



Los Gatos, CA  
September 13, 2018

Dear Friends:

As we hurtle toward the mid-term elections lyrics of a forty-year-old rock song keep running through my head –

I went home with the waitress  
The way I always do  
How was I to know  
She was with the Russians too?

I was gambling in Havana  
I took a little risk  
Send lawyers, guns and money  
Dad, get me out of this

I'm the innocent bystander  
Somehow I got stuck  
Between the rock and the hard place  
And I'm down on my luck

Now I'm hiding in Honduras  
I'm a desperate man  
Send lawyers, guns and money  
The shit has hit the fan

(Warren Zevon, "Lawyers, Guns and Money," 1977)

I'm apparently trying to tell myself something. I'm a pacifist who doesn't own any firearms – can't be the guns.

I've already sent a lawyer (me).....so it must be the money.

We have sent money to four nearby congressional candidates who have a shot at unseating anti-democratic, pro-trump incumbents...and encourage you to do the same. Congress has got to start behaving responsibly..

Below are listed the four congressional campaigns we have contributed to, and will continue to support.

### **Campaigns**

CA-4.....	2
CA-10.....	4
CA- 21 .....	5
CA-22.....	6
One More Consideration .....	7

Each of the Democratic challengers in these districts shares a number of characteristics. They are not professional politicians, having left successful careers to pursue office for the first time. They have strong personal and family ties to the districts in which they are running. They have eschewed PAC (political action committee) money in funding their campaigns, in favor of individual citizen contributions. And they have largely been ignored (until very recently) by national Democratic organizations, and dismissed by the “pundit class.” (I encourage you to read their bios.) But all four challengers, in our view, have a real shot in November, for the reasons set forth below.....

### **CA-4**

This is a congressional district that embraces the central Sierra counties, from Truckee in the north to Mariposa in the south. **Jessica Morse** is the challenger, Tom McClintock the incumbent republican. Morse is in her late thirties, has left a career at the defense department (civilian employee) and USAID (having served in Afghanistan) and returned to her family home

near Truckee to run for political office for the first time. McClintock is a professional politician (since college) – literally a “carpet bagger” - having served multiple terms in the state assembly and senate (from two different counties), and in the U.S. Congress (from what is now CA-4) for a number of terms, though he has never lived in his district, has no family ties to it, rents an apartment in Elk Grove (south of Sacramento and well outside the district), and rarely visits the district (avoiding town hall meetings and constituent contact). McClintock enjoys strong financial support from out-of-state and from the national republican party.

Morse has received little support from the national Democratic party (none until after she won the June primary), yet she has managed to raise \$1.45 million for her campaign, \$1.37 million from individual donors...a remarkable achievement. She has spent months visiting, literally, with every county and municipal elected official in the district who will meet with her, and is focused on issues of interest within the district, rather than “hot-button” national issues. She has about \$500,000 on hand for the final push to election day. She has amassed a very long list of endorsements from local politicians throughout the district. (McClintock has received \$1.2 million in campaign contributions, and has held about \$670,000 for the final 60-day push.)

Pundits and professional horse-race analysts are calling the district for the republicans. We disagree. Here’s why:

- Horse-race models look at party registration, anticipated turn-out based on prior elections, and the trump/Clinton split in 2016. Those models ignore the unusual energy for the 2018 mid-terms, and the energy and enthusiasm of candidates like Morse. We are impressed by her remarkable grassroots fund-raising (everyone who sent her \$5 will turn out to vote), and her impressive array of local endorsements.
- Her youth (coupled with her campaign energy) will likely break the turn-out predictions of the horse-race models, and in CA particularly we don’t believe that the trump vote in ’16 will be a good predictor for this mid-term.
- McClintock has failed to respond to district needs in the wake of devastating wildfires of the last two years, and is widely distrusted in the district. (We have a home in Mariposa and our republican friends

are completely fed-up with him.)

Send **Jessica Morse** money: [www.morse4congress.com](http://www.morse4congress.com)  
**Jessica Morse for Congress**  
**1079 Sunrise Avenue, Suite B-275**  
**Roseville, CA 95661**

.....she has a solid shot at unseating McClintock.

## **CA-10**

This congressional district sits in the north San Joaquin Valley –and includes Modesto, Manteca, Tracy and Turlock. **Josh Harder** is the challenger – in his late thirties and new to politics, coming from an early career in venture capital. He was born and raised in the district, and his family still resides there. Jeff Denham, the incumbent, is from a wealthy agricultural family on the south edge of the district in Paso Robles. He is a pretty standard issue republican/trump enabler, though has supported DACA legislation. In 2016 the district went solidly for Clinton, and Denham’s re-election was razor-thin.

The Democratic national machine weighed-in before the primary and inserted their own candidate in an already crowded Democratic primary field – Michael Eggman (who had run in 2016) – and pumped significant money into his campaign, but Harder out-pollled Eggman almost 2 to 1. Now the national Democratic Party has endorsed Harder and tendered some support. Harder is holding sixteen town halls throughout the district (one a week) from July through October.....Denham has a long history of avoiding constituents and will continue to do so.

Harder has raised \$2.5 million for the campaign, and has \$1.0 in reserve for the last 60 days. He has taken some, but not a lot, of PAC money - 94% of his funding is from individual contributions. Denham has raised \$3.45 million, and holds \$2.4 million in reserves. His largest source of funds – national republican political action committees - approaches \$2.0 million.

Even national horse-race pundits rate the District a “toss-up” in November.

We think more money for an increased ground-game for Harder will push him over the top. His policy positions align with his district, it's a matter of turning out the vote.

Send **Josh Harder** money: [www.harderforcongress.com](http://www.harderforcongress.com)

**Harder for Congress**

**P.O. Box 4426**

**Modesto, CA 95352**

## **CA- 21**

This district is in the south-central San Joaquin Valley – including Kings, Tulare, and parts of Fresno and Kern counties. **T.J. Cox** (a local businessman and first-time office seeker) is the challenger. David Valadao is the republican incumbent.

It is an odd district in several ways – 71% of the district is Hispanic, and only 19% white. Clinton carried the district 55% to 39% in 2016. Yet they keep returning the incumbent congressman, Valadao, to congress (first elected in 2012) by significant margins. Hispanic voter turn-out is traditionally quite low, especially for mid-term elections. (This is a district that Mi Familia Vota- an organization we have supported – has targeted for Latino voter registration and turn-out in 2018.)

Our suspicion is that in recent years the district's congressional races have suffered from a lack of interest by the local Democrats – lackluster candidates and poor funding. In contrast, Cox seems to be an energetic candidate who has raised significant funds. Cox owns a number of local businesses, and has worked for years in the charitable sector on housing and healthcare. He has raised \$1.3 million thus far, and holds \$950,000 in reserve for the final 60 days of the campaign. He has not sought PAC money, and individual campaign contributions account for \$820,000 of his \$1.3 million in funding. His business contributors are largely locally owned small businesses.

Valadao has raised \$2.3 million from the usual suspect list of defense contractor/finance industry corporate interests (BofA, AT&T, Northrup, Chevron, Lockheed Martin, Koch Industries...it's a long list. His significant PAC contributors are Koch Bros and John Bolton...) A reliable republican anti-tax, all-business, right-wing vote every time, bought and paid for.....Valadao holds \$1.6 million for this final round of campaigning.

National horse-race pundits (Cook, FiveThirtyEight) judge this race a “lean republican.” FiveThirtyEight (as of August 30) projects Valadao drawing 51.5% of the vote, Cox 48.5%. This is another race in which turn-out means everything. A slight uptick in Hispanic turn-out can do it. **T.J. Cox** needs money to get this done...send it.

[www.tjcoxfordcongress.com](http://www.tjcoxfordcongress.com)

**T.J. Cox for Congress**

**P.O. Box 804**

**Selma, CA 93662**

## **CA-22**

This notorious district is currently represented by Devin Nunes, and embraces most of Fresno and Tulare counties, including the cities of Fresno and Visalia.

The challenger is **Andrew Janz** (deputy district attorney from Fresno, in his late thirties). The incumbent, Nunes - the treasonous, lying, duplicitous, boot-licking trumpette who needs no introduction – has been given \$7.4 million for this campaign – largely from out-of-state interests and national republican PACS. He rarely visits the district, meets with constituents or holds town halls. The largest area newspaper, the Fresno Bee (an old-line republican publication) has been withering in its criticism of Nunes – accusing him of being unpatriotic, un-American and incompetent...no endorsement coming from there. But the national democratic party has all but abandoned Janz, largely because the district voted heavily for trump, and registers republican. National pundits call the district “safely republican.” These two groups have conceded too easily in our view. (In June, Public Policy Polling (PPP) showed voters favoring Nunes 49% to 41% with 10% undecided...and news of recent weeks has probably closed that gap.)

Janz is bright, able and energetic. His fund-raising has eschewed PAC money and focused on individual local contributors. He has raised \$2.9 million...a staggering sum without much national support of any kind, and we think demonstrates the strength of his appeal to voters in the district. (\$2.825 million of his campaign funds have come from individual donors!) Janz holds \$1.1 million for the last 60 day push. (Nunes has \$6.1 million in the bank.)

This district is 45% Hispanic, 42% white, and includes a substantial student population at Fresno State.

In our view Janz needs significant Hispanic and student turn-out on election day. That coupled with continuing embarrassments from trump - and Nunes himself (Mueller?) – along with continuing withering criticism from the Fresno Bee – can push **Andrew Janz** over the top.

Pick up the slack where the Democratic party has dropped the ball....send money. [www.andrewjanzforcongress.com](http://www.andrewjanzforcongress.com)

**Andrew Janz for Congress**  
**2037 W. Bullard Avenue, #334**  
**Fresno, CA 93711**

### **One More Consideration**

In addition to the above, please consider donating to **Mi Familia Vota**.  
<https://www.mifamiliavota.org/where-we-are/california/>

**Mi Familia Vota**  
**5228 E. Pine Avenue**  
**Fresno, CA 93727**

This organization registers Latino citizens in California (and Colorado, Arizona, Texas, Florida and Nevada), and they focus on getting youth civically engaged. They are boots on the ground. We need them...so...

“...send....money.....The shit has hit the fan.....”

John W. Elliott, on behalf of  
Electoral Advocacy  
Together We Will/Indivisible – Los Gatos