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**Women Organizing
Women Democrats**



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Living Under Republican Control Increases Your Chances of Remaining Poor and Sick

One measure of a nation's success is life expectancy. It represents the quality of health care, our ability to buy food and other basic resources, and an overall sense of well-being. For three years in a row, life expectancy has dropped in the United States for the first time in a century. American children are now 55% more likely to die by age 19 than children in other industrialized nations. America also falls behind comparable countries in health care and graduation rates while suffering from more violence, poverty, and addiction. This is not and never will be great.

Here are some other noteworthy rankings for America out of 146 industrialized countries:

40th in child mortality, 32nd in internet access, 39th in access to clean drinking water, 50th in personal safety, and 61st in high school enrollment.

In America, 68,000 people will die every year from drug overdose, 88,000 from alcohol abuse, and 47,000 from suicide. Not surprisingly, most of these people are, by far, poor. Inequality is worse now than it was in the Gilded Age - Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates, and Warren Buffett now possess as much wealth as the entire bottom half of the population.

We have the solutions for these travesties, and they are Democratic solutions.

First, restructure the American economy from the bottom up. Raise the minimum wage of \$7.25, which has remained stagnant for 10 years. If the minimum hourly wage of 1968 had kept up with inflation, it would be \$22. We also need to significantly fund job retraining in a modern economy.

Second, we need to provide more mobility for struggling families through **early childhood programs for at-risk children** (which pay for themselves seven times over), lower tuition at state universities, and expand funding for libraries.

Third, we need to **properly fund family planning**, including contraception and sex education. American teenagers have sex at the same rate as Europeans but are *three times* more likely to get pregnant.

Fourth, we must **treat drug use and addiction as health issues** and not a criminal ones. The opioid epidemic, which was brought to us by white coat drug dealers Big Pharma, costs the U.S. half a trillion dollars a year.

Fifth, provide **affordable healthcare** for every American. Some prefer Medicare for All or a public option, but at a minimum, all states need to expand Medicaid. Under the current administration, however, seven million more people have lost their health insurance.

Sixth, put an **end to prisons for profit** that incarcerate millions for nominal offenses, such as failure to pay government fines, and are most often people of color.

Instead of building the economy from the bottom up, Republicans demonize the poor, fretting about a 1.5% fraud rate of food stamps while enabling the wealthy to hide their assets to the tune of a \$36 billion deprivation of the Treasury through the carried interest tax loophole or corporate subsidies, which are 50% higher than entitlements to the poor.

Another rallying cry from Republicans is that any form of government aid for the poor amounts to socialism. Consider this: people in other wealthy countries pay approximately 10 cents more in taxes but in return receive health insurance, better infrastructure, less poverty and homelessness, and higher overall happiness.

Republicans blame the poor for their own struggles and are more likely to say the reason someone is poor has more to do with lack of effort (66%) than circumstances beyond a person's control (32%), up from 54% six years ago.

Republicans have also coached the white working poor to idolize the wealthy by feeding them a steady diet of propaganda, rallying cries, and nostalgia for a whitewashed past. They have suppressed the vote of the working poor of color with surgical precision and forced hard-working immigrants to live in fear.

We know the policies that create this sickness, and we know the antidote: electing more Democrats.

Although these frustrating 3 1/2 years have at times overwhelmed us, friends, **do not give up hope**. Imagine a Democratic President selecting the next two Supreme Court justices, restoring and strengthening the Affordable Care Act, a Democratic Attorney General who will work for us only, and a woman Vice President (hopefully of color as well) who will fortify our American values and put us back on the path of true prosperity.

The signs of victory are on the horizon. When Wisconsin Republicans forced voters to turn out for the state's April 7 primary, they were punished by the electorate, who elected Democrat Jill Karofsky for 10 years on the state's Supreme Court.

That day is coming soon, I know it, but we have to make it happen **If you can spare the money, donate. If you have time, volunteer.** We all have a voice, so we can speak. They cannot defeat us or wear us down. We have the better, stronger character, and we will stay focused on our goal of restoring the American Dream for ALL Americans.

Debbie O'Reilly, President

Council of Clubs Challenge: Flip Your District!

Six Texas State House Districts in Denton and Collin Counties must be flipped this year. Democratic clubs in both counties - including WOW Dems - have joined a Council of Clubs



Challenge to see who can identify and register the most Democratic voters. The Challenge is only through May 1, so join now! To get involved in the Challenge, ask to join the private [Collin / Denton Co Clubs Challenge Facebook group](#).

Learn more about the Challenge in this [great video](#). Join now. Let's turn Denton & Collin Counties blue!

Help Combat Hunger During the COVID-19 Crisis

With massive layoffs from the closures of schools, restaurants, and numerous businesses across the area, many of our neighbors are struggling to meet the basic requirements for food. Even before the COVID-19 crisis, *one in six North Texans was food insecure* and didn't know where their next meal would come from.

Through the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB), WOW Dems created a fundraising site to help fight hunger: wowdems.causevox.com. NTFB is a nonprofit hunger relief organization headquartered in Plano that distributes nutritious food across a 13-county area using a network of partner agencies. Every dollar donated to NTFB provides three meals!

Be Counted in the 2020 Census

Census questionnaires should have arrived in your mail a couple weeks ago. Once you receive the information (which will have a Census ID number on it) fill out the questionnaire at www.census.gov and encourage everyone you know to do the same.

Endorsement Applications Due May 15

The WOW Dems Candidates Committee has approved the Candidate Endorsement Application for release. It will be emailed to candidates on April 15 and is due back to WOW Dems by May 15. If you're a candidate interested in receiving an application, email candidates@wowdems.org.

Join WOW Dems

A hearty THANK YOU to all who have paid 2020 dues! Step up now and join or renew your WOW Membership: wowdems.org/join.

WOW Dems | president@wowdems.org | wowdems.org

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