EMPOWERED VOICES

Women Democrats of Sacramento County

Issue 5 – Fifth Edition **April - June 2024**

What's your SUPER POWER?

I am woman! That is my superpower! As women, we have raised families, worked as leaders, executives, mothers and community advocates. We are doers, thinkers, encouragers and much more. We are powerful! We are able to visualize one thing and manifest it--making it into a reality. We are fierce, intellectual women who know how to rise up from within and motivate and uplift others. We are overcomers and make great impact. We each possess our own unique superpower—something that makes us great—a skill, talent, gift. Share your superpower and accomplishments with us and your photo at Sacramentowomendems@gmail.com to be published in our next newsletter. Carry on with greatness!

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Women Democrats of Sacramento County

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www.sacramentowomendems.org

Message FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ms. Sandra Hazel

We are in the middle of a very heated election cycle. We are experiencing a daily deluge of texts, emails and calls with intense and urgent requests for donations from candidates across the nation. The daily news and social media outlets are filled with tons of negative and extreme rhetoric.

How do we turn off the noise, yet still maintain our focus and commitment to fully participate in the election process? I found an article entitled, "Eight Questions That Can Help You Survive Election Stress," in the Greater Good Magazine, that gives useful tips to help us navigate the stressors during this election cycle. I hope this article helps you find balance and resilience as we continue to do the work that we are called to do during this Presidential Election.

Thank you, Women Democrats, for all that you do to make a difference for our Democracy. ❖

In Loving Memory of Delaine Eastin

(August 20, 1947 – April 23, 2024)

Delaine Andree Eastin taught women's studies and political science at Ventura College, DeAnza College, and Cañada College. She began her political career in 1980 as a member of the Union City Council, representing the city on a variety of boards including as a member of the Alameda County Library Commission, the Solid Waste Management Authority, and she represented Union City on the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Eastin served four terms in the California State Assembly, representing parts of Alameda and Santa Clara counties. She wrote legislation to enhance school safety and increase parent involvement. Eastin received the prestigious Crystal Apple Award from the American Library Association. She received alumni awards from both UC Davis and UC Santa Barbara and many others.

As State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Eastin led in the adoption of high statewide academic standards in math, science, English language arts, and social studies; and she implemented a new statewide test and established a new system to increase the accountability of every school and district in the state. Class size reduction was her top priority and she launched the "Challenge Initiative," a groundbreaking reform effort to raise students and school standards and accountability.

In 2002, a school was named after her in Union City, California, Delaine Eastin Elementary School, serving from transitional kindergarten to fifth grade. Delaine Eastin Elementary is under New Haven Unified School District in Union City. After leaving office as State Superintendent, Eastin became the first executive director of the National Institute of Educational Leadership in Washington, D.C.. She returned to California to teach at Mills College as a distinguished visiting professor of education, where she taught courses in public policy, education administrative theory, education leadership, and politics.

Eastin was a distinguished speaker and board member on issues of education policy, nutrition, and electing women to public office. Eastin was board president of Close the Gap CA, a campaign to increase the number of progressive women in the California Legislature by recruiting talented, progressive women to run for targeted winnable seats. She continued to work on boards for the UC Center Sacramento Advisory Board, the chancellor's Women

(L-R) - Delaine Eastin, former Mayor Heather Fargo, Karen Humphrey

According to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, “California lost an icon in our school system today. Delaine Eastin’s legacy as a trailblazer in public education will forever inspire us. Her unwavering dedication to California students—from championing Universal Preschool and the “A Garden in Every School” program to honoring our educators by establishing the California Teachers of the Year Awards—has left an indelible mark on our state’s educational landscape. It was my privilege to honor her at this year’s California Teachers of the Year gala. As the first and only woman to have served as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Delaine was integral in establishing standards for what students should know and be able to do, then developing statewide assessments to see if students are in fact meeting those standards, and finally holding schools accountable based on whether students were meeting those standards. She was also a visionary who helped to bridge the gap between education and the high-tech industry through initiatives such as Netday with President Bill Clinton, which pioneered the integration of technology in classrooms and helped to ensure that thousands of children had digital access in the early days of the internet. Her dedication and foresight in nurturing and preparing students for the future laid the foundation for what is possible for our students today.”

Eastin recalled to Orange County Register reporter Hanna Kang last year that women legislators were few and “especially close to each other” when she was in the Legislature. “Women did look after one another because we sort of had to, because we would be dismissed or spoken down to in some instances unless we stood up for each other.” “I remember in the early days, there were people who wouldn’t let me on the members’ elevator because I was a girl, and I couldn’t possibly be a member,” she said. A pioneering California politician, Delaine Eastin was a trailblazer and an avid supporter of the Women Dems and will be missed greatly.

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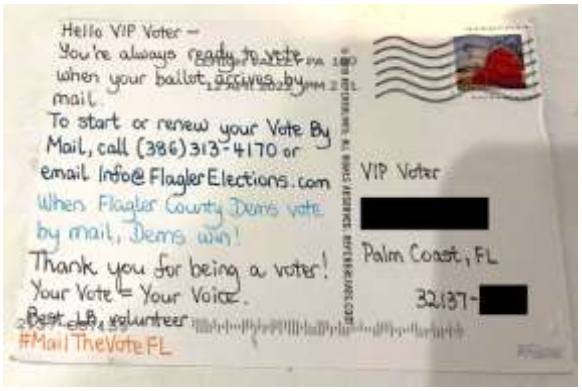
There's Power in Postcarding

The Gateway to Activism

From January throughout June, 2,532 postcards were sent to the following campaigns:

- Testor - Montana (75)
- Rosen - Nevada (492)
- Pennsylvania (215) (Issue-based messaging)
- Gallego - Arizona (661)
- CA (13)
- Gray (335)
- CA (22)
- Salas (55)
- CA (27)
- Whitesides (405)
- CA (41)
- Rollins (65)
- CA (45)
- Tran (25)



Why send postcards to voters?
According to the Progressive Turnout Project (PTP), writing postcards to voters is a gateway to activism for hundreds of thousands of volunteers across the country. This wildly popular activity started among grassroots activists in 2017 and has been used in every election since.

Postcards help grassroots groups recruit new members, build community, and win elections. Writing postcards is an especially great option for remote activism. They're also fantastic for folks who have brief windows of time to help rather than blocks of a couple hours on weekends or evenings, when door-to-door canvassing shifts and phone banks are normally scheduled. Postcards increase Democratic turnout by 1.3% or more and encourage more eligible voters to register and participate in elections.

Several organizations across America tout that postcarding helps win elections! That is why the Women Dems and Friends have been committed to having monthly sessions until the 2024 election.

Who do we send postcards to?
The mission of PTP and the Women Dems is to rally Democrats to vote. We send postcards to voters who are extremely likely to support Democratic candidates but might not vote without a nudge.

Please note: A small number of voters' addresses are outside of the target state. We write postcards to these voters as well. These voters are registered in the target state, but their best mailing addresses are out of state. One example is a student going to college out of their home state but still registered to vote at home.

Continued on page 6

AB 1825, as amended, (Muratsuchi) California Freedom to Read Act, which prohibits public libraries from banning books.

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi states, "Libraries provide access to books that offer teachable moments for readers of all ages and expand our understanding of people with different backgrounds, ideas, and beliefs. Removing and banning books from public libraries is a dangerous step to government censorship and the erosion of our country's commitment to freedom of expression. AB 1825, the California Freedom to Read Act, protects the fundamental right of access to diverse and inclusive books and library materials."

ACLU California Action writes in support, "Libraries play a special role in the public's civic education and the free exchange of diverse ideas and information. Over the past year, more than 3,000 books have been banned in libraries across America. These books disproportionately feature stories about LGBTQ+ communities, people of color, and historically marginalized communities. Book bans to this effect are not only discriminatory – they are a violation of people's First Amendment right to access information.

SB 233, (Skinner) Practice of medicine: Arizona physicians: abortions and abortion-related care for Arizona patients.

State Senator Nancy Skinner, chair of the state's Legislative Women's Caucus, and California Assembly majority leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, the vice chair of the caucus, authored SB 233, which was sponsored and signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom. The bill was introduced after the Arizona Supreme Court upheld the state's 160-year-old ban on abortion. Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes called on California and other states to let Arizona abortion providers continue providing their services to Arizonan residents who travel out of that state for abortion services.

"SB 233 is in response to the Arizona Supreme Court's resurrection of a dead law criminalizing any and all abortions, a law passed in 1864 when women couldn't vote and husbands could legally beat their wives," said Aguiar-Curry. "With SB 233, California offers a lifeline to Arizona doctors to provide the health care their patients need without fear of a prison sentence. Once again, California has made it loud and clear we will remain a safe haven for reproductive care."

AB 2917, as amended, Zbur. Firearms: restraining orders.

Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur was elected to the California State Assembly in November of 2022 to represent the 51st Assembly District. He was appointed in July 2023 by Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas to serve as the Democratic Caucus Chair of the California Assembly, one of the Speaker's key leadership positions.

SB 2917 would require the court to additionally consider a recent threat of violence or act of violence directed toward another group or location, or a past history of those threats or acts. The bill would authorize the court to consider, among other things, the reckless use, display, or brandishing of a firearm by the subject of the petition, evidence of stalking, evidence of cruelty to animals, or evidence of the respondent's threats of violence to advance a political objective. The bill would also authorize the court to consider violations of comparable firearm-prohibiting protective orders issued by out-of-state courts.

Member Spotlight

June 2024

Pamela Dominisse

Women Dems — **Fundraising Director**

WHAT MADE YOU JOIN THE WOMEN DEMS AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER?

I joined Women Dems in 2013 (I think) but really didn't become active until 2015.

HAVE YOU EVER RUN FOR OFFICE?

No, I have never run for office.

WHAT DO YOU THINK CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR OFFICE ARE IN NEED OF TO WIN THEIR CAMPAIGNS?

The ability to get out their message to the voters, which requires money and an amazing supportive staff (and probably an extra 10 hours in the day).

ARE YOU INVOLVED IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?

I am a member of the Truman Club and Stonewall, but not very active. I only have time for WDSC due to my work schedule.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF? WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT?

I am most proud of raising a good human.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE WOMEN DEMS WORK ON MORE OR ACCOMPLISH?

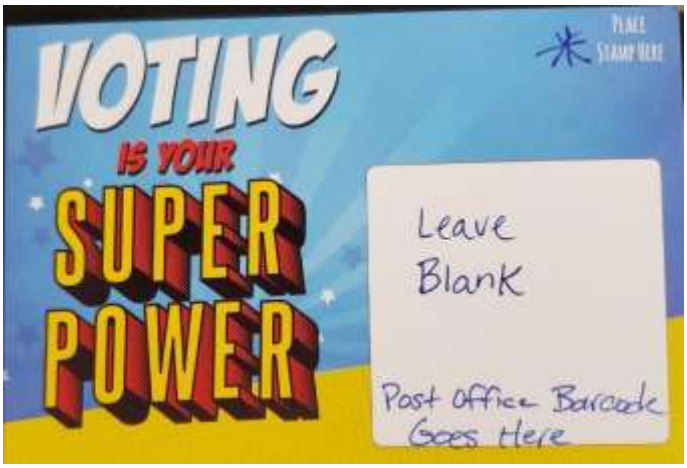
I would like Women Dems to grow our membership and gain the support of new sponsors.

Pictured L-R: Pam Dominisse, Col. Pat Thompson, Sandra Hazel

There's Power in Postcarding Cont.'

The Women Dems and Friends works with Activate America, and organization headquartered in Oakland, CA and was inspired by the first Women's March. They started as "Flip the West "and "Flip the 14" in 2017 and currently works throughout California and have expanded to reach thousands of voters across the country.

Postcarding is an integral part of Activate America's programs, as is texting, door-knocking and phone contacts. By 2018, Activate America completed 1.5 million contacts through volunteers, helping to flip 7 California Republican Congressional seats. By 2020, they had 13 million contacts in 7 key states and in 2022, they reached 10.5 million contacts in those 7 states. This kept the U.S. Senate blue and helped stop a red wave in the U.S. House.



The key states Activate America concentrates on are California, Nevada, Montana, Arizona, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. Their goal is to empower volunteers to help elect Democrats and defeat MAGA extremists in Congress. They have concentrated on crucial states where they want to maintain a Senate or House seat or where they think they can flip seats like in California or New York.

Activate America has started a program called, Amplify, that people can sign up for. Believing that the Democrats have not done a strong enough job communicating to the public about the successes over the last four years, Activate America developed talking points about the Democratic successes during the Biden Administration which include key legislative descriptions.

Join Women Dems' Postcarding Party

In June, we will be rounding out our postcarding in support of Ruben Gallego, the veteran Arizona member of the House running against MAGA extremist Kari Lake. These postcards will be targeted to infrequent Democratic voters to ensure they know Congressman Gallego has helped lower the costs of prescriptions and will continue this fight in the Senate.

We also will be writing to Democrats in Ohio to provide information about signing up to Vote By Mail (VBM). Many of these voters may not realize they have to sign up for VBM for *every* election. Encouraging them now will help us focus their attention on the importance of this election and increase turnout if weather, personal schedules or other challenges arise.

We ask volunteers to complete a minimum of 20 postcards. The Women Dems supplies you with a packet including instructions, the script, postcards, stamps, and addresses. The total cost of mailing each postcard is 70 cents. A packet with 20 postcards costs $13.80 to mail.

We have established a revolving fund to keep our effort going through Election Day and we would greatly appreciate your financial support. Some of our volunteers have contributed $20 or $25. All of you are working very hard to get our messages out but your financial help is very important.

The Women Dems greatly appreciate your commitment to getting the Democratic Party's strategic messages to folks in California and across the country. This is part of the ground game that wins elections!

Email Sacramentowomendems@gmail.com for the address to participate in postcarding. Refreshments and drinks are provided.

Women Dems and Friends will host more postcarding sessions from July throughout October. Contact us if you would like to join a postcarding group, make a group of your own in your home or elsewhere or write some cards independently. We can help you get started.

EVENT HOSTED BY WOMEN DEMOCRATS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

Featuring delicious ice cream flavors, wine, and a silent auction!

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dr. Flo Cofer, Candidate for Sacramento Mayor

Jessica Morse, Candidate for Congress, CA-03

July 24

5-7 pm

Sierra 2 Center, Curtis Hall
2791 24th Street, Sacramento

ICE CREAM ONLY:
$25 for members
$30 for non-members

Ice cream + wine:
$35 for members
$40 for non-members

PURCHASE TICKETS VIA QR CODE OR VISIT:

actblue.com/donate/WDSCicecream2024

Supporting local Democrats has never been so sweet!

CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS NOW! | SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

Or go to: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/wdscicecream2024

Speakers Series

In April, the League of Women Voters presented on Ranked Choice Voting. Members had the opportunity to participate in a mock election to demonstrate how ranked choice voting helps elect stronger candidates with greater public support. The League is hoping to bring a ballot measure for the City of Sacramento to consider implementing ranked choice voting in 2026.

In May, we held a postcarding party for critical California Congressional races to help flip the House. The races included Adam Gray (CA-13), Rudy Salas (CA-22), George Whitesides (CA-27), Will Rollins (CA-41), Derek Tran (CA-45) and Dave Min (CA-47). (Pictured above left to right, respectively.)

In June, we heard from local author and legislative advocate Kristina Bas Hamilton, who spoke about her new book *Changemaker: An Insider's Guide to Getting Sh*t Done at the California Capitol.*

(Last photo – Kristina Bas Hamilton)

League of Women Voters – Sacramento County

League of Women Voters – Alameda County

The Basics

What is Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and why is it used?

A system where voters choose their first- , second-, third-, fourth- and fifth-choice candidates for each office. It eliminates the cost and time needed for run-off elections.

How long has RCV been used in Oakland?

It was implemented starting in the 2010 Elections.

Other Details

What if I rank the same candidate multiple times?

Your ranked vote will only count once per candidate, so it is the same as leaving the choices blank.

Need more information?

Go to acvote.org/voting/rcv

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Ranked Choice Voting

How Does It Work?

The Registrar of Voters and City Clerks determine the number of rankings that will be permitted in each election. In 2022, voters were permitted to rank up to five candidates for each elective office

Round 1 of Vote Count

If a candidate receives more than 50% of the first-choice votes, that candidate is declared the winner.

Round 2 of Vote Count

If there is no winner from Round 1:

- First, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated from the count
- Second, the voters whose votes were eliminated have their second-choice votes added to the count
- If any candidate now has more than 50% of the counted votes, that candidate is declared the winner

Rounds 3 to 5 of Vote Count

If there is no winner from from Round 2, a similar elimination and counting continues until one candidate receives over 50% of the counted votes.

To reiterate...

- 2nd choice counted, only if 1st choice eliminated
- 3nd choice counted, only if 1st & 2nd choice eliminated
- 4th choice counted, only if 1st, 2nd, & 3rd choice eliminated
- 5th choice counted, only if 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th choice eliminated

Kids' Club: Creativity with LEGO, Doodling, & New Friends

Join the Kids' Club every Thursday at 4pm for a fun and creative gathering among children ages 4-10. Doodle supplies and LEGO bricks provided. Parents are required to stay on site.

When:
Thursday, June 6
from 4pm to 5pm

Where:
A Seat at the Table Books
9257 Laguna Springs Drive
Elk Grove, CA 95758

POLITICO
HAPPY HOUR
SACRAMENTO, CA

Top 3 Reasons to Attend POLITICO's Happy Hour

1. Don't miss your chance to meet the people behind POLITICO's coverage of politics, policy and power in Sacramento.
2. Make connections with influential Californians, including assembly members and legislative directors.
3. Enjoy complimentary drinks and bites at Fox and Goose Public House.

Tuesday – June 18, 2024 6:00pm

Spots are filling up fast! **RSVP** today to confirm your attendance.
Fox and Goose Public House - 1001 R St, Sacramento, CA 95811
Attendees will be asked to show a valid form of government issued ID upon entry.

Volunteers are needed for the Women Dems!

We are Sacramento's oldest democratic club and we are asking for your help, donations, and time. Volunteers are needed to:

- Write Postcards to registered voters
- Host actions/events
- Join a Committee
- Assist with voter Registration/GOTV
- Canvass/Door walking
- Become a Sponsor
- Drive voters to the polls
- Assist with Social Media or Member Meetings
- Donate items to Silent Auction (Ice Cream Social)
- Donate $24 or more monthly for 2024
- Assist with phone banking for our endorsed candidates

Sounds interesting? Email SacramentoWomenDems@gmail.com to help. Thank you!

WOMEN DEMOCRATS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY
www.sacramentowomendems.org
sacramentowomendems@gmail.com

Please join the

Women Democrats of Sacramento County

Not a Member? JOIN NOW!

General Membership - $35 per year
Students and Seniors - $30 per year
VIP Membership - $50

Be a part of Sacramento's oldest political club!

Women Democrats of Sacramento County

Editorial Discretion - *Empowered Voices* welcomes articles, announcements, and other items for publication. *Empowered Voices*, however, reserves the right to edit all articles, announcements, and other items for publication. It also reserves the right to decline any submission for the following reasons: it fails to meet the guidelines for content of *Empowered Voices*; consistent inaccuracy throughout the article; or the article is submitted past submission deadline.

Editorial Disclaimer - The opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints expressed in articles published by *Empowered Voices* do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints or the official policies of the Women Democrats of Sacramento County.

Women Democrats of Sacramento County Executive Committee

The Women Dems' elected officers, directors and members-at-large are committed to enhancing the cause of democracy within the County of Sacramento, the State of California and beyond. They are hardworking volunteers and share a passion to enhance the Women Dems' organization and mission.

Officers - Sandra Hazel (President), Anna Ioakimedes (Vice-President), Julie Chapman (Treasurer), Debbie Richardson (Secretary), Sue Litsey (Membership), Oranit Limmaneeprasert (Political Affairs) Pamela Dominisse (Fundraising), Linda Reed & Dr. Elizabeth Sherrell–Davis (Members at Large), Kate Van Buren (Past Pres.)

Newsletter Committee - Debbie Richardson (Editor-in-Chief), Sandra Hazel (President)