

Caruso

January 24, 2022

Dear Friends,

Over the last weeks I have spoken with many of you about the perilous state of our city and our nation. During our conversations I have heard again and again your deeply felt fear that we, as a nation, are facing historic threats to our democracy and our traditional transfer of power from one leader to the next. I share your fears for the future, but more than that I share your collective determination to decisively defeat and banish those who would imperil our democracy.

For more than a decade I have been registered to vote with no party preference – I have been a true political centrist – because neither the Democratic nor the Republican parties captured what I believed we needed to do as a nation. Things have changed. On January 6, 2021, I spoke out forcefully against those who condoned and even encouraged violence to achieve political power, and I will continue to resist these forces.

In short, because our upcoming elections in 2022 and 2024 will be existential for our democracy, now is the time for me to take a side. Today I am registering as a Democrat so that I can stand firmly on the side of the fundamental values that we will all need to invoke and enforce to thwart the coming attacks on our democracy.

What kind of Democrat will I be? I won't be a typical Democrat, that's for sure. I will be a pro-centrist, pro-jobs, pro-public safety Democrat. The Democratic ideals I believe in demand hard work, responsibility, and accountability – and, most importantly, uplifting our working and middle classes to give them a shot at the American dream. The same American dream my grandparents found when they came to this amazing country with almost nothing, but through hard work and a fair shake, built a life and nurtured a family that lived with prosperity and in peace.

As a Democrat, I will prioritize the safety of our families -- not hamstringing our police but helping them be better and more effective. My kind of Democrat will bring businesses that create jobs to our city and not chase them away, especially those that represent the next generation of job creators. This means schools that are open and give all kids the skills to compete. And perhaps most of all, this means managing homelessness as an unprecedented, city-threatening crisis, with both compassion and firmness that ensures that those who are following the rules are not disadvantaged by those who refuse to do so.

These are all nice-sounding words, of course, but words mean nothing unless we get real about the threats we face. So, most of all, I will be a Get Real, Can-Do Democrat – a Common Sense Democrat who isn't interested in what the special interests have to say. It's long past time that we Get Real on safe streets. Get Real on quality schools open for all. Can-Do on creating jobs and attracting businesses. Get Real on actual solutions to homelessness. Can-Do on making sure our government serves the interests of middle-class families rather than corrupt politicians.

I look forward to continuing the dialogue I have had with many of you as we enter 2022, which will be one of the most pivotal years in the history of our city and our nation. We will need all the fortitude and courage we can muster to face down these truly existential threats, but I am confident that, standing shoulder to shoulder with you, we will prevail.

Sincerely,



RICK CARUSO
FOUNDER & CEO