We will be having our regular monthly meeting on October 28, at 1:00 pm via ZOOM and conference call. If you are interested in attending please email us for the details, at:

info@nowsonoma.org

“When I’m sometimes asked when will there be enough [women on the Supreme Court] and I say, ‘When there are nine,’ people are shocked. But there’d been nine men, and nobody’s ever raised a question about that.”
— Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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EIGHTY EIGHT of Amy Coney Barrett's faculty colleagues say she should withdraw from consideration for SCOTUS

(Jonathan Alter) 88 of Amy Coney Barrett’s faculty colleagues at Notre Dame have released a letter saying she should withdraw from consideration for the Supreme Court.

"Dear Judge Barrett,

We write to you as fellow faculty members at the University of Notre Dame.

We congratulate you on your nomination to the United States Supreme Court. An appointment to the Court is the crowning achievement of a legal career and speaks to the commitments you have made throughout your life. And while we are not pundits, from what we read your confirmation is all but assured.

That is why it is vital that you issue a public statement calling for a halt to your nomination process until after the November presidential election..."

EleanorR
Amy Coney Barrett is the least popular Supreme Court nominee in recent history

(The Economist) Approval for Amy Coney Barrett’s nomination is lower than for any Supreme Court candidate in more than three decades, according to polling data compiled by The Economist.

bigtree
Hearings: SCOTUS nominee Barrett refuses to answer simple question about Trump delaying the election

Sen. Dianne Feinstein: "On July 30th 2020, President Trump made claims of voter fraud and suggested that he wanted to delay the upcoming election. Does the Constitution give the President of the United States the authority to unilaterally delay a general election under any circumstances?"

Barrett won't give a straight answer.

(For the record, the Constitution does not give the President the authority to unilaterally delay a general election.)
October Highlights in U.S. Women’s History

October 3, 1904 – Mary McLeod Bethune opens her first school for African-American students in Daytona Beach, Florida

October 4, 1976 – Barbara Walters becomes the first woman co-anchor of the evening news (at ABC)

October 4, 1993 – Ruth Bader Ginsburg joins the U.S. Supreme Court as its second woman Justice

October 8, 1993 – Toni Morrison becomes the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature

October 10, 1983 – Dr. Barbara McClintock receives the Nobel Prize for Medicine for her discovery in genetics about mobile genetic elements

October 11, 1984 – Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan is the first U.S. woman astronaut to "walk" in space during Challenger flight

October 15, 1948 – Dr. Frances L. Willoughby is the first woman doctor in the regular U.S. Navy

October 16, 1916 – Margaret Sanger opens the U.S.’s first birth control clinic in Brooklyn, New York

October 23, 1910 – Blanche Stuart Scott is the first American woman pilot to make a public flight

October 24, 1956 – Reverend Margaret Towner is the first woman ordained a minister in the Presbyterian Church

October 28, 1958 – Mary Roebling is the first woman director of a stock exchange (American Stock Exchange)

GOOD NEWS, VICTORIES, & HEROES

Voting & Elections

A federal judge ruled that absentee ballots in battleground Wisconsin can be counted up to six days after the presidential election as long as they are postmarked by Election Day. PBS News

A federal judge in Nevada has dismissed a lawsuit by Trump’s re-election campaign that sought to block the state from sending mail-in ballots to every registered voter. Reuters

A judge overturned a law that made voting nearly impossible for Native Americans living on rural reservations in Montana. ACLU

Michael Bloomberg has raised more than $16 million from individuals and foundations to pay court fines and fees that are preventing Florida voters with felony convictions from being able to cast a vote in the presidential election. Slate

Foot Locker stores across the country are turning into voter registration sites as part of an effort to increase youth voter turnout. NowThis

Snapchat has already registered more than 750,000 people to vote—twice the amount of users it registered during all of 2018. Fast Company

Record numbers of Virginians are voting early and requesting absentee ballots this year. WA PO Democratic donors gave more money online in the 9 p.m. hour Friday after Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s death was announced than in any other single hour since ActBlue, the donation-processing site, was started 16 years ago. New York Times

Cindy McCain, the widow of Senator John McCain, became the latest prominent Republican voice to back Joe Biden. Reuters

Nearly 500 retired senior military officers, as well as former Cabinet secretaries, service chiefs and other officials, have signed an open letter in support of Joe Biden. Washington Post

Mother Nature

Gov. Gavin Newsom is calling for California to ban new gasoline-fueled vehicles within 15 years in a bid to combat climate change and make the state the first in the nation to stop sales of cars with internal combustion engines. Politico

Chinese President Xi Jinping, the leader of the world’s biggest polluter of greenhouse gases, has pledged to go carbon neutral by 2060. CNN

General Electric announced that it will stop building coal-fired power plants so it can focus on renewable energy and other types of power generation. Grist

Airbus, the world’s largest airplane manufacturer, announced that it aims to have hydrogen-fueled planes in the skies by 2035. Grist

Magawa, a 5-year-old African giant pouched rat, was recognized with a prestigious honor for his work detecting mines and explosives in Cambodia. New York Times

More Good News

A federal court has ordered the Trump administration to abandon last-minute changes to the 2020 census schedule and extend the time for counting for an additional month. NPR

The House passed Savanna’s Act, a bill designed to address the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women in the country. NowThis

The Manhattan district attorney’s office suggested for the first time in a court filing that it had grounds to investigate Trump and his businesses for tax fraud. New York Times

A judge ordered EricTrump to sit for a deposition with the New York Attorney General’s office as part of the ongoing investigation. Mother Jones

Dozens of Christopher Columbus statues have been removed since June. CBS News

NASA revealed this week plans to send a woman to the moon for the first time in 2024. HuffPost
Virtual Volunteer Program, Planned Parenthood Votes

“The power and energy of Planned Parenthood Votes’ grassroots organizing is second to none. With the realities we face during a global pandemic and racial uprisings, our volunteers are motivated to get reproductive rights champions elected up and down the ballot. The Virtual Volunteer Program will mobilize Black, Indigenous, people of color, and young voters, who face health care disparities and voter suppression tactics at disproportionate rates. Volunteers are building from the groundwork of previous generations and are committed to fighting for reproductive freedom and their right to vote.”

“Our world has changed tremendously over the past five months and even more so in the past five days — and Planned Parenthood Votes’ organizing efforts are ready to meet this moment. What hasn’t changed is that access to reproductive health and freedom at stake in this election. That’s why we are excited to announce our biggest-ever organizing initiative, a 50-state virtual volunteer program to engage voters in an authentic and safe way. Planned Parenthood Votes staff will take a front line role in recruiting, educating and mobilizing the volunteers who will ultimately win this election. In 2016, 107,000 voters in three states effectively decided the presidential election for Donald Trump. This year, Planned Parenthood advocacy and political organizations will reach millions of voters in key swing states through online engagement, phone calls, and one-on-one conversations with friends and family. With our innovative Virtual Volunteer Program, Planned Parenthood Votes is going to ensure we send reproductive rights champions to elected office, up and down the ballot, and all across the country.”

The Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected South Carolina’s request to reinstate its blockade on Medicaid funding to Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers, a move that could indicate the court’s conservative majority may be selective about abortion cases as a new member is expected to soon join its ranks.

The case is one the first major reproductive rights challenges the court has considered since the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg last month, and its rejection was announced on the second day of Senate hearings for President Donald Trump’s nominee to the court, Amy Coney Barrett. Both sides of the abortion debate have been closely watching how aggressive the court’s conservatives will move to roll back abortion access with Barrett seemingly on track for confirmation later this month.

The case stems from South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster’s 2018 executive order barring enrollees of Medicaid, the low-income health insurance program, from receiving routine, non-abortion care from health care providers who also perform abortions. Planned Parenthood sued to block the Republican governor’s order, and two lower federal courts agreed that the policy violated Medicaid enrollees’ rights to seek care from any qualified provider they choose. The state appealed to the Supreme Court earlier this year, arguing that it should have right to determine which providers are “qualified” to treat Medicaid patients.

South Carolina is one of several Republican-leaning states that sought to eliminate Medicaid funding for abortion providers in recent years. Two years ago, the Supreme Court turned away challenges to similar bans in Louisiana and Kansas. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Brett Kavanaugh joined with the court’s four liberal justices at the time to reject those cases.


It would seem that CJ Roberts and SCJ Kavanaugh are disappointing the Mango Menace.
October 16, 1916 – Margaret Sanger opens the U.S.’s first birth control clinic in Brooklyn, New York

Margaret Sanger opened the nation’s first birth control clinic along with her sister Ethyl Byrne, who was a registered nurse, and an interpreter named Fania Mindell. Sanger chose the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn, N.Y., for her first clinic because she knew from her conversations with residents that the neighborhood would welcome it.

The Brownsville Clinic was modeled after the birth control clinics that Sanger observed in Holland in 1915. Each woman who visited the clinic received Sanger’s pamphlet What Every Girl Should Know, a short lecture on the female reproductive system, and instructions on the use of various contraceptives for a charge of ten cents.

A new day was dawning in America, according to Sanger: “The poor, century-behind-the-times public officials of this country might as well forget their moss-grown statutes and accept birth control as an established fact,” she was quoted in the New York Call. “My new national plan makes it as inevitable as night and day.”
RENEWAL AND MEMBERSHIP FORM

Regular Membership $40/year. $75/two years. $115/3 years.
Reduced dues $15 - $30.

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