

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

League of Woman Voters: Get registered to vote

By The League of Women Voters

National Voter Registration Day is happening again this year on Sept. 20.

Since this event began 10 years ago nearly 5 million eligible voters have been registered to vote.

Are you among the nearly 4 million U.S. citizens who turned 18 this year? Did you recently move or change your name? Have you not voted in the last four years? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions then National Voter Registration Day is the perfect time to update

your registration.

You can go to mnvotes.org to check your registration status, register to vote and find your polling place.

According to 2020 post-election US Census data, as many as one-in-four eligible voters were not registered or weren't sure of their registration status.

Many reported not being registered because they did not know how, kept forgetting, didn't have time, were too busy or recently moved or changed their names. Fewer than 60% of potential voters aged 18-24 reported being

registered. National Voter Registration Day seeks to make sure everyone has the opportunity to get registered and vote.

The League of Women Voters is just one of more than 2,500 non-partisan businesses and nonprofit organizations trying to reach the goal of registering a million new voters by Election Day 2022.

The general election on Nov. 8 will see federal, state, county and local officials on the ballot.

Many people feel that their vote just doesn't matter, especially for national offices. However,

state, county and city leaders play a key role in making decisions about what impacts voters and our families the most.

From property taxes to potholes; from school funding to skateboards on sidewalks; from zoning to law enforcement, most of the issues that affect our daily lives are decided at the local level.

Now, more than ever, people of all ages need elected officials that represent their views on city and town councils, county boards and in law enforcement. These elected officials can make change happen—or not.

Every single vote matters in local elections.

Candidates have changed entire towns, cities or counties because they won by 10 or fewer votes.

Margins are much closer on the local level than at the national level. A recent mayoral race in Brooklyn Park was decided by three votes.

Please join the tens of thousands of citizens across the country who, regardless of party affiliation, are registering to vote their voice.

Go to mnvotes.org today!

LETTERS

Fulfill your civic duty: Vote for Karen Attia

To the editor:

My parents sacrificed everything to come to America so that I can live free. Therefore, my vote is sacred to me, and I am happy to see that MN Senate candidate Karen Attia is all for election integrity.

As a born-again Christian, a naturalized American, a wife, a mother, a veteran, a business owner, a life learner, I feel blessed to live in this community among so many kind, generous and hard-working people.

It is one of the main reasons why I love America wholeheartedly. To protect our God-given unalienable rights and to ensure our voices are heard, I will be voting for Karen Attia as our State Senator for District 34 this November.

When Karen called me, she took her time to get to know me; she asked questions and listened to my concerns. Then later, Karen came to my door to meet me and my husband in person.

Raising her four boys as a single mom, having owned and operated her small business along with working as a Critical Care Nurse, anyone can easily see she is one tough, resilient and caring lady.

Because Karen Attia is no stranger to obstacles (as she

is driven by her work ethic and personal integrity), Karen would maximize her resources and empower others to help her get the job done right. She is the "breath of fresh air" we need to rejuvenate our community.

I am excited to see where Karen will take us. Now, in reminding you to fulfill your civic duty (in Champlin, Dayton, Rogers, Brooklyn Park and Coon Rapids), please join me and vote for Karen Attia this November.

When we, the people, do our part and Karen serves as our Senator for District 34, together, we will restore our republic and ensure our children will have the opportunities to create and claim the American dream.

God bless the USA.

Charlene Stewart
Dayton

We can't afford another war

To the editor:

As a citizen who is concerned about global affairs I care about diplomacy with Iran because we cannot afford another war.

With tensions high across the globe, a commitment to diplomacy and peace is urgently needed. That's why I'm eager to see the United States return to the Iran nuclear

deal. Right now, crises including COVID, war in Ukraine, and global inflation are raging, and the last thing the world needs is another bloody, costly war. A new deal will improve U.S. and global security by putting Iran's nuclear program back in a box.

Indeed, it is the only way to stop Iran's nuclear advancements. Today, people in Iran continue to suffer under incredible sanctions during a global pandemic for the actions of a government they have little say in. Congress can make or break diplomatic progress—either by ratcheting up tensions or curtailing hostilities by urging the President to re-enter the deal ASAP.

Rejoining the deal would be a clear demonstration that the United States is ready to turn away from the foreign policy failures of the past and is instead committed to rebuilding its credibility on the global stage. It would show that we are still capable of solving pressing global challenges through diplomacy.

Never before has that been more urgent. The membership of Congress including Senators Klobuchar and Smith as well as Representative Omar, can open the path to restoring the deal by rejecting legislation that would increase the chance for war and telling the President loud and clear that, if he moves to re-enter the deal, Congress will have his back.

Dan Wicht
Fridley

Correction

In ABC Newspaper's article publishing election filings, two candidates who filed for seats on St. Francis Area School District's board were incorrectly omitted. The article should have read: "Seven candidates have filed for three spots. The candidates are: Jill Anderson (incumbent), Nathan Burr, Dave McKibben, Scott Schwarz (incumbent), Annette West, Chad Working and Amy Faanes."

Current board member Jake Humphrey did not file for reelection.

ABC Newspapers regrets the error. We strive for accuracy. If you spot an error, contact Managing Editor Matt DeBow at Matt.DeBow@apgecm.com.

Submitting letters

ABC Newspapers welcomes letters to the editor from readers who live within our coverage areas. Please limit letters to a maximum of 350 words. Writers will be limited to one published letter a month. Writers will also be limited to two letters on the same topic every six months. Submit letters to jonathan.young@apgecm.com. Please include, for publication, your name and city of residence. Also include a phone number and home address for verification. Letters are subject to editing. Publication is at the discretion of ABC Newspapers.