



EMPOWERED VOICES

Women Democrats of Sacramento County

Issue 12 – Twelfth Edition

October - December 2025



Editor's Note

Debbie Richardson

As we close out this year, we celebrate the strength, unity, and unwavering spirit of Democratic women across Sacramento County. This season reminds us that when we stand together—focused, courageous, and united in purpose—there is no challenge we cannot overcome. Continued on page 5

**SAVE THE DATE for the upcoming
2026 - 2028 Installation Ceremony
for the new Executive Board!**
January 26, 2026 - 6pm to 8:30pm
Sacramento City Teacher's Assoc. –
5300 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95819

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Women Democrats of Sacramento County
P.O. Box 161944 • Sacramento, CA 95814
www.sacramentowomendems.org



Message FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

As I come to the end of my three-year term as President of the Women Democrats of Sacramento, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to all of you. Your unwavering support, dedication, and commitment to the mission of the Women Dems have been the driving force behind our many successes these last three years.



Our club's mission: to empower and get women elected, advocate for progressive policies, and cultivate leadership—could not be achieved without your active participation and tireless efforts. Whether you volunteered at events, contributed ideas, or simply showed up in solidarity, your involvement has made a significant impact within our community and beyond.

Together, we have strengthened our voice, built new alliances, and inspired positive changes. I am proud of the work we have accomplished and look forward to seeing the continued growth and influence of our club in the coming year. Thank you for believing in our cause and for standing together to make a difference. I wish you all a joyous holiday season and a new year filled with hope, progress, and unity. ■



Women In Political Offices Generate Democratic Party Values

By Teresa Hernández

According to the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), women are running for political offices, in local, state and federal levels, in unprecedented numbers. Currently for 2026, 57 women have filed for or announced their intention to run for Governor in their respective states. Of the 57, 26 are Republicans, and 31 are Democrats.

Twelve of our States have women governors, four Republicans and eight Democrats.

Let's look at the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives--specifically the 119th Congress of 2025-2027.

- There are 100 Senators of which 26 are women: 10 Republicans and 16 Democrats.
- There are 435 Representatives of which 125 are women: 31 Republicans and 94 Democrats.

The common denominator across all categories is that more women identify as Democrats than as Republicans.

According to the Pew Research Center, as of the April 2024 report, "Men continue to be more likely than women to associate with the Republican Party." However, according to Census.gov, for the 2024 Presidential Election, 63.7% of men voted versus 66.9% of women.

Women have outnumbered men in college for decades, and the gap continues to widen every year. In 2025, 10.9 million women vs. 8.3 million men enrolled in college. Statistics indicate that college-educated as well as unmarried women tend to vote as Democrats.

How would more women in elected offices influence the direction of U.S. political policies? It's interesting to note that women prioritize healthcare, education, and social safety net programs, while men focus on economic growth, defense spending, and tax reduction.

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Redistricting in California, What We Now Known as Prop 50

By Linda Reed

In October, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) held an interesting program discussing the redistricting effort in California, prompted by Governor Newsom's response to the redistricting in Texas. This was the most recent program of the PPIC's speaker series on California's future and the panel included a variety of subject-matter experts.

In November, voters decided to replace the current congressional district map with a new one drawn up by the State Legislature, rather than the map created a few years ago by a public commission voted on by Californians. The Proposition was referred to as the Redistricting Response Act by Democrats and gerrymandering by those opposed to Prop 50. The panel speakers were led by PPIC President and CEO Tani Cantil-Sakauye, former Chief Justice of the California State Supreme Court. Gale Kaufman of Kaufman Strategies spoke for the pro side for Prop 50 as a Democratic Strategist and Rob Stutzman, founder and President of Stutzman Public Affairs spoke for a more conservative view but also for political reasons behind the move by Newsom and what the outcome might mean nationally. Eric McGhee, PPIC's Policy Director and Senior Fellow, also spoke regarding redistricting, gerrymandering and other related issues.

It was an invigorating but civil conversation. In attendance were McClatchy High School students (pictured below) who were part of the PPIC's student Civics program. As one who knew a lot about Prop 50, I left the event with new perspectives on why people might oppose the proposition and their concerns over whether it will revert back to the Commission in 2030 at the time of the next census as it says in the wording of the proposition.

The PPIC event was a good program to have a nice lunch and listen to some wonderful speakers on topics of major importance to the residents of California. The PPIC's purpose is "to give Californians a better understanding of how our leaders are addressing the challenges facing our state."



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Teresa Hernández



Teresa, born and raised in Modesto, moved to Sacramento in 1974 to finish her Bachelor of Arts Degree and Teaching Credential at Sacramento State College, and decided to stay to make beautiful Sacramento her home. In those days, college was not only more affordable, but there were strong financial programs that helped support low-income minority students. Teresa took advantage of these opportunities for a better future for herself.

Teresa began her political experience in 1972, picketing and protesting with farmworkers during the Cesar Chavez era of the United Farmworkers' Union. As a member of the Sacramento Hispanic Democratic Club, she volunteered her time advocating for Hispanics in local political elections during the time

Joe Serna was elected councilman and ultimately Mayor of Sacramento. She witnessed an all-white male California State Legislature back in the 70's, morph into what is today a diverse group of elected officials statewide. She knows and has witnessed the fact that change can happen when we speak and act against injustices.

Life happened after having and raising two children, volunteering as a children's soccer coach, competing in racquetball tournaments, all while advancing a career with the State of California. After retirement at age 55, Teresa pursued other interests that included working part-time at a golf course, substitute teaching, taking piano lessons at community colleges, and working as a retired annuitant with the State of California, some of which she did simultaneously.

Although she left politics behind for many years, the MAGA administration triggered her need to get back involved. Teresa stays well-informed of the current administration's unsympathetic and hostile policies to ensure she understands why and what she needs to do to fight against such tyranny. Teresa joined the Sacramento County Women Dems 18 months ago and shortly thereafter, the Elk Grove Indivisible group. Her favorite activity with Women Dems is writing articles for the newsletter. Education and knowledge are always at the top of her list.

COMMITTED



PASSIONATE



ADVOCATE



★ ENDORSED CANDIDATES ★

2026 Elections

It is election season and the Women Democrats are starting the candidate endorsement process. As you may be aware, the [2026 California Primary](#) election will be held on June 2, 2026 and the General election will be on November 3, 2026.

For local candidates interested in being considered for an endorsement by the Women Dems, please email Brenda Borge, Political Affairs Director, at bborgeca@gmail.com to receive the Candidate Endorsement questionnaire. Once the completed questionnaire is submitted, candidates will be scheduled for an interview with the Endorsements Committee, who will then send their recommendations to the Executive Board for approval of all endorsements.

Once approved by the Board, our membership will vote at the next General Membership meeting to approve endorsements or friendly endorsements. Endorsed candidates can expect substantial support from Women Dems' members. Members will be notified regarding campaign events and activities for endorsed candidates.

We also encourage candidates to email Brenda if they are interested in speaking (5 minutes) and answer questions at an upcoming General Membership meeting at the Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA) located at 5300 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95819. Candidates are currently selected to speak at the January and February meetings.

2026 Membership meeting dates: Jan. 26, Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16.



We're looking for the best kind of people:

Volunteers.

Register to help the Women Dems at
www.sacramentowomendems.org/volunteer



SACRAMENTO WOMEN DEMOCRATS OUR GOALS

- Promote and expand the role of women in politics and their engagement in the political process.
- Facilitate understanding of, and engagement in, issues that concern and affect women through support, advocacy and ongoing educational programs.
- Maintain cooperative relations and coordinate activities with other community and Democratic Party organizations.
- Initiate and advocate for legislation that improves the civil, social, economic and political status of women and other underrepresented groups.
- Uphold the principles of the Democratic Party.
- Work to expand the Democratic Party Electorate and elect qualified Democrats to local, state and national office.

thank you

The Women Democrats is very appreciative of your support and commitment to our endeavors to impact social change and enhance the role of women democrats throughout Sacramento County. ❤

Peace, Hope, and Equality: A Reflection for Our Community

By Debbie Richardson

As we enter this season of reflection, unity, and renewal, the Women Democrats of Sacramento County honor a timeless truth: peace among mankind begins with each of us. In a year marked by challenges, transitions, and the urgent need for compassionate leadership, we are reminded that the pursuit of peace is not passive—it is a daily commitment to justice, equity, and understanding.

Peace is more than the absence of conflict. It is the presence of dignity, safety, and opportunity for every person—regardless of background, identity, or circumstance. When we advocate for fair housing, accessible healthcare, equitable education, and safe communities, we become builders of that peace. When we speak boldly against injustice, we protect the integrity of democracy itself.



This season also brings a renewed hope for positive change. Hope is the fuel of movements, the heartbeat of progress, and the spark that keeps us engaged when the road becomes steep. For women and girls across Sacramento County—and across the nation—hope looks like policy that uplifts families, wages that reflect our worth, representation that mirrors our communities, and laws that protect our freedoms. Hope looks like women standing together, leading with courage, and believing that our collective power can reshape the future.

Yet, hope alone is not enough. It must be matched with our continued fight for equality for all women and girls. From reproductive freedom to economic justice to leadership representation, the path toward equality is ongoing—but it is also unstoppable when we walk it together. Every meeting, every vote, every phone bank, every walk, every conversation matters. Each action we take is a declaration that equality is not optional—it is essential.

This December, as we gather with loved ones and prepare for a new year, let us recommit ourselves to these guiding principles: peace among mankind, hope for a brighter and more inclusive tomorrow, and unwavering equality for women and girls everywhere. The Women Democrats of Sacramento County stand at the forefront of this mission. Together, we are not just witnesses to change—we are the architects of it.

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The road ahead will require resilience and determination, especially as we continue to face the realities of the Trump administration. Yet, we are not discouraged. We are empowered! We are ready! And we are committed to doing the hard work that progress demands.

Let this holiday season renew our sense of purpose. Let it inspire us to organize, mobilize, and uplift one another. And let it remind us that the coming year will be one of success—because we will build it, together.

Here's to a powerful year ahead, filled with action, achievement, and unstoppable Democratic women.

**Happy Holidays
and a Bold New Year!**



**Winner of the esteemed Steve Reed Grassroots
Volunteer of the Year award from the
Democratic Party of Sacramento County (2025)**
(Pictured with Andres Ramos, DPSC President)



Women Democrats of Sacramento County

2026 - 2028 Executive Board

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

Officers: Debbie Richardson (President), Dawn Basciano (Vice President), Julie Chapman (Treasurer)

Alaya Amyra Agee (Secretary) ▪ **Directors:** Ariane Lyon (Fundraising), Sue Litsey (Membership)

Brenda Borge (Political Affairs) ▪ **Members at Large:** Delores Roberts, Eric Wiesenthal, Linda Reed

Past President: Sandra Hazel ▪ **Newsletter Committee:** Debbie Richardson, Sandra Hazel, Teresa Hernandez

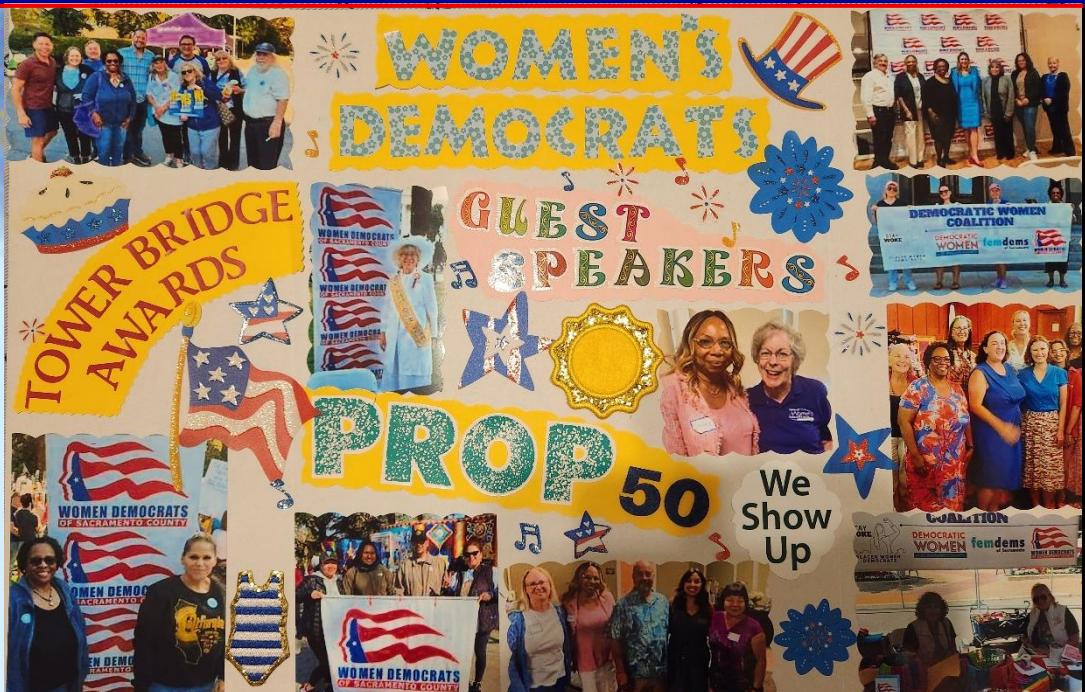
We've had a great year: 2025!

The Women Democrats of Sacramento County want to give a big **THANK YOU** to our members, volunteers, elected officials, sponsors, our endorsed candidates, donors, the Democratic Party of Sacramento County, Tiki Harlow, Angi Roberts, Teresa Hernandez, Nikki Milevsky, friends of the Women Dems, community partners, affiliates, Dean & Company, and many others.

Your support—both your time and your financial help—has made a huge difference this year.

Because of you, we were able to host events, support women leaders, educate voters, and stay active in our community. Your hard work and generosity helped us grow stronger and reach more people across Sacramento County.

To everyone who stood with us, showed up, donated, and believed in our mission—thank you. We are grateful for all you do, and we look forward to working together to make an even bigger impact in the year ahead.



Women In Political Offices Generate Democratic Party Values

Continued from page 2

So, what does all this mean? In a nutshell, generally speaking, women dominate and dictate U.S. policy, leaning towards Democratic Party values. As we can see, the Democratic Party--especially focused groups like Women Dems, must continue to enhance the preparation and development of young women for future political endeavors, and support our long-standing politicians who continue to work for the people.

Optimistically speaking, the day the U.S. has a Madam President, we could absolutely say that women "rule the world." Imagine what that would be like. All I can say is, I hope I live to see that day.

■ ■ ■

Message from "Tahir": Update on Afghan Girls Education - I'm excited to share another update on Afghan girls' education! They have successfully completed their first book and can now read, write, and speak basic English. They remain hopeful about pursuing their wishes and dreams--all thanks to you and the help and support of the Women Dems. The Afghan Girls Education look forward to receiving more assistance and support. Thank you so much!

Accepting Applications for the 2026-2027 Sacramento Grand Jury - The grand jury has a separate and different function from that of a trial jury. It does not hear cases in a courtroom. Instead, jurors review and investigate the performance of county, city, and local governing entities, including special districts. Grand juries perform two primary roles. One is to inquire into, and investigate if necessary, the operations of local government agencies and officials to ensure that activities are valid and services are efficiently and legally provided. The other is to evaluate the validity of criminal charges being brought by a prosecutor to ensure they are not frivolous or ungrounded.

2026-2027 Sacramento County Grand Jury

Now Recruiting Volunteers for 2026/27 Term*

*1-year term starts July 2026

- ✓ Serve your Community
- ✓ Investigate Local Government and Special Districts
- ✓ **Make a difference today!**

Deadline to Apply:
November 21 - January 2, 2026

For further information
www.sacgrandjury.org or
apply at:
<https://sacgrandjury.org/apply.aspx>

 
Scan QR Code to Apply

- ✓ 18 Years or older, United States citizen, and a resident of Sacramento County for at least one year prior to service.
- ✓ Able to speak, read and write English.
- ✓ Willing to maintain the confidentiality of Grand Jury work.
- ✓ Computer proficient.
- ✓ Ready to volunteer for 20 to 30 hours per week.

OPEN POSITIONS AVAILABLE! Boards & Commissions

- [Sacramento County - Boards and Commissions](#)
- [City of Citrus Heights - Appointments](#)
- [City of Elk Grove - Commissions and Committees](#)
- [City of Folsom - Committees and Commissions](#)
- [City of Galt - Commissions/Committees](#)
- [City of Isleton - Commissions and Committees](#)
- [City of Rancho Cordova - Planning Commission](#)
- [City of Sacramento - Boards & Commissions](#)
- [West Sacramento – Commissions & Committees](#)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from the
Women Democrats of Sacramento County



Wishing you a
Happy Holiday
Season and a
Happy New
Year!

Count up
ALL of the
gifts in your
life and
BE
Grateful!



The holiday season is a
perfect time to reflect on
our blessings and seek
ways to make life better
for those around us.

My happy place

