

crimson goes blue news

March 13, 2024

Dear Friend,

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And We're Off!

by Janet Singer, CGB Political Director

The State of the Union address kicked off Biden's general election campaign and, as all the CGB members who joined us during our Watch Party last week already know, we are off to a great start! There's

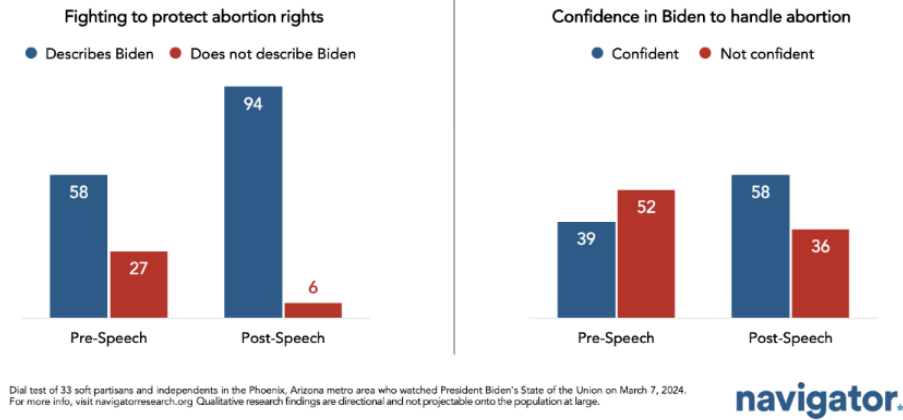
been so much commentary that **I want to highlight only two things:**

–The Republicans handed us a gift of low expectations. By describing Biden as “Sleepy Joe,” a doddering, demented man barely able to string together two coherent sentences, the Republicans set the bar so low that **the true Biden easily appeared a shining star—energetic, funny, spirited, able to think on his feet and leave his hecklers in the dust.** The views and positions of the Democratic Party are shared by most Americans and Biden laid them out, hammering home the points that are persuasive to those who might stay home. **He contrasted Republicans, champions of corporations and the wealthy, with Democrats fighting for a fair shot for the middle class.**

–Surveys have shown that **most voters simply don’t know what Biden and the Democrats have accomplished. When they learn, their favorability towards Biden goes up.** (Check out [CGB: Biden's Big Wins](#) for a list of these accomplishments). The Republicans have a much harder candidate to sell. The more people know about Trump, the less favorable they feel. That puts us in a good position to win.

According to Navigator Research, which gathered the reactions of “soft partisans and independents” in Arizona during the speech, these voters were consistently positive when President Biden made the connection between the policies of his administration and how they would help the middle class. The chart below shows how opinions about Biden’s strength on abortion changed immediately after the address:

The Speech Reinforced Biden's Strength On Abortion



Navigator highlights the following statements as having moved these voters the most positively:

- *"The middle class made this country strong, and unions made the middle class."*
- *"It's my goal to cut the federal deficit \$3 trillion more by making big corporations and the very wealthy finally pay their fair share."*
- *"On my watch, federal projects like helping to build American roads, bridges, and highways will be made with American products built by American workers creating good-paying American jobs!"*
- *"My administration just announced we're cutting credit card late fees from \$32 to just \$8. The banks and credit card companies don't like it. Why? I'm saving American families \$20 billion a year with all of the junk fees I'm eliminating."*
- *"...cap the cost of insulin at \$35 a month for every American that needs it."*
- *"You can't love your country only when you win."*

- *creating a future based on "...embracing freedom and democracy. A future based on the core values that have defined America. Honesty. Decency. Dignity. Equality."*

We can debate how the race is going and which indicators matter most. Still, if we believe that our democracy is at stake in this election, **the real question is not who is ahead in the race, but what we all will do this year to ensure that our democracy and our freedoms survive and thrive.** What can we do as citizens? Crimson Goes Blue will provide all the information and opportunities we need to make a difference and then it is up to our CGB community to stand up and take action.



Invest in Biden-Harris Swing States with the CGB Portfolio

By John Ries, CGB Portfolio Team Leader

The Crimson Goes Blue Portfolio works hard to get Joe Biden and Kamala Harris reelected, but you won't see their names among the list of recipients when you donate to our Portfolio. That is because the fundraising effort for Biden/Harris is already going extremely well, both by historical standards and in comparison to the GOP. In other words, our money is not what the Presidential campaign needs now to emerge victorious.

Instead, what you will see in the Portfolio are a range of down-ballot campaigns in key swing states that Biden/Harris need to win in order to achieve victory in November. These include **Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin**. You will also see grassroots organizations that are working to mobilize Democratic voters in those states. **Not only will these down-ballot campaigns and grassroots organizations help us win back State legislatures and the U.S. House of Representatives, the increased voter turnout means boosted support for Biden and Harris at the top of the ticket as well.**

So far this cycle, the Portfolio has channeled donor contributions to:

- Competitive U.S. House races in Arizona, Nevada, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania**
- State legislature funds in Arizona and Pennsylvania**
- The state Democratic party in Wisconsin**
- Grassroots groups that are registering voters and getting out the vote in Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, and Wisconsin.** With their year-round presence and deep connections in their communities, these groups understand the needs and interests of the local constituents and have the knowledge and trust to get them to vote - and vote Democratic - in November.

The Portfolio also targets Congressional races in states that aren't competitive for the Presidency, like **California, New York, and Ohio**, because close Congressional races in those states **offer some of the best opportunities for the Dems to hold on to their majority in the U.S. Senate and flip the U.S. House**. Democratic majorities in Congress will empower Biden and Harris to protect our rights and govern effectively over the next four years.

Today you can help match the HR Class of '79's Portfolio Challenge Fund through your [contribution to the Portfolio](#). They **raised \$120,000** in January and February, and they're challenging the rest of us to match their effort by the end of March. With less than three weeks to go, we **still need to raise \$75,000**, and we're counting on our members and their networks to meet the challenge. At this stage in the election, your donations provide vital capacity-building support - especially for hiring ground teams - to enable Democrats to hold the Senate, flip the House, and re-elect President Biden. Your money multiplied!

DONATE NOW

A New Tool Against Voter Suppression

*by Hilary B. Klein '79, CGB
Voter Protection Team Co-
Leader*

As the GOP increases its efforts to suppress votes, **a formerly overlooked provision of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 has emerged**

as a new tool to counter disenfranchisement. Title I of the Civil Rights Act protects voting rights, and its materiality provision states: "[n]o person acting under color of law shall...deny the right of any individual to vote in any



election because of an error or omission...if such error or omission is not material in determining whether such individual is qualified.”

This provision was **intended to ensure that voters are not disenfranchised over minor mistakes irrelevant to their eligibility**. In practice, restrictive GOP rules concerning mail-in ballots (used disproportionately by Democrats) often disallow ballots with the smallest of errors. There are also rules that disenfranchise voters who have made small mistakes on their voter registration forms.

Court challenges using this provision have resulted in a string of victories. In **Arizona**, a court recognized that a checkbox affirmation of U.S. citizenship on voter registration forms was unnecessary if voters separately provided documentary proof of citizenship. **Georgia** saw a push against the punitive rejection of mail-in ballots over discrepancies in birth dates, with a court temporarily halting such practices. **Pennsylvania** voters have successfully challenged rigid dating requirements for mail-in ballots, highlighting a common mistake by voters that has led to the disenfranchisement of thousands. Meanwhile, a **Wisconsin** court has invalidated a provision requiring witness addresses on mail-in ballots, questioning their relevance to a voter’s eligibility.

These legal battles underscore the materiality provision’s potential to reshape the voting landscape. Successful outcomes in these cases will **safeguard the right to vote** both in the presidential election and in critical down-ballot races in 2024.



In his State of the Union address, President Biden projected a vision of unity for the country, concluding: "I will always be a president for all Americans because I believe in America." Two days earlier, candidate Trump delivered a speech at his seaside mansion, concluding: "we are going to have to deport a lot of people."

President Biden focused on "kitchen table issues" in his State of the Union Address like prescription drug prices, affordable housing and eliminating "junk fees." The GOP put Senator Katie Britt in an actual kitchen for her widely-panned rebuttal speech.

The Biden campaign raised \$10 million in the 24 hours after his rousing State of the Union Address. The next day, the financially struggling Republican National Committee (RNC) voted in new co-chairs: Trump loyalist Michael Whatley and Trump's daughter-in-law Lara Trump. In a video, Donald Trump Jr. announced "people have to understand that America First, the MAGA movement is the new Republican Party."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Register Democrats Summit 2024

Thursday, March 14 from 11am-8pm ET/8am-5pm PT

[Register here](#)



Join Field Team 6 for our second annual Register Democrats Summit. It's time to bring together a movement-wide coalition focused on registering Democrats across the country. The summit brings together the best and brightest minds from elected officials to tech leaders to grassroots organizers and so much more. Click the link above to get more information about confirmed panelists and speakers.



To The Ballot Box! Our Vote, Our Voice

Saturday March 16 at 5pm ET/2pm PT

[Register here](#)

ClassACT HR73 and JusticeAid are proud to present To The Ballot Box! Our Vote, Our Voice, a ZOOM public forum moderated by MSNBC's Joy Reid H'91, with Black Voters Matter (BVM) co-founders LaTosha Brown and Cliff Albright, and a special presentation by Paine the Poet.

The forum will explore issues related to these rights, voter apathy, voter suppression as well as how to engage and motivate citizens in local communities and across the country to have a voice, register to vote and vote.



CGB Pennsylvania Action Team Meeting

Monday, March 18 at 7pm ET/4pm PT

[Register Here](#)

CGB California Action Team Meeting

Monday, March 20 at 3pm ET/Noon PT

[Register Here](#)



Shop Talk: How To Stay Up When the News Is Bringing You Down

Tuesday, April 2 at 7pm ET/4pm PT

[Register Here](#)

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

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Join the conversation online:



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Crimson Goes Blue
19 Jay St.
Somerville, MA 02144
United States

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