

Small step, not a blue wave but these Democrats are still partying

FOR young Democrats in Brooklyn the midterms were not so much a blue wave as the first small step to taking back their country.

At one election night party in this Democratic stronghold there was cautious optimism about a rising momentum to kick Donald Trump out of the White House in 2020.

Activists said they wanted the Democrat-controlled House of

UNITED STATES **MIDTERM ELECTIONS**

Daniel
Bates

Letter from...

NEW YORK



Representatives to force Mr Trump to release his tax returns. But they cautioned against impeaching Mr Trump as the Republicans strengthened their hold on the Senate, which would decide whether or not he was guilty.

Film producer Kryssa Schemmerling, 55, said: "I don't think they should impeach Trump because it will make him more popular just like it did with Bill Clinton. What I want is proper over-

sight. Right now the Senate is covering for Trump. With the House there will be real investigations, it will be death by 1,000 cuts and they will force him to show his tax returns."

Nicole Hunt, 40, said: "It's a bittersweet night. We won some races but lost some others. Our country is a critical care patient and tonight we stopped the bleeding."

Others celebrating the results said they hoped that Democrats taking control of powerful House committees could put Mr Trump in check.

Kate Pfordresher, 64, a trade union worker, said: "The main project is keeping things from getting worse."

"There's only so much you can do with only one chamber but you can slow things down."

The election night party was organised by several Democratic groups including Brooklyn Young Democrats and Indivisible, a grassroots organisation which aims to lead the resistance against Mr Trump.

It took place at the Bell House, a comedy and party venue in the Gowanus neighbourhood which hosts the hipster storytelling night The Moth. The crowd was a mixture of activists, Democrat politicians and volunteers and young professionals.

The warm-up acts included a 16-year-old comedian called Meave Press who began her set by asking: "What the hell is happening?"

There was also a Hillary Clinton impersonator who sang a song calling Mr Trump a "schmuck and a d***" and joked about being "America's witch".

As the results came in, the crowd roared as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, an icon for liberal voters, became the youngest woman elected to Congress at 29. There was another huge cheer when Max Rose won a House seat for the Democrats in a New York district that includes mostly-Republican Staten Island.

One man called Alfred said: "It's not a blue wave, it's a blue sprinkle and it's a sign of what will happen in 2020 if the economy slows down. Right now people feel there are more jobs and their pensions are growing with the stock market and that means a lot."

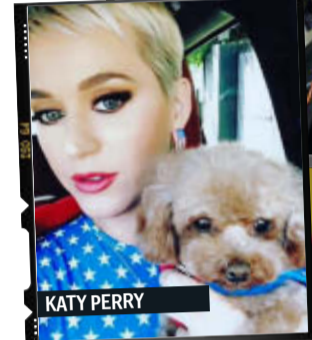
The most incendiary speaker was Scott Stringer, New York's chief fiscal officer, who called for America to "end this fascist regime once and for all". He rallied the crowd by asking: "Are you ready to fight this son of a bitch?"

The biggest roar of the night came when the MSNBC channel called the House for the Democrats.

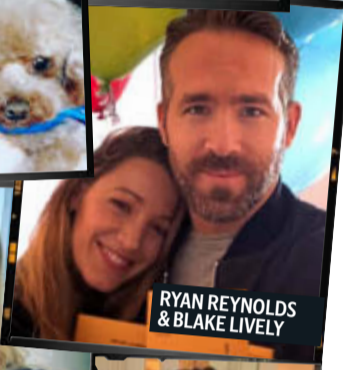
People did high fives and punched their fists in the air. The disco song Good Times played on the sound system and the MC shouted: "We did it! Find someone you don't know, give them a hug and thank them for saving this country."



DEMI LOVATO



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RYAN REYNOLDS & BLAKE LIVELY



GWYNETH PALTROW



REESE WITHERSPOON



OPRAH WINFREY



TAYLOR SWIFT

Celebrities share their trips to the polls as fans are told 'get out and vote'

GWYNETH PALTROW, Katy Perry and Reese Witherspoon were among the celebrities who voted on election day and called on fans to follow in their footsteps.

Kourtney Kardashian, Rihanna, Beyonce, Oprah, plus Blake Lively and husband Ryan Reynolds posted on social media that they went to the polls for the midterm elections yesterday. Demi Lovato also reported she'd cast her vote in her first social media post since she had an overdose in July.

Taylor Swift, who is currently in Australia, posted a rallying cry yesterday on her Instagram stories, saying: "What is today? Tuesday. What was it that everyone is supposed to do today? What was it? Oh yeah, you gotta go vote."

The 28-year-old singer threw in her support for Democrat Senate and congressional candidates in her native Tennessee last month, condemning former Republican senator Marsha Blackburn for her voting record. She was re-elected today.



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