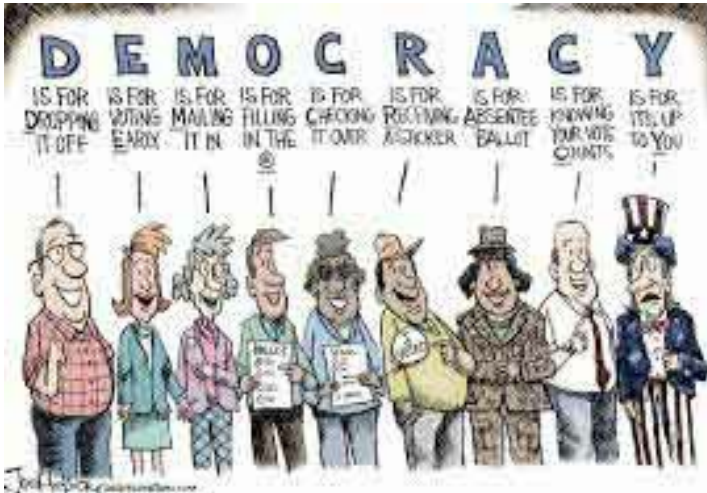


Greetings!

D is for Democracy



D is for . . .

D is for **D**ropping it off.
E is for voting **E**arly.
M is for **M**ailing it in.
O is for filling in the "**O**."
C is for **C**hecking it over.
R is for **R**eceiving a sticker.
A is for **A**bsentee ballot.
C is for knowing your vote **C**ounts.
Y is for it's up to **Y**ou.

A friend and longtime activist and defender of democracy sent us this card for New Year's, courtesy of [Joe Heller Cartoons](#). While it may seem early to be planning for the November election voting is already underway for special elections in several states. A number of the links below will point you in the direction of helping others vote. It's all about turnout.

D is also for dragons! See more below.



Stories, insights
and action for a
world that works
for all of us

~ ~ ~

*Justice is what love
looks like in public.*

Jim Hightower

~ ~ ~

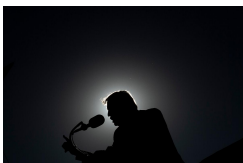
Favorite Resources

[Future Crunch](#)
[Reasons to be
Cheerful](#)
[Chop Wood, Carry
Water](#)
[350.org](#)
[Climate Reality
Project](#)
[Local Futures](#)

[Desert Rose Press](#)
[VirginiaMudd.com](#)

~ ~ ~

Being aware and taking action



Two excellent articles

"What one man has changed," by Dan Rather

Rather lists 13 things that one man, Donald Trump, has changed in this country. Here is one of them:

"He has changed what was until recently considered unacceptable behavior for our leaders. He has normalized bigotry, misogyny, racism, ageism, sexism." I would add violence to that list.

Read ["What One Man Has Changed."](#) Here is another good post about one man and fascism, ["Not So Long Ago."](#)

"What we need to know about Christian nationalism"

In this interview with Robert P. Jones, President and Founder of the Public Religion Research Institute, he answers some of our deepest questions about why Christian nationalism has such a hold on so many people in this country when it can hardly be associated with the teachings of Jesus, and the early Christians. He answers questions such as: *How would you characterize the threat that Christian nationalism poses at this moment in our history? Can you explain the root of Donald Trump's appeal to his base of voters? Can you share a couple of data points that might surprise our readers and give us hope for our future, which many readers could use right now?* [The interview is here.](#)



Action Sites for Climate and Democracy

Given the threats to our democracy and our Earth, I am leaving this resource guide in until the election in November. Everyone is needed!

Cimate Action

[100 Things You Can Do to Help in the Climate Crisis](#)

[15 Actions to Make a Difference](#)

Protect Our Democracy

[Chop Wood, Carry Water](#): Provides daily actions for our democracy.

[thecivicscenter.org](#) : Mobilizing the youth vote in America.

[civicinfluencers.org](#): Also working to register young voters.

[vote.org](#): Everything you need to know to vote.

[steady.substack.com](#): Dan Rather's excellent commentary on current affairs.

[RobertHubbell.substack.com](#): Reflections on and summary of today's news.

[guides.vote](#): Non-partisan guide to how candidates stand on issues.

[commoncause.org](#): An organization working for all aspects of democracy.

[votefwd.org](#): Write letters to encourage folks to vote.

[postcardstovoters.org](#): Here you can write postcards to encourage voters.

[citizen.org](#): Public Citizen is another organization working for democracy.

[statesproject.org](#): A pro-democracy organization working at the state level.

[VoteRiders](#) will tell you what you need to know in order to ensure you can vote.

Remember, as Dr. Seuss says, ["Every Voice Counts!"](#)

All Kinds of Good News



3D Printed House!

BioHome3D is sustainable, recyclable and affordable!

A project of the University of Maine and local nonprofit [Penquis](#) is working toward completing its first livable housing complex. It will be fully bio-based, meaning all materials will be derived from living organisms such as plants and other renewable agricultural, marine and forestry



Rewilding, Restoration and Reforestation

In Southern Brazil a Giant Anteater returns after 100 years of extinction. (That

materials. As the materials are all 100-percent recyclable, so become the buildings. The materials are also all renewable. And thanks to its natural composition, the home acts as a carbon sink, sequestering 46 tons of carbon dioxide per 600-square-foot unit.

The materials for this project will mainly come from wood left over by local mills. “The wood fiber material that’s used in the mix is essentially waste wood here in Maine,” says Jason Bird, director of housing development for Penquis. [Fascinating pictures and article here.](#)



Plastic Bag Bans

There are more than 500 citywide ordinances banning plastic bags in the US, as well as 12 statewide bans — in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawai’i, Maine, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington. New bills could soon add Georgia and Massachusetts to that list. [Read more.](#)

would be something to run into!) Watch this inspiring short [video here.](#)

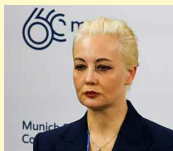
In California's Central Valley a large ranch has been returned to its natural state to prevent excessive flooding. [Article and videos here.](#)

In Spain a new project will safeguard one of Europe's most important wetlands. [Read more here.](#)



Around the world work is being done to reforest, restore and protect natural areas in [China](#), [Sri Lanka](#), [Dominican Republic](#), the [Philippines](#), and [Brazil](#). Each is an inspiring story provided by [Future Crunch](#), a terrific resource for good news from all over the world.

Wisdom for Our Time



“There is no shame in doing little. There is shame in doing nothing.”

Yulia Navalnaya, the widow of Russian opposition leader, Alexis Navalny, who was recently murdered in prison. She is committed to continuing his work for freedom and democracy.

Favorite Dance Moves



A Youtuber called Ed People travels around the world asking people to show him their favorite dance moves. Then he joins them. Fun, happy stuff to make you smile, courtesy of Future Crunch. [Watch and dance here!](#)

May the month of March find you ready for Spring and energized for the new year's projects.



My Column

This is the Chinese Year of the Dragon. I love dragons, and they capture the fierce spirit we can tap into this year as we defend democracy. More on dragons in my column.

Virginia / Gibi

