

January 31, 2024

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### **The Narrative is Shifting**

*by Janet Singer, CGB Political  
Director*

Something has been shifting in the public narrative in the last week, like a fog lifting, the view coming into focus. **The general tone has gotten more positive about Biden's accomplishments.**

There is reporting that voters are feeling more confident about the economy. Joe Biden has the largest amount of campaign money ever accumulated at this point in the election cycle by a Democratic presidential contender. In the media and around the dinner table the conversation seems to be inching ever so slightly from “Here are all Biden’s liabilities; how can he possibly win?” to “**Given all Trump’s liabilities; how can HE possibly win?**”

What has happened? It’s 2024. People are starting to tune in. It’s becoming clear that Trump and Biden will be the nominees. **The “Trump is winning big” storyline of the primaries is yielding to the realities of the general election.** In the Republican contests in Iowa and New Hampshire, Trump

clearly didn't win support from moderates and independents. His plan seems to be to dig in with his unwavering but not sufficiently large base, refusing the move to the center that is the typical playbook after the primaries and continuing to look backward—an approach that lost him the election in 2020.

**The press is starting to cover more of Trump's weirdness and mental lapses:** his tantrums in court, his "victory" speech in which he called his defeated opponent "birdbrain Haley" when he should have been courting her voters, his threats that donors to Haley's campaign would be barred from the MAGA movement. All of Trump's insanity cum petulance is being shown in split screen with Biden being endorsed by the United Auto Workers Union, Biden in Valley Forge declaring a commitment to the future of American democracy, Biden standing beside a bridge in Wisconsin touting the infusion of funds from the [bipartisan infrastructure law](#) he shepherded.

The Republican Party is struggling. **The only thing the House majority can agree upon is holding endless evidence-free impeachment hearings and obstructing the nation's work.** Under pressure from Trump, House Republicans are refusing to move forward with a bipartisan border deal because the chaos at the border is more useful to them than any solution. Everything Biden fixes takes away Republicans' ability to scare the electorate about re-electing Biden. The Republican Party Chair, Ronna McDaniel, was ready to declare Trump the presumptive nominee after primaries had been held in only two states. The party chairs of Arizona and Florida resigned in disgrace, one for alleged bribery and the other for alleged sexual assault. **Many red state coffers have been nearly emptied by spending on fruitless recounts and legal defense.**

So this is where we're starting the pivot to the general election. Biden does much of his work behind the scenes. He's a political figure who has long been underestimated and for whom the self-congratulation expected in political campaigns does not come easily. **We need to sing his praises loudly and often.**

# THE BEST BANG FOR YOUR POLITICAL BUCK

2024

crimsongoesblue**PORTFOLIO**

by John Bielson '84, Portfolio Steering Committee and John Ries '86,  
Portfolio Team Leader

Our first new Crimson Goes Blue Portfolio for 2024 targets critical Congressional races (in AZ, CA, NV, NC, NY, OH, and PA), the Arizona state legislature, and the grassroots infrastructure needed to win in California, New York, and Wisconsin. **Giving now will help these candidates and organizations hit the ground running.** Read on - or click [HERE](#) - to learn more and donate.

In politics, they say that every dollar counts, **but that's not exactly true.** Hundreds of millions of dollars donated to Democratic candidates flow to unwinnable races or to campaigns that are already flush with funds. Whether you give \$50 or \$5,000 to those candidates, more than half of those **donations won't make a difference in the end.**

In response, we developed the **Crimson Goes Blue Portfolio** as a savvy **political investment strategy** that ensures that every dollar of every political donation has an effect. Strategically targeting races and proven grassroots groups that mobilize Democratic voters, the Portfolio efficiently directs your donations to create the right conditions for Democratic victories.

Among our members and their networks, the Portfolio was one of the most popular elements of our winning 2022 midterm strategy.

This year our Big Hairy Audacious Goal is to raise **\$2 million** for the 2024 election, nearly four times what we raised in 2022.

And our campaign is off to a rousing start ...

--The Class of '79 has organized a \$100,000 challenge fund, the first of several class fundraising efforts. Just two weeks after launching the fund, more than 40 classmates have donated a total of over \$76,000.

--More than 30 people have stepped up to become Portfolio Champions by setting ambitious personal goals to reach out about the Portfolio to their friends, colleagues, neighbors, and dog-walking buddies. No Harvard affiliation is required to contribute; indeed, a growing circle of Yale alums is joining forces in this effort.

### How it Works

Click on the [Portfolio](#) and review our set of carefully chosen candidates and grassroots groups. And fear not—you can elect not to receive those breathless texts and emails describing the latest right-wing outrage.

### How You Can Help:

--Make your political contributions through the [Portfolio](#).

--Enlarge our circle of donors:

Tell your friends about our Portfolio by sharing this [sample email](#). You don't need a Harvard affiliation to use the Portfolio; it's open to everyone.

Feeling more ambitious? Join our team of Portfolio Champions to create a full giving circle and see how much you can help to raise. Training, support, and plenty of fun will ensue. And based on experience, your friends will thank you! For more information, email [John.Ries@crimsongoesblue.org](mailto:John.Ries@crimsongoesblue.org)



### Podcasts, Newsletters, Pundits, Oh My!

Want to become a political expert? We are continually adding content and improving our Crimson Goes Blue website to provide you with the most up-to-date information and opportunities. **Keep up with the latest developments in the political landscape and all things election 2024 and the Trump trials. Check out our newest web page: [How to Stay Informed](#).** You'll find it under the resources tab at the top of our Home Page.

**Maga mess**

**Dem success**

While the Biden administration is in court suing to get access to the Texas/Mexico border to prevent more drownings in the Rio Grande River, Trump spent last week in court being found liable by a jury of nine ordinary Americans of defaming E.Jean Carroll by falsely denying he raped her.

The average annual growth in the US GDP over the first three years of the Biden administration is 3.6%, coupled with 36 straight months of job growth and a record-breaking stock market. By contrast the average GDP growth during the first three years of the Trump presidency was only 2.6%, which Trump referred to as “the greatest economy in the history of the world.”

While Trump is waiting for NY State Judge Engoron to announce how severe a penalty Trump, his sons and his companies will suffer for misrepresenting how great a businessman he is, President Biden has been overseeing a period of record-breaking growth in new business applications. In the three years since Biden was sworn in, 16 million applications have flooded in to kickstart new businesses in the US.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **CGB Phone Bank to NY03 for Tom Suozzi for Congress**

**Wednesday, January 31 and February 7 at 6pm ET/3pm PT**

**Online Event Location: [Sign up here](#)**

**Saturday, February 3 and February 10 at 1pm ET/10am PT**

**Online Event Location: [Sign up here](#)**

CGB will be phone banking Wednesdays and Saturdays until the Special Election on February 13 for Tom Suozzi in NY03. If you've never phone-banked with CGB before, training will be provided—along with fellowship and encouragement from like-minded Harvard folks! If you have questions, contact CGB's Larry Kahn at [phonebankteam@crimsongoesblue.org](mailto:phonebankteam@crimsongoesblue.org).

## CGB GA Action Team Meeting

Tuesday, February 6 at 5pm ET/2pm PT

Online Event Location: [GA team meeting](#)

Hosted by Georgia Action Team Leader Katie Fahs '83. Learn how you can support Georgia in its upcoming Presidential Preference primary (March 12), primary for other elections (May 21), and General Election (November 5). Fighting voter suppression will be a key effort for our team. Some of the roles require being on the ground in Georgia, while others can be done remotely and virtually!



## CGB Shop Talk--Winning Over Moderates

Thursday, Feb 8 at 7pm ET/4pm PT

Online Event Location: [Sign up here](#)

Janet Singer, CGB's Political Director, will lead a discussion about pivoting to the general election now that the Presidential nominees are clear and will provide guidance on how we need to talk about our candidates to win over critical swing voters.

## Bay Area Postcarding with Crimson Goes Blue

Thursday February 8 at 7pm PT

Place: Home in Oakland near the Rockridge BART (or join us on ZOOM)! Details provided to attendees.



Register Now: [Sign up here](#)

We are mobilizing - by POSTCARDING - to bring out the vote in critical California districts.

Suggested Contribution: \$20 for every 20 postcards with stamps

**For a full list of events, see our [Calendar](#)**

Donate

Visit our website

Become a member

Invite your friends

**Join the conversation online:**



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