

Elections have consequences and so do government rules.



On Monday this week, I attended a rally organized by the PA Democratic Caucus. A few other UUs from the Harrisburg area were there too. The topic for the day, repeated by several Representatives, “we will **keep abortion legal and safe in PA.**”

Watching the **January 6 hearings** and learning about **Supreme Court decisions**, these past few weeks have been a sea of emotions. Like many of you, I have cried and screamed, and this morning I am more committed to my work for justice in PA. There is so much work to do. I will say again, “***no one person can do everything, but everyone must do something.***”

What action can you take? Organize a UUtheVotePA team in your congregation. If your congregation is not forming a UUtheVotePA team, **sign up as an individual** for one of the many opportunities to get voters registered and then GOTV with our partners. (UUtheVotePA webpage will launch soon).

We must get committed, honest progressives elected to all of our state and local elections. That is the only way we are going to fix our government.

We have been complacent for too long. **We MUST get organized and bring our UU Values to Harrisburg.** Lobby days will resume when the General Assembly returns to Harrisburg in September.

I wish cable news folks would stop saying the 2022 mid-term elections are doomed for our side. I still believe that if everyone in PA voted, our General Assembly would look different, and our priorities would be different. **BUT I agree with the research suggesting we must get the young people out to vote.**

And then, we must hold our elected leaders accountable. Throughout our history, there have been misdeeds on both sides of our PA General Assembly and our Congress. **Our government systems and processes are a mess.** It will take a lot of work to set things right.

I have started to change my language. We don't want to save our democracy. **We want to save our dream of democracy. The dream of a government for the people, by the people, where everyone is treated equally; where we've done the racial healing necessary to move democracy forward for all of our residents.**

Things you can do right now: Pay attention to the **Summer Postcarding** efforts. We will continue to send out more postcard ideas over the summer. (See info in this newsletter).

Attend the Thursday, July 7 Special Event on Reproductive Rights. (See Upcoming Events on our website).

Carry voter registration forms with you everywhere. Make sure everyone around you is registered. Don't assume. And then join one of our partner efforts to Get Out the Vote in the Fall.

More info about our UUtheVotePA efforts will be coming soon.

Together we can make progressive change happen.

Holding ground in our faith, and moving justice forward in PA.

Rev joan