



UNITED FOR A STRONGER TOMORROW

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Meetings held monthly except July, August & December

May 2024

Volume: 1 Issue: 4

OCGSRW EVENTS CALENDAR

May 4th – It's the 150th Kentucky Derby. Time to don that pretty flowered hat, make a mint julep and sit back and enjoy the most exciting two minutes in sports. My money is on the third ranking horse, 'Catching Freedom'...for obvious reasons.

May 8th – Board Meetings are now on the second Wednesday of the month. Next Board Meeting from 9:30am – 11:30am at the offices of Michele Morgan in Dana Point.

May 12th – Mother's Day!

May 15th – 10:30am – 1:00pm OCGSRW luncheon meeting, Marbella Country Club, 30800 Golf Club Drive, SJC. Enjoy delicious food, great friendships, and amazing speakers. Please make reservations via text to Pam Looney with your full name and names of any guests (total number attending) at 949-300-2425 by 5/10/24. Remember to check in early because we begin promptly at 11:00am

10:30am – Check in/chat with friends

11:00am – Meeting begins/club business

11:30am – Lunch is served

12:00pm – Our guest speaker is Yorba Linda City Council Member Peggy Huang

May 27th – Memorial Day. Though known as the unofficial start of summer with cookouts, beach trips and famous auto races, the most important part of this day is honoring and mourning those who gave their lives in service to this country. For a history of this significant holiday, please click [here](#).



Editor and Contributor: Joan Garnett
To submit newsletter articles, please send to
jpowgar@outlook.com

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NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING: MAY 15TH

We are excited to have Peggy Huang as our featured speaker for our May meeting!



"Our Neighborhood Voices Should Control Land Planning, Not State Government"

Peggy Huang, a Yorba Linda City Council member, is passionate about serving her community. She is a Taiwanese native but spent most of her adolescence and young adult years in Northern California. She is a 21-year resident of Yorba Linda.

Currently, Council Member Huang is a Senior Deputy City Attorney in the Huntington Beach City Attorney's Office. Previously, she served as Deputy Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Appeals, Trial, and Writs section.

As a former Senate Fellow, Mayor Huang worked on the CALFED Bay-Delta project, which involved restoring the Bay-Delta ecosystem and water storage and delivery. As a trial attorney, she prosecuted individuals who abused and neglected clients in facilities licensed by the California Department of Social Services and represented foster children in juvenile court. She was involved in two bills, signed into law, that protected abused and neglected children.

She received her undergraduate degree at the University of California, Berkeley, and her Juris Doctorate, as well as a specialized certificate of governmental affairs from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. She is an experienced Criminal Prosecutor with extensive courtroom experience.

Some regional government & committee involvement includes:

- A Proponent of Our Neighborhood Voices Local Land Use Initiative and working to inform and educate us about bringing government control back to the people.
- Chair, Southern California Association of Governments Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Subcommittee and Appeals Board
- Vice-Chair, Legislative Committee, Southern California Association of Governments
- Regional Council Member, Southern California Association of Governments
- Southern California Association of Governments, Legislative Membership Communication Committee Chair
- Recipient of many public service awards



Next Luncheon Meeting

Date: Wednesday, May 15th, 2024

Time: Check in 10:30am | Meeting Starts at 11:00am

Price: \$38/per person

Reservations:

Must make reservations by Friday, May 10th
Please make reservations via text to Pam Looney with your full name and names of any guests (total number attending) at 949-300-2425.

Location:

Marbella Country Club
30800 Golf Club Drive
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

President's Message

Opening Your Mind, Listening and Taking Action!

You may remember that I often speak of the need for people to engage in a process that I call community conversation. What is community conversation? Community Conversation is an important process that simply brings together groups of residents in a social setting where they can openly discuss a variety of issues of priority and concern.

At a recent GSRW conference, I attended a breakout session titled, "Different people, Different views." We know that right now we are a divided country and it's not just between the political parties, it's also between members within our own Republican party. We need to get out of our bubble and begin conversations with others of a different mind-set. It's time to come together and work together through simple conversations.

A conversation is comprised of groups of words that are the bedrock of communication with the intention of building bridges of understanding. When we are around other people with a differing mind set, messaging is key. Having a good attitude exudes a spirit of strength, ultimately building unity. Our brains do not think and then decide; we decide and then think. When you are discussing issues with another person, ask open-ended questions and then listen.

Conversation will spark opportunities for cooperative action in addressing local, state and national challenges. It can create new relationships and encourage sustained engagement. Given what our state lawmakers are doing right now is ending community involvement and thus altering or ending the unique character of our cities. Most residents are unaware of the state's overreach in controlling our local government structure and stifling the voices of the people. Community conversation will provide the opportunity for neighbors working with neighbors to have a voice in their community and be able to shape the growth that makes sense. Learn about the issues and ask questions of local & state leaders.

Organizing group conversations is as simple as inviting neighbors, friends and / or family to your home to discuss an important issue facing your community, the state or nation. This gives us the opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas and to learn from one another. It enables members of our communities from all political parties, who otherwise would be apprehensive, to find the courage to discuss and learn about the different perspectives of an issue.

Knowledge is power; lack of being proactive sets our cities up for failure. Be curious, listen and be open to hearing all points of view. Maintain an attitude of exploration and learning.

Balance advocacy and inquiry; that is, seek to learn and understand; conversation is as much about listening as it is about talking. Show respect and suspend judgment: Do not judge one another; setting judgments aside will enable you to learn from others as well as be able to freely contribute being respected and appreciated.

Seek alignment rather than agreement: Alignment is shared intention, whereas agreement is having a shared belief or opinion. Our goal through conversation is to primarily look for alignment and appreciate the fact that we will disagree on some beliefs and opinions. Find the courage to discuss and learn about the different perspectives of an issue.

Most California citizens really do not know or understand what is driving the changes in their communities. We are losing local government control and now, we the people must stop it.

This community action is a race to restore our democratic rights to shape what happens in our own communities, the state, the nation, and push back government's overreach. **Learn how you can be part of the solution.**



Linda Koelling,
President OCGSRW

One of the speakers at the conference said this: "Remember when the first settlers came from England. They came because they were in bondage, they lacked freedom of religion; from that move to the new world we gained spiritual strength; from spiritual strength we went to having courage; from courage we had liberty; from liberty we gained abundance; from abundance we went to apathy; from apathy we went to dependence; from dependence we are back to bondage." This was sobering to hear and needs to change now!

OCGSRW Needs a Treasurer!

If you can count, balance a checkbook, and control a budget better than Congress, then you can be our next treasurer! Jane Rose, our amazing current treasurer, has given us her talents for over a year and will be retiring from her position soon. So, we need someone else in our club to step up and take on this important position. Jane will train and she's said she won't charge much to do so! Ok, just kidding about the charge, but she will train the next wonderful volunteer who takes on this position. Please contact Linda Koelling at lakkc@aol.com to learn more.

April Meeting Recap

What a gift to be able to hear opinion columnist and editorial writer Susan Shelley speak to us about several crucial bills being touted in the Assembly and Senate, two which she mentioned are ACA1 and ACA13. She also spoke of the Taxpayer Protection Act and what the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association (HJTA) is doing to protect our property and control our property taxes in California. For more information on how HJTA is leading the charge to protect Proposition 13, click on HJTA.org.



Our April Meeting speaker,
Susan Shelley



Edie Bly won our April meeting
Self Defense Bag!



L to R: Pam Looney, GSRW President Janet Price and Leslie Sciocchetti
Leslie and Pam were part of the contingent from our club that attended the GSRW Leadership Conference on April 13th in Los Angeles



The Importance of the United States Constitution: Lesson I

By Nancy A. Jimeno, Ph.D
Nancy.jimeno@gmail.com

For the last twenty years, I taught courses in American Government, California Politics, Public Policy and Honors Political Science in Cal State Fullerton's Department of Politics, Administration and Justice. Our Orange County GSRW asked that I write a monthly article on topics to which you may not have paid attention when you were a student but wished that you had. (Ok, I made that part up, but you get the idea). For our May newsletter I was to write about the United States Constitution, with the aim of clarifying its importance to America. But the Constitution cannot be understood without some preparation, which is going to take some commitment from our membership and an assignment or two. More about that later.

The purpose of a constitution is to *limit the power of government and to enumerate the powers granted to the government by the people*. This may seem strange, but the men who wrote the U.S. Constitution were not given the authority to write a constitution. Rather, they were tasked with re-writing the Articles of Confederation, the legal document that held the original thirteen states together. A confederation is a loosely aligned group of states, or governments. The European Union (EU) for example, is a confederation of a loosely aligned group of states.

There were many problems under the Articles of Confederation – there was no common currency among the states; there was no national military; while there was a congress under the articles, there was no executive to make quick decisions; congress had no means of regulating trade, thus the states began to charge each other tariffs and excise fees; congress had no means of enforcing laws; and perhaps worst of all, there was no national court system to intervene in disputes between states. So, on May 25th of 1787, 41 delegates from the thirteen states were sent to Philadelphia to update and improve the Articles of Confederation. James Madison, the man widely considered to be the father of the Constitution, of his own volition, sat writing down every debate that transpired between the delegates (Madison insisted that the record not be published until his death).

After hours of debate, the delegates decided to scrap the Articles of Confederation in order to “form a more perfect union” and established the national government. The new government would act as an over-arching form of government over the states; today we refer to it as the federal government. However, not all the delegates were willingly going to agree to establishing a national government. They well understood that an over-arching government had the potential of becoming too big and powerful, not to mention that, as all governments do, the national government would need taxes to fulfill its duties. Hadn't they just fought a war to extricate the states from taxing? Debate over establishing the proposed national government often became very heated and at one point even led to some bloody “fist a cuffs.” Most of the arguments between delegates were focused on what is referred to as “state's rights,” meaning that each state's representatives understood well that their constituents did not want to lose the power to make their own political decisions, certainly a legitimate concern as we can see even today. Madison countered that the new constitution would not apply to the states (indeed, the Constitution did not apply to

the states until after the Civil War. I will explain in a future article). The delegates also argued that they were not delegated the power to form a national government by their constituents, they had been tasked with improving the existing form. Even today, scholars argue this point!

Ultimately, the delegates did ratify the Constitution of course; however, the original document did not include what we call the Bill of Rights (the first ten amendments to the Constitution) for another four years. Why not include a bill of rights? Because each state had its own constitution and most of them already included a bill of rights. (I will return to this topic in a later article as well.)

What about the commitment from our membership if we are going to learn more about the U.S. Constitution? We need to do some homework first. The constitution would never have been written and applied as we know it had it not been for our “*credo*,” the Declaration of Independence. *Credo* is a Latin word meaning “what we believe to be so.” Keep in mind that the United States was the first country in human history that was established on a set of political principles. These are: **consent** (of the governed), **equality** (under the law) and **rights**, as in our natural rights. Natural rights are those rights that were granted to us by God. And let me remind you that the government does NOT give us rights; our rights are ours by dint of our humanity. If you read it carefully, you will find these three terms (consent, equality and rights) at the beginning of the Declaration.

The Declaration of Independence was written by a committee of five, which fortunately was chaired by Thomas Jefferson, an excellent writer. (Thus, he is considered the father of the Declaration). The document was written as a syllogism, a deductive form of logical argument that begins with a major premise (a thesis), includes a minor premise (evidence), and ends with a conclusion. An example would be: All men are mortal, Socrates was a man, therefore Socrates was mortal. Beautifully written, the Declaration of Independence set the stage, so to speak, for the thirteen states transforming from a confederation into the United States of America. The Declaration of Independence begins with a major premise, the bulk of the midsection is our minor premise or evidence (for our making a break with the British Crown) and ends with a conclusion (We, therefore...).

This may come as a surprise, but the Declaration of Independence is more important to our continued existence as a country than is our constitution. How can that be? Because we gave ourselves the right of revolution (a complete change of government) in that document. So, here is your homework – read the Declaration of Independence from beginning to end. Read it aloud to yourself. Download a copy of the document [HHRG-117-GO00-20220929-SD010.pdf](https://www.house.gov/imo/media/doc/HHRG-117-GO00-20220929-SD010.pdf) (house.gov), print it, draw circles around the parts that don't make sense and write notes on it. Question me about it at our next meeting, or better still, send me an email with your questions and/or comments on what you have read.

We cannot begin to understand the U.S. Constitution without understanding the Declaration of Independence. First things, first!



Dr. Aaron Kheriaty: Update

By Phoeby Wise

During the nearly two years I have been attending our club's meetings, I have been so impressed with the quality of the speakers. One in particular stands out to me because he continues to find himself at the center of a struggle over what may be the most critical issue facing our country: censorship. Without freedom of speech, the citizens of this country will not be able to make good decisions about which candidates and policies to support, and all the other liberties we enjoy under our constitution will wither and die.

Early last year Dr. Aaron Kheriaty spoke to us about his firing from his job as the director of the medical ethics program at UC Irvine School of Medicine for his opposition to vaccine mandates. We had an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of his book, *The New Abnormal: The Rise of the Biomedical Security State*.

Through his book, Dr. Kheriaty alerted the world to the breakdown of medical ethics ushered in by the COVID era and the dangers of digitalized medical records in the hands of ruthless governments and NGOs. Since then, he has gone on to address the broader issue of state-sponsored censorship in the digital age. Together with other individuals he became a plaintiff in the lawsuit known as *Missouri v. Biden*, which on March 18, 2024, landed before the Supreme Court under the name of *Murthy v. Missouri*.

This landmark lawsuit concerns the efforts of the Biden administration to lobby and oftentimes coerce tech companies to censor the internet communications of US citizens. Name any hot topic in the news—vaccine mandates, election integrity, the Hunter Biden laptop. If an internet news source was not in line with the administration's narrative, it was shadow banned, shut down, de-monetized, and de-platformed at the behest of the Deep State. And this censorship is still going on today.

Dr. Kheriaty continues to write and speak about *Murthy v. Missouri* [here](#) and on his [SubStack](#). The Brownstone Institute has published a good [summary](#) of the case as it stands today.

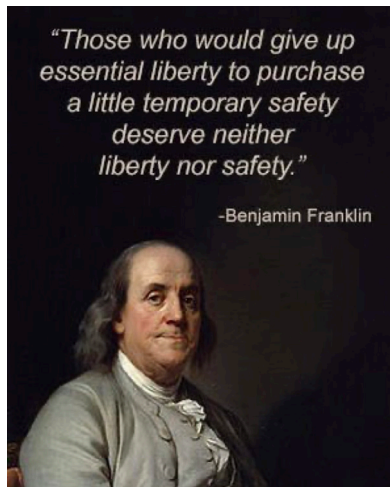
A decision on *Murthy v. Missouri* is expected this coming June of 2024.

Some of the comments by Supreme Court justices so far seem to indicate that they do not find the actions of the Biden administration as concerning as the plaintiffs had hoped. We will have to watch the *Murthy v. Missouri* case closely and pray that the justices rule in favor of Dr. Kheriaty and his co-plaintiffs.

Our Founding Fathers wrote the First Amendment to protect free speech in the age of print. We have lived to see the passing of that era and the rise of the digital age. Book burning is an act of censorship visible to everyone, but today the communications of millions of people can be deleted with just the touch of a few keys. The Twitter Files revealed that since 2020 the Deep State has already availed itself of that power to censor US citizens.

One view of social media is that the tech giants are private companies and have the right to censor any communication they like; another is that social media companies should be thought of more like telephone companies, which are public utilities. Under this view, Facebook and Google should have the mission of facilitating communication, not censoring it. In either case, our government does not have the right under the Constitution to lobby and coerce Big Tech companies into censoring free speech in America.

If you would like to know exactly how the Biden administration went around the First Amendment to affect its censorship, a good place to start would be with Tucker Carlson's interview of Mike Benz, who had the cyber portfolio at the State Department. He is now executive



director of Foundation for Freedom Online: <https://tuckercarlson.com/uncensored-the-national-security-state-the-inversion-of-democracy/> Benz also has an account on Twitter/X [@MikeBenzCyber](#).

Our OCGSRW newsletter editor listed many great alternative news sites in the April edition. Substack and X and other alternative sites have been critically important in countering the propaganda of the legacy media and getting out the vital information that we need to help save our freedoms. But those alternative sites are under increasing pressure. X has been banned recently in Brazil, and there is an effort to censor it in the EU, which is a backdoor way of censoring it in the US. And there have been indications that Substack is also threatened. The efforts of Dr. Aaron Kheriaty and the other plaintiffs to protect the First Amendment against state-sponsored censorship could not have come at a more crucial moment in history.

Update on Dr. John Eastman's Fight

By Joan Garnett

As you may know, Dr. John Eastman is another casualty of the left-wing lawfare state that has overtaken our country. Dr. Eastman was an attorney for President Trump who has been recommended for disbarment in California by a vicious team of out-of-state attorneys. He is allegedly 'guilty' of trying to keep President Trump in office when it was 'clear he had lost the 2020 election' and of allegedly being a 'co-conspirator' in the federal indictment brought against Trump over his attempts to subvert the 2020 election and prevent certification of Biden's 'victory'.

The California State Bar has ruled that he be disbarred. He is appealing this decision brought about in a 128-page document. He's requesting that the judge stay her decision to have him temporarily suspended while his appeal to the California Supreme Court is pending. This is important, because without a stay in place, he is prevented from practicing law and earning an income.

Dr. Eastman and his attorneys are also appealing the judge's ruling to the State Bar Appellate Division, and if that fails, they can then appeal to the California Supreme Court, and if necessary, move on to the Supreme Court.

I had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Eastman speak at a CPOC meeting in July 2023, prior to his upcoming formal accusation and was impressed with his demeanor with such horror ahead, and his credentials. Dr. Eastman is the founding director of the Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence, a public interest law firm associated with the Claremont Institute, a conservative think tank. He is a former professor and former dean at Chapman University School of Law. He was also a former law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

To add to Dr. Eastman's challenges, Bank of America and USAA have both canceled Dr. Eastman's accounts, stating in their calls to notify him that they can do this without giving him a reason...that it is a business decision. Journalist Emerald Robinson who is furious over this ghastly treatment, contacted conservative country singer John Rich to let him know so he could reach out to Dr. Eastman and open an account in a bank Rich founded along with Dr. Ben Carson and Larry Elder, called Old Glory Bank. Old Glory Bank has over 100,000 accounts opened and is doing well for both businesses and individuals, many who have been targeted by the left for their conservative views and actions.

Left wingers are not pursuing justice in their attack on Dr. Eastman. They are clearly making an example of him with the message that if you support Donald Trump openly and are conservative, you will pay.

If you would like to contribute to Dr. Eastman's fund, please click [here](#).

What is Your 'Why'?

By Pam Looney

At our last meeting, I asked the group, "What is your 'why'?" We want to know what compels you to be a Republican woman; what influenced you to become conservative and not a liberal Democrat? Why do you come to these meetings?

Ever since I was a child, I have always wanted to be independent. I could hardly wait to get my first job. I worked summers for my dad's company before I was old enough to get a work permit. It never occurred to me to expect and rely on my parents or our government to pay my bills and to support me. What is missing in today's college age Democrat/Liberal youth is drive and initiative. They seem to be under the belief they are owed something; that life isn't fair and that the hard-working driven people that create small businesses, and therefore jobs for others, aren't paying their fair share. They demand we pay more in taxes than they do, they demand we give them jobs they aren't qualified for, and they demand an "equitable" outcome without putting in the long hours or studying hard for their tests.

I have always been a registered Republican. I have voted every election cycle since I was 18 and view it not only as an honor and privilege, but my duty as an American citizen. I also fiercely believe in medical freedom, and I believe in upholding our Constitution the way it was written and intended so we can be free people and not slaves to big government.

The Republican Party is the party of self-reliance, small government, free enterprise, private ownership and traditional family values. We believe in the rule of law to have a civilized society.

We create opportunities for others and ourselves and are not afraid of a little hard work to achieve those things and to continue enjoying freedom from Government tyranny. For these reasons, this is my why....

Below are some of your reasons WHY:

Stand up for what is right and fight the wrong. – Shellie Okon

To save our state, CA; to be educated on "bad" bills; to be with like-minded women. – Laura Newhall

Because I want the freedom to speak out in support of my views and not be silenced, canceled or attacked! – unknown

I'm a third generation Californian and want to see my state return to equal justice for all and hopefully be active in a return to: 1 day voting, paper ballots, Voter ID – Marti Gilmour

Because we are losing this country to communism and if we don't fight now, then when? – Roberta Waitman

I'm here to get educated about what's happening in OC and CA, and how I can help the Republican party be stronger, in control, and get others involved also. – Jan Day

I want to find a way to help change CA and the USA. We need to get common sense, moral people into office so we don't lose our great state and country. – Lee Landman

Being around like-minded people, to stay informed and (have) fun. – Carrie Goodban

I am a Republican because I believe in God, family values and the Constitution. I also see the Dems destroying our state and country. We must engage in this spiritual warfare. – Catherine Robinson

I love America and take my faith, family and freedom for granted. I will fight with everything I have to make America great again! I believe we are the majority, but we just need the confidence to speak the truth. – Michelle Morgan

Tip the majority in the state legislature; work to have a small government, lower taxes, and elected officials; Defund the CA. State University system; Protect Prop. 16 & 13. – Nancy Jimeno

To learn more about what I can do to make a difference and to support the Republican party. It is the only path to protect our country and state. – unknown

I align with the republican women's group because of its emphasis on faith, family and conservative principles. It resonates with my personal beliefs, and my why is my boys' future is at stake. – Taylor Looney

Because I don't currently like how things are going: 1. Covid disaster 2. Child sacrifice/ abortion 3. Public schools indoctrinating kids 4. Too much government control 5. Unwise use of our taxes. – Lisa Hazelton

I originally was a Democrat until Reagan ran and won. I really liked what he stood for, his strength and political views. Since then, I realized how conservative I really was. We need to band together to fight the inequities and double standards that continue to happen! We need to make everything right again. – Lianne Pfister

I am a person of faith, specifically a Christian. The Democrat party has opposed itself to traditional Christianity and Judaism. They believe rights come from government. Like the Founders, I believe that our human rights come from our creator. – Phoebe Wise

As you can see, we are all concerned about the same things, and we all want a brighter future for our kids and grandchildren. We fight on!



The Scheme to Eliminate the Electoral College is Gaining Traction!

By Joan Garnett

Did you know there is a serious effort to eliminate the Electoral College, one of the main things that stands in the way of either the highly populated West (or Left) Coast or East Coast controlling who wins our Presidential elections? It's happening and they're gaining more traction.

In early April, the state legislature in Maine became the 17th in the nation to pass a bill that will eliminate the Electoral College. A simple popular vote in the Presidential election is what these state legislatures desire. I just read that it's about 76% complete, per an Epoch Times article. The leftist regime is working 'under the radar' to try to get this to pass more state legislatures.

It's called the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC). It's an agreement between the joining states to give their collective electoral votes to whichever candidate wins the popular vote at the national level. To explain, see the electoral vote map below which shows the number of electoral votes per state based on the 2020 census. Each state has a number of electoral votes equal to the number of representatives they have at the federal level. If you look at California as an example, California has 54 electoral votes, comprised of 2 senators and 52 congressional representatives.



Every individual state legislature gets to decide how they apportion their electoral college votes. In most states, whichever candidate wins the plurality of votes in a given state wins all of the electoral college votes for that state, except for two states, Nebraska and Maine who divvy up their electoral college votes by congressional district. And they are allowed to do this because states retain the ability of how to apportion their electoral college votes. The electoral college was established by Article II of the Constitution. But the states remain in control of how they run their elections and how those electoral votes are apportioned.

Opponents of the electoral college system have used this as a loophole to try and eliminate the electoral college system. The only way to actually get rid of the electoral college system is to pass a Constitutional amendment, which is just not going to happen as it would take a majority of states to pass it, which realistically is not possible because there is not enough support to do this across all states required to pass such an amendment. So, the opponents have been using a 'workaround' by establishing the NPVIC and having individual states sign up for this organization.

A California millionaire, John Koza (of course it would be based in CA!), is leading the fight to eliminate the electoral college and providing the funding to do so. The plan is to get individual states to ignore how their actual state citizens vote and to instead give all of their electoral votes based on the national popular vote. If this works, it will be like getting rid of the electoral college without a constitutional amendment. It only takes effect if NPVIC gets enough states to join and they control 270 electoral votes.

If that happens, and no court strikes it down, big cities will be electing our presidential candidates at the expense of the rest of the nation.

This movement has been going on since 2006. State legislatures in blue states have been joining the NPVIC. Thus far, sixteen states and the District of Columbia have joined the NPVIC. They are:

Maryland, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Hawaii, New Jersey, Washington State, Illinois, Connecticut, New Mexico, Oregon, Minnesota, California, Vermont, New York, Colorado, Delaware representing 205 electoral college votes.

There are 11 states in the process of considering joining the NPVIC. Effectively, in the next few years, if enough states join and choose to give their votes to the national popular vote winner, it erases what the framers of this country wanted to achieve.

Let's hope that other state legislatures do not allow this to happen, so we keep the electoral college as it was originally conceived to allow our citizens not living in big cities to have their voice be heard in our elections.

Is President Trump our Modern-Day Theodore Roosevelt?

By Joan Garnett

Of the last 100 or so years, President Trump is the closest we've had to a tough President, like Theodore 'Teddy' Roosevelt; someone that can stand up physically, mentally and emotionally to a barrage of assaults and constant criticism, not to mention a taxing physical schedule. I admire President Trump for his steadfastness, courage and toughness and wonder at times if Teddy was one of his favorite and most admired presidents, giving him the intestinal fortitude to wake up every day and fight the good fight.

Teddy happens to be one of my favorite past presidents. I read the late presidential historian David McCullough's fantastic biography of Teddy's life from infancy to his death called *Mornings on Horseback*. This was a man who faced physical challenges from boyhood who, with the help of a caring father and loving family, managed to overcome those obstacles with a never-ending fighting spirit. As a young man, he lost both his beloved wife Alice, immediately after the birth of their child, and mother on the same day...both dying within hours of each other. And what did he do to mourn and muster his courage to live? He moved to the Dakota badlands to drive cattle and live the cowboy life while still dealing with life threatening asthma. And let's not forget the fact he was a lieutenant colonel in the Rough Rider regiment in the Spanish-American war and became a legendary war hero.

Tucker Carlson was a keynote speaker at the International Order of Theodore Roosevelt, a group that honors our 26th president's legacy. To emphasize the grit that Teddy showed in many circumstances, he told of the time that Teddy was shot while giving a speech...and insisted on finishing the speech!

From Tucker's keynote:

"Imagine the kind of man it would take to give a speech, a 90-minute speech while bleeding with a .38 slug in you... He was running on the Bull Moose ticket that year, and instead of saying 'I've been shot!', he looked calmly at the crowd and said, 'It's going to take a lot more than that to kill a bull moose.'"

We need our 'Teddy' back in office to once again have a person that commands respect and has the toughness to lead the American people.



HUGE WIN FOR LOCAL CONTROL! SB 9 RULED UNCONSTITUTIONAL FOR CHARTER CITIES!!

By Linda Koelling

This is a major victory for local control — **the courts have ruled SB 9 unconstitutional** in California charter cities (cities with their own constitution, as opposed to general law cities).

Senate Bill 9 is a 2021 California state law that allows up to 4 homes on a single lot in most single-family zones, regardless of local zoning. It allows lot splits and second homes, plus ADUs. Cities cannot require setbacks of more than four feet, or onsite parking. Approvals are ministerial (automatic) and require no neighborhood notice.

SB 9 effectively eliminated single family zoning. Its stated purpose was to produce more affordable housing, but the law did not contain a word about affordability. Each home created could be rented at market rate.

This ruling will have massive consequences for our state. I expect that there will be a move to stop more cities from getting Charter City status — it has been a relatively simple process up until now.

The law firm's announcement is below:

Aleshire & Wynder, LLP Secures a Legal Win for Restoring Local Control on Housing: Court Rules in Favor of Five California Charter Cities Declaring Senate Bill 9 Unconstitutional

On April 22, 2024, at 11:00am, the Honorable Curtis A. Kin in Department 86 of the Los Angeles Superior Court issued a ruling granting a Petition for Writ of Mandate challenging the constitutionality of Senate Bill 9, as applied to charter cities. Senate Bill 9 requires all California cities to ministerially approve an application for a lot split, and up to four total housing units, on a single-family residential lot that meets certain specified criteria.

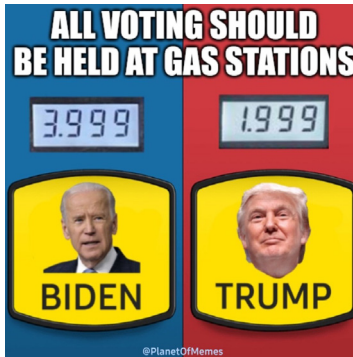
Five charter cities – Carson, Redondo Beach, Torrance, Del Mar, and Whittier – initiated a lawsuit in early 2022 against the State of California claiming that Senate Bill 9 is unconstitutional and invalid against charter cities. The League of California Cities and the City of Cerritos filed respective amicus briefs in the Trial Court in support of the Charter cities' position.

After extensive briefing and two hearings, the Court ruled in favor of the five charter cities. In this litigation, the charter cities are represented by Managing Partner Sunny Soltani, Equity Partner Pam Lee, Partner Michelle Villarreal, and Associate Shukan Patel of Aleshire & Wynder, LLP along with Michael Webb from the Redondo Beach City Attorney's office.

For further information on what this ruling means or how your city can benefit from this decision, please contact Pam Lee at plee@awattorneys.com or visit awattorneys.com.

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*I hope to see all of you on
May 15th*

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GSRW President Janet Price Golden State Republican Women 2499 Bruce Road Chico, CA 95928 gsrw.org		