



Death of Minneapolis Man Spark's Global Protests by Jim Hill

After 400 years of slavery and systemic racial oppression, we have arrived at a flashpoint that has captured the attention of the entire world. What has suddenly driven hundreds of thousands of people into the streets in protest is stark video proof that police all across the country have been wantonly killing black people and getting away with it. Cell phone videos have vividly recorded acts of lethal brutality culminating in the slow, cold-blooded murder of George Floyd, carried out in full public view. No manner of false report or deceptive excuse can change what we've seen with our own eyes. The legacy of slavery, an American original sin, has brought us all to this collective moment of outrage, guilt, humiliation, and fear, a wrenching revelation to all that in the minds of some, black lives don't matter. A change is going to come. Now!

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From the League of Women Voters California

by Stephanie Doute, Executive Director

The history of the United States has been punctuated by moments of revolution to drive change. Revolution born of oppression. Revolution born of systemic inequality built into the fabric of our society. Revolution born of people demanding their human and civil rights. Today, we find ourselves in such a moment, as people all over the country, and now the world, stand to demand justice for Black lives. As the League of Women Voters, allyship with the Black community and civil rights movement is our moral imperative and fundamentally tied to our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

It is critical right now that we take the time to reflect on the words of LWV US CEO, Virginia Kase:

This weekend, people from all over this country exercised their First Amendment rights as they protested the killing of George Floyd and the countless other Black lives that have been taken at the hands of police. We saw peaceful demonstrators take to the streets demanding change. We have seen people of every race, religion, and ethnic background stand and kneel in solidarity with the Black community with the same message – Black Lives Matter.

We've also seen civil unrest in some places and, sadly, acts of police violence against protestors. We must not let those images derail the fight against systemic racial injustice and inequality. Speaking out is an important first step, but this moment requires more than words – it requires us to change. (To read the full statement, [click here](#))

I have seen League members on the front lines, working to accomplish systemic change and often acting as allies to challenge racial injustice in California. In 2019, LWVC adopted a new position

on [criminal justice](#), with the intent of fighting alongside our Black and Brown communities to confront systemic bias, and to modernize and build transparency and accountability in policing practices, particularly as they disproportionately impact communities of color.

The League fought hard to pass [AB 392](#), a new California law creating one of the toughest standards in the country for the use of force by police. And League members across the state are now working with a broad coalition of advocates, civil rights groups, and local governments to confront resistance to the new law, ensure compliance across statewide agencies, and guarantee effective local implementation.

Further, the LWVC worked with our civil rights partners to co-sponsor the [California Racial Justice Act](#) (AB 2200), which will not carry forward during this legislative year due to COVID-19, but will likely be re-introduced next year. We are co-sponsors of Assembly Constitutional Amendment 6, working with the [Free the Vote Coalition](#) to confront the history of racial oppression behind our state's felony disenfranchisement laws and restore voting rights to Californians on parole. If passed, the Free the Vote Act will roll back a form of voter suppression currently facing Black and Brown Californians and will signal to all Californians that their voices matter.

You see, our work - the work of empowering voters and defending democracy is inherently tied to dismantling the systems of racism that have been built into our social structures over hundreds of years. The revolution will continue. It will continue on the streets. It will continue on the ballot. It will continue in the statehouse.

And we will be there listening to our directly-impacted members and to the civil rights leaders at the forefront of the movement. We will use our talents, drive, and mission to help amplify their

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voices to drive the kinds of changes they are calling for, and that we have already prioritized as a League.

And finally, as a reminder to us all, people are hurting. Protests and civil unrest are rooted in pain. The conversations we are having are not easy. Doing the work of introspection to challenge our own assumptions and worldviews is not easy. Yet, as

individuals, we must do the work. There is a lot to learn for those of us humble enough to listen. As we all try to show up in the best ways possible in this moment, I encourage you to come to every conversation with an open heart, humility, empathy, and an open mind. That's the very minimum it will take for us to stand together and move forward.



In League by Chris Carson, President of the League of Women Voters

On May 25, George Floyd was murdered by an officer with the Minneapolis Police Department. He is only one of too many names on a list that should not exist. It is time that the League of Women Voters take stand for social justice for Black lives in America.

Over the years we have watched Black men, women, and children lose their lives at the hands of people who benefit from a system that protects them. Today we witness the rage of those who are tired of due process being a privilege not afforded to Black people.

With protests happening across the country, we know that many Leagues would like to exercise their First Amendment right for Black lives on the frontline, if you have not already. As you go out to protest, please know the following:

- Yes, you may wear League shirts and use League signage at peaceful protests
- Yes, you may wear League shirts at post-riot cleanups
- Yes, you may offer support to protestors on behalf of the League

We are joining our partners who serve in the civil rights community in fighting for policy reform that will dismantle systematic racism. We joined [coalition partners on a letter](#) calling for congressional action on police violence, and in the weeks and months ahead, the national office will be stepping up our commitment to racial justice. Virginia Kase wrote a blog, [Standing in Solidarity with the Black Community](#), to share how the League plans to proceed as allies in the social justice space.

As allies in the social justice space I encourage us all to do our homework and learn more about the iniquities that Black Americans face. We encourage you to continue your get-out-the-vote and voter education efforts. This is a time to highlight the power of voting, especially in local elections, and informing voters where candidates stand on issues that are important to them. Continue to promote [VOTE411](#) as a viable resource for voter information.

Lastly, we acknowledge that the League hasn't taken such a strong stance against racism in the past, and as we move into the next century of work, we hope to play a bigger role in fighting for social justice. I hope you'll join us.

President's Message

by Pearl Mann, LWVNOC President

The 2019-2020 year for the League of Women Voters of North Orange County began with our Kick-Off in September, featuring Chris Erskine, the Los Angeles Times nationally recognized humor columnist, speaking about "Making the Best of Things." His humorous and poignant remarks received a standing ovation. Thanks to our generous sponsors and the hard-working Special Events committee, led by Jennifer Trafford and Jan Urban, the silent auction was a huge success.

In October we began preparing for the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters and the Centennial of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 2020, with Professor Barbara Dunsheath's fascinating presentation on the "Historical Perspective on Women Gaining the Right to Vote" at Lunch with League.

Continuing the celebration, LWVNOC co-sponsored with Fullerton College "Tea with Alice and Me," a full-length one-woman play about the suffragettes, starring Zoe Nicholson, at the Campus Theater on February 13. The play was free and open to the public. Prior to the performance, LWVNOC sponsored a lovely reception where Molly McClanahan, a former LWVNOC President, was honored on her retirement from the North Orange County College Board with a new Fullerton College scholarship in her honor.

Alison Edwards, CEO of Orange County Human Relations, informed us in an eye-opening presentation about the ongoing issues and their amazing work in our county at our February LwL. Due to the pandemic and social distancing, we cancelled all in-person activities, including the March and April lunches and our May Annual Meeting. We are grateful to Lois Smith and Marge Imbler, co-chairs of both the Speakers Committee and Lunch with League, for their dedication to engaging wonderful speakers. Our usual September Kickoff will not take place, but we hope to provide a podcast or webinar on the history of US presidential power.

Jim Hill, our talented editor and his trusty assistant, Karen Hill, continue to publish an excellent edition of The Voter monthly. Our League website is current and working thanks to our skilled web host, Ed Smith. Read with League meets via Zoom under the able leadership of Lucina Moses and Cheryl Zimmerman. Wanda Shaffer, Observer Corps Director, faithfully observes Board of Supervisors meetings and oversees Fullerton City Council observers. Wanda would like more help to keep us informed. Our Board of Directors continues to meet via Zoom.

Voter Service co-chairs, Deborah Vagts and Patti Chikahisa, and other members assisted in educating the public about the new vote centers. Mary Fuhrman, Action and Advocacy chair had to cancel annual visits with elected officials. Our co-membership chairs, Marcy Fry and Barbara Orosz, had to postpone a new member orientation, but organized a successful telephone tree for officers and directors to call most members to see how they were faring quarantined in place, as well as to confirm their email addresses for our Annual Meeting conducted via email on June 25.

Our Annual Meeting was announced by the Jun 1, 2020, deadline and conducted via email on June 25. A quorum responded via email ballots and elected all nominated officers and directors, approved the budget, and agreed to the 2020-21 program emphasis of Voter Service, Education and Community.

Thanks to all our officers, directors and members whose patience, understanding, and cooperation has been remarkable as we adjust to novel ways in trying times to accomplish our goals.



Pearl Mann
LWVNOC President

Motion to Protect California Voters Filed from LWVC

Today, June 10, 2020, the League of Women Voters of California, California Common Cause, and Community Coalition in South Los Angeles filed a motion to intervene in *Republican National Committee v. Newsom*, which was brought in response to Governor Newsom's executive order requiring mail-in ballots to be automatically sent to all registered California voters for the November general election. As both major political parties are involved in the case, these voting rights groups seek to intervene on behalf of impacted voters.

Nationwide, 25 percent of Americans already vote by mail. Just this year, at least 16 states have postponed elections or moved to conduct them by mail to ensure voters can cast ballots from the safety of their homes. Mail ballots have been used by both Republican and Democratic politicians alike.

“As our leaders wage a political fight around mail-in ballots, the League knew we needed to step in to protect voters’ rights and bring their voice to the table,” said Stephanie Doute, executive director of the League of Women Voters of California. “Right now, voters—especially those in high-risk categories—are weighing how to keep themselves safe while they exercise their right to vote. These same voters are the ones who traditionally struggle with fair ballot access. We cannot allow political games to drown out the voter’s perspective. Voters must be the priority as we head into another important election.”

"These lawsuits are filled with baseless claims about vote-by-mail being rife with fraud and California's elections being poorly run. They are light on facts and heavy on partisan rhetoric," said Jonathan Mehta Stein, Executive Director at California Common Cause. "We seek to defend the Governor's Executive Order to ensure access to the ballot for all California voters, but we also hope to protect California's approach to elections, which has

always put voter access first without sacrificing security."

"This lawsuit is important to CoCo [Community Coalition] because ensuring everyone has the opportunity to exercise their right to vote is of utmost importance especially in this moment that we are currently living in," Hector Sanchez, deputy director of Community Coalition said. "Sending a vote-by-mail ballot to every voter will show Black and Brown people that California is committed to all communities participating in our democracy."

Due to the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, voters are seeking to cast their ballots by mail at highly increased rates. Senior voters, voters with disabilities, immunocompromised and chronically ill voters, Black voters, and Latinx voters are at higher risk of serious illness due to COVID-19. These groups could be especially harmed without access to a safe, reliable mail-in voting option in November. Additionally, language minority voters and voters of color experience disproportionate obstacles in the ballot application process. These voters are protected from this risk when ballots are sent automatically.

"Around the country, we have seen voters opt for vote-at-home options to ensure their safety during this pandemic," said Chris Carson, president of the board of the League of Women Voters of the United States. "Even before the pandemic hit, voters were increasingly taking advantage of mail-in options. Voters have clearly shown that vote-by-mail is a valued choice for casting their ballots. Now is especially not the time to stand in the way of voter access."

The three voting rights advocacy groups are represented by Public Counsel, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP.

"Mail-in voting is the sensible way to maximize voter turnout and protect public health in the time of COVID-19. It's how President Trump votes," said Jesselyn Friley, attorney at Public Counsel. "The

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RNC lawsuit is all about reducing access to the ballot box by making exercise of the franchise a life-threatening risk, and as with so many consequences of the pandemic, this risk will fall disproportionately on communities of color.”

“Sadly, a political party has filed suit in order to make it more difficult and less safe for people to vote. Our clients are intervening in order to make sure that the voices of those whose rights are in jeopardy – the voters – are heard,” said Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

“It has never been more important to ensure that eligible voters can exert their fundamental right to be heard and participate in the upcoming election, especially during this current public health crisis,” said John Libby, partner with Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP. “Manatt is proud to work with our clients and co-counsel to support Governor Newsom’s executive order to send mail-in ballots to every active registered voter in California for the November election.”

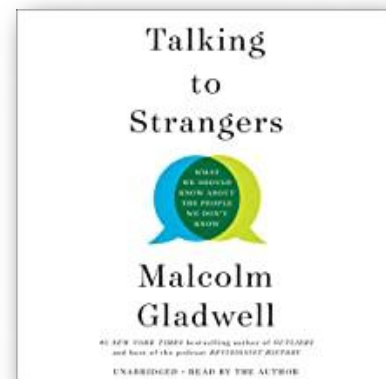
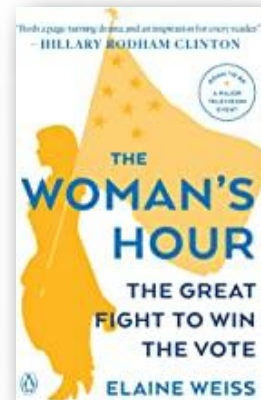
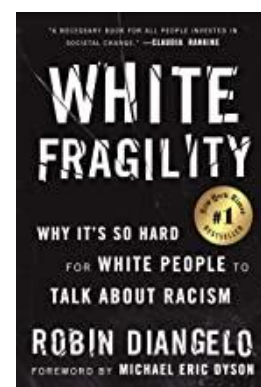
Read with League

by Lucina Moses and Cheryl Zimmerman

Read with League met via a Zoom meeting hosted by Jan Wagner (Thank You Jan!) and had a wide-ranging discussion of **Catch and Kill** by Ronan Farrow.

Jan will also host this month’s RWL meeting via Zoom on July 14th at 1 pm. Our book is **White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism** by Robin DiAngelo (2018). This book is an examination of racial stereotypes and an exploration of identity politics. It discusses why white people implode when talking about race. Jerry Young will review the book. If you wish to participate in the meeting via Zoom, please email Jan Wagner at janwagner@me.com no later than July 10th, so she has time to build her email list to send out invitations to the meeting. Please RSVP to Lucina Moses by calling (775)762-7656 or emailing to lucinalea@mac.com or call Cheryl Zimmerman at (714) 348-6765 or email Cheryl at cbzimmerman@fullerton.edu. Please contact Lucina or Cheryl if you have questions.

Future Meetings: We have changed the schedule for the books we will read. We will read **The Woman’s Hour** by Elaine Weiss in August and **Talking to Strangers** by Malcolm Gladwell in September. Our book for October will be chosen at the July meeting.



Extend Redistricting Deadlines! from LWVC

As COVID-19 Slows Census, Former Gov. Schwarzenegger, Common Cause, and League of Women Voters CA Urge Extension of Redistricting Deadlines

LOS ANGELES – Redistricting advocates today urged the California Supreme Court to step in to preserve California’s independent redistricting process. The extraordinary pandemic circumstances and delays in the 2020 Census mean that California’s Citizens Redistricting Commission cannot meet its current deadline to adopt new voting maps. California Common Cause, the League of Women Voters of California and former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger submitted the amicus letter in support of the California Legislature’s petition to the Court to postpone redistricting deadlines.

The Commission is charged with drawing California’s U.S. House of Representatives, state legislative, and Board of Equalization districts using census population data once per decade. The deadline for adoption of the next decennial maps is August 15, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the Census Bureau’s 2020 operations have been significantly delayed, and the Bureau has asked for a four-month extension of the deadline for delivering population data to the states to July 31, 2021.

Under normal circumstances, the Commission would have four and half months to draw voting maps. The redistricting advocates support extending the redistricting map deadline to December 15, 2021, which would preserve the critical four and a half months for line drawing allowed in the CA Constitution from the census data release.

Statement of Carol Moon Goldberg, President of League of Women Voters of CA:

“The League supports the Legislature’s extension request because it is a common sense and nonpartisan response to the delay in gathering and reporting census data caused by COVID-19 public health crisis. The California Citizens Redistricting Commission simply cannot create well-considered, fairly-drawn maps within two weeks of receiving census data. We urge the Court to extend the deadline to ensure that the Commission has the proper time to fulfill its function in the way intended by California voters when the Commission was first created.”

The redistricting advocates are represented pro bono by Kecker, Van Nest & Peters LLP.

Statement of Kathay Feng, Director of Redistricting & Representation, Common Cause:

“The people of California voted twice to create a new people-centered redistricting process that puts a premium on transparency and public input. CA Common Cause cannot allow the census delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to jeopardize our public redistricting process. If the CA Supreme Court does not extend the deadline, redistricting will have to be completed in two weeks - that’s a recipe for disaster.”



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**LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of NORTH ORANGE COUNTY
 Membership Form 2019 - 2020**

Name(s) of Member(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone _____ Cell _____ E-mail _____

Individual member	\$65.00	Renewal ___	New member ___	\$ _____		
Additional household member	\$32.50	Renewal ___	New member ___	\$ _____		
Student member	Free	Renewal ___	New member ___	\$ _____		
Additional donation to League (To cover our operating expenses, etc.):						
	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	other	\$ _____
Donation to Educational Fund (Separate tax-deductible donation):						
	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	other	\$ _____

Total enclosed (Make checks payable to **LWVNOC.**) Thank you. \$ _____

How can you serve the League? How can the League serve you?

Please complete this member survey. Circle your choices or fill in the blanks.

Our areas of emphasis this year are: **Voting Issues, Civic Engagement, Education, and Housing and Homelessness.**

I am interested in working on: _____

I would also be willing to work on special events and other League projects. Yes No

I have special skills (for example: graphic art, computers): _____

I am currently: Working ___ Retired ___ My job/profession: _____

I prefer to attend League events: During the day In the evening Weekdays Weekends

Suggestion for an activity or speaker: _____

I am not able to participate in League events but wish to support the work of the League by renewing my membership or by making a donation. Comments: _____

Please send this completed form with your check to LWVNOC, P.O. Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834

For Treasurer's Use Only: Check # _____ Amount \$ _____ Date: _____



League of Women Voters

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