

# Parties for Democracy

A practical toolkit for hosting Virtual Parties for Democracy and Get Out The Vote gatherings



Help friends turn a birthday, anniversary, retirement, or seasonal gathering into donations and voter action for the 2026 elections.

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**Need help?** Volunteers with experience hosting Parties for Democracy would love to help. Email: [eastbayresistance@gmail.com](mailto:eastbayresistance@gmail.com)

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## Parties for Democracy Our Objective



The goal of the Parties for Democracy initiative is both ambitious and achievable: to raise a minimum of \$500,000 through virtual gatherings averaging \$10,000 per party. These events are designed to be simple, impactful, and easy to host — requiring only about four to five hours of planning time, with most of that effort focused on creating your invitation list.

You do not need prior fundraising experience or event-planning expertise to make a meaningful difference. Our team will support you every step of the way, providing guidance, materials, and hands-on help throughout the entire process so you can focus on bringing people together and building momentum for democracy.

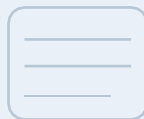
### **We're here to help!**

Volunteers with experience hosting Parties for Democracy would love to help.

**Email: [eastbayresistance@gmail.com](mailto:eastbayresistance@gmail.com)**

# Host Checklist

Eight actions for running a virtual Party for Democracy



## Step 1: Be a Party Host

Be a virtual party host this summer/fall and/or encourage two friends with summer/fall special occasions to co-host. You are doing your friends a favor by making vetted recommendations of where to have the biggest impact. Parties with co-hosts have had more than 100 guests show up!

## Step 2: Choose a Party Date

If you expect 20 people or more, you might want to invite a representative from one of the groups you are supporting to speak. Invite them before you set the date to make sure a speaker is available. It has been very motivating to hear representatives from the groups we are supporting.

## Step 3: Select Organizations for Your Friends to Support

Identify 2 or 3 organizations from the vetted list, or choose your own favorite groups working on critical election issues. Have website links ready so guests can donate in real time during the party or just afterwards.

## Step 4: Send a Save-the-Date Email

Email guests two weeks before your scheduled virtual party. Remember, you can invite local and far-flung friends. Make sure the time zone makes sense for people all over the country.

## Step 5: Set Up the Virtual Call and Reminders

Set up a virtual call and send at least two follow-up reminders with the call details. You might also send a reminder 30 minutes before the scheduled start time. Free Zoom accounts allow for a 40-minute call; paid accounts allow for longer calls.

## Step 6: Create a Short Presentation

Consider making a brief PowerPoint presentation stating the importance of the election and describing the organizations you would like your guests to support.

## Step 7: Select a Co-Host Messenger and Craft Your Message

You and/or a friend can make a 5- to 10-minute pitch on the importance of donating and/or helping Get Out The Vote (GOTV). Ask participants to think of their donation as an investment in the future. Encourage guests to also host a party or find a friend or family member to host another virtual party.

## Step 8: Send Follow-Up Emails

After the party, send a few follow-up emails to encourage those who pledged to make the donation and/or GOTV commitment.

# Email Outreach

Starter language for recruiting hosts



## Subject Line: What I want for my Birthday! (or other occasion for a party)

Dear Friends and Family,

You can make a **BIG** difference in the election outcome in 2026 by hosting virtual Parties for Democracy. Instead of presents to celebrate your birthday, anniversary, retirement, or other occasion, you can direct your guests to:

**Donate:** to preselected progressive organizations that strategically advance your priorities

**Help Get Out The Vote (GOTV):** Invite your guests to commit to writing letters/postcards, text banking, and/or phone banking in strategically targeted swing states

If you have a summer or fall birthday (or other reason to celebrate), please consider hosting a virtual party.

We have had great success raising large amounts of money with virtual parties. Party hosts have loved gathering friends together by Zoom. You can be a catalyst by making it convenient for your friends and family to donate or get involved on your behalf.

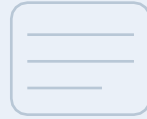
How about that for a special present?



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# Save-the-Date

Sample invitation to adapt



Hi Friends,

Well, if you are being invited to my party, you probably know how much I love to celebrate!

Please join me this **[fill in date and time]** at **[Zoom details here]**.

All I want for my birthday (or other special occasion) is to save our precious democracy by winning back both Houses of Congress! I can think of no better way to spend my birthday than with you supporting a cause that benefits us all!

I hope to see you on **[date]**. PLEASE forward this invitation to anyone you think might be interested.

Much love, health, safety & ease to you all!

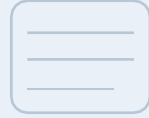
**[Host name]**

P.S. If you have questions or cannot make it but want to know how you can impact the election, please reach out.



# Sample Run of Show

Suggested flow for virtual party



- 4:30:** Production team and hosts arrive.
- 4:55:** Open the Zoom room and have pictures going as we welcome folks in. The Zoom license holder can make some individuals co-hosts to help with entering the room.
- 5:00-5:05:** Photos continue and hosts welcome folks into the room, tell them we will start at 5:05, light banter.
- 5:05:** Set the stage for party - thanks for being here, commitment to social justice, etc.
- 5:09:** Introduce 1st speaker.
- 5:10:** 1st Speaker.
- 5:15:** Introduce 2nd Speaker (if applicable)
- 5:16:** 2nd Speaker (if applicable)
- 5:20:** Introduce 3rd Speaker (if applicable)
- 5:21:** 3rd Speaker (if applicable)
- 5:25-5:30:** Hosts give the pitch. Okay, you have heard of all these choices - we now want to invite you to the core part of the meeting: putting our dollars to work. Sometimes in a democracy we go door to door; our money is critical. Show how easy one can donate now. Provide incentives to donate, such as a matching challenge.
- 5:30-5:40:** Everyone donates.
- 5:40:** Hosts recruit others on the Zoom who might be interested in hosting one of their own fundraisers.
- 5:45 and after:** Party and celebrate.

**ZOOM LINK:**

# Thank You Note

Sample post-party follow-up



Thank you so much for celebrating my birthday (or other special occasion)! I loved being with you, felt incredibly supported, and hope you found it to be an inspiring and informative hour. I SO appreciate you being there, and I would love to know what you thought.

## Donations

If you have not made your donation(s) yet, please consider supporting one or more of the organizations below.

## Be a Host or Invite One!

Please consider being a host or inviting someone on a date of your choosing between now and the elections, which really just means hosting a virtual cocktail party for 10 people. I can share an invite template with you, and all you have to do is send the invite, show up for the one-hour virtual meeting, and say thanks. Fighting for democracy has never been so easy!

Again, a million thanks. In an often-disheartening time, it is very heartening to be in this together.

**[Host name]**



# Vetted Organizations

Donation and action options to share with guests



## Democratic Committees

| Organization | Description                                                                                              | Website       |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| DCCC         | Official campaign arm of the Democrats in the House of Representatives and elects Democrats to the House | dccc.org      |
| DNC          | Committed to electing Democrats across the country                                                       | democrats.org |
| DSCC         | Official campaign arm of the Democrats in the Senate and elects Democrats to the Senate                  | dsc.org       |

## Election Integrity

| Organization      | Description                                                                              | Website              |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Common Cause      | Nonpartisan organization fighting corruption and strengthening democratic accountability | commoncause.org      |
| Protect Democracy | Counters authoritarian threats and defends democratic norms                              | protectdemocracy.org |
| Public Citizen    | Advocates for consumer protections, corporate accountability, and democratic reforms     | citizen.org          |

## Legal Defense of Voting

| Organization               | Description                                                                               | Website              |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Brennan Center for Justice | Researches, defends, and advances democracy, voting rights, and constitutional governance | brennancenter.org    |
| Democracy Forward          | Uses the courts to defend democratic institutions and progressive policies                | democracyforward.org |
| Fair Fight                 | Protects voting rights and combats voter suppression nationwide                           | fairfight.com        |

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## Impactful Donations for Democratic Candidates

| Organization                        | Description                                                                                | Website                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Activate America</b>             | Works to hold seats narrowly won and flip seats narrowly lost in the U.S. House and Senate | <a href="https://activateamerica.vote">activateamerica.vote</a>         |
| <b>Central Valley Matters</b>       | Focuses on electing Democratic candidates in California's Central Valley                   | <a href="https://centralvalleymatters.org">centralvalleymatters.org</a> |
| <b>Focus for Democracy</b>          | Applies metrics-based research to recommend where donations have high impact               | <a href="https://focus4democracy.org">focus4democracy.org</a>           |
| <b>Hopium Chronicles</b>            | Raises money for strategically chosen campaigns and candidates nationwide                  | <a href="https://hopiumchronicles.com">hopiumchronicles.com</a>         |
| <b>States Win / Sister District</b> | Supports progressive candidates in critical state legislative races                        | <a href="https://sisterdistrict.com">sisterdistrict.com</a>             |
| <b>Walk the Walk</b>                | Funds effective grassroots groups in local communities where small donations really count  | <a href="https://walkthewalkusa.org">walkthewalkusa.org</a>             |

## Political Action

| Organization              | Description                                                                       | Website                                                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5 Calls</b>            | Simple tools to help constituents pressure elected officials by phone             | <a href="https://5calls.org">5calls.org</a>               |
| <b>Indivisible</b>        | Grassroots movement organizing locally to defend democracy and progressive values | <a href="https://indivisible.org">indivisible.org</a>     |
| <b>Mobilize</b>           | Central hub to find volunteer actions, events, and organizing opportunities       | <a href="https://mobilize.us">mobilize.us</a>             |
| <b>MoveOn</b>             | Digital-first movement mobilizing millions for progressive change                 | <a href="https://front.moveon.org">front.moveon.org</a>   |
| <b>The States Project</b> | Supports state legislative power and helps state lawmakers govern effectively     | <a href="https://statesproject.org">statesproject.org</a> |

# Voters, Registration, & Voting

| Organization        | Description                                                               | Website                                                        |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| America Votes       | Coalition coordinating voter registration, education, and turnout efforts | <a href="http://americavotes.org">americavotes.org</a>         |
| Commit to Democracy | Supports pro-democracy candidates and civic engagement initiatives        | <a href="http://commit2democracy.com">commit2democracy.com</a> |
| Emily's List        | Elects Democratic pro-choice women to public office                       | <a href="http://emilyslist.org">emilyslist.org</a>             |
| Flip the Vote       | Encourages voter turnout in key swing districts                           | <a href="http://flipthevote.org">flipthevote.org</a>           |
| HeadCount           | Uses culture and music to register and engage young voters                | <a href="http://headcount.org">headcount.org</a>               |
| Protect Democracy   | Counters authoritarian threats and defends democratic norms               | <a href="http://protectdemocracy.org">protectdemocracy.org</a> |
| Rock the Vote       | Empowers young people to vote and participate politically                 | <a href="http://rockthevote.org">rockthevote.org</a>           |
| Seed the Vote       | Trains volunteers for grassroots organizing and voter engagement          | <a href="http://seedthevote.org">seedthevote.org</a>           |
| Swing Left          | Mobilizes volunteers to help Democrats win competitive elections          | <a href="http://swingleft.org">swingleft.org</a>               |

# Planning Notes

Use these blanks before printing or sharing



|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Party Date             |  |
| Time Zone              |  |
| Zoom Link              |  |
| Speaker / Organization |  |
| Co-hosts               |  |
| Top 2-3 Organizations  |  |
| Follow-up Date         |  |

## Guest follow-up checklist

|  |                                                |
|--|------------------------------------------------|
|  | Sent invite                                    |
|  | Sent 1-week reminder                           |
|  | Sent 30-minute reminder                        |
|  | Shared donation links                          |
|  | Sent thank-you note                            |
|  | Confirmed pledged donations / GOTV commitments |