

Hello Ken,

I did not realize this was an inquiry to me as it was addressed to the whole board but since you solicited a non-officer's thoughts here are mine:

1. Should the DOJ make public the Epstein files unredacted or redacted or not all? Why or why not?

Yes. For years Republican elected officials, podcasters, cabinet members promised voters they would release the files. Now, they won't. That leaves only one question: Why? Probably because Trump's name is all over those files. From Washington D.C. to San Diego, from your Republican representative in Congress to the Republican on your City Council and School board, it seems every Republican knows or fears that Trump's name is in those files. Well, voters need to know that.

2. Did you support Speaker Johnson's decision to call an early summer recess? Why or why not? **No, because it looks like Speaker Johnson is trying to get out of town to skip a vote on releasing the Epstein files.**

3. Do you agree with the [FBI's July memo](#) that "it is the determination of the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that no further disclosure would be appropriate or warranted"? **No, the Trump Administration has decimated the professional and civil work force of all of our Federal departments. I think this might be a case for special counsel.**

4. Do you have any concerns that President Trump may pardon or commute the sentence of Ghislaine Maxwell? Why or why not? **Am I concerned that the President Donald Trump may pardon his late friend's "close associate" and convicted co-conspirator for sex trafficking minors? Yes, everyone should be concerned that our President and the leader of the Republican Party is pardoning his felonious friends.**

5. What have you heard from your constituents on the Epstein issue?

In general, Democrats care more about housing, cost of living, good paying jobs, opportunity for all, etc; but Republicans have been raising the specter of Epstein for years! Now everyone knows that they promised to release the files and they didn't. It leads to an inescapable question: What are they hiding?

6. How might the Epstein issue affect GOP election prospects in 2026?

Democrats have their priorities straight while Republicans are tripping over themselves to go back on their promise to be transparent. Democrats should focus on bread and butter issues: Housing that is affordable, bringing down the cost of living, better jobs and quality of life for everyone. It's too soon to tell whether this will affect Republican local candidates but it certainly won't help and while our Party should focus on the issues, we also won't shy away from holding anyone accountable for covering up this conspiracy. In reality, while some aspiring Party leaders may want to focus on the gimmick, our Party would be better served by focusing on the basics. 124,735 voters who voter in 2020, but didn't vote in 2024.

7. Anything else readers should know about this matter?

Democrats would release the files. Our Party is not afraid of holding our own accountable while protecting the right to due process. Republicans are trying to stop a process from even occurring. They are even contemplating pardoning one of the convicted co-conspirators. Republicans hyped up this issue and now they really don't want voters to know the truth. We should be the Party of Truth. Of paramount importance, however, there are people who were the victims of these horrible crimes, it is imperative that the release of the files is done in a way to protect the peace, privacy, and dignity of those who survived Epstein's criminal actions but also the many across the nation who may relive their own trauma after they survived similar crimes. As a survivor of both MST, SA and SH, I feel for the many who may look at this spectacle and relive their own trauma.

In the final analysis, Democrats focus on the issues that affect people and their families. Our Party must focus on the issues most important to voters if we are to continue our local victories and offer a message that wins back the Congress and saves the country from this administrations' slide into authoritarianism.

Will Rodriguez-Kennedy