

Greetings!

## S T E A D Y!



**The inspiration for this newsletter comes from the daily post by Dan Rather entitled "Steady."** Rather says, "I have spent my life in journalism, and I see so many stories around the world worthy of our attention. But I don't think there is a bigger story than the current threat to American democracy. It weaves together so many of the threads of our national tapestry. It is about power and race and the rule of law and economic opportunity and the very notion of what freedom should be." Below are more excerpts from his [posts on Substack](#). I highly recommend them!



**"We are in a battle for the essence of our country** — one in which there have already been physical and societal casualties. . . . With the situation we face, winning and losing isn't just about who will have power to enact policies for a few years. Rather, this is about the health and future of our country. This is about our long run with free and fair elections. This is about truth, justice, and the America that the world has come to admire. "

"The truth is that to elect Donald Trump in 2024 would be to create the very real possibility of ending democracy as we know it. " We should also be aware that a vote for a third party candidate might be a vote for Trump.



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

~ ~ ~

*Justice is what love  
looks like in public.*

*Jim Hightower*

~ ~ ~

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### Favorite Resources

[Future Crunch](#)

[Reasons to be](#)

[Cheerful](#)

[Chop Wood, Carry](#)

[Water](#)

[350.org](#)

[Climate Reality](#)

[Project](#)

[The Small Planet](#)

[Institute](#)

[Local Futures](#)

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[Desert Rose Press](#)

[VirginiaMudd.com](#)

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# Staying steady



## Some thoughts . . .

**How do we stay steady when we are exposed to so much bad news?** For example I recently read that a nonprofit, public interest advocacy group, Public Citizen, received hate mail with messages such as: "You all deserve a bullet." "You should die slowly in horrible pain." Etc. It is shocking to say the least. How do we keep good spirits and our balance in the face of this kind of "stochastic terrorism." (That term is defined as, "the public demonization of a person or group resulting in the incitement of a violent act, which is statistically probable but whose specifics cannot be predicted.")

**Rather says,** "We are more than a year away from the next presidential election. It will likely be another fight for the very future of our democracy. It will take sustained engagement, and the planning starts now. But it will also take a sprint at the end. So try to find a way to stay involved, but also conserve energy. Recognize where you can make a difference — with volunteering, activism, donations, and other forms of support. But also recognize that there will be more to do. Sometimes it's okay to be a spectator while you rest up for the next leg of the relay."



## Act now to save our democracy

**Like most, Clifford and I struggle to keep our good spirits and balance with the onslaught of negative news.** Here's what helps us: We read positive news sources like [Future Crunch](#) and Jessica Craven's [Chop Wood, Carry Water](#). (Her post is particularly good for subscribers for her once-a-week "Extra! Extra!"). Both will give you a huge dose of good news "you probably didn't hear about." We also make envelope-size inserts, to put in bills and funding requests, on pressing issues like the climate crisis and now, the threat to our democracy. (See image at left.)

**Here are links for staying informed and getting involved.**

[thecivicscenter.org](http://thecivicscenter.org), [civicinfluencers.org](http://civicinfluencers.org), [vote.org](http://vote.org), [steady.substack.com](http://steady.substack.com), [RobertHubbell.substack.com](http://RobertHubbell.substack.com), [guides.vote](http://guides.vote), [commoncause.org](http://commoncause.org), [votefwd.org](http://votefwd.org), [postcardstovoters.org](http://postcardstovoters.org), [citizen.org](http://citizen.org), [statesproject.org](http://statesproject.org)

Here's an excellent Question and Answer post about [Fascism and Authoritarianism](#).

## Good News



## American Climate Corps

**The American Climate Corps will mobilize more than**

**20,000 Americans** — putting them to work in various conservation and clean energy projects, and community climate crisis resilience work.

[See the article here.](#)



## Automatic Voter Registration in PA

The Governor of Pennsylvania

And 5 states have announced they are creating state-level climate corps program that will coincide with the federal program. [Read here.](#)



## Debt-for-Nature Swap

**Debt-for-nature swaps** are financial transactions in which a portion of a developing nation's foreign debt is forgiven in exchange for local investments in environmental conservation measures. Peru has just reached its third such agreement with the US to help restore the Amazon rainforest. Twenty-two countries in the world have similar agreements. [Read more.](#)



**Tree Planting U.S. Department of Agriculture** announced \$1.13 billion in grants for tree planting projects around the country. The tree planting initiatives are part of the Inflation Reduction Act designed to provide more relief from extreme heat, curb climate change and provide more green space in communities. [Here's the article.](#)

announced that starting September 19, if a person is an eligible voter renewing or getting a driver's license or state ID, they will be automatically registered unless they opt out. [Read more here.](#)



**Climate Disclosure in CA** California Governor Gavin Newsom will sign landmark legislation that would require all major corporations that do business in the Golden State to disclose both direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions. [Read here.](#)

## Wisdom for Our Time



**Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once,** but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely. It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward an enduring good. What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more, continuing. We know that it does not take everyone on Earth to bring justice and peace, but only a small, determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth gale... When a great ship is in harbor and moored, it is safe, there can be no doubt. But that is not what great ships are built for.  
—Clarissa Pinkola Estes

Talk about **STEADY!**



## My Column

More thoughts about staying steady in these dark times from the authors of *Future Crunch*, a



This feat performed by members of Cirque du Soleil in [Kooza](#) will bring amazement, joy, and more balance to these most unsteady times!

*Wishing you all a steady and thankful month!*  
[Virginia / Gibi](#)

great source for  
positive news.

