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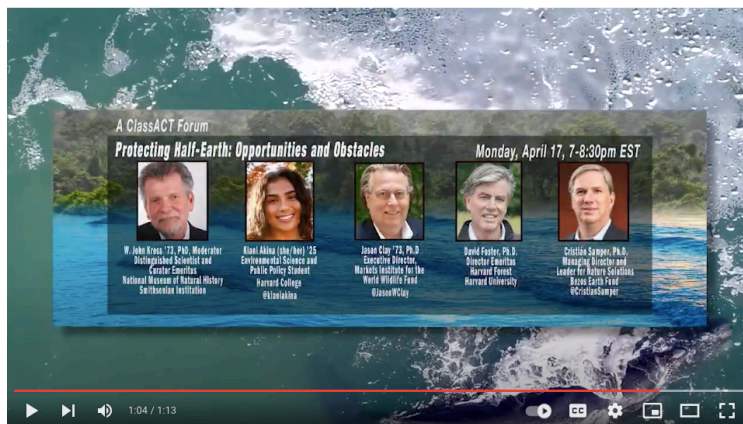
April 2023 ClassACTions Bulletin

April awakens and the promise of spring's warmer weather and budding trees and flowers becomes a reality. Gardens are planted in hopes of a bountiful harvest. ClassACT HR73's promise to bring people together to achieve positive change in the world also continues to grow. More and more classmates are making contributions large and small of their time, expertise and energy to establish exciting new initiatives and support ongoing programs. ClassACT HR73 is real. We can change the world! Join us.

Protecting Half-Earth: Opportunities and Obstacles

Monday, April 17, 2023, 7-8:30pm EST

[Click Here to Register](#)



*Click above to view video, created by **Rick Brotman '73***

In his 2016 book *Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life*, Harvard biologist Edward O. Wilson (1929-2021) proposed the designation of half of Earth's surface, both terrestrial and marine, as a natural reserve to safeguard the remaining biodiversity of the planet, including ourselves. Today about one-sixth of land and one-twelfth of marine areas receive (on paper) protection of the kind Wilson envisioned. Tough economic, social, political, and psychological forces work to impede any further expansion of protection.

During ClassACT HR73's initial forum called "[Half Earth: Conserving Biodiversity from the Deep Sea to Mt. Everest](#)" held in October of 2022, panelists discussed from a variety of scientific, geographical, disciplinary, professional, and ethical viewpoints the merits and feasibility of protecting the planet. Since that first forum, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity has now set as a priority protection of 30% of the planet by the year 2030,

and many governments and states are adamantly calling for Wilson's 50% trajectory. How either of these goals will be achieved is not clear.

The second, follow-up ClassACT HR73 Forum entitled "Protecting Half-Earth: Opportunities and Obstacles" will again bring together a variety of expertise and perspectives to address how Half-Earth will unfold in the future, focusing on the challenges of conserving the planet. Assuming that 50% protection is imperative, panelists will address questions such as: What are the drivers of environmental change? How do we define a protected landscape? What are the pathways to achieve this goal in order to overcome local, subnational, and global hurdles? How do we harness the forces at work in the world today to achieve Half-Earth? What do we do with the 50% of the planet that will not be protected? Answers to these topics are at the core to realizing Half-Earth.

All panelists are well-versed, highly experienced, and greatly motivated to solve the pressing environmental issues facing all of us in today's world. From major conservation NGOs and foundations to biodiversity research institutes and environmental science programs, all panelists have a direct connection to Harvard either as faculty, students, or alumni.

The panel of experts include **Kiani Akina**, Class of 2025 and an Environmental Science and Public Policy Major at Harvard College; **Jason Clay '73**, Ph.D., Senior Vice President, Markets and Food, and Executive Director, Markets Institute for the World Wildlife Fund; **David Foster, Ph.D.**, Director Emeritus, Harvard Forest, Harvard University; and **Cristián Samper, Ph.D.**, Managing Director and Leader for Nature Solutions at the Bezos Earth Fund. **W. John Kress '73**, Ph.D., Distinguished Scientist and Curator Emeritus, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, who moderated the first ClassACT HR73 "Half-Earth" panel last fall, will lead the discussion of the second panel on April 17 as well.

ClassACT HR73 invites everyone to register above for the "Protecting Half-Earth: Opportunities and Obstacles" Zoom Forum, which aims to scope the challenges we face in the protection of Nature.

Women and Leadership: The Legacy of Benazir Bhutto



To hear more from ClassACT's BBLP fellows, please view classmate and videographer **Rick Brotman's** video by clicking on the link above

For nearly six years young leaders from the Muslim world who seek to encourage democracy, human rights, and income equality in their homelands have had the chance to study at Harvard's Kennedy School because of the Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program (BBLP), founded by ClassACT HR73 to honor our classmate, the late prime minister of Pakistan. Since ClassACT members established this fellowship at HKS as part of the MC/MPA Edward S. Mason Program for mid-career professionals, four women from Pakistan and Lebanon have come to Cambridge to study and to befriend young pathbreakers like themselves from around the world. As part of the BBLP's previous relationship with Harvard's Weatherhead Institute for International Affairs, classmates who are experts in international economics, diplomacy and journalism spoke at a 2019 symposium on democracy at the institute.

In recent months the program has reenergized with the arrival of its fifth fellow, **Laila Khondkar**, and with the resumption of dialogue among the previous fellows, Laila and the ClassACT supporters of this international initiative. For those in the Boston area, please see the invitation below to meet Laila in person on May 2nd. Also please see the invitation to a zoom conversation on May 20th between classmate **Peter Galbraith** and all of our BBLP fellows.

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In Person:
Meet & Greet with Laila Khondkar, '23/24 BBLP Fellow

Tuesday, May 2nd 5:30pm - 7:30pm
St. Botolph Club
Cambridge, MA

[Register here](#)



On Tuesday, May 2, from 5:30-7:30pm in Boston, we will host a live event featuring this year's Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program Fellow, **Laila Khondkar**. This reception will begin with social time, wine and light refreshments, followed by a conversation between Laila and ClassACT HR73 Board member **Leigh Hafrey**, discussing her past work, her time at HKS and her hopes for the future. Find more info about Laila [here](#). We will plan time for questions from those attending.

In addition to her academic pursuits at HKS, Laila continues to try to influence policies surrounding the rights of children throughout the world. Please click [here](#) to read her March 14, 2023 opinion piece for the The Daily Star, a leading Bangladeshi paper.

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Zoom Forum:

BBLP Fellows Reflect on Lessons Learned

Saturday, May 20th, 9am - 10:30am ET

[Register Here](#)



On Saturday morning May 20 from 9-10:30 am ET, former US Ambassador to Croatia, classmate and BBLP Steering Committee Member **Peter Galbraith** will lead a Zoom discussion with all five of the fellows: **Roohi Abdullah**, **Natasha Jehangir Khan**, **Zeina Majdalani**, **Nadia Rehman** and **Laila Khondkar**. They will speak about their work in legal reform, pandemic relief, and infrastructure improvement, and will provide their thoughts on women's leadership in nations that stretch from the Mediterranean to the Bay of Bengal. Attendees will be able to ask questions about the successes to date of the BBLP as well as its goals for the future.

BBLP Needs Additional Funding



The Benazir Bhutto Fellowship Program needs additional funding. You can help keep bringing these potential leaders of the Muslim world to Cambridge by designating a portion of your 50th reunion gift for the Bhutto Fellowship fund.

As we approach the class Of 1973's fiftieth reunion at the end of May, please remember that you can designate up to one-half of your reunion gift to the Benazir Bhutto Fellow Fund and get "Class Credit" for it. (The other half must

go to the Harvard College Fund or some other program under the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.)

The fellowship brings outstanding mid-career professionals from predominantly Muslim countries to the Harvard Kennedy School for its one-year master's program. These emerging leaders are committed to advancing the core principles that Benazir Bhutto stood for: democracy, equality for women, reconciliation of religious and cultural differences, and education without religious or cultural bias.

If you have questions about giving to the Bhutto Fellowship Fund, please contact classmate **George Putnam**, gputnam@turnarounds.com, or Abby Fischer of the Harvard College Fund, abby_fischer@harvard.edu.

Zoom Forum

Bridges: Connecting Good Works with Knowledgeable People

May 11, 7-8:30pm ET

[Register here](#)



The Bridges of ClassACT HR73 link classmates across the globe to non-profits that each day feed the hungry, organize for racial equality, immerse school children in the joy of music, and protect and defend our fragile planet. Through our ties to these champions of so much that is good, ClassACT members continue to find new ways to connect with and learn from each other. The 11 Bridges that ClassACT HR73 supports are in many ways its greatest treasure.

This spring classmates who have forged these bonds with non-profits in their communities that range from Boston to San Francisco will join ClassACT board members and moderator **Leigh Hafrey** for a forum on their work. This Zoom event aims to inspire ClassACT members and other viewers to propose new Bridge connections with additional non-profits as well as to discover ways that we can share our skills and expertise with existing ones. The conversation will focus on the contributions of these Bridges to ClassACT's four primary areas of interest: health, education, justice & civic engagement, and the environment.

Joining Leigh Hafrey, who teaches at MIT's Sloan School of Management, will be fellow ClassACT board member **Rick Weil**, who has forged bonds with two New Orleans non-profits, The Roots of Music and Ole & Nu Fellas Social

Aid and Pleasure Club, organizations that offer academic support and music instruction to the children of that great city. Board member **Ron Dieckmann**, who has worked to provide cutting-edge pediatric knowledge to physicians in low- income countries worldwide through KidsCareEverywhere, will also participate. Class of 1973 members who contribute to eight other Bridges will describe the ways that organizations such as The Children's Orchestra Society, the United Nations Association of Greater Boston, and the Osiligi-Hope Foundation have improved the lives of the people they serve.

Please join us on Thursday evening, May 11 at 7:00 pm ET for this conversation about the ways that we all can change the world by connecting anew to acts of service in communities across our country and the world.

REUNION UPDATES



Registration for the Class of 1973's 50th Reunion is now open!

May 31 - June 2

[Register here](#)

And, click [here](#) to view the tentative schedule, pricing packages, and the list of attendees!

Pre-Reunion Events

We at ClassACT HR73 wanted to make sure you saw this notice of upcoming pre-reunion events. Please find the information to RSVP below.

- **Saturday, April 22, 2023**
 - Charleston, South Carolina
 - 10:00 a.m. Exclusive Pre-opening Tour of the International African American Museum
 - 6:00 p.m. Cocktails and Dinner at the Spoleto Festival Offices
 - Hosted by John Hagerty and Susan Simons, and Carl and Allison Muller.
- **Tuesday, April 25, 2023**
 - Washington, D.C.
 - 2:00 p.m. Tour of the National Portrait Gallery
 - 6:00 p.m. Cocktails and Dinner at the Cosmos Club
 - Hosted by Roger Ferguson, Deborah Greenberg, Sven Holmes, Rick Kelly, Walter Morris, Jim Rowe, Tom Schneider, and Debbie Winn

You are welcome to bring a guest to all events. For questions and registration, contact Abby Fischer at abby_fischer@harvard.edu.

50th Reunion Symposia

1. Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century

Where: 50th Reunion--Science Center, Harvard University

When: Thursday, June 1, 9-10:15am

Presentation by: [Danielle Allen](#)

Moderator: **E. J. Dionne**

Panelists: **Roger Ferguson, Al Franken, Bill Kristol, Patti Saris**

The 75-minute symposium will feature a presentation by Harvard professor **Danielle Allen**, James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard University, Director of Harvard's Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics, and Co-Chair of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences initiative, Our Common Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century, which proposes specific recommendations and reforms to insure our democracy.

The presentation will be followed by a discussion by the panel and Prof. Allen, led by E. J. Dionne.

2. From the Charles River to Half-Earth: 50 Years to 50 Percent

When: Thursday, June 1, 10:30-11:45 am (Sanders)

Convenor: **John Kress**

Participants: **Jesse Ausubel, John Adams, Kimball Chen, Lindsay Clarkson, Robert Dreher, Henrietta Wigglesworth Lodge, Michael Mayer, Ann MacKinnon, Roger Myerson, Sharon Tisher**

As undergrads we associated the Charles River and Boston Harbor with tetanus and sewage. **Jesse Ausubel** will report on surprisingly diverse and abundant aquatic life discovered in a slurp of water with modern genomics near the Boat House and USS Constitution and look back nostalgically on the fear of falling off a shell, raft or dinghy.

John Kress will then lead a conversation among classmates engaged in the ClassACT HR73 Environment and Climate Change Working group. The late Harvard biologist Edward O. Wilson, in his 2016 book Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life, proposed the designation of half of Earth's surface, both terrestrial and marine, as a natural reserve to safeguard the remaining biodiversity of the planet. With participants' backgrounds in environment, law, government, medicine, business, and academics, discussion will focus on action that can be taken through ratification of international biodiversity treaties and local to global land trusts as vehicles for species and ecosystem protection.

SAVE THE DATE - CLASS OF 1973 SURVEY GOES LIVE ON APRIL 24, 2023!

Be on the lookout for an email from the HAA announcing how and where to participate in the Class of 1973 Confidential Survey. Share your thoughts and opinions on a variety of important current topics and hear the results at our 50th Reunion on Wednesday, May 31st.

ClassACTHR73 @50 Video Project

ClassACT's videographer **Rick Brotman**, with the help of several interviewers, has been hard at work creating [short videos](#) featuring our classmates who are working to change the world for the better. This month we present **Donna Brown Guillaume**, a producer, who through her work on children's shows, documentaries and other events seeks to emphasize her lifelong commitment to activism and social justice.



Also learn about **Bobby Clayton's** efforts as founder of the Sports Analytics Club Program, a ClassACT Bridge partner which brings data-driven science skills to underprivileged and minority secondary school students in order to increase Black, Latinx and women representation in this growing field. The positive impact that these classmates have had on people's lives is immeasurable.



Every Day is Earth Day...Land Trust Update



ClassACT's environmental subcommittee, the Land Trust group, has been working hard to develop its collaborative networks in three ways:

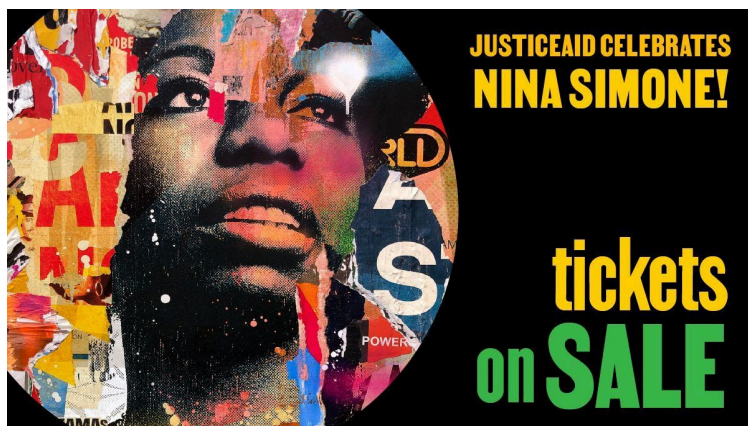
1. Through a potential partnership with the Land Trust Alliance, working to identify standout conservation and eco-restoration projects from which we may select one or more to support together as a class; and having LTA match classmates with land trusts in their own backyard to support on their own if they wish.
2. Exploring networking opportunities through classmates' ties with global leaders in the Environment to provide us with opportunities to work on a larger scale.
3. Connecting with the Salata Institute as one institutional arm of Harvard, by attending their Climate Symposium May 9, and seeking to shape a proposed eco-restoration symposium that would dovetail with their climate priorities.

Please look for more information about how you can help with these and other efforts to save our planet in the coming months. To get involved with the Land Trusts group, contact Mike Mayer (mmayer92@gmail.com).

JUSTICEAID SPRING CONCERT: A CELEBRATION OF NINA SIMONE

Monday evening, May 22, 2023

"We have to think about [elections] in the short term and the long term."
--LaTosha Brown, Founder, Black Voters Matter



For the next two years, in the buildup to the 2024 elections, JusticeAid will focus on voter rights and racist voter suppression, through the work of its 2023-2024 grantee partner Black Voters Matter. BVM believes in working directly with local communities to define agendas and implement solutions

that create meaningful change. BVM's three main areas of focus are voter engagement and increasing voter registration; policy advocacy to expand voting rights and voter access; and organizational development and infrastructure training for community-based organizations. Ensuring that all citizens are able to exercise their constitutional right to vote requires a 365-day commitment. Check out this [video](#) featuring BVM's LaTosha Brown on leveraging the Midterms for the long term. Learn more about Black Voters Matter here.

Monday, May 22nd JusticeAid Spring Concert: A Celebration of Nina Simone

Mark your calendars for a rockin' concert celebrating the music, artistry and social activism of Nina Simone on Monday, May 22nd at the City Winery in NYC and in support of Black Voters Matter.

[Click here for more details!](#)

Election Updates

By Marilyn Go, Jim Harbison and J. Ryan O'Connell

We highlight below the results of two elections that we have mentioned in the past few months as presenting opportunities to volunteer to promote voter engagement.

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WISCONSIN: SPECIAL JUDICIAL ELECTION FOR SEAT ON WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT



Judicial elections in the United States rarely garner much interest. However, the special election for Wisconsin State Supreme Court Justice held on April 4, 2023 was closely followed by political pundits, politicians and voters nationwide. Although this was ostensibly a non-partisan election, the Wisconsin Supreme Court will be evenly split between liberals and conservatives 3 to 3 after the retirement of conservative Justice Patience Roggensack.

The result: Janet Protasiewicz, described as a liberal County Circuit judge from Milwaukee, defeated her conservative challenger, Daniel Kelly, by almost 11 percentage points (54.5 to 44.5 percent). Kelly, a former prosecutor, had previously been appointed by Governor Scott Walker to the Wisconsin

Supreme Court to serve the remainder of a ten-year term of another judge. However, he did not win re-election in 2020.

Political commentators have opined that this election may be a bellwether for the 2024 presidential election, because Wisconsin is a [battleground state](#) and because voters have increasingly viewed judicial elections through a more [partisan lens](#). President Biden won the Wisconsin vote over former President Trump by only a 0.63 percent margin, far less than predicted, while Trump carried the state in 2016 by 0.77 percent over Hillary Clinton.

The importance of this election is perhaps best reflected by the stunning amount of money raised and the voter turnout. The two candidates combined spent about [\\$45 million](#). That amount was almost triple the previous \$15.2 million record spent for a judicial election, in a race for the Illinois Supreme Court. Significantly, more than 1.7 million Wisconsin voters cast their ballots, surpassing the 1.6 million citizens participating in the 2020 Presidential election.

The change in the make-up of the Supreme Court may have an impact on a number of significant issues that are currently or will be brought before it. These issues include abortion rights, voting access, redistricting, and legislation enacted by Gov. Walker effectively eliminating collective bargaining for most public employees.

The right to an abortion was a major point of contention in the election. Protasiewicz and Kelly took conflicting positions on Wisconsin's 1849 [law banning abortions](#), which was automatically reinstated after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. That law permits abortions to save a mother's life, but does not allow exceptions for rape or incest.

The redistricting maps drawn by the Republican legislature have also been challenged. Wisconsin is a "purple state," with voters evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans. However, the state electoral districts drawn have been described as "among the most gerrymandered in the nation, a result of aggressive cartography from the Republican majority elected in 2010," which, despite "a Democratic sweep of statewide elections," enabled Republicans to retain a 19-to-14 majority in the State Senate and 63-to-36 majority in the Assembly. (Liptak, Adam. "Supreme Court Sides With Republicans in Case on Wisconsin Redistricting." [New York Times](#). 23 March 2022.) Republicans also hold six of the eight Wisconsin seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Republican State Senator Dan Knodl, who also was elected on April 4, indicated before his election that he was open to impeachment of Protasiewicz. With Knodl's election as State Senator, Republicans now have a super-majority in the State Senate. (Roche, Darragh. "Janet Protasiewicz May Be Impeached by GOP After Wisconsin Election Win." *Newsweek*. 5 April 2023.)

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VIRGINIA: SPECIAL ELECTION FOR 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Democrat Jennifer McClellan won the special election on February 21, 2023 for Virginia's 4th Congressional District. She will succeed the late U.S. Rep. A. Donald McEachin, who died in November at age 61 after winning reelection. McClellan, a state senator, is the first Black woman to represent the

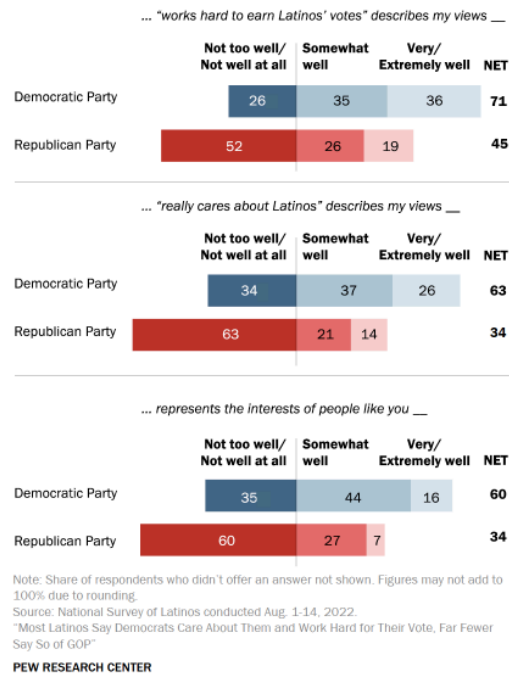
Commonwealth of Virginia in Congress and will serve the remainder of Rep. McEachin's fourth term.

Latinos Still Lean Heavily Democratic

By J. Ryan O'Connell '73

Latinos see Democratic Party as doing more for Latinos than the Republican Party

% of Latinos who say the Democratic Party/Republican Party ...



Hispanic Americans overwhelmingly support the Democratic Party rather than the Republican Party. Sixty percent of Latinos say the Democrats "represent them well", compared to 34 percent for Republicans. That split is consistent among age groups, education levels and gender (but not all groups of national origin).

Furthermore, the Republican Party has a serious image problem with Hispanics, with two-thirds saying the Republican Party "does not really care" about them. The numbers cited here are drawn from [Most Latinos Say Democrats Care About Them](#), Pew Research Center, Sep. 29, 2022.

However, the Democratic Party cannot take Latinos' support for granted. A third of Hispanics think the Democrats do not represent their interests well. And close to 50 percent don't see much difference between the two parties. Nonetheless, although former President Donald Trump won a larger share of the Hispanic vote in 2020 than in 2016, the talk about a big shift of Hispanics to the Republican Party in the 2022 midterms appears to be hype.

Latinos are attracted to the Democrats because of the party's more liberal approach toward immigration, of course. But most Hispanics also share Democratic positions on key cultural issues such as abortion and gun control.

Almost 60 percent of Latinos say abortion should be legal in some cases,

which is close to overall public opinion in the U.S; 40 percent oppose it. That 60/40 split holds true for Hispanic Catholics, who represent almost half of Latinos. Not surprisingly, 70 percent of Hispanic evangelicals oppose abortion rights. However, evangelicals constitute only 15 percent of Latinos.

Hispanics firmly oppose the expansion of gun rights. This is not a group that on the whole supports permitless carry or eliminating background checks. A striking 73 percent of Latinos want more stringent gun controls, while only 26 percent favor greater gun rights. This is in sharp contrast with the overall public, which is divided roughly 50/50 on this issue.

Cubans are a distinct political group among Latinos. About 60 percent lean Republican, probably because many families suffered under the Communist regime in Cuba ([Most Cuban American voters identified as Republican in 2020](#), Pew Research Center, Oct. 2, 2020). The Cubans are concentrated in Florida, where they are very influential politically. They hold conservative views and abhor anything labeled “socialism.”

Still, Cubans represent only five percent of Hispanics in the United States. Mexican-Americans, the dominant group, are 56 percent of Latinos. In the 2022 midterms, they preferred Democratic candidates over Republican by 58 to 25 percent. Puerto Ricans are the next largest, at 14 percent. Dominicans, Salvadorans, and other national-origin groups represent less than five percent of Hispanics.

About half of Latinos say it is very important to establish a way for most immigrants who currently live in the United States illegally to stay here legally. However, 42% think that increasing border security is also very important. Sixty percent of Cubans give priority to increasing border security rather than finding a pathway to legal status for current illegal immigrants.

White Pony Express Truck Vandalized



White Pony Express, the food rescue non-profit in Pleasant Hill, Ca. that is a ClassACT HR73 Bridge, recently had a brand-new refrigerated truck—donated by Whole Foods—vandalized the night before WPE was scheduled to accept it. The truck, which was parked near the Oakland Temescal Whole Foods, had been filled with fresh food given by the Austin-based company. The vandals who damaged the truck on March 28 stole the food that White Pony Express

volunteers intended to distribute at churches, schools and senior centers in the East Bay area.

The damage to the truck and the theft of the food came at a critical time for White Pony Express as the non-profit strives to meet the growing needs of hungry Contra Costa residents who have been struggling with the loss of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and the rising prices of groceries. "At the end of February emergency food benefits from the pandemic came to an end, which means that millions of Californians are losing up to \$95 per day, with some seeing as little as \$23 in aid a month," said Eve Birge, executive director of White Pony Express.

Whole Foods stepped in after the truck's destruction and food theft and offered to repair the truck, Birge said. While Whole Foods confirmed to San Francisco station KNTV that the truck had been vandalized, its representatives declined to say when the repairs would be completed.

The setback for White Pony Express comes when the crisis of hunger is worsening in Contra Costa and in counties across the United States. White Pony Express currently has more than 30 non-profits on their wait list that anticipate eventually receiving healthy food and survival essentials, Birge said. One in six Contra Costa families is food insecure, often living in areas with no grocery stores and lacking a vehicle to drive to one.

White Pony Express hopes to raise \$300,000 to support its existing efforts for the homeless and families facing poverty as well as to expand its outreach. The organization serves approximately 120,000 people per year. Since the ClassACT HR73 Bridge was launched more than a decade ago, it has delivered more than 18 million meals and one million items of clothing and other survival essentials.

Read more [here](#) about White Pony Express and see what you can do to help.

Volunteer Opportunities: Cole Resource Center



ClassACT HR73 is looking for volunteers who might be interested in helping the Cole Resource Center further its mission of helping people affected by mental-health challenges to lead full and healthy lives in their communities. Our classmate Ellen Faran is leading our Bridge Partner and welcomes volunteers with or without any mental-health experience. All you need is an interest in helping out. There is no minimal time commitment. Please contact our assistant Kate Freed at: kfreed@classacthr73.org to learn more.

Interested in helping ClassACT HR73?

ClassACT HR73 is built on classmate participation and we are interested in having every classmate as a member of our ClassACT community. If you are

interested in learning more about ClassACT HR73 and how you can be involved, please visit our [website](#) or send us an [email](#).

While encouraging the sharing of time and willingness to work together, ClassACT HR73 also welcomes financial support. To support our work in this way you can donate below.

[Donate Here](#)

Please add ClassACTHR73@gmail.com to your contacts so future messages don't end up in spam or some other odd spot in your inbox.

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