EMPOWERED VOICES

Women Democrats of Sacramento County

Issue 11 – Eleventh Edition **July – September 2025**

Editor's Corner

Debbie Richardson

Once again, California Democrats are being called upon to stand up boldly against the Trump administration. We must VOTE YES on Proposition 50! This is a critical Call to Action! This measure, appearing on the ballot for the November 4, 2025, election seeks to address the pressing issue of gerrymandering and the need to stop Trump and his ignorant belief that he has all the power in the world. Democrats are a powerful force to be reckoned with and this election will show just that and ensure the continued protection of democratic processes within our state.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside This Issue

1 Message from the President

2 Vote Yes on Proposition 50

3 Postcarding can Increase Turnout at Elections

4 Speakers Series – August, September 2025

Women Democrats of Sacramento County

P.O. Box 161944 ▪ Sacramento, CA 95814

www.sacramentowomendems.org

Message FROM THE PRESIDENT

10 Reasons Why We Should Support Prop 50!

Sandra Hazel

We are living in an extremely tumultuous time in our Nation's history. Chaos comes daily, in a fast and furious manner. The attacks are on all fronts, leaving destruction and casualties in its wake.

Institutions we thought we could count on, such as Congress and the Supreme Court--to function as a barrier against the onslaught of national turmoil--has let us down. We must ask ourselves: "What is it going to take to slow this out-of-control train down and reestablish control?"

The immediate and most formidable answer is getting Prop 50 passed on November 4, 2025. As you know, this is not a fight that Democrats started. This is a direct and measured response to the illegal gerrymandering that has taken place in the state of Texas, at the order of the White House, and with other Red States expected to follow Texas' example.

(Continued on page 2)

Vote YES on Proposition 50
The Election-Rigging Response Act

Written by Teresa Hernandez

Under the Constitution of the United States, each State has the authority to determine the process for redrawing its congressional district maps. Some state legislatures have been given this responsibility, while other states form commissions to do this job. States typically redraw congressional maps every ten years after the U.S. Census.

Texas is a State that gives the responsibility of redrawing and approving congressional maps in its State Legislature. After much pressure from President Trump, on August 20, 2025, the Texas House of Representatives passed a redrawn Republican-favored congressional map that could flip five Democratic seats in the upcoming 2026 midterms. Texas drew up arbitrary district maps with disregard for the last census. Why? President Trump is afraid of losing the U.S. House of Representatives to Democrats in the midterm elections. Historically, the party in the White House loses seats during midterms, and Democrats had been counting on a Democratic-controlled House of Representatives.

In response to Texas, the California Legislature drew up a new Democratic-favored congressional map to counter Texas's anticipated election results. However, unlike Texas, the Legislature does not have the legal ability to approve these maps. The California Independent Citizens' Redistricting Commission was formed for this purpose. Therefore, citizens of California are being asked to vote to approve Proposition 50, the Election-Rigging Response Act, which introduces the proposed congressional map to California voters in a special election on November 4, 2025. If passed, the new Congressional map would be valid for the 2026 midterm elections.

What's important to note is that Prop 50 is temporary and would expire in 2030. This means that the Commission's role of redistricting California's map after the 2030 census would occur as usual.

As Governor Newsom put it, this is a "Trump-induced political emergency." This would help level the playing field. However, other Republican-led States are also talking about doing the same.

These are different times. We can no longer do things the way we used to. We must pursue every legal avenue and opportunity afforded to us to ensure we preserve democracy in the United States.

Proposition 50: https://lao.ca.gov/ballot/2025/prop50-110425.pdf

Message from the President

(Continued from page 1)

If for any reason you or family and friends are on the fence about voting Yes on Prop 50, here are ten reasons why we need to pass Prop 50.

10 Reasons Why We Should Support Prop 50 and stop the Trump Administration from doing the following:

1. Terrorizing and deporting of non-citizens, specifically persons of color
2. Politically motivated attacks on institutions of higher learning
3. Ordering Smithsonian museums to scrub specific aspects of history
4. Military infiltration of American Cities
5. Hostile takeover of the Kennedy Center representing the arts
6. Interference of the Federal Reserve
7. Going after perceived political enemies through firings and criminal investigations
8. Economic disaster caused by illegal tariffs and the "big bad bill" passed by Republicans
9. Attempts to steal the election through gerrymandering and voter suppression
10. Trampling of our First Amendment Rights

Now, here's what you can do to help pass Prop 50 – sign up to phone or text bank; canvass (going door to door talking with neighbors); help staff tables at public events; postcard writing; hold information sessions in your home or at a coffee shop, etc. Do not assume that family and friends know as much as you know about Prop 50. Do not be afraid to have discussions and encourage them to vote yes. If you cannot participate in the suggested activities, consider donating to an organization or super PAC supporting Prop 50.

This is a huge task in front of us with an exceedingly small amount of time to get it done. Ballots will be mailed October 6th. Merely stating an intention to act is insufficient. Sign up to participate in the many awareness events for Prop 50--and share with others. I leave you with this familiar quote:

Editor's Corner (Continued from page 1)

As Democrats, we will not tolerate Trump's bullying efforts nor will we sit silently and allow the Republicans to control California or Congress. Let us join in the numerous efforts across the State—phone banking, canvassing door-to-door, postcarding, and more--to ensure all voters are aware of the need to VOTE YES on Proposition 50.

Postcarding can Increase Turnout at Elections

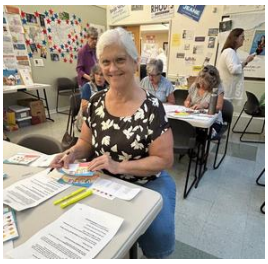
By Linda Reed

A few months ago, I wrote an article about postcarding being the Gateway to Activism. As an easy and even social way to do campaign work, it has become a big deal--whether you do it at a postcard party with friends or in front of the TV at your own at home. The Women Dems and Friends is at it again. At our last General meeting on September 15, many of you came early and wrote and took home 350 cards asking voters to vote for Prop 50. Since August, we have written **1,507** postcards and are continuing to write even more cards. **140** cards were written for campaigns in other states and **1,335** for Prop 50 which is on the ballot this November 4—known as the temporary Election Rigging Response Act.

Ballots for this crucial election drop October 6 in the mail. There is very little time for people to get the word out and that is why handwritten postcards can help move things along. The Women Dems and many other groups writing postcards, such as Indivisible and Democracy Together, use Activate America as their source for the addresses of people who are registered Democrats but are infrequent voters. They are known as low propensity voters and that means they do not vote in nonpresidential election years like this one and that is why it is so important we give them a friendly nudge to get out to the polls and exercise their rights and voice. It has been noted that in off year elections postcarding can help raise the turnout in races by up to 3%--especially in rural areas where voters see fewer canvassers and candidates. Also, some people do not even know these special elections are happening. Handwritten cards win elections that are close between candidates, boost interest in elections and issues, and most importantly, help turn out the vote.

There are many places available where you can participate in postcarding sessions and I hope you will join us again like many of you did at our General meeting. We plan to host future postcarding sessions for candidates for the US House and Senate as 2026 approaches.

Thank you for your continuous support of the Women Democrats of Sacramento County! Pictured below are members and guests at our General meeting in September who wrote postcards encouraging folks to Vote Yes on Prop 50.
For more upcoming postcarding sessions, email the Women Dems at Sacramentowomendems@gmail.com.



SPEAKERS SERIES

FEATURED SPEAKER - AUGUST

DARCY TOTTEN

Executive Director

California Commission on the Status of Women & Girls

SPEAKER RECAP

The Commission on the Status of Women and Girls works in a culturally inclusive manner to promote equality and justice for all women and girls by advocating on their behalf with the Governor, the Legislature and other public policymakers, and by educating the public in the areas of economic equity and other key issue areas identified by the Commission as significantly affecting women and girls.

For more info visit CCSWG's website:
www.women.ca.gov

Darcy Totten has over 20 years of experience in crisis communications, journalism, public policy, and external affairs. She has built nationally recognized efforts while at the Commission including authoring the Commission's award-winning original research report, the ***California Women's Economic Blueprint for Pandemic Recovery*** and the award-winning #womenareessential campaign highlighting the role of women as essential workers in California's economy. She is an expert in social impact strategies, issue advocacy, crisis communications and gender focused public policy. Darcy holds a bachelor's degree from Mills College in studio art and visual communication and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Texas at Austin.

2nd Photo L-R: Karen Humphrey, Darcy Totten, Sandra Hazel, Debbie Richardson

FEATURED SPEAKER - SEPTEMBER

JIM SHOCH

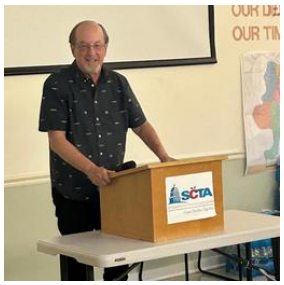
Professor Emeritus of Government

California State University—Sacramento

SPEAKER RECAP

Professor Shoch is a specialist in American politics, he is the author of Trading Blows: Party Competition and U.S. Trade Policy in a Globalizing Era, co-editor of What's Left of the Left: Democrats and Social Democrats in Challenging Times, and the author of articles on the politics of American fiscal, trade, and industrial policy. He is also a member of Together for Democracy, a Sacramento-based political organization that campaigns and raises money for Democratic candidates in presidential and congressional elections.

Professor Shoch discussed political statistics among Democrats and Republicans and congressional seats, gerrymandering, and possible outcomes regarding Proposition 50 and the proposed redistricting that would occur throughout the State of California if this measure should pass. If the turnout patterns sufficiently benefit democrats, a democratic win and victory in the House is possible.



2nd Photo L-R: - Eric Wiesenthal, Professor Shoch

WOMEN DEMOCRATS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY
www.sacramentowomendems.org
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YES ON PROP 50

Pass the Election Rigging Response Act

StopElectionRigging.com - **please click here**
Here is a summary of opportunities, with direct links to training sessions, to get you started.

Text Team: Time Commitment: 1-2 Hours Per Week Click here to find training.
Calls Team: Time Commitment: 1-2 Hours Per Week Click here to find training.
Social Media Team: Time Commitment: 2-3 Hours Per Week Click here to join DISCORD.

California Democratic Party (CADEM)

For training sessions and/or planned events, go to www.mobilize.us
Here's what you will find:

- Postcard writing with AR Dems - Click here
- Canvassing in Rancho Cordova - Click here
- Walk and Talk in Carmichael (with Sister District)
- Canvassing in Carmichael (with Indivisible)

Freeway Banner in Rancho Cordova with AR Dems - Click here

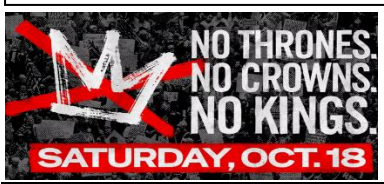
From Governor Newsom:

We're kicking off a Weekend of Action to build momentum for Prop 50, the Election Rigging Response Act, and we need you October 4–5. Ballots are mailed to voters just days later. Our field operation is firing on all cylinders. To reach even more voters fast, we're organizing three ways to plug in:
Host a Phone Bank: Step up as a host to bring people together to make calls to voters. We'll give you the run-of-show, training slides, and our campaign's call tool.

Join a Virtual Phone Bank: Get trained within 30 minutes, then make calls with live support on Zoom. No previous experience needed and you can join us from anywhere in the country.

Organize Your People: Learn how to organize your friends, family, and neighbors, and turn conversations into YES votes for Prop 50.

JOIN A TRAINING
Every conversation will count in this election. Pick one (or two!) and sign up today.



NO KINGS Sacramento

MASS PROTESTS

Saturday, October 18, 2025 – 10am – 12pm
California State Capitol, West Steps – 1315 10th St., Sacramento, CA 95814
Click here for more information.

Let America Be America Again

Langston Hughes
1901 – 1967

Let America be America again.
Let it be the dream it used to be.
Let it be the pioneer on the plain
Seeking a home where he himself is free…
…Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed
Let it be that great strong land of love
Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme
That any man be crushed by one above…
…O, let my land be a land where Liberty
Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,
But opportunity is real, and life is free,
Equality is in the air we breathe…
…I am the poor white, fooled and pushed apart,
I am the Negro bearing slavery's scars.
I am the red man driven from the land,
I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek—
And finding only the same old stupid plan
Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak.
I am the young man, full of strength and hope,
Tangled in that ancient endless chain
Of profit, power, gain, of grab the land!
Of grab the gold! Of grab the ways of satisfying need!
Of work the men! Of take the pay!
Of owning everything for one's own greed!
I am the farmer, bondsman to the soil.
I am the worker sold to the machine…
…I am the people, humble, hungry, mean—
Hungry yet today despite the dream…
…I am the man who never got ahead,
The poorest worker bartered through the years.
Yet I'm the one who dreamt our basic dream
In the Old World while still a serf of kings,
Who dreamt a dream so strong, so brave, so true,
That even yet its mighty daring sings
In every brick and stone, in every furrow turned
That's made America the land it has become.
O, I'm the man who sailed those early seas
In search of what I meant to be my home—
For I'm the one who left dark Ireland's shore,
And Poland's plain, and England's grassy lea,
And torn from Black Africa's strand I came
To build a "homeland of the free."

The free?
Who said the free? Not me?
Surely not me? The millions on relief today?
The millions shot down when we strike?
The millions who have nothing for our pay?
For all the dreams we've dreamed
And all the songs we've sung
And all the hopes we've held
And all the flags we've hung,
The millions who have nothing for our pay—
Except the dream that's almost dead today.
O, let America be America again—
The land that never has been yet—
And yet must be—the land where *every* man is free.
The land that's mine—the poor man's, Indian's, Negro's, ME—
Who made America,
Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,
Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,
Must bring back our mighty dream again.
Sure, call me any ugly name you choose—
The steel of freedom does not stain.
From those who live like leeches on the people's lives,
We must take back our land again,
America!
O, yes,
I say it plain,
America never was America to me,
And yet I swear this oath—
America will be!
Out of the rack and ruin of our gangster death,
The rape and rot of graft, and stealth, and lies,
We, the people, must redeem
The land, the mines, the plants, the rivers.
The mountains and the endless plain—
All, all the stretch of these great green states—
And make America again!

From *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes*, published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. Copyright © 1994 the Estate of Langston Hughes.