

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

"Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" / April 2025, Volume 97, Number 6

Wednesday, April 9th, 2025
"First 100 Days"

Monterey County Supervisor **Kate Daniels** will be our Guest Speaker for April. She was elected Supervisor, District 5 in 2024 to serve the residents of **Carmel, Carmel Valley, Big Sur, Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Monterey, Hwy 68, and Las Palmas.**



Current urgent issues she is focussing on are: the impacts of **Federal budget cuts on the County, housing shortages, general preparation for fire and floods**, and investigating and preventing a recurrence of the **"Moss300 BESS Structure Fire & HAZMAT Incident"** (also known as the Moss Landing battery plant fire, <https://tinyurl.com/MOSS-BESS-Fire>).

Prior to becoming Supervisor, Daniels was appointed to the **Monterey County Planning Commission** to address land use issues and help shape policies to mitigate long-term economic and environmental health. Many projects she supports address critical needs: clean drinking water for disadvantaged communities, affordable housing, employer sponsored farmworker housing, and coastal resilience plans.

As Supervisor, she has worked extensively with immediate past **Supervisor Mary Adams** to ensure community access to critical County services, developing expertise on budgeting, land use, water policy, natural resource protection, and leading major initiatives for clean energy.

(continued on page 2)

In Person Lunch & Learn, Wednesday, April 9th

at the **Unitarian Universalist Church** <http://uucmp.org> 490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923

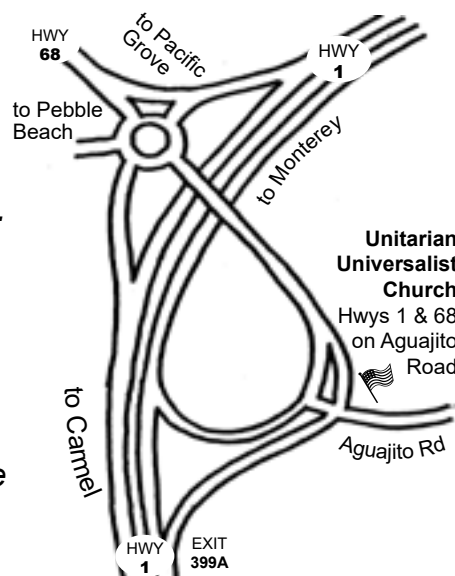
11:30 am **Doors Open & Registration Begins**
12 noon **Lunch** (optional) / 12:30 to 1:30 **Presentation**

Optional lunch is \$25 per person: grilled salmon, rice, Greek salad, hummus, pita bread, and baklava dessert
by **Chef Faris Nimry, International Cuisine of Pacific Grove.**

Reservations for lunch are required
and can be made through **Monday, April 7th**
(Bev Bean: phone or e-mail)

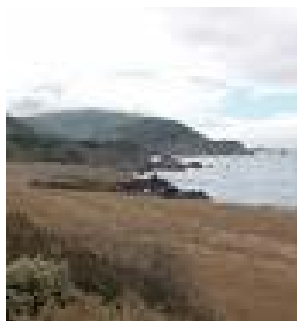
Pay at the door for lunch; meeting/presentation is **FREE.**

Reminder to Members: Reservations are a commitment to the caterer with a minimum number of attendees, and cannot be cancelled by the League after Sunday, April 6th.



Daniels also worked with **State Senator John Laird** on **water supply, homelessness, and the Big Sur Coastline** issues. She helped secure \$2.5 million from the State for the Monterey homeless shelter, **Shuman HeartHouse** (<https://bit.ly/422Sxp5>).

Daniels also helped bring resolution to a longstanding community controversy around the alignment of the **Big Sur California Coastal Trail**. Daniels continues to work toward realization of an affordable, sustainable, permanent water supply for the Monterey Peninsula.



In 2019, Daniels became **Interim Executive Director** of the non-profit **Gathering for Women, Monterey** (<https://gatheringforwomen.org>) for women experiencing homelessness.

She also assisted in securing \$1.3 million in State funding to open the overnight shelter **Casa de Noche Buena** (<https://bit.ly/4I1SNNG>), the first homeless shelter for single women and families with children in the County. Up to now, 70% of shelter guests have successfully exited to transitional or permanent housing.



SHUMAN
HEARTHOUSE

Marilyn Maxner

★ VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE IN ACTION ★

Members of our Voter Service Committee, **Marianne Gawain, Arlene Guest, Dennis Mar, Sharon Miller, Tama Olver, and Shelley Sweet**, met at the Mars' home on March 12. There was a good discussion on how to best use our time and energy in this off-election year. The general consensus was to partner with student governments at local community colleges and strengthen our networks with other organizations working on similar goals to increase voter participation and civics education.

Specific activities which we were most enthusiastic in pursuing were:

A National Voter Registration Day "Blitz" on September 16, 2025

The idea is to sign up as many organizations and businesses as we can so that everywhere people go, they will see people registering to vote. This will involve working with the **Monterey County Elections Office** to provide training. Media coverage will be a key component to raise awareness among other community organizations.

Civics Education

Oral presentations could be made about the various levels of the judicial system and courts, and how they all interact. Other methods discussed included getting students to develop

materials for their peers showing how issues on the ballot affect them and their community.

Candidate Forum Training

Provide step-by-step guidance to other civic groups in conducting candidate and pros & cons forums, and other voter service activities.



Student Video Contest

Conduct a student video contest similar to last year's **"Your Vote Is Your Voice" art contest**. Students would create short videos (90 seconds or less) on the theme of **"Democracy:**

What Have We Got to Lose?" We would reach out to teachers near the beginning of the school year and have the deadline for submissions in October 2025.

Yard Signs and Window Posters

Create signs promoting democracy and voting that can be used in dwellings, places of business, and at public gatherings.

You too can help in any of these these interesting and important activities to further democracy. Contact any member of the committee for more information.

Arlene Guest

JOIN LWVMC AT "HANDS OFF!" RALLY SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH

On Saturday, April 5th, the League of Women Voters Monterey County is joining the **"Hands Off!"** event with other local organizations in response to the current administration's overreach with attacks on our democracy and basic rights (<https://bit.ly/3FCUIO3>).

We are concerned about our health care, our data, our jobs, our services, our right to vote—and daring the world to stop the attacks.

The local rallies will be in **Monterey** from 11am to 1pm at **Window on the Bay Waterfront Park** (717 Del Monte Ave.), and in **Salinas** from 12 noon to 2pm at **South Main Street & Blanco Road**.

Events are being held all across the country with

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING APRIL 10TH

The next **Natural Resources Committee Meeting** will meet via **Zoom**, **Thursday, April 10th** at **12 noon**.



New and current members as well as non-members are all welcome to join us, no prior experience required! Current members will automatically be sent a meeting link, and newcomers can contact me to be added to the list.

We will review and discuss **upcoming general updates on local land use events**, and other topics as time allows.

George Riley

HANDS OFF!

HANDS OFF!
**Our Jobs, Our Service,
Our Right to Vote!**



This is a crisis, and the time to act is now!

the participation of other Leagues. **"Hands Off!"** is a message to the world that we do not consent to the destruction of our government and our economy for the benefit of billionaires.

Across the country, people will be marching, rallying, and protesting to demand a stop to the chaos and to build a powerful opposition movement against undemocratic change.

A core principle behind this "Hands Off!" event is a commitment to **nonviolent action**. It is expected that all participants will seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values.

Tama Olver, Sharon Miller and Dennis Mar

LWV CALIFORNIA BIENNIAL CONVENTION JUNE 21 - 22

This year's **LWVC Biennial Convention** will be via **Zoom** and **You Tube**. The cost for a Delegate is \$75 and \$30 for a Member. Registration will open at the end of April.

Convention business time will be **June 21- June 22** from **9 to 4pm**. Workshops and special events will take place from **Tuesday, June 17** through **Friday June 20**. Local Leagues are encouraged to host **regional gatherings** and submit local Leagues to be recognized for different awards. Questions? Visit <https://lwvc.org/conv25-home/>.



**Sharon Stone, Membership & Technology
Manager** convention@lwvc.org

★ THE 2025 REDISTRICTING OF PACIFIC GROVE ★

Remember our League presentation on **"Redistricting"** way back in October 2021 (*"The LWVMC Voter" October 2021, Vol. 94 Number 6*)? We anticipated changes in the demographic make-up of Monterey County in that report, which has now come to pass.

On March 5th, the **Pacific Grove City Council** chose **"Map 101"** to set its city boundaries into six voting districts numbered 1 through 6. This will replace its former system of having every Council Member representing the entire city. Current Councilmembers will serve their full terms regardless of their residence location. However when their current terms expire, a new election will be held to determine who will represent the voting district in which they reside.

Pacific Grove will continue to have a single mayor representing the City as a whole. However, they will convert from the current system of at-large

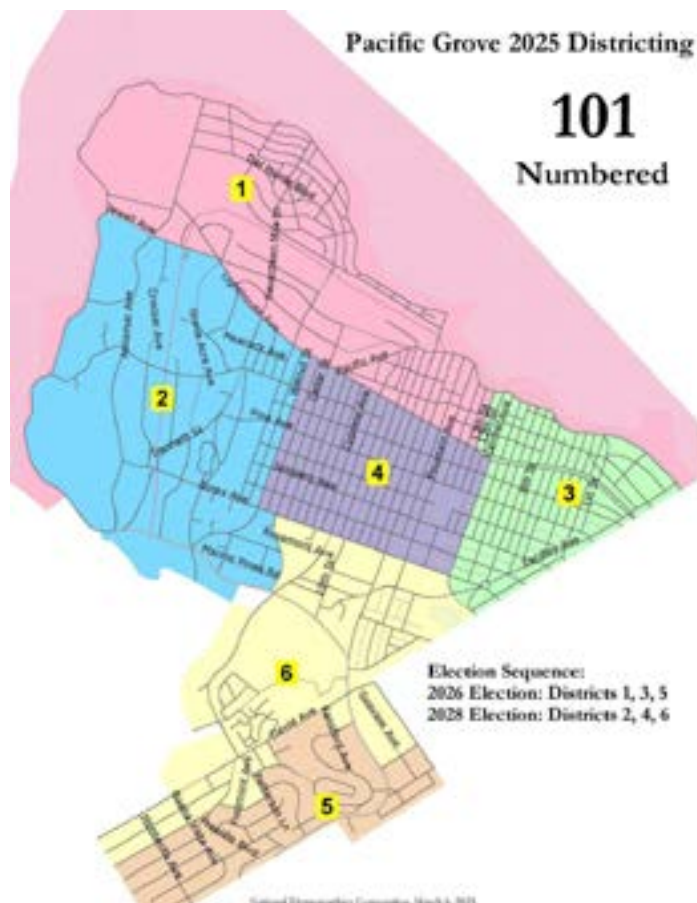
voting for six City Councilmembers to represent the City as a whole, to the **new system of a Council Representative for each of six districts**. This will prevent Pacific Grove from having to defend against a distinctly possible, very expensive lawsuit (that it would be likely to lose). It is also hoped that this will **strengthen loyalties to our neighbors and to our neighborhoods**.



The newly created **District 1** (where Councilmembers **McDonnell** and **Garfield** currently live), and **Districts 3 and 5** (which currently have no Councilmembers), will go up for election in **2026**.

District 2 (**Paul Walkingstick**), **District 4** (**Tina Rau**) and **District 6** (**Joe Amelio** and **Chaps Poduri**), will go up for election in **2028**. Councilmember Amelio has indicated that he is not running for another term.

Tama Olver and Sharon Miller



LWVMC ANNUAL MEETING

Mark May 14 on your calendars. Review the proposed "areas for emphasis" recommended at the **Program Planning Meeting**, and prepare to vote on them at this important meeting. Venue: **UU Church, 11:30am Business, 12 noon Lunch, 12:30pm Speaker**.



Guest Speaker **Professor Michelle "Mickey" Welsh** will address the question: **"Is the Supreme Court the Cause of the Constitutional Crisis or the Solution?"** Professor Welsh was Guest Speaker at our March 2023 Lunch & Learn meeting, in which she expounded on the local implications of recent Supreme Court rulings (*LWVMC The Voter, March 2023, Volume 95, Number 6*). She is sure to update us on further threats to our lives and democracy.

Dennis Mar



LWVMC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT STUDY REPORT



Shelley Sweet, Sharon Miller and Sandy Hoag formed a committee to study **Leadership Development** for our League of Women Voters of Monterey County. They began by interviewing five Leagues in California, asking about what's working and not working, how their leadership works, how their committees work, and about their membership, with the goal of **learning what other Leagues are doing that might offer some ideas for our Monterey League.**



solve this, instead of a President, two Leagues use a "Leadership Team" of four to five members.

Two Leagues mentioned being excited about the National League speaking up for Democracy. They

want to figure out how to progress with this initiative.

Membership

There were various ideas about how to bring in new members, and ways to bring new members from their first LWV experience to being more involved:

- ☑ Hold **in-person meetings**, such as coffee klatches, cocktail and other social events without an agenda where people can make connections.
- ☑ Find ways to **match member talents and interests** with LWV projects/issues.
- ☑ Undertake **more outreach to new members**, including "meet and greets", new member orientation, and undertaking pointed surveys on where they fit into the LWV activities.
- ☑ Give each board member an "**affinity list**" of 5-10 new people to call before a general meeting, encouraging them to understand what's happening and to participate.
- ☑ Assign a "**membership buddy**" to each new member to welcome them on board.
- ☑ Encourage **young people on the Nominating Committee** to help bring in new young members.
- ☑ Have meetings in the early evening or Saturday morning as young working people find it suits their time better.

(continued on page 6)

The committee spoke to the California Leagues of **Fresno** (168 members), **Ventura County** (180 members), **Santa Barbara** (216 members), **San Francisco** (130 members) and **San Luis Obispo County** (300 members).

In comparison, our League has 170 members a geography which includes small cities, many smaller rural communities, and significant wilderness. Fresno, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo have similar geographic areas, whereas Santa Barbara and San Francisco are more urban.

Survey Findings of Interest

All Leagues focus on important local issues to bring relevance and energy to their Leagues.

Committees are a strong force in each League. Their work is mostly about Advocacy, Education, and action in the public on key issues is invigorating. Committees did not have specific goals and did not keep metrics. Voter Service had the most specific duties during election periods. Many Committee Chairs have been in their position a long time.

4 of the 5 Leagues surveyed had many longtime members in leadership roles but would like to have more younger and more diverse members.

It has been difficult to find new members to take on committee leadership and the Presidency. To

✓ Get involved with **student groups**, e.g., San Francisco LWV has a Youth Council for 16–22-year-olds. Fresno has a student unit at Cal State Fresno. Groups set goals and activities, including use of social media.

✓ **Affiliate with local organizations** whose members will add good voices to the LWV.

✓ **Train new members in a specific area** to keep them engaged, such as Voter Registration or different aspects of Voter Service. For example, one League held successful **training on the Electoral College system**.

✓ **Hold annual big community forums** or annual picnics just for fun.

✓ Provide **weekly e-mail blasts** about League activities, upcoming meetings, e.g., city councils, school boards, etc.

Shelley Sweet, Sharon Miller, Sandy Hoag

DENNIS MAR 2025 ACLU ATKINSON AWARD WINNER

Our League's President **Dennis Mar** was honored with the **American Civil Liberties Union Atkinson Award for Civil Rights** on March 15th.



The award recognizes individuals or groups who have made **significant contributions to civil liberties in Monterey County**. Dennis was praised for his support and promotion of voting rights, arts and culture, libraries, astronomy, state parks, and many other civic minded activities.

Congratulations Dennis, well-deserved for all you are and do for our League and County!

LWVMC Board and Members



WHERE THE ACTION IS



On February 14th, 2025 the 105th anniversary of its founding, the League of Women Voters sent a letter to Congressional leadership expressing grave concern over the state of our nation, urging Congress to protect the rule of law, defend the Constitution, and end the overreach that the Executive Branch has shown, and signed by leadership from every state League and DC affiliate in the country. Here is a brief summary of the letter:

To the Honorable Members of the
United States Senate and the
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515



The League of Women Voters of the United States (“the League”), along with our state affiliates in 50 states and the District of Columbia, write to express our strong concern about Congress’s abdication of its duty and authority under Article I of the US Constitution. We urge you to exercise your authority to protect the rule of law, defend the Constitution, and end the overreach by the executive branch of government, which is surely leading to harm for millions of Americans. We demand that you honor your oaths and protect your constituents.

Less than a month into his second term, President Trump has issued a series of executive orders (EOs) and directed actions that violate the law and encroach upon the authority of Congress as representatives of the American people. Of note, the Trump administration has, through wide-ranging executive actions, attempted to:

1. **End birthright citizenship** for all persons born in the United States;
2. **Pause the distribution of federal funds** already allocated to programs by Congress;
3. **Dismantle federal agencies** such as the US Agency for International Development (“USAID”) and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (“CFPB”), which require notice to and the input of Congress before such actions can be taken;
4. **Allow private citizens**, who have neither been elected or complied with the advice and consent requirement of the Senate, **to access sensitive government systems**; and
5. Attempt to **reduce the federal workforce** through unorthodox means that deny them due process.

These actions negatively affect American families and communities across the country.

...So far, the League has seen limited action or response from members of Congress to assert its constitutional authority under Article I to protect our system of checks and balances, the rights of Americans, or democracy itself. Congress must do its part to ensure that our great democracy is preserved and safeguarded. The outcry by Americans who are speaking out against the impact of the Executive Orders, including those who voted for President Trump, should be all that is needed for Congress to stand in its authority, legislate on behalf of the American people, and restore stability to the country.

...Presidents commonly use executive orders, but they must be issued lawfully within constitutional checks and balances. EOs direct executive branch agencies and staff to take or stop specific actions ... To be lawful and enforceable, an executive order must be rooted in either the president’s powers granted in the Constitution or a law passed by Congress ... Congress may allow the president discretion regarding how to implement the programs for which it appropriates money, but a president cannot decide whether to implement them. In other words, once Congress decides to spend money, the president cannot unilaterally substitute his judgment for that of Congress. President Trump has issued numerous EOs that are not rooted in any presidential power granted by Congress and violate both the US Constitution and federal law. These EOs directly threaten our democracy. As outlined above, our system of constitutional checks and balances gives Congress the power of the purse, not the executive...

As the representatives of every League affiliate in every US state and the District of Columbia and the League of Women Voters of the United States, the undersigned presidents of the League of Women Voters ask you to stand up for the American people.

We strongly urge you to use your authority to uphold the rule of law, defend the Constitution, and put an end to the executive branch’s overreach, which is undoubtedly causing harm to millions of Americans. The time to act in defense of your constituents is now.

Respectfully,

Leadership from LWVUS and all state and DC League affiliates

For the complete letter go to www.lwv.org/lwv-urges-congress-exercise-its-authority.



Join the League of Women Voters of Monterey County



FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Students may join LWVMryCo via the website without paying membership fees.

New Members Welcome!

Any person age 16 or older may be a member.

Use the form below or contact:

LWVMC Membership Director

Mail to LWVMryCo PO Box 1995

Monterey, CA 93942

Checks payable to LWVMC or
online with credit card or PayPal

Membership Levels

- ☐ \$250+ **Carrie Chapman Catt**
- ☐ \$200 **Sojourner Truth**
- ☐ \$150 **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**
- ☐ \$100 **Susan B. Anthony**
- ☐ \$ 95 **Household (2 persons, 1 address)**
- ☐ \$ 65 **Single membership**
- ☐ (free) **Student (16-24 years, enrolled in a diploma or degree program)**

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

e-mail

- ☐ Please do NOT publish my address, phone number or email in The Voter newsletter

~Florence Curlee Scholarships~

are available to pay household or single membership fees. Contact:

Janet Brennan, Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

Membership dues & contributions to LWVMryCo are not tax deductible, nor are donations to the Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund.

However, donations to the League of Women Voters of California Local Impact Fund (LWVCLIF)

(formerly LWVC Education Fund)

are tax deductible,

but please continue to make the donations payable to LWVCEF.

LWVMRYCO.ORG WEBSITE UPDATE



New Members can now join, and Current Members can update their profiles, or renew their LWVMC membership online at:
portal.lwv.org

If for any reason you can't get the above link to work, use:

https://portal.lwv.org

It's never been easier to join the League of Women Voters of Monterey County, maintain your membership subscription, and share the news about our League and it's activities!

Debby Majors-Degnan

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

~New Members Welcome!~



If you have friends or family who might benefit from joining our League, bring them along to an

In-Person Lunch & Learn presentation

(non-members are always welcome),

or invite them to attend a

virtual Zoom meeting with you.

Show people where to view our **online videos**,
(see opposite page for suggestions)

or share your copies of **"The Voter"**

to let them see what our League has been doing to promote non-partisan voting and engage in important local issues.

★★★★★★★★★★

Contact: **Janet Brennan**

HAVE YOU MISSED A GENERAL MEETING?

Find them all online at tinyurl.com/LWVMCVideos



"Roadmap to Civilian Oversight of County Sheriff's Department"

"Mike" Gennaco, former Chief Civil Rights, US Attorney's Office (3/12/25)



"Ranked Choice Voting"

Arash Sayadi & Steve Chessin (4/10/24)



"Civic Engagement"

Dr. Daisy Martin, Founding Director, History & Civics Project, UC Santa Cruz (2/12/25)



"Our Polarized Politics"

Steven W. Hughes, PhD (11/13/24)



"Big Sur Land Trust: Projects and Progress"

Jeanette Tuitele-Lewis, President/CEO BSLT (1/8/25)



"The State of Our Local Media" Sara Rubin (9/11/24)

Debby Degnan Divers

Board of Directors League of Women Voters of Monterey County

★ Officers

President

Dennis Mar

Vice President

Shelley Sweet

Secretary

Sandy Hoag

Treasurer

Marilyn Maxner

★ Policy Portfolios

Government

Sharon Miller

LWV Action

Janet Brennan

Natural Resources

Janet Brennan

Social Policy

Beverly Kreps

★ League Activities

Membership

Janet Brennan

Publicity

Beverly Bean

Luncheons

Beverly Bean

"The Voter" Editor

Regina Doyle

Voter Service

Pamela Stewart

Arlene Guest

★ Members-At-Large

Marianne Gawain

Tama Olver

★ Off-Board

LWV California

Jackie Jacobberger

Natural Resources

George Riley

Nominating Committee

(Elected)

Robert Evans (2024-26)

Linda Gin (2023-25)

Marjory Kay (2024-26)

(Appointed)

Marianne Gawain

Beverly Kreps

VOTE411

Arlene Guest

Videographers

Joe Asling

"The Voter" Biographer

Nancy Baker Jacobs

Website Coordinator

Debby Majors-Degnan

★ LWVMryCo The VOTER ★

Published monthly except June/July/Aug/Dec

Send articles & updates to Regina Doyle



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF MONTEREY COUNTY
"THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

PO Box 1995 Monterey CA 93942
(831) 648-8683

Non-Profit Org.
U.S.POSTAGE PAID
Monterey, CA
Permit No. 115

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



★ **LWVMryCo Calendar 2025** ★



APRIL

MAY

LWVMC
Board Zoom Meeting
Monday, April 7th, 11:30am
contact: **Dennis Mar**

Board Zoom Meeting
Monday, May 5th 11:30am
contact: **Dennis Mar**

LWVMC In-Person General Meeting
Wednesday, April 9th, 12 noon
"First 100 Days"

Natural Resources Zoom Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 8th, 12 noon
contact: **George Riley**

Kate Daniels, District 5 Supervisor
contact: **Marilyn Maxner**
(see front page for details)

LWVMC Annual Meeting
May 14th 11:30am Business
12 noon Lunch / 12:30pm Speaker
(see details page 4)

Natural Resources Zoom Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 10th, 12 noon
contact: **George Riley**
(see page 3 for details)

JUNE
Board Zoom Meeting
Monday, June 2nd 11:30am
contact: **Dennis Mar**

★★★★★★★★

*We are a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights,
and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy.*