurring, advise people of their rights, and, if necessary, block ICE directly. Your voice and organizing are critical in fighting back against this tyranny.

I recommend you order these red cards from Immigrant Legal Resource Center and make them available in and around your community: [Red Cards / Tarjetas Rojas | Immigrant Legal Resource Center | ILRC](#). You might also find these of use: [Immigration Preparedness Toolkit | Immigrant Legal Resource Center | ILRC](#)

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# What You Can Do Now (cont'd)

## **2. Protect LGBTQ+ members of your community.**

Trump is also making life more difficult for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other people through executive orders, changes in laws, alterations in civil rights laws, and changes in how such laws are enforced.

His bigoted rhetoric has also unleashed hatefulness in bigoted people.

I urge you to work with others in being vigilant against prejudice and bigotry, wherever and however it might break out. When you see or hear it, call it out. Join with others to stop it. If you trust your local city officials, get them involved. If you trust your local police, alert them as well.

## **3. Help protect officials in your community or state whom Trump and his administration are targeting for vengeance.**

Some may be low-level officials, such as election workers. Some are judges. Some are elected officials. If you hear of anyone seeking to harm them, immediately alert local law-enforcement officials.

## **4. Participate in or organize boycotts of companies that are enabling the Trump regime — starting with Elon Musk's X and Tesla and any companies that advertise on X or on Fox News, as well as companies like Jeff Bezos's *Washington Post* and Amazon that have surrendered to Trump.**

Don't underestimate the effectiveness of consumer boycotts. Corporations invest heavily in their brand names and the goodwill associated with them. Loud, boisterous, attention-getting boycotts can harm brand names and reduce the prices of corporations' shares of stock.

## **5. To the extent you are able, fund groups that are litigating against Trump.**

Much of the action now is in the federal courts. We should all be deeply grateful to federal judges who are standing up to the Trump regime. The groups initiating litigation that I know and trust include the American Civil Liberties Union, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics, Center for Biological Diversity, Environmental Defense Fund, Southern Poverty Law Center, and Common Cause. They can always use your help.

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# What You Can Do Now (cont'd)

## 6. Spread the truth.

Get news through reliable sources, and spread it. If you hear anyone spreading lies and Trump propaganda, including local media, contradict them with facts and their sources.

Here are some of the sources I currently rely on for the truth: [Democracy Now](#), [Business Insider](#), [The New Yorker](#), [The American Prospect](#), [The Atlantic](#), [Americans for Tax Fairness](#), [Economic Policy Institute](#), [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), [The Guardian](#), [ProPublica](#), [Labor Notes](#), [The Lever](#), [Popular Information](#), [Heather Cox Richardson](#), and, of course, [this Substack](#).

## 7. Urge friends, relatives and acquaintances to avoid Trump propaganda outlets such as Fox News, Newsmax, X, and, increasingly, Facebook and Instagram.

They are filled with hateful bigotry and toxic and dangerous lies. For some people, these propaganda sources can also be addictive. Help the people you know wean themselves off them. Pay absolutely no attention to anything Trump or his Cabinet or his assistants or his “spokespeople” say; they are lying.

## 8. Push for progressive measures in your community and state.

Local and state governments retain significant power. Join groups that are moving your city or state forward — toward protecting and enlarging voting rights, stricter environmental standards, abortion rights, and labor rights — in contrast to regressive moves at the federal level. Lobby, instigate, organize, and fundraise for progressive legislators. Support progressive leaders and candidates.

## 9. Encourage worker action.

Most labor unions are on the right side — seeking to build worker power and resist repression. You can support them by joining picket lines and boycotts and encouraging employees to organize in places you patronize.

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# What You Can Do Now (cont'd)

## **10. Organize and mobilize for upcoming elections.**

Wherever you live, your organizing and mobilizing is critical. Even if you live in a red state or red district, you can help win back the state legislature, governorship, senators, and representatives. If the people who represent you are doing a good job, make sure they stay in office.

Some of you are in districts that will be holding special congressional elections before the 2026 midterms; they're especially important. Some of you are in states like Texas that are redistricting to gerrymander additional Republican seats. Your loud and tenacious resistance is critical here as well. As to the 2026 midterms, make sure good people are running, and support them with all you have.

## **11. Call your senators and representatives – constantly.**

I've worked on Capitol Hill, and I know that senators and representatives keep count of how many calls they receive on any given topic. They give special weight to calls coming from their own constituents. So don't hold back. Call, and call again, and call *again*. If they're Republicans, tell them to get a spine and stop supporting Trump or you'll make sure they're not reelected. If they're Dems, tell them to get more of a spine than they've shown to date.

The main Capitol switchboard number is (202) 224-3121. This number can be used to connect with any office in the House or Senate.

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# What You Can Do Now (cont'd)

## 10. Keep the faith. Do not give up on America.

Remember, Trump eked out a narrow win — a tiny 1.5 point *plurality* — of people who voted. In the House, Republicans have a lead of only seven seats out of 435. In the Senate, Republicans lead by six out of 100. (Remember, Republicans lost half of 2024's competitive Senate races, including in four states Trump won.)

We can't give in to Trump and his neofascists or give up the fights for social justice, equal political rights, equal opportunity, and the rule of law. The forces of Trumpian repression would like nothing better than for us to give up. Then they'd win it all. We cannot allow them to. We will *never* give up.

## 11. Beyond these, please be sure to find room in your life for joy, fun and laughter. Do not let Trump and his darkness take you over.

Just as it's important not to give up the fight, it's critically important to take care of yourself. If you obsess about Trump and fall down the rabbit hole of outrage, worry, and anxiety, you'll burn out and won't be able to keep fighting.

*“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron.”*

Dwight D. Eisenhower

# Trump's Racist Agenda



America, America  
with Steven Beschloss

*Dispatches of alarm and hope, on politics and society, democracy and justice. Because silence is not an option. We may read and write alone, but we drive change together.*

## The Trump Regime's Racist Agenda

From a burgeoning police state and deportations, to rejecting DEI and denying slavery's horrors, Trump's assault on Americans and our shared history demands we speak the truth

STEVEN BESCHLOSS

AUG 22



(Photos by Tom Williams (left) and Bill Pugliano (right) via Getty Images)

# Trump's Racist Agenda (cont'd)

**When Donald Trump and his regime** relentlessly attack Americans and all the hard-earned progress of liberal government, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by their multitude of targets. But one theme that connects many of these actions is the methodical effort to minimize or deny America's history of slavery, reject the continuing fact of systemic racism and push strategies to prioritize the interests of white nationalist elites.

It's not enough to just document and diagnose the problem. The only way we can confront this regime and find solutions is if we are not overwhelmed by the daily degradations; this requires recognizing the interconnections of their destructive actions.

Let's detail some of the ways Trump and his sycophantic enablers are pursuing this agenda:

**D.E.I.:** From day one, the regime has worked to end programs and initiatives seeking to address societal inequalities and turn the acronym itself into a dirty word. Even as they have succeeded in convincing businesses, government agencies, schools and the military to strip away these efforts, let's remember that diversity is the lifeblood of American society and culture, equity is the goal of a just society, and inclusion means increasing belonging not isolating and undermining people who are different.

**Woke:** The continuing attack on this word also represents the regime's hateful opposition to empathy for vulnerable populations and commitment to racial and social justice and the pursuit of equality. "Employing 'woke' as a target of hate," [I noted](#) several years ago before Trump was reelected, "is the inevitable outcome of a party and a leader convinced that cruelty, violence and white supremacy can form a winning strategy. They were and are determined to dehumanize and demonize their perceived enemies, demagogically exploiting and fueling the fear in some Americans that demographic shifts will replace the dwindling white majority and minimize their power to dominate and control."

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# Trump's Racist Agenda (cont'd)

**Mass Deportation:** We have seen how Trump's claim that his administration would target violent criminals has quickly morphed into all-out and lawless assaults on people of color and the terrorizing of minority communities. The arrogant disregard for due process and a Republican-led Congress handing the regime \$75 billion for enforcement and detention makes clear that they support a police state if it ensures control by white elites.

**Military Deployment:** First the deployment of National Guard troops in Los Angeles and now the military occupation of the District of Columbia—including military checkpoints and hovering over Union Station—make clear that the goal is not to stem violent protestors or fight crime. (Vice President JD Vance [ridiculously claimed](#) Wednesday the troops were needed at Union Station to deal with vagrancy.) Trump's fantasy of an emergency is merely a pretext to provoke predominately Democratic and minority communities. His assertion that he's looking to expand this military deployment in Democratic-led cities with significant Black populations—including Chicago, New York, Baltimore and Oakland—underscores his desire to create a climate of terror and to silence dissent.

**Public Education and Federal Employment:** Black Americans depend on public education and federal employment to advance economically. Federal service was among the first workforces to integrate at a time when racial segregation dominated America, which helps explain why Blacks are [over-represented](#) in the federal workforce (including about 19 percent from a population that represents about 14 percent of the nation). This, like public education, has provided critical opportunities to join the middle class. Is it any surprise that both are under attack by a regime that yearns to break minority power and produce a more ill-informed and uniform citizenry?

**Black History and Slavery:** Trump's executive order in March titled "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History" with a goal to "remove\_divisive or partisan narratives" is now being acted on with efforts to eradicate unwanted truths in Smithsonian

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# Trump's Racist Agenda (cont'd)

museums. This week Trump complained that the [Smithsonian](#) was “out of control” and focused too much on “how bad slavery was.” This is arguably the most egregious of the regime’s racist agenda because it threatens to deny generations of Americans—and particularly the young—from knowing the truth of our history. Positive change depends on understanding what ails us.

**Yes, all this can be dispiriting,** but I want to share with you two sources to help remind us that what we are facing now is part of a centuries-old experience in America, in which the horrors of our history have been minimized or ignored in order to maintain white supremacy.

One is Bryan Stevenson, who is the executive director of the Economic Justice Initiative, based in Montgomery, Alabama, where several important museums exist to document our country’s racial history. One focuses on the history of slavery (The Legacy Museum), another documents the history of lynching in America (The National Memorial for Peace and Justice).

I’d urge you to check out [the website](#) if you can’t visit in person. Listen to how Stevenson narrates the opening of a [powerful video](#) that introduces the Legacy Museum and the need to understand and confront our shared history:

We believe there’s important work that has to be done in this country to fully overcome the history and legacy of slavery. It’s important that we begin to commit to an era of truth and justice, that we tell the truth about our history, that we find the words necessary to understand all of the pain, all of the suffering that was created by 400 years of enslavement, lynching, segregation and injustice.

It begins in Africa where millions of people were kidnapped, abducted, taken from their homes, taken from their families, chained, forced onto ships where they were displaced forever. Without understanding that legacy, we don’t appreciate the harm, the damage, the tragedy that surrounded the founding of this country.

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# Trump's Racist Agenda (cont'd)

We still live in a country where there is this problem of racial inequality, racial injustice—and the narrative that created that problem of racial difference continues to haunt us today.

I asked Stevenson whether these museums have been under attack by the Trump regime since January. His response heartened me: “We made the decision many years ago not to accept state or federal funding in the creation or maintenance of our sites. So we have not been directly impacted by the current Administration or any of their efforts to limit content.”

I also reached out to my friend and former colleague Calvin Schermerhorn, a historian of slavery in the United States, who you may recall authored [\*The Plunder of Black America\*](#), [excerpted in May](#) in these pages. I asked him to share with me brief thoughts on the long history of minimizing the horrors of slavery and prioritizing the interests of white Americans at the expense of Black Americans. Here is part of what he wrote:

Since the Civil War ended 160 years ago this spring, Americans have downplayed slavery and its horrors in the way they remembered the conflict and the history that preceded it. Ex-Confederates took the lead with a Lost Cause ideology that stressed the Civil War was about local democracy against a distant federal tyranny, which whitewashed the stated intentions of seceding states in 1860 and 1861 to preserve and perpetuate Black chattel slavery.

The victorious North joined in that historical whitewashing towards the end of the nineteenth century. Historian David Blight and others have argued that the drive to reconcile the nation included a script in which the war was a conflict of brother against brother or a national contest of manhood. The script dropped the reason for the fratricidal conflict: the arrogant Slave Power that tried to hijack representative government in the service of enslavers and their demand for slavery's unlimited spread. In both the Lost Cause and Reconciliation script, the Civil War was about competing visions of America that left out slavery.

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# Trump's Racist Agenda (cont'd)

It's not hard to see how Donald Trump is attempting to reject the history of slavery and racism anew, and to deny Americans today from grappling with the questions our history raises. His own public bigotry dates back at least to the early 1970s when he and his father were sued for [discriminating against](#) African Americans who sought to rent apartments in one of their buildings. A decade later Trump was calling for the execution of the Central Park Five in a full-page ad in *The New York Times*—that was five young Black men who were later exonerated of any crime. It's not hard to connect the dots from that racism to his desire to resurrect fallen statues of Confederate heroes and rename military bases again with these leaders of the Lost Cause.

The effort of Trump and his enablers (particularly Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller) to [dishonor the memory](#) of accomplished Black Americans and oppose the upward mobility of non-white Americans makes clear the challenge that faces all of us who seek justice and the common good.

Hear again from Bryan Stevenson in two final questions I asked him. I suspect his responses will encourage you like they encourage me.

**Beschloss:** Will there be any changes to the various ways you provide knowledge and understanding about our shared history for visitors?

**Stevenson:** We absolutely will not curtail or restrict the presentation of information about our nation's history of slavery, racial terror lynchings, Jim Crow or racial injustice. This history has been overlooked, avoided and left out of history books for generations. The silence surrounding slavery and difficult parts of our history has to end for us to get to a place where we are less burdened and constrained by our past. It's ironic that 10 years ago, there was no African American History museum as part of the Smithsonian, and there were no Legacy Sites. We've only recently created an opportunity for learning, and now is not the time to retreat.

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# Trump's Racist Agenda (cont'd)

**Beschloss:** How worried or how hopeful are you that we'll find our way through this dark period?

**Stevenson:** Hopefulness is a requirement. It is the garment we must wear. Living in Montgomery, Alabama, walking in the footprints of the people who came before me who did so much more with so much less, I have to be hopeful that we will absolutely overcome the ignorance and misguided notion that we can hide from history, suppress the truth or avoid the lessons of our past.

**Trump's ability to trigger** the racist impulses of millions of Republicans and rally white nationalists to his cause is no sign of special political skill. Rather, it's a reminder of how deep these impulses go in the national psyche and how easily a racist demagogue can incite them.

As historian Schermerhorn reminded me, "Until the Civil Rights era, histories and textbooks written for popular and school audiences tended to downplay, excuse or even celebrate slavery and enslavers. To many, it was a closed chapter; the sin of slavery was expunged by the blood of Union soldiers," he said. And even today, "Gen X schoolchildren grew up on stories of Confederate heroism and slavery as a sideline or footnote to American history rather than as prologue to nearly a century of Jim Crow and enduring racial discrimination."

Yes, we have a job to do. Trump and his regime are trying their damndest to reject the past, glorify the enemies of democracy and basic human decency, and shove their white supremacist agenda down our throats. They may slow down the march of progress, but we must continue to speak out with the knowledge that one day the truth can free us all from our troubled history.

*"Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the President or any other public official save exactly to the degree in which he himself stands by the country."*

FDR 1918

# America without a President

**Sunday thought: America without a president**

ROBERT REICH

AUG 17, 2025



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# America without a President (cont'd)

Friends,

People ask me almost daily: “Can he really *do* this?”

My answer: He’ll do anything he can get away with.

He believes he can get away with anything as long as his Republican lapdogs remain in control of Congress, as long as congressional Democrats remain wimpy and disunited, as long as the Supreme Court immunizes him from prosecution, and as long as he feels he can disregard lower-court rulings with impunity.

This is why it’s so urgent that We the People are rising up — making a ruckus at Republican town halls, phoning our senators and representatives so often we’re jamming congressional switchboards, joining our local Indivisible resistance groups, demonstrating, forming sanctuary communities, and boycotting corporations (such as Tesla and Target) that are caving to Trump.

Another thing we can do is stop recognizing him as president.

He may occupy the Oval Office, but he has repeatedly violated his oath of office to “faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and ... preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

He sends the National Guard into Washington, D.C., on the pretext that the city is overrun with crime when its crime rate has plummeted to its lowest in 30 years.

He supports Vladimir Putin’s demand that Ukraine cede territory it controls to Russia, thereby rewarding Putin’s aggression and breaking with our European allies.

He orders ICE to “disappear” people — including American citizens — into detention camps and foreign jails.

He instructs Republican governors to super-gerrymander in order to gain more Republican seats so Republicans have better odds of staying in control of Congress after the 2026 midterms.

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# America without a President (cont'd)

He usurps the constitutional power of Congress to dispense federal funds.

He usurps its authority to regulate commerce with foreign nations.

He takes personal gifts from foreign powers, also in direct violation of the Constitution.

He invites corporate executives to give him personal gifts in return for government favors. He and his family make a fortune on cryptocurrencies, which he has officially encouraged.

He smothers criticism of him and his regime. He attacks universities, media corporations, and law firms that have offended him. He fires public servants who tell the truth.

This is the same man who attempted a coup against the United States less than five years ago: refusing to accept the outcome of the 2020 election, telling Republican governors and secretaries of state to change election returns and his vice president not to certify the results, encouraging a violent assault on the U.S. Capitol, and later pardoning all who were found guilty of participating in that assault.

By repeatedly violating his oath of office, he has relinquished the presidency.

His presidency is illegitimate.

We must disavow our allegiance to him.

We don't yet have the votes to impeach him, but we should stop referring to him as President Trump. Urge others to do so as well.

We will not fall for his strongman bullshit. He wants us to think he's invincible and that we can't stop him. But we won't allow him to intimidate us, and we *will* stop him.

He wants to make us so cynical and hopeless that we give up our opposition to him. But that we will never do. We will keep fighting.

We will assume that everything he says is a lie. Ditto for his "spokespeople." And for his White House staff and Cabinet. We will never fall for or repeat his lies.

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# America without a President (cont'd)

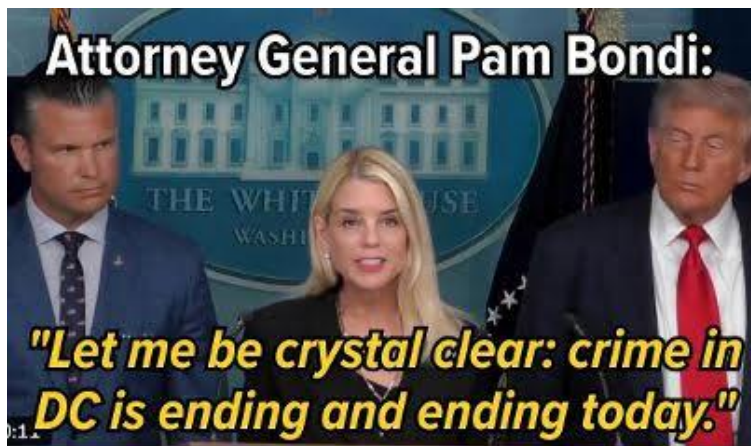
Some day we will once again have a president.

We will support people of integrity who seek the highest office in the land. People who will honor their oath of office.

We will not even listen to him. When he's about to speak, we'll turn off whatever device we have. We will not even read accounts of what he says, because they are meaningless drivel.

We'll pay attention only to what he does. We'll take whatever nonviolent action we can to stop him from trampling on our rights and freedoms.

I say all this more in sorrow than in anger. We are living through a profound tragedy. America is suffering a grievous loss.



**Incredible that she's  
saying this as she  
stands between an  
accused rapist and a  
guy convicted on 34  
felony counts.**

# Coming Events

**Saturday, September 6, 2025  
10 AM**

## Meet your candidates

Lampeter-Strasburg voters will be able to hear directly from Democratic candidates on the issues that matter.

This event is open to the public.

## 2025 Municipal Candidate Forum



Lampeter-Strasburg  
School Board  
*Kirk Williard and  
Sarah Cook*



West Lampeter  
Township Supervisor  
*Tracy Arnold*



Strasburg  
Township Supervisor  
*Todd Weiss*



September 6<sup>th</sup>, 10AM  
West Lampeter Municipal Bldg.  
852 Village Rd.



Hosted by the L-S Dems

Did you know ...  
you can find copies of our newsletters  
and meeting slides on our website?

Check it out ...

**[www.demswvc.com](http://www.demswvc.com)**

# Coming Events

## Understanding Our Democracy

Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM  
Cultural Center Education Room

### PA Judges: Elections and Retentions

We will look at how the PA Judicial system is structured and follow that with a look at the PA Judicial Elections and Retentions that will appear on the November ballot.

This will include a look at what the PA Bar Association has to say about each of the Judges on the November ballot. And we will discuss how we can work to advance the right outcomes.

Please join us; everyone is welcome.

## Dems Club General Meeting

Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM  
Cultural Center Education Room

**Come hear** a video with David LaMotte speaking on how to change the world, followed by a discussion about possible actions we can take. Everyone is welcome!

# General Meeting Minutes

## Democratic Club of Willow Valley General Meeting August 26, 2025

Attendance: 48

President Jen Porter opened the meeting at 1p.m.

Member Ted Borek made a brief announcement of a meeting with Braver Angels at the Lampeter Methodist Church on October 4. The topic will be immigration. More information may be found at [pa.braverangels.org](http://pa.braverangels.org).

**Guest Speakers:** Sarah Cook and Kirk Williard, candidates for Lampeter-Strasburg School Board, and Tracy Arnold, candidate for West Lampeter Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Williard described his background of 32 years in public education, including serving as principal of Lampeter-Strasburg High and his work in Chester County as director of technical schools in the county. Over those years, he has seen a decline in public engagement in the schools with few residents showing interest in what goes on. His goal is to encourage more interaction between the public and the School Board.

Ms. Cook gave her background in construction administration and is a regular attendee at L-SHS School Board meetings. She expressed her concerns about the state of the current School Board:

- lack of public education experience among the members
- lack of discussion in meetings, little engagement on issues
- lack of knowledgeable questions about current and future renovations at the school
- lack of focus on STEM classes

Following their talks, both candidates opened the floor for Q&A. Questions concerned:

- effect of reductions on school funding which may lead to loss of positions at the school, rising property taxes, reliance on reserve funds
- AI in the classroom to be used as a tool, not relied on to provide student training in synthesis and analysis
- financial impact of cyber charter schools, increased loss of monies to public schools
- impact of federal and state policies although school boards have shown to have strong local control
- current gutting of the U.S. Department of Education and its effects

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# General Meeting Minutes

West Lampeter Supervisor Board candidate Tracy Arnold gave her background of 23 years in public health and safety. Her two main goals are to improve community engagement with the Board as well as to increase the Board's efficiency and timeliness in making decisions.

President Porter thanked the three speakers for their time and valuable information.

## **Business Meeting**

**Treasury:** Steve Wright – current balance is \$3,177.28 with \$1,657.00 reserved for Scholarships, clearing the earlier deficit.

**Membership:** Steve Wright - current membership is 113 with new and renewals coming in via the new website. Vice-President Fairweather encouraged those who have not joined or renewed to do so.

**Advocacy:** President Porter presented the September 2025 Jimmy Carter initiative based on his work in 1979 Peace Accords with Egypt and Israel. She outlined the actions members may take to support peace in the Mideast today:

- Chop Wood/Carry Water - scripts for legislator contact
- Vote Riders – voter registration
- Five Calls – calls to legislative offices
- Letters to the Editor – a group now forming led by Lucy Painter

President Porter also showed pictures from the Club's July visit to Milagro House, a successful and inspiring trip.

Advocacy Chair Barbara Bonanno will distribute post cards to volunteers for the upcoming Post Cards to Swing States campaign beginning in early September to stress the importance of voting in the judicial retention election November 4. Cards will be mailed October 24.

## **Upcoming Events**

- **Tuesday, September 16, 10 – 11:30 a.m.** *Understanding Our Democracy*. Cultural Center Education Room. The topic will be the importance of voting for retention of Democratic judges in the November 4 election.

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# General Meeting Minutes

**Sunday, September 28**, 3-5:30 p.m. Campaign launch for Nancy Mannion who is running against Lloyd Smucker for the PA 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District seat. Place: Japanese Gardens in Lauxmont Farms, 1155 Long Level Road, Wrightsville, PA. Please RSVP by September 18 with text to 717-615-5636 or email to [info@nancymannion.com](mailto:info@nancymannion.com)

**Tuesday, September 30**, 1 p.m. General Meeting, Cultural Center Education Room, with presentation of video with David LaMotte speaking on how to change the world.

Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Lucy Painter, Secretary

