

SONOMA COUNTY

**NOW** 



August 26, 2021, Sebastopol. Photo Katie Ruthroff.

## September 2021 News

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***Together We Stand--NOW!***

Dear NOW members,

There are so many concurrent national and world events right now that it is overwhelming: crises due to natural disasters--fires, hurricanes, flooding, droughts--and conflicts that threaten the very fabric of our existence, both internationally and at home. What can we do to ensure the freedoms women have gained are not lost to

those who would have us under their feet? I speak both of the horror occurring not only in Afghanistan, where women must fear for their lives, particularly if they are educated, but also the ban in Texas, which will lead to horror there and in many other states who see this as a crack in the Roe v. Wade ruling. We cannot do everything, but it is time to start doing something NOW. Protests, rallies, and demonstrations are being planned for September 18th in Texas, but also there will be Women's Marches on October 2nd, in every state. The reason for that date is it falls right before the Supreme Court reconvenes. For more details, see

<https://womensmarch.com/mobilize>.

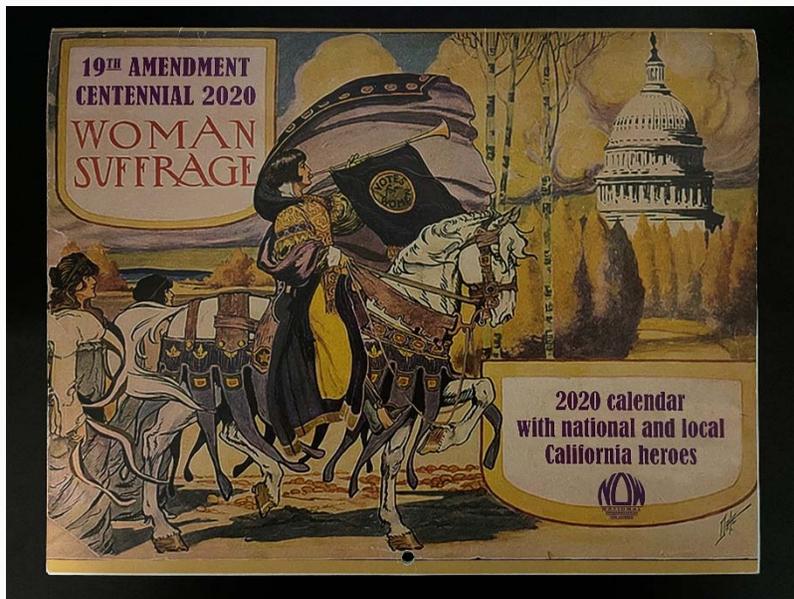
Our chapter's board is small but we can partner with other community organizations to conduct one of these marches--and we need YOU to participate, however you are able. We are holding a planning meeting this Thursday, **September 9, from 5-6:30 PM**, and hope many of you will bring your ideas of how to get the attention of our leaders in effective ways. The Zoom link is in the yellow box below. Please join us!

We also will be holding a special presentation on September 30, details forthcoming, so hold that date from 6-8!

--Amy Nykamp

[View this email in your browser](#)

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Our August event, held on Women's Equality Day, was a resounding success! We had more than a dozen well-known Sonoma County leaders participate and we were able to confirm that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors proclaimed our 2020 calendar to be a historic document! Lynda Hopkins (Supervisor, District 5) read the Gold Resolution at the beginning of the event. Then we heard from each of these renowned leaders:

- Elaine B. Holtz - Immediate Past President of Sonoma County NOW and founder/host of Women's Spaces
- Pat Sabo - Chair of Sonoma County Democrats
- Lynn Woolsey - U.S. Representative (1993-2013)
- Jill Ravitch - Sonoma County District Attorney (2011-Present)
- Molly Murphy MacGregor - Founder, National Women's History Alliance
- Gaye LeBaron - Columnist and historian for the *Press Democrat*
- Gloria Robinson - Founder, Petaluma Blacks for Community Development
- Alicia Sanchez - Board President, KBBF 89.1 FM Radio
- Vesta Copestakes, Former Publisher for 20 years of the *Sonoma County Gazette*

- Shekeyna Black - Executive Director, Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County
- Debbie McKay - Immediate Past President, League of Women Voters
- Kathleen Riley - Former Public Policy Chair, Santa Rosa Chapter of the AAUW
- Paula Freund - Curator, Petaluma Historical Library & Museum

Each of these women shared of the topics that they are most passionate about and gave us great ideas of what we can do, individually and together, to enrich the lives of women and the underprivileged in this county. You can hear the full recording on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/578310465/videos/569402930857138/>

## ***Join us on September 9 from 5-6:30 pm***

**Help NOW lead the way in letting women's voices be heard!**

### **Join Zoom Meeting:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82846374496?pwd=WIA0cE5CaFczUUtg  
a1Nkc2tYQXkydz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82846374496?pwd=WIA0cE5CaFczUUtg<br/>a1Nkc2tYQXkydz09)

**Meeting ID: 828 4637 4496 Passcode: 035853**

### **Phone in Numbers:**

+1 669 900 9128 (San Jose)

Locations outside the United States

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82846374496?pwd=WIA0cE5CaFczUUtg  
a1Nkc2tYQXkydz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82846374496?pwd=WIA0cE5CaFczUUtg<br/>a1Nkc2tYQXkydz09)

**Join us by Zoom or on our new Facebook group:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sonomacountynow>



Let's all get out there and vote NO to the recalls of Governor Gavin Newsom and our District Attorney, Jill Ravitch!

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## Help our Sisters in Afghanistan--NOW!

Afghani women are in grave danger if they are educators, journalists, or in other leadership roles. Girls may not be able to attend school. Women's rights may disappear, now that the Taliban are in power. Please consider supporting organizations that can help.

<https://now.org/action-alert-urge-congress-to-advocate-for-afghan-womens-protection-now/>



August 26, 2021, Sebastopol. Photo Katie Ruthroff.

On Aug. 26, Women's Equality Day, six mighty NOW members came out in the blazing midday sun to join in a nationwide action asking our government to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

At the corner of highways 12 and 116 in downtown Sebastopol, it's almost always busy, with more exposure for signs and actions than anywhere else I know. With the heavy traffic, the cars and trucks are idling for long minutes as they peruse our signs. Drivers and walkers repeatedly asked, "What is ERA?" And we answered. This is NOT preaching to the choir. In the streets is where we need to be.

You do not need to be part of an organized protest to go out and hold a sign showing your sentiments. It does not need to be at noon. Do this when you can. Make a LARGE sign with a BOLD, SHORT message. You can make a difference. Remember, so many elections and political changes have hung on marginal tipping points. The 19th Amendment itself was ratified by one vote in 1920.

Most important of all is that the young folks passing by see that we care, and we can teach them by doing. Join us!

Carol Singer

(P.S.: Here's an ERA image you can copy to send to others or make a sign!)



**September dates to celebrate**

- **September 6, 1860 – Jane Addams**, suffragist, Nobel laureate, cofounder ACLU
- **September 7 – Labor Day**
- **September 13– Grandparents' Day**
- **September 14, 1879 – Margret Sanger**, activist, educator, family planning pioneer
- **September 22, 1899 – Elsie Allen**, Pomo leader (Elsie Allen basket shown above, Grace Hudson Museum, Ukiah)
- **September 22 — Fall Equinox**
- **September 23, 1838 — Victoria Woodhull**, activist
- **September 23, 1863 — Mary Church Terrell**, activist, suffrage leader
- **September 23, 1889 — Elsie Hill**, lifelong suffragist and ERA activist

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Visit our Sonoma County NOW site for news and lots of links and information:

<http://www.nowsonoma.org/>

Contact us: [info@nowsonoma.org](mailto:info@nowsonoma.org)

**(707) 545-5036**

**P.O. Box 6223**

**Santa Rosa, CA 95406**

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# About NOW

As the grassroots arm of the women's movement, the National Organization for Women is dedicated to its multi-issue and multi-strategy approach to women's rights, and is the largest organization of feminist grassroots activists in the United States. NOW has hundreds of chapters and hundreds of thousands of members and activists in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Since our founding in 1966, NOW's purpose is to take action through intersectional grassroots activism to promote feminist ideals, lead societal change, eliminate discrimination, and achieve and protect the equal rights of all women and girls in all aspects of social, political, and economic life.

## Core Issues

NOW is a multi-issue, multi-strategy organization that takes a holistic approach to women's rights. Our priorities are winning economic equality and securing it with an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will guarantee equal rights for women; championing abortion rights, reproductive freedom and other women's health issues; opposing racism; fighting bigotry against the LGBTQIA community; and ending violence against women.

## Reproductive Rights and Justice

NOW fully supports safe and legal abortion, affordable and effective birth control and other contraception, and reproductive health education for all.

## Economic Justice

NOW advocates for a wide range of economic justice issues, women's freedom and

success and intertwined with racial justice, reproductive freedom, and other systems of oppression.

## **Ending Violence Against Women**

NOW recognizes violence against women as the broad and interconnected issue that it is, addressing oppressive structures and attitudes in our nation.

## **Racial Justice**

A leader in civil rights since 1966, NOW continues to fight for equal opportunities for women of color in all areas including employment, education, and health care.

## **LGBTQIA+ Rights**

NOW is committed to fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in all areas.

## **Constitutional Equality**

NOW is a proud supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment and prioritizes giving women explicit protections in the United States Constitution.

For additional information go to: <https://now.org/about/>

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### MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL FORM

- Regular membership \$40/year    \$75 2 yrs    \$115 3 yrs  
 Reduced dues: \$10–30/year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



Sonoma County Chapter #CA0660

Mail with check to: National Organization for Women,  
1100 H Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005

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