



THE TRUMPET

WESTLAKE VILLAGE REPUBLICAN WOMEN, FEDERATED

Volume 18 / Issue 4 June 2018

SAVE THE DATE:

Friday, July 6: Board Meeting

President Dale Thomas will be hosting the Board Meeting at her home and lunch will be served.

Thurs., July 19: Happy Elephant Hour

Dominic’s Restaurant, Agoura Hills
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Tues., July 31: New Members Reception

Celebrate our newest members with an evening of wine and storytelling at the home of a WVRWF member. By invitation only.

Sun., August 5: Ventura County Fair – Voter Registration

Voter registration is an important part of our organization. Please volunteer for our WVRWF Booth at the Fair! Contact Dale Thomas at dale91377@aol.com

Friday, August 10: Board Meeting

Westlake City Hall

Thursday, August 16: Happy Elephant Hour

Time and Location: TBD

Wed., September 18: Joint Meeting of Ventura County Republican Women’s Clubs Candidates Forum

Spanish Hills Country Club. Dinner at 5:00 pm.
Invited Candidates: John Cox, Mark Meuser, Judge Bailey, Antonio Sabato Jr., and Rhonda Baldwin Kennedy

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Happy Elephant Hour

Each month, WVRWF members gather at a local watering hole for whine and wine.

These popular events give our members the opportunity to gather with like-minded Conservatives.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This just may be a light at the end of the tunnel. There is a small ray of hope for sanity that came shining through following the results of the June 5th Primary. In a state that has been historically held by democrats for far too long - a state that has virtually been destroyed by liberal politicians and their strong hold on our government – there will actually be Republican candidates on the ballot for the General Election on November 6th.

Not just candidates but good, qualified candidates that might actually get elected if common sense and fairness can be reestablished in this state. With the idiocy of the legislation allowing the top two vote getters in a primary election to move on to the general election regardless of party, we have once again been denied a Republican candidate for the Senate seat currently held by Ms. Feinstein. That is the bad news.

The good news is that we have a viable candidate running for Governor. John Cox was endorsed by President Trump and managed to secure his position on the November ballot based on his conservative values. Be assured that Republicans will work hard for Mr. Cox given the alternative of Gavin Newsom as Governor is unimaginable. I truly believe that Californians have had enough and are ready to take their state back. Gavin Newsom will continue the destructive policies of Jerry Brown which have brought California to the brink of total destruction with the highest taxation, gas prices, unemployment and failed immigration policies in the country. If you consider that Newsom and Antonio Villaragosa together only managed to secure 47% of the total primary vote – the light at the end of the tunnel may seem brighter.

Almost more important that the election of a Republican Governor will be the election of Mark Meuser to replace Alex Padilla as Secretary of State. It is this position that controls the voter rolls which must be cleaned in order to secure any honesty in future elections. Judge Bailey for Attorney General is also a must. We must work to repeal the gas tax, we must work to assure that our candidate Rhonda Baldwin- Kennedy defeats Jacki Irwin in the Assembly and it is imperative that we work to defeat our Ventura County District 26 do-nothing Congresswoman Julia Brownly and elect Antonio

Sabato Jr., a candidate who actually lives in our District. We have a limited opportunity right now to work to save California by bringing our candidates to office. If we don't, that light at the end of the tunnel will turn out to be Jerry Brown's bullet train to nowhere ready to run us all down. -Dale



Board of Directors

Dale N. Thomas – President

Bonnie Baker – VP Membership

Rose Hernandez – Co-VP Membership and
Corresponding Secretary

Donnell Nichols – V.P. Ways and Means and Events

Karen Wetterlind – Recording Secretary

Gloria Pemberton – Treasurer

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Crystal Salapatos – VP of Programs

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Julia Bach – Literacy

Gloria Pemberton – Chaplin

Mardu Lydick – Troop Support

Jeanne Llewellyn – Legislation

Jennifer Chebi – Social Media

Ariana M. Perfecto – Newsletter

Drew Pletcher – Website Manager

NEW MEMBERS & BIRTHDAYS**Welcome New Members!** 🇺🇸

Tanya Fox

Stacy Flaig

Debbie Cutler

Happy Birthdays!

Philip D'Addona (Assoc.) 6/13

Elaine Anthony 6/20

Pamela Moran 6/24

Dolly Brown 6/25

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**Debbie Cutler**

Debbie moved to Newbury Park in 1980 where she met her husband, Donald Cutler. Debbie and Donald recently celebrated 35 years of marriage. She has a Bachelors degree in accounting from CSUN and owns an electronics business with her husband. Debbie has three adult children and two grandsons.

Debbie has a passion for serving the community and her church. She is the president of a non-profit organization called Soroptimist Int. of the Conejo, which means "Best for Women." This organization raises money for scholarships for women going back to school and many other community needs. Debbie is proud to be a member of the WVRWF and looks forward to meeting everyone!

**BECOME A MEMBER**

Hillary Clinton believes that women who vote republican only do so because they mindlessly follow the orders of the men in their lives. Show her who the real mindless woman is! Join the WVRWF today and fight for conservative values! You will find the 2018 Membership Form on the following page.

Please reach out to help make us the best club in Ventura County. There is a great deal of talent within the membership and there is a role for every member to play. We always have a great time working together to serve the community.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**Ventura County Fair - Voter Registration**

As columnist Susan Shelley stated, "accurate voting rolls are a matter of national security" (See pg. 16).

Registering Republican voters is one of the most important efforts we need to make as a club. On Saturday, August 4 WVRWF will have a booth at the Ventura County Fair where we will be registering new voters.

Please contact Dale Thomas at dale91377@aol.com or (818) 257-2358 if you would like to serve.



2018 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____ HOME PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CELL: (____) _____ WORK PHONE: (____) _____

Email: _____ BIRTHDAY: Month/Day _____

Spouse*: _____

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: **Circle one:** NEW member or RENEWAL

IMPORTANT: Membership is annual from January 1 to December 31. All RENEWALS must be received by March 31st. (NEW memberships received after October 1 will include full membership for the following year.)

- _____ Active Member Annual Dues*\$ 35
- _____ Gold Elephant Sponsor\$100
- _____ Platinum Elephant Sponsor\$200
- Sponsorships include dues and receive special recognition in newsletters, website, programs and directory*
- _____ Student Member.....\$ 15
- _____ Couples Membership*Save when Spouses join together..\$ 50 (1 regular + 1 Associate)
- _____ Associate Member Annual Dues\$ 25
- Associate membership eligibility is limited to men, non-U.S. citizens and regular members of another Republican Women Federated club. In what Federated Club are you presently a member? _____*
- _____ Name Badge (optional).....\$20
- Name to appear on badge: _____*
- _____ Total Payment

Do you want your contact information to appear in the **2017 Membership Directory**? Yes No
The directory is for members only and will not be used for commercial purposes.

How do you want to receive your monthly **Newsletter**: Mail Only Email Only Mail and Email

Pay via CC# _____ Exp ___/___ Security Code _____

Billing Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**OR make your check for dues (and name badge if desired) payable to: WVRWF
 MAIL TO: P.O. Box 3835 R. East Thousand Oaks Blvd. #109, Westlake Village, CA 91362**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need your talents and time to help us grow stronger. Please check the areas in which you might like to assist us to better serve the Republican Party, our club and our community:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Hospitality _____ | Facebook/Social Network _____ | Website _____ |
| Election/Precinct Work _____ | Community Svc/Literacy _____ | Young Republicans _____ |
| Mailings _____ | Caring for America _____ | Phone Tree _____ |
| Legislation _____ | Membership Outreach _____ | Newsletter _____ |
| Photography _____ | Programs/Speakers _____ | Publicity _____ |
| Troop/Military Support _____ | Voter Registration _____ | Scholarship _____ |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PRESIDENT TRUMP!



Members of Westlake Village Republican Women enjoyed a festive gathering on June 14th at the North Ranch Country Club. The event was in celebration of President Donald Trump's Birthday. Many members turned out at a time when the accomplishments of our President are certainly a cause for celebration.

Champagne and Birthday cake accompanied a congratulatory toast made by Club President Dale Thomas to our wonderful Republican president and all he has done for our country in his 500 days in office. His recent successful meeting with the President of North Korea which resulted in the beginning of denuclearization, combined with tax breaks, the stock market, unemployment's record breaking low and the strong economy are just a few of the reasons to celebrate.

The entertainment for the evening was provided by conservative comedian Evan Sayet whose monologue explained in detail how the modern liberal thinks- or doesn't. Evan is a nationally known commentator and author whose "seriously funny" take on conservative and liberal views is very entertaining. (See Evan's column "He Fights" on pg. 10)

- Dale Thomas, *President*





JUNE PRIMARY RESULTS

	<i>Party</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Pct.</i>
<i>Governor</i>	Party	Vote	Pct.
<i>Gavin Newsom</i>	D	1,613,120	33.8%
<i>John Cox</i>	R	1,249,248	26.2%
<i>U.S. Senate</i>			
<i>Dianne Feinstein</i>	D	2,031,967	44.2%
<i>Kevin de Leon</i>	D	528,477	11.5%
<i>U.S. House District 26</i>			
<i>Julia Brownley</i>	D	56,537	53.9%
<i>Antonio Sabato</i>	R	23,472	22.4%
<i>Lieutenant Governor</i>			
<i>Eleni Kounalakis</i>	D	1,069,110	23.7%
<i>Attorney General</i>			
<i>Xavier Becerra</i>	D	2,061,602	45.3%
<i>Steven Bailey</i>	R	1,140,737	25.0%
<i>Secretary of State</i>			
<i>Alex Padilla</i>	D	2,366,883	51.9%
<i>Mark Meuser</i>	R	1,454,220	31.9%
<i>Treasurer</i>			
<i>Fiona Ma</i>	D	1,960,571	43.6%
<i>Prop. 68 – Issue Park and Nature Bonds</i>			
Yes		2,576,232	56.3%
No		2,000,092	43.7%
<i>Prop. 69 – Ban Transport Rev Realloc</i>			
Yes		3,702,694	80.7%
No		884,587	19.3%
<i>Prop. 70 – Supermaj to Use GHG Funds</i>			
Yes		1,591,088	36.2%
No		2,808,780	63.8%
<i>Prop. 71 – SW Measures In Effect Later</i>			
Yes		3,430,091	77.2%
No		1,013,181	22.8%
<i>Prop. 72 – Rainwater Capture System Excluded</i>			
Yes		5,255,098	84.62%
No		955,259	15.38%

REPUBLICANS ON THE NOVEMBER 2018 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

GOVERNOR John Cox

SECRETARY OF STATE
Mark Meuser

CONTROLLER
Konstantinos Roditis

TREASURER Greg Conlon

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Steven Bailey

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

3rd District G. Rick Marshall

4th District Joel Anderson

HOUSE

8 Mono Lake, Twenty-nine Palms,
San Bernardino County

Paul Cook*

Tim Donnelly

10 Hawthorne Jeff Denham *

24 San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara
Justin Fareed

25 Palmdale, Santa Clarita
Steve Knight*

26 Ventura, Thousand Oaks
Antonia Sabato, Jr.

28 Burbank, Glendale
Johnny Nalbandian

29 San Fernando Valley
Benito Benny Bernal

30 West San Fernando Valley
Mark S. Reed

31 San Bernardino, Upland
Sean Flynn

33 Santa Monica,
Los Angeles Beaches
Kenneth W. Wright

35 Pomona, Fontana
Christian Valiente

36 Palm Springs, Blythe
Kimberlin Pelzer

37 West Los Angeles
Ron J. Bassilian

38 Cerritos, Whittier
Ryan Downing

39 Northern Orange County
Young Kim

41 Riverside, Perris Aja Smith

42 Corona, Murrieta Ken Calvert*

43 Inglewood, Torrance
Omar Navarro

45 Orange County Foothills
Mimi Walters*

46 Santa Ana, Anaheim
Russell Rene Lambert

47 Long Beach, West Orange
County John Briscoe

48 Orange County Beaches
Dana Rohrbacher*

49 Encinitas, San Clemente
Diane L. Harkey

50 Inland San Diego
Duncan Hunter *

51 Chula Vista, Imperial
Juan Hildalgo

52 La Jolla, Poway Omar Qudrat

53 San Diego, La Mesa
Morgan Murtaugh

STATE SENATE

4 James Nielsen*

8 Andreas Borgeas

10 Victor G. San Vinente

12 Rob Poythress

14 Andy Vidak*

16 Shannon Grove

18 Rudy Melendez

20 Matthew Munson

28 Jeff Stone*

32 Rita Topalian

34 Janet Nguyen*

36 Pat Bates*

38 Brian Jones

40 Luis R. Vargas

ASSEMBLY

36 Palmdale, Edwards AFB
Tom Lackey*

38 Santa Clarita, Simi Valley
Dante Acosta

39 San Fernando Valley
Richardo Antonia Benitz

40 San Bernardino

Henry Gomez Nickel

42 Palm Springs, Hemet
Chad Mayes*

44 Oxnard, Thousand Oaks
R. Baldwin-Kennedy

45 Northridge, Calabasas
Justin M. Clark

46 Van Nuys, Sherman Oaks
Roxanne Beckford Hoge

49 Western San Gabriel Valley
Burton Brink

52 Ontario, Pomona Toni Holle

55 Yorba Linda, Walnut
Phillip Chen*

56 El Cento, Blythe
Jeff Gonzalez

57 Whittier, La Habra
Jessica Martinez

58 Norwalk, Pico Rivera
Mike Simpfenderfer

60 Riverside, Corona
Bill Essayli

62 Inglewood, LAX
Al L. Hernandez

65 Northeast Orange County,
Yorba Linda Alex Coronado

66 Torrance, Rancho Palos Verdes
Frank A. Scott

67 Murrieta, Lake Elsinore
Melissa Melendez*

68 Tustin, Orange County Foothills
Steven S. Choi*

71 El Cajon, Alpine
Randy Voepel*

72 Northwest Orange County,
Westminster Tyler Diep

73 Mission Viejo Bill Brough*

74 Orange County Beaches, Irvine
Matthew Harper*

75 Escondido, Temecula
Marie Waldron

77 North San Diego
Brian Maienshein*

78 San Diego Beaches
Maggie J. Campbell

79 La Mesa, San Diego
John Moore

80 San Diego, Chula Vista
Lincoln Pickard

* Designates Incumbent

Source: www.sacbee.com

CANDIDATE PROFILE**Antonio Sabato Jr.**

Antonio Sabato Jr. is running for Congress in California's 26th District, where he has lived for 15 years. As an immigrant, entrepreneur and proud U.S. Citizen, Sabato has made national security, veterans and the economy his key issues. Sabato will push for support and funding for Naval Base Ventura County, will bring more funding to and reform our local Oxnard VA (voted the worst in the country), and will make it easier to own a business in the 26th district.

In the November 2018 election, Sabato will face Democrat Julia Brownley.

On July 4th at the Ventura Street Fair, the Sabato Campaign will be manning the Republican Booth. Making good on his promise to put YOU first, Antonio Sabato Jr. will be present to reach out to his constituents.



HE FIGHTS.

by Evan Sayet



My Leftist friends (as well as many ardent #Never Trumpers) constantly ask me if I'm not bothered by Donald Trump's lack of decorum. They ask if I don't think his tweets are "beneath the dignity of the office." Here's my answer: We Right-thinking people have tried dignity. There could not have been a man of more quiet dignity than George W. Bush as he suffered the outrageous lies and politically motivated hatreds that undermined his presidency. We tried statesmanship.

Could there be another human being on this earth who so desperately prized "collegiality" as John McCain? We tried propriety: has there been a nicer human being ever than Mitt Romney? And the results were always the same. This is because, while we were playing by the rules of dignity, collegiality and propriety, the Left has been, for the past 60 years, engaged in a knife fight where the only rules are those of Saul Alinsky and the Chicago mob.

I don't find anything "dignified," "collegial" or "proper" about Barack Obama's lying about what went down on the streets of Ferguson in order to ramp up racial hatreds simply because racial hatreds serve the Democratic Party. I don't see anything "dignified" in lying about the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi and imprisoning an innocent filmmaker to cover your tracks. I don't see anything "statesman-like" in weaponizing the IRS to be used to destroy your political opponents and any dissent. Yes, Obama was "articulate" and "polished" but in no way was he in the least bit "dignified," "collegial" or "proper."

The Left has been engaged in a war against America since the rise of the Children of the '60s. To them, it has been an all-out war where nothing is held sacred and nothing is seen as beyond the pale. It has been a war

they've fought with violence, the threat of violence, demagoguery and lies from day one of the violent takeover of the universities till today. The problem is that, through these years, the Left has been the only side fighting this war. While the Left has been taking a knife to anyone who stands in their way, the Right has continued to act with dignity, collegiality and propriety. With Donald Trump, this all has come to an end. Donald Trump is America's first wartime president in the Culture War.

During wartime, things like "dignity" and "collegiality" simply aren't the most essential qualities one looks for in warriors. Ulysses Grant was a drunk whose behavior in peacetime might well have seen him drummed out of the Army for conduct unbecoming. Had Abraham Lincoln applied the peacetime rules of propriety and booted Grant, the Democrats might well still be holding their slaves today. Lincoln rightly recognized that, "I cannot spare this man. He fights." General George Patton was a vulgar-talking son-of-a-bitch. In peacetime, this might have seen him stripped of rank. But, had Franklin Roosevelt applied the normal rules of decorum then, Hitler and the Socialists would be five decades into their thousand-year Reich.

Trump is fighting. And what's particularly delicious is that, like Patton standing over the battlefield as his tanks obliterated Rommel's, he's shouting, "You magnificent bastard, I read your book!" That is just the icing on the cake, but it's wonderful to see that not only is Trump fighting, he's defeating the Left using their own tactics. That book is Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*, a book so essential to the Liberals' war against America that it is and was the playbook for the entire Obama administration and the **subject of Hillary Clinton's senior thesis**. It is a book of such pure evil, just as the rest of us would dedicate our book to those we most love or those to whom we are most indebted.

Trump's tweets may seem rash and unconsidered but, in reality, he is doing exactly what Alinsky suggested his followers do. First, instead of going after "the fake media" (and they are so fake that they have literally gotten every single significant story of the past 60 years not just wrong, but diametrically opposed to the truth, from the Tet Offensive to Benghazi, to what really happened

on the streets of Ferguson, Missouri) Trump isolated CNN. He made it personal.

Then, just as Alinsky suggests, he employs ridicule which Alinsky described as "the most powerful weapon of all." Most importantly, Trump's tweets have put CNN in an untenable and unwinnable position. ... They need to respond. This leaves them with only two choices. They can either "go high" (as Hillary would disingenuously declare of herself and the fake news would disingenuously report as the truth) and begin to honestly and accurately report the news or they can double-down on their usual tactics and hope to defeat Trump with twice their usual hysteria and demagoguery. The problem for CNN (et al.) with the former is that if they were to start honestly reporting the news, that would be the end of the Democratic Party they serve.

It is nothing but the incessant use of fake news (read: propaganda) that keeps the Left alive. Imagine, for example, if CNN had honestly and accurately reported then-candidate Barack Obama's close ties to foreign terrorists (Rashid Khalid), domestic terrorists (William Ayers), the mafia (Tony Rezko) or the true evils of his spiritual mentor, Jeremiah Wright's church.

Imagine if they had honestly and accurately conveyed the evils of the Obama administration's weaponizing of the IRS to be used against their political opponents or his running of guns to the Mexican cartels or the truth about the murder of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and the Obama administration's cover-up.

So, to my friends on the Left and the #Never Trumpers as well: do I wish we lived in a time when our president could be "collegial" and "dignified" and "proper"? Of course I do. These aren't those times. This is war. And it's a war that the Left has been fighting without opposition for the past 50 years.

So, say anything you want about this president - I get it - he can be vulgar, he can be crude, he can be undignified at times. I don't care. I can't spare this warrior. He fights for America! Fight on you magnificent bastard!

*Evan Douglas Sayet is a comedian and conservative speaker. He is the nation's leading conservative speaker, an in-demand Master of Ceremony for Republican events. Sayet is the author of *The Kinder Garden Of Eden: How The Modern Liberal Thinks And Why He's Convinced That Ignorance Is Bliss**

A LETTER HOME

By Arielle T. Perfecto

As some of you may know or have suspected, my mother and father are immigrants—and yes, they are in this country legally. But I think even more important than the distinction between legal and illegal immigrants is the one between the immigrants who make burdens of themselves and the ones who do not. My parents never asked anyone, not their government, not their fellow working class citizens, not even their own family, for money. And if they did, it was for education (FAFSA) and they were given pennies, if anything at all (California doesn't care as much for law-abiding citizens).

Yes, being an immigrant often means being very poor and uneducated. And yes, it is harder to find work in America these days than it was thirty of forty years ago (never fear, our great President Trump is on the case). But what many people today miss about the American Dream is sacrifice. And what is America, if not sacrifice in the name of something greater? Indeed, there are fewer actions more noble, and my parents made sacrifice after sacrifice—better neighborhoods, better cars, longer vacations, nicer clothing amongst them—so that they never had to burden anyone else. How could they ever take from someone else what they could ultimately give to themselves? And no, they might not have been able to afford such things then, but their children—my sister and I—surely would someday, and they would be able to do it entirely on their own. So you work those extra hours, you give up those luxuries, and although the Left with all its white guilt and minority victimhood wants you to think the system makes it close to impossible, you better yourself through education.

Throughout my entire life my father has told me about when he first came to this country in the 1970's and saw "Now Hiring" signs plastered on the door of nearly every business. "You could find work anywhere," he's told me, beginning his lesson on why education is more important now than ever before. A majority of those signs are sadly gone now, but with your education it doesn't have to matter as much. "Your education is something no one can ever take away from you," my mother has told me on numerous occasions. Education can be slow and even painful, it's true....

It's important to note that my parents also came to America at a time when rationally, it was not considered shameful and "bigoted" (a favorite term of the Left's) to assimilate. Surely, it was just what you did. You came to America to be American. Even in my mere month in England as a student, I find myself looking for small ways to assimilate and blend into London culture out of both respect and admiration for the country I am now living in. Even though it may seem a bit over the top, I understand why Parisians want so much for foreigners and tourists to learn and speak French. At a certain level, it's not racism—its culture preservation. Unfortunately, that culture is lost on most immigrants nowadays. It's more normal and acceptable to hate and criticize America while enjoying all the benefits it gives. Sound logic.

Senator Ted Cruz described it best when he said that when you're the child of people who have escaped oppression—and I mean real, true oppression: no jobs anywhere at all, and a government that can't be bothered to fix that—you know the value of liberty. I haven't experienced what my parents have—thanks to their love, their commitment, their hard work, and the Almighty Father, I haven't even come close to coming to a foreign country with hardly anything at all to build a new life—but because of their experiences I know how lucky I am to live in America. I know that this truly is the greatest country on earth. Even England, as beautiful as it is and as much as I have come to love it more than I ever expected in such a short amount of time, sadly suffers from the looming presence of Big Brother—everywhere you turn there are numerous signs reminding you of the even more numerous amount of cameras watching your every move, and a mere tube of pepper spray ridiculously counts as a firearm—oh, and you also have to be carded to buy a can of Red Bull.

It's these seemingly insignificant things that remind you of how wonderful America really is under the sheen of the Left's blind hatred. And it's these beautiful American freedoms that I of course want all immigrants and their

children to enjoy. But that doesn't come without some kind of sacrifice. So when I stay silent at the stories and mostly fake photos of children being separated from their parents at the border (a policy the media shamelessly ignores has been in effect since the Clinton administration), it's not because I'm a heartless bigot. Truly, my heart does go out to these families trying to escape their oppression, and I do hope they can one day legally enjoy the freedoms I do. It's because as the child of legal immigrants, I know that there is a process to be followed for the sake of the security of this country, and that to be here is a privilege and not a right.

Arielle T. Perfecto is the smarter and funnier younger sister of Ariana M. Perfecto. She is a junior at San Diego State University where she is double majoring in Political Science and Philosophy. She currently lives in London, England. Upon returning home to San Diego, she will begin the process of applying to law school.



IN THE NEWS**ACCURATE VOTING ROLLS ARE A MATTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY**

By Susan Shelley, LA Dailey News



The “Motor Voter” law didn’t enter this world alone. It was twins.

In 1993, Congress passed and President Bill Clinton signed the National Voter Registration Act, which put new federal requirements on the states to do two things: “increase the number of eligible citizens who register to vote,” and “protect the integrity of the electoral process.” The law was very specific about how these objectives were to be accomplished.

States had to offer voter registration opportunities to people when they applied for or renewed a driver’s license, at government offices that provided public assistance and by mail.

States also were required to keep their voter registration lists “accurate and current” by identifying voters who had become ineligible to vote because they had died or moved. The states’ programs for voter list maintenance had to meet specific standards: the procedures had to be uniform, non-discriminatory, in compliance with the Voting Rights Act and not conducted within 90 days of a federal election.

While states can take different approaches, the law lists one option for identifying voters who have moved. States may use the U.S. Postal Service’s change-of-address service and send voters a written notice asking if they’re still at their registered address. The notice must explain that to keep the voter registration active, the voter must return the included prepaid postcard or must vote at least once during the time period that includes the next two federal elections.

Ohio used that process, but up to 40 percent of people who move don’t use the change-of-address service, according to the Postal Service. So Ohio added a supplemental process. If someone didn’t vote in any election for two years, the state sent them the written notice and the prepaid postcard. If they didn’t return the card and they didn’t vote for four years (a total of six years of non-voting), the state canceled their registration.

In 2016, Ohio was sued by civil rights groups on the grounds that this is voter suppression.

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that Ohio’s process is not only legal, but mandatory.

Under federal law — both the National Voter Registration Act and the 2002 Help America Vote Act — “failure to vote” can’t be the only reason for canceling a registration. Five justices thought the state’s written notice, combined with the lack of voting, was exactly what the law both allowed and required. Four justices thought Ohio’s supplemental process illegally used “failure to vote” as the trigger for canceling a registration.

But is it discriminatory against anybody? Is it voter suppression?

There is a history here. The 1965 Voting Rights Act put some states and local jurisdictions under federal oversight, barring them from making changes to their election laws without advance federal approval.

But in 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court lifted that restriction. Chief Justice John Roberts said Congress was free to impose restrictions again, but only if based on current data. In the Ohio case, no one made the claim that the state’s procedures were discriminatory.

This case could have an impact on California, currently being sued by Judicial Watch and the Election Integrity Project California for failing to maintain accurate and current voter rolls. According to the lawsuit, 11 counties have more registered voters than citizen voting-age residents. In Los Angeles County, which is also being sued, the voter registration rate is 144 percent, according to the lawsuit.

That would explain why voter turnout is so low in L.A. County. Statewide, voter turnout in the June 5 primary, as of June 14 with ballots still uncounted, was 32.3 percent. In L.A. County, turnout was 24 percent. But 24 percent of what? There are 5,149,461 registered voters in L.A. County. How many are phantoms?

We'd better find out. California is in the process of changing over to electronic voter registration and voting equipment, including a new remote voting system made by Dominion Voting, a privately held company headquartered in Toronto and Denver. Secretary of State Alex Padilla recently approved that equipment, with a paper ballot back-up, for limited use by military, overseas and disabled voters. The company's website says ImageCast Remote is a system for telephone and internet voting.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security says the Russian government tried to get into state voter registration databases in 2016, and in some cases succeeded. In the future, could hackers manipulate an electronic voting system and cast votes for inactive voters, undetected? Maybe they can do it already.

Federal law requires the states to maintain accurate and current voter lists. In 1993, that was part of a deal to expand voter registration opportunities. Today, it could be a matter of national security.

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