

Democracy Matters

A group of diverse young people, including men and women of various ethnicities, are smiling and holding up circular buttons that say "VOTE" with an American flag design. They are standing in front of a brick building.

VOTER ENGAGEMENT
Tools to Defend Democracy

Presented by:

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League of Women Voters of Solano County

League of Women Voters:

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in Government.



We Stand on the Shoulders of Those Who Paved the Way



1776

- White land owning males 21 and older are granted the right to vote.
- 14th Amendment grants full citizenship and voting rights to all men born or naturalized in the United States.

1868

1870

- 15th amendment eliminates racial barriers to voting however; poll taxes, literacy tests, fraud and intimidation still prevent many from voting.



1920

- 19th Amendment grants **women** the right to vote.
- Indian Citizenship Act grants **Native Americans** citizenship and voting rights.

1924



We Stand on the Shoulders of Those Who Paved the Way

1952

- The McCarran-Walter Act of 1952 lifted all restrictions on **Asian immigrants** becoming naturalized citizens, opening up Asian-Americans to become citizens and exercise their right to vote.



Civil Rights Act, 1964

- The Civil Rights Act declared:
- no segregation in public places
 - no discrimination in employment based on race, gender, or national origin



“The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice.” Lyndon Johnson

1965

- **Voting Rights Act of 1965** was designed to enforce the 14th and 15th amendments and **prohibits discrimination in voting** thereby securing the right to vote for racial minorities.



1971

- **26th Amendment lowers** the voting age from **21 to 18** in light of the Vietnam War to ensure those old enough to fight could vote.



*“The vote is the most powerful non-violent tool we have.”
John R. Lewis*

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The goals of the league are to empower citizens to shape better communities by encouraging and facilitating citizen participation in the democratic process.

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For 101 years, the League has participated and continues to participate in the struggle for voting rights for all people.



It's Your Turn: What we're talking about today

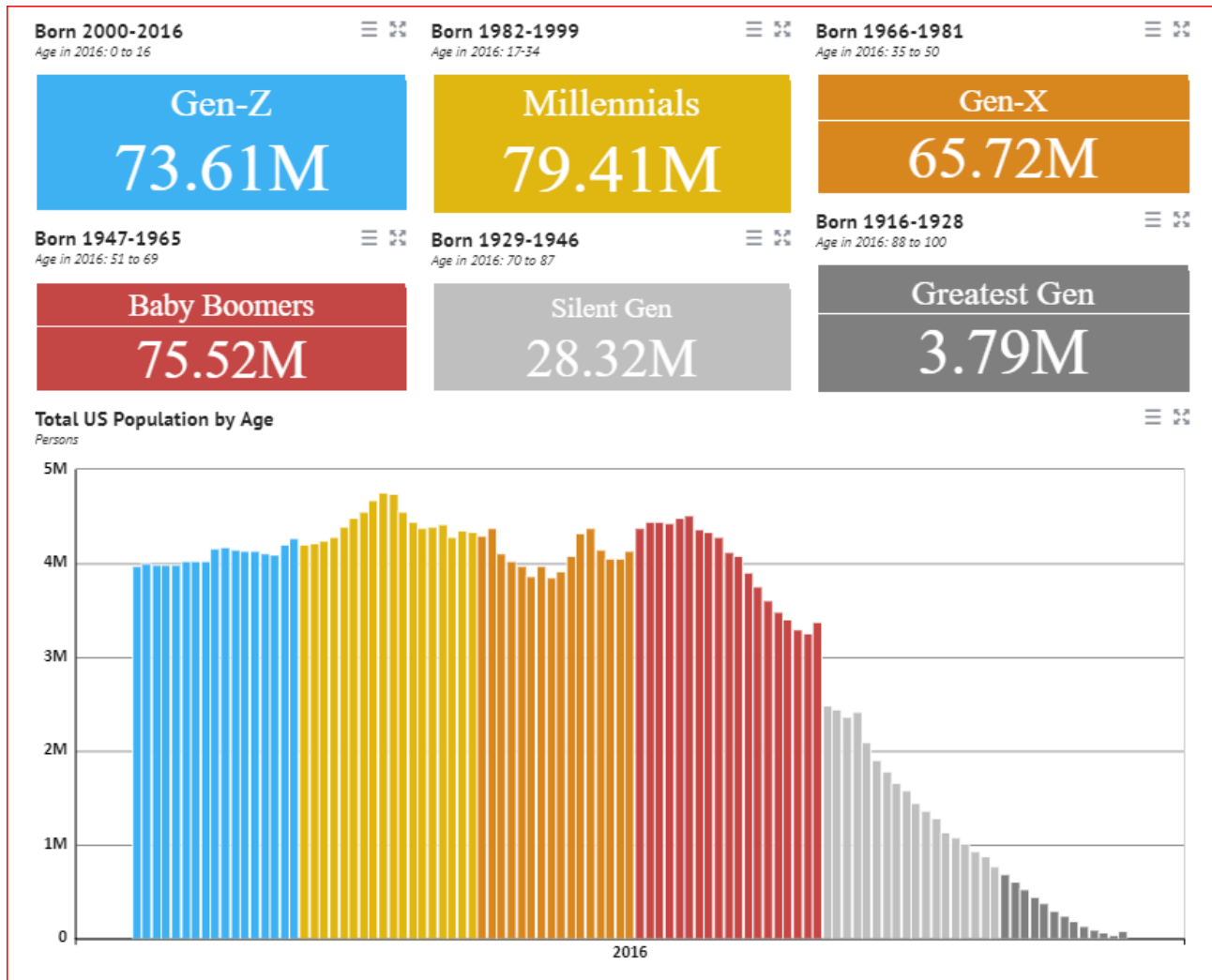
- Registering to vote in California
- Importance of your vote for you, your family and your community
- Power of your vote
- Voter choices
- Get registered NOW!
- Non-Partisan resources



It's Your Turn: "Democracy is NOT a Spectator Sport"



It's Your Turn: Power of your vote



- **Gen-Z** (born approx. 2000-2016) make up 25% of the US population and are starting to vote.
- **In 2020, the largest demographic group** in the history of the US was the one **between the ages of 18-24**. They will be the “deciders”.
- Voting is an essential way to **exercise that power** and make sure **your voice heard**.

Unbiased Election Resources

Easy Voter Guide, Fast Facts and EasyVoter.org

Help new & busy voters make sense of California issues and elections. Resources are online and are available in print and PDF in multiple languages for your Web site and newsletter. Order FREE printed guides or check online today!

www.easyvoter.org



SmartVoter.org

Everything a voter needs. Comprehensive resources online and via mobile phones. Polling place lookup, candidate info, measure analysis, and more. Add a link from your Web site. Purchase your promotional bookmarks now!

www.smartvoter.org

New Online Pros & Cons

Get the inside scoop on state ballot measures! The new online version of our traditional Pros & Cons gives a succinct overview, with extra background that is updated until the election. View it online create your customized printout, or download a PDF for printing and distribution.

www.CAvotes.org

It's Your Turn: Register to vote in California

Voter Eligibility requirements:

- ✓ Must be 18 on Election Day
- ✓ Pre-register when you are 16
- ✓ Not in Jail or on Parole for a Felony
- ✓ Born in the USA or have become a US citizen
- ✓ Not found mentally incompetent to vote by a court
- ✓ Deadline to register: Election Day at the polls

Ways to Register:

1. Using a paper form to mail in
2. Online at: registertovote.ca.gov
3. At the DMV when you get a driver's license or CA ID card
4. On Election Day at any Voter Center and in Solano County at any Polling Place.

