

Nancy's Announcement Speech - 8/26/19

Today I am announcing that I am running as the Green New Deal Candidate for Congress in the 52nd District.

I'm running to make my case to voters in this district that we are in a climate emergency and we to act like it.

This campaign is about sending a message to Washington that business as usual is over!

I'd like to thank the candidates who are here with us in support of the Green New Deal. They understand every race needs to be about restoring a stable climate.

In my case, I'm running against an incumbent Democrat that my husband and I have supported in the past.

He is a nice fellow and he has greeted my announcement by offering his congratulations and wishing me good luck. There's a lot to be said for civility and I appreciate his.

However, he says he will not support the Green New Deal because it provides a job guarantee and tuition-free public college education.

He believes these provisions have nothing to do with the climate crisis we face.

I believe both are essential to the solutions we seek.

He says that we have time for market-driven solutions and reaching across the aisle to make incremental advances. He says that fiery speeches about the dangers we face won't get the job done.

I say Mother Nature isn't waiting and she already has a lock on "fiery" as evidenced in Paradise, and Malibu and the Arctic and the Amazon—the known lungs of the earth!

I say that we are currently in a climate emergency and that we will face tipping points within the next few years and maybe sooner.

He says bold climate action means talking to moderates and those who don't currently believe the climate science.

I say there are plenty of people who understand the looming climate crisis and who are ready to demand the courageous action envisioned in the Green New Deal.

This includes mobilizing the country on the scale of WWII to build the new wind, water and solar energy system and the new electrical grid we need in order to end fossil fuels before they end us.

Dr. Mark Jacobson and his engineering group at Stanford

University have a detailed plan for this effort. This is doable using present off the shelf technology.

Climate smart agricultural is also included in the Green new Deal resolution.

In order to sequester more carbon, we can increase the organic matter on our current working agricultural lands and re-plant forests and replace grasslands that have been cleared for raising cattle. And yes, we can eat more plants.

We can also plant kelp in our oceans to clean the water, restore the fish and sequester carbon at five times the rate trees do.

These are researched, practical, and doable actions.

When implemented at scale, they collectively can remove 3 trillion tons of ghg from the atmosphere, getting the parts per million into a survivable range.

I've recently retired after 20 years at the General Manager of the local food co-op; O.B. People's. We had a fine run and grew the business from 4 million to 15 million a year in sales. It was a lot of fun but I was ready to stop working and take up tennis and bridge like my friends were doing. Many have wondered why then I've decided to upend my leisure, incur the displeasure of the Democratic powers that be and risk happiness at home due to the demands of campaigning in

order to run for Congress at my age. Well, to paraphrase one of my heroes, Greta Thunberg, : “No one is too old to make a difference.”

The bottom line is that I’m running because of how I was raised. My childhood was spent in LA at a time when the kids of all ages in the neighborhood played together--Usually Red Rover, Come Over, or Mother May I or Hide and Seek. When we went outside to play it was always with the admonition, “Watch out for the little guys and make sure nobody gets hurt.” That’s been the mantra of my life and I cannot tell you how sad I feel when I think that, unless we reverse course and take bold climate action, there’s a good chance I’m going to fail at doing that.

We choose to make this announcement here, in front of this grand building that stands silent but has a lot to say. It reminds us of the first New Deal when Americans came together, sacrificed together and defeated fascists around the world earning their place as America’s greatest generation.

Now, now is our time to act. We are called by future generations to be bold, to be courageous and to be determined to change the course of history by Ending fossil fuels and drawing down existing greenhouse gas levels that are already too high.

We all know time is running out for a climate safe future.

We also know we must act if life itself is to prevail.

To paraphrase President Franklin Roosevelt, who came to San Diego and dedicated this building, we need not fear this fight. Let's take heart and seize this opportunity to build a better world in which we finally come together as a one world family and create the social, economic and environmental justice we can envision.

Thank you for coming today and for your support that's gotten us this far this fast. This is not a David and Goliath kind of campaign. This is more like a Gulliver's Travels effort. Remember in that story, everyday citizens were able to take down the giant threat they saw by each person working together to do their part. That is what this campaign is about and your part is to spread the word that there is a candidate for Congress that needs support. I'm Nancy Casady, that Green New Deal Candidate running for Congress and a future.