



The Elephant Heard

FEBRUARY 2022

www.wrwf.org

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NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF MEETING

2022 WHITTIER REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 3, 2022

THE FEBRUARY 3, 2022 GENERAL MEETING IS CANCELLED DUE TO HEALTH CONCERNS REGARDING FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS. THE HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS OMICRON VARIANT OF COVID-19 HAS CAUSED GRAVE CONCERN GIVEN THE NUMBER OF INFECTIONS AND HOSPITALIZATIONS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

OUR FEATURED SPEAKER IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR A ZOOM MEETING. WE WILL RESCHEDULE AND PLAN ON PERSON-TO-PERSON MEETINGS STARTING ON MARCH 4, 2022.



HONOR OUR VETERANS THROUGH PROPER FLAG ETIQUETTE:

Make sure it can wave freely. Never allow the flag to touch the ground or any other object while it's on display.

Stand for America. Salute the American flag as it is hoisted and lowered and while saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Stand at attention with your right hand over your heart and your hat removed.

Remember the dawn to dusk rule. Display the American flag outdoors only between sunrise and sunset, unless illuminated by a spotlight.

Position your flag correctly. When displaying the American flag indoors, always place it to the right of a speaker or staging area.

Know how to show honor. To place the American flag at half-staff, first hoist it to the peak for an instant before lowering it to a halfway position.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Judy Van Horn, President

Politics is personal! It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.

According to the Republican National Committee's chairwoman, Ronna McDaniel, "every wave starts with a ripple of energy that builds and builds until it swells and has unstoppable momentum. The 2021 elections in Virginia and New Jersey sent a shudder through the political landscape that we need to grow into a surging Red Wave in 2022.

Each one of us can help stop the creeping Socialism, skyrocketing prices and economic stagnation this administration's policies have wrought on our nation."

As members of WRWF, each of us need to help the Republican Party fine tune their strategy for which issues we want at the forefront of our candidates' campaign platforms and at the top of our elected leaders' agendas. We are part of the grassroots activists, here to help organize the strongest,

most aggressive Republican campaign in our Party's history.

Some serious issues for the 2022 election campaign:

- Do you support Republican efforts to protect election integrity by supporting voter ID requirements and improved ballot security measures?
- Do you want to elect Republicans who will stop the Democrats' open borders policy and their drive to give amnesty to illegal immigrants?
- Do you support Republican efforts to stand with parents and ban the teaching of anti-American, divisive "Critical Race Theory" (CRT) and eliminate policies that force girls to use the same locker rooms and bathrooms as transgender boys in public schools?
- Are you worried that the skyrocketing prices caused by the Democrats' massive spending will diminish the value of your earnings and savings?
- This 2022 election is certain to be a very important crossroads for our nation.

First things first! Our local elections must be our immediate priority for our city council members and mayoral races!

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Submitted by Peggy Rowe, 3rd V.P. Ways & Means

Opportunity Drawings – Monthly drawings continue to be a profitable fundraiser, thanks to all of you! Our January winners were Janet Stillwell, Donell Schneider (2), Luke Janicke, Kaye Kidwell, Nancy Krug, and Sylvia Sahagian. Congratulations to all!

February Opportunity Drawing – Although we are not having a formal meeting this month, Peggy Rowe and Kaye Kidwell will still draw the winning tickets on February 3rd and the prizes will be mailed to each winner!

In the works – At our June evening meeting (the last meeting before we go dark for the summer) we are planning a wine tasting event. More details to follow!

Mail forms to WRWF P.O. Box 16, Whittier CA 90608 or purchase on line by February 1, 2022.

February Opportunity Drawing

Name _____

Contact number _____

Number of tickets at \$5 each _____

Five tickets for \$20 _____

Total _____

MEMBERSHIP

Submitted by Donell Schneider, 2nd V.P. Membership

Hello everyone. I hope you had a Merry Christmas. Our 2021 Membership expired on December 31, 2021. You can renew your membership online at WRWF.org. There is also an application form in this Newsletter.

For those of you who have renewed within the last few months, your membership is in good standing through 2022.

We have two new members, Donna Kobzeff and Sandra Herron. Welcome Donna and Sandra we are happy to have you.

**CFRW's motto is "Each One Bring One."
Please renew and "Bring One."**

CANDIDATE FOR CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 FERNANDO DUTRA



Fernando Dutra

Now more than ever, Whittier needs experienced, trustworthy, stable leadership. Leadership that effectively supports safe neighborhoods, smart economic growth, transparent and responsive local government.

As your councilman, I have advocated for increased law enforcement while fighting to bring quality jobs and housing to benefit our community. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, I have championed creating programs that benefit our struggling small businesses.

I have continuously made responsible fiscal decisions to keep our local government moving forward in a sustainable and reliable manner. As a result, we have seen increased law enforcement, the extension of the Greenway Trail, rebuilding of our public library, improvements to our parks, and increased resources to provide services for our residents. With solving homelessness as a priority, I am proud to have supported the opening of a shelter with wrap-around support services. By opening this shelter, along with joining a Federal Court Settlement, we are able to enforce our laws, and clear our public parks and open space.

As your voice for the 4th District, I am committed to promoting policies that protect our community and enhance our standard of living.

I respectfully ask for your support for re-election to the Whittier City Council.

WHITTIER REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED (WRWF) SCHOLARSHIPS

Submitted by Donell Schneider, 2nd V.P. Membership

Each year WRWF awards the Richard M. Nixon and Cathy Vinatieri scholarships to worthy Republican college/trade school students.

These Scholarships help to promote the continuation of our conservative ideals and are made possible by generous donations from our WRWF members and friends.

We need your continued support.

We will begin sending out applications at the end of January 2022.

Please remit your donations by mail to:

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PO Box 16
Whittier, CA 90608

You can also send in your donation via our website at WRWF.org.

We appreciate your continued support and participation.

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STOP DEMOCRATS' "VOTING WRONG" LEGISLATION

They call it "Voting Rights" legislation, but the bills President Joe Biden and the Democrats are pushing are actually about "Voting Wrong."

Yesterday's alarmist rhetoric in Georgia masks a very different reality – these bills are nothing more than a shameless partisan power grab.

One or both of these bills may come up on the Senate Floor THIS WEEK.

Speak up against this dangerous legislation!



TELL YOUR SENATOR TO PROTECT THE BALLOT BOX AND THE SENATE FILIBUSTER!!

Republicans stand firmly opposed to Democrat power grabs and remain committed to making it easy to vote and hard to cheat.

CONTACT YOUR SENATOR

By a wide margin, Americans support election integrity and common-sense reforms to secure elections.

- By a 33-point margin, Americans believe that voting in their area is "easy" and want the main objective of any reforms to **focus on making sure elections are "fair and free of voter fraud."**
- **81% of voters support voter ID laws**, and support among Black voters has risen by 13% just this year.
- 68% of voters believe that **state legislatures should decide the voting rules** and regulations for their state, not the federal government.
- 87% of voters are **against ballot harvesting** and 71% of voters believe **ballots should not be accepted after Election Day.**

DEMOCRAT LIES EXPOSED

President Biden is misleading the American people about the impact of the Georgia law – which makes it easier to vote, harder to cheat, and is less strict than Democrat-run New York or his home state of Delaware.

President Biden is misleading the American people about the filibuster – which the Democrats used 327 times in 2020 alone and he has vigorously supported throughout his career. Democrats can't pass their election takeover because the American people don't want them to and they don't have the votes.

Here's what RNC Research has to say about the Democrats' bills.

SENATE VERSION OF H.R. 1: "FREEDOM TO CHEAT"

Democrats claim that this bill is about safeguarding democracy, but it's really a radical power grab over state-run elections. If passed, the bill would:

Thwart election integrity, manipulate state redistricting decisions, and slant elections to help Democrats win.

Eviscerate common-sense state voter ID laws which 36 states have passed.

Force 37 states to adopt automatic voter registration on short notice, even though past attempts to implement automatic voter registration have led to illegal immigrants being registered and massive registration errors.

Lead to "large numbers of ineligible voters" being registered, including noncitizens.

Force 29 States to adopt same-day voter registration.

Force states to let violent felons vote in federal elections as soon as they are out of prison – even if they have not completed all terms of their sentence, like probation or parole – an unconstitutional mandate.

Gift taxpayer dollars to the campaigns of career politicians. The bill includes nearly the same campaign funding scheme from H.R. 1, where taxpayers would provide up to a 600% match for political donations under \$200.

H.R. 4: THE "ELECTION SUPPRESSION" ACT

The "Election Suppression" Act would consolidate control over elections in Washington, DC, **trampling on the right of states to effectively administer their own elections.**

- The "Election Suppression" Act would destroy common-sense, state-level election integrity reforms like those we've seen in Georgia, Florida, Texas, and Arizona.

The "Election Suppression" Act would eviscerate the right of states to manage their own elections with transparency and ballot-security safeguards. It would **misuse the 1965 Voting Rights Act** called "pre-clearance" to achieve this goal.

- Democrats want to **force states to get permission from Washington, DC** to pass local laws which might, for example, require voter ID -- a policy which polls consistently find roughly 80% of Americans supporting.
- **Joe Biden** and Democrats want their **politicized Department of Justice** to control how states manage their own elections.
- Democrats are trying to **revive an outdated, unconstitutional provision from the 1960s** in their stop-at-nothing efforts to undermine election integrity.

The bill **targets states who try to clean up voter rolls**, handcuffing local officials who attempt to keep their voter lists up-to-date and accurate.

- For example, the bill would **prohibit states from participating in an inter-state accountability process** to ensure accurate lists.

The bill would also force federal courts to take **inaccurate census data** and **subject every existing strict voter ID requirement to Department of Justice review.**

Voters agree: States know best **how to run their own elections.**

- **68% of voters believe that state legislatures should decide the voting rules** and regulations for their state.
- Democrats are showing a **total disregard for state and local governments** in their desperate attempts to gain power.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT: THE HIGHEST COURT IN THE LAND

Submitted by Suzanne Thompson

The Supreme Court was established by the United States Constitution in Article III, Section 1, which states that "The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish." The Supreme Court would be the highest court in the land, and the final arbiter of the law.

The Constitution left many of the details of the Supreme Court to Congress. There are no constitutional requirements for age, experience, or citizenship of Supreme Court justices, for example, or specifics about the power of the Court or how many justices it must comprise. Through the Judiciary Act of 1789, which was the first bill introduced in the United States Senate, Congress created a Supreme Court with six justices responsible for ensuring the constitutionality of laws enacted by the executive and legislative branches, and also established the lower federal court system. The number of Supreme Court justices has changed six times before settling at the present total of nine in 1869.

The Supreme Court first assembled on February 1, 1790, in the Exchange Building in New York City, which was then our nation's capital. Due to transportation problems, some of the justices were not able to reach New York until February 2.

In its infancy, the Court was devoted to organizational proceedings. It handed down its first opinion on August 3, 1791. With few exceptions, the Court does not have to hear every case. Instead, it uses the "Rule of Four," whereby it will agree to take on a case if four of the nine justices feel it has value. The Court agrees to hear about 100-150 cases of the more than 7,000 cases it is asked to review each year.

Lifetime appointment helps ensure independence

Supreme Court justices are appointed by the President of the United States, subject to Senate approval, to serve during "good behavior," which generally means for life. With this lifetime appointment, the justices do not have to run or campaign for office or re-election, which helps insulate them from partisan pressures when deciding cases, and allows them to focus on the legal correctness of the law versus politics. Justices cannot be fired for making unpopular decisions, and their salaries can never be decreased during their term of office. In this way, the Court can be truly independent and protected from the political branches of government. Justices hold office for as long as they choose and can be only removed by impeachment. The average length of service for Supreme Court justices is 16 years. William O. Douglas holds the record as the longest serving Supreme Court justice at 36 years.

Supreme Court retains traditions

Despite several changes over the years, the Supreme Court has maintained many of its long-standing traditions.

The nine justices are seated by seniority, which is customary in American courts. The Chief Justice occupies the center chair; the senior Associate Justice sits to the right, the second senior to the left, and the remaining justices alternate right and left by seniority.

The justices first wore robes in 1792, likely in homage to the centuries-old tradition of judges in many European countries, most notably England. Robes reflected a solemnity for the serious nature of the work of the Court. The first robes worn by the Supreme Court, however, were not black, and some wore a variety of colors. The first Chief Justice John Jay and apparently his colleagues wore robes with red and white on the front and sleeves. Around 1800, the Justices began wearing black robes in Court, which was later adopted by other courts and federal judges.

After donning their robes with help from attendants in the "robing room," the justices engage in another long-held tradition: the "judicial handshake." Each justice shakes hands with each of the other eight justices before entering the courtroom. This is a reminder that although there may be differences of opinion, the Court shares a common purpose.

Efforts aimed at reshaping the Court

There have been efforts to change the composition of the Supreme Court, primarily for political reasons. One of the most notable instances was when President Franklin D. Roosevelt, frustrated with Supreme Court conservatives for ruling against some of his New Deal laws to end the Great Depression, suggested increasing the Court to 15 justices. The idea was extremely unpopular, even among his supporters, and was called "court packing," as it would create new seats filled by justices he would appoint who were likely sympathetic to his policies. The Senate Judiciary Committee called Roosevelt's reform bill "an invasion of judicial power such as has never before been attempted in this country," and the Senate ultimately voted against the plan by a wide margin.

Most recently, with the retirement of Anthony Kennedy, a moderate who often had a swing vote, the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a liberal Democrat, and the appointment of conservative justices Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett, there has been a shift to a more conservative Supreme Court. Liberals have been arguing to expand the Court, fearing that a conservative Court will reverse several historic decisions, including *Roe v. Wade*, which guarantees a woman's right to an abortion, and *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which recognizes same-sex marriage, as well as dismantle such legislation as the Affordable Care Act and immigration protection.

Democrats have offered several proposals to reshape the Court, including a plan by former presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg to expand the Court to 15 justices, five associated with Democrats, five with Republicans, and five who would be apolitical and chosen by their colleagues. Others have suggested adding two seats, or imposing term limits on service. This past April, congressional Democrats introduced the "Judiciary Act of 2021," a bill that would add four seats to the Supreme Court. The bill is currently in its first stage of the legislative process, where it is typically considered by committee before possibly sending to the House or Senate as a whole. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has reportedly said, however, that she has no intention of bringing such legislation to the floor for a vote.

No one can predict whether any of these efforts will come to fruition. While an act of Congress can expand the Supreme Court, it is unlikely to happen in the near future, given Democrats' slim majorities and that Republicans are well positioned to reclaim both the House and Senate in the 2022 mid-term elections. Many lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are not in favor of the idea, and even President Biden said during his campaign that he is not a fan of packing the Court. In April, Biden announced the formation of a bi-partisan commission to study the structure of the Supreme Court including the number of justices and their length of service.

Support for such changes also appears to be low in the court of public opinion, the importance of which Roosevelt learned the hard way. An April 2021 Rasmussen poll found that 55 percent of likely voters oppose expanding the bench, and only a third support it. A similar poll that month by Reuters/Ipsos found that only 38 percent of Americans want to expand the Court, although 63 percent favor ending lifetime appointments and would like to see some kind of term or age limits.

With opposition to changing the number of Supreme Court justices coming from many fronts, we can only hope that these proposals will be off the table for a very long time.

Sidebar: Current Supreme Court justices

Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. (seated 2005), and Associate Justices Clarence Thomas (seated 1991); Stephen G. Breyer (seated 1994); Samuel A. Alito, Jr., (seated 2006); Sonia Sotomayor (seated 2009); Elena Kagan (seated 2010); Justice Neil M. Gorsuch (seated 2017); Brett M. Kavanaugh (seated 2018); and Amy Coney Barrett (seated 2020).

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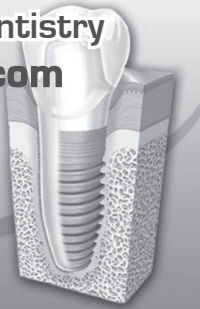

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PRESIDENTS' DAY

Submitted by
Liz Papazian, 1st Vice President



Washington's Birthday is commonly called Presidents' Day. Congress has never stipulated that Washington's Birthday be changed to Presidents' Day. In a sense, calling the holiday "Presidents' Day" helps us to reflect on more than the first president, but also the founding of our nation, its values, and what Washington calls in his Farewell Address "the beloved Constitution and union, as received from the Founders." Abraham Lincoln's birthday is on February 12th, so by calling the holiday "Presidents' Day," we can include another remarkable president in our celebrations.

Washington's birthday was celebrated on February 22nd until well into the 20th century. In 1968, Congress passed the Monday Holiday Law to "provide uniform annual observances of certain legal public holidays on Mondays." By creating more 3-day weekends, Congress hoped to "bring substantial benefits to both the spiritual and economic life of the Nation."

One of the great traditions followed for decades has been the reading by a U.S. senator of George Washington's Farewell Address in legislative session, which remains an annual event to this day.

George Washington was originally born when the Julian calendar was in use. When America switched to the Gregorian calendar, people born before 1752 were told to add 11 days to their birth dates. Those born between January 1 and March 25 also had to add one year to be in sync with the new calendar. As a result Washington's birthday changed from February 11, 1731 to February 22, 1732.

Washington was convinced that he was not the right man for the job. He wrote, "My movements to the chair of government will be accompanied by feelings not unlike those of a culprit who is going to the place of his execution." Fortunately for our young country, he was wrong.