



April 2026

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CITRUS COUNTY

Vicky Iozzia is the Editor of this newsletter. Our mailing address is LWVCC, P. O. Box 1903, Lecanto, FL 34460 Our website is lwvcitrus.org Our email address is lwvcc2013@gmail.com

Our **April 8, 2026** meeting features Rachel Montgomery, **Chief of Police of Citrus County Schools**. It will be at the **Coastal Region Library** and begins at 10am. See Page 5

Our **May 13, 2026** meeting features Debra Stanley, Director of Career and Technical Education for Citrus County Schools and Meet and Greet for School Board candidates. It will be at the **Coastal Region Library** and begins at 10am. See Page 6

Please visit our Facebook page and "like" us!

<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvotersofcitruscounty>

We want to thank the following businesses for their cooperation: FGE Printing, Glory Days Restaurant, Citrus County Chronicle, Pinnacle Printing

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE BOARD MEMBERS WHO DO SUCH A GREAT JOB EVERY MONTH CONTRIBUTING

TO THIS NEWSLETTER! THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO READ THIS. YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME!

Table of Contents April 2026

April Holidays	Page 3
Calendar from lwvcitrus.org	Page 4
April meeting, Rachel Montgomery	Page 5
May meeting, Debra Stanley	Page 6
Linda Abels	Page 7'
Vicky Iozzia	Page 8 to 9
March luncheon, Jim Gouvellis	Page 10 to 14
Peg Primeau	Page 15
Rosemary Nilles	Page 16 to 17
County meetings	Page 18
Legislators	Page 19
Sources for organizations	Page 20
From SOE Mo Baird	Page 21
Speaker's Bureau	Page 22
Monthly Social	Page 23
League Impact on Issues	Page 24
Monica Elliott, LWVFL, ID and voting	Page 25 to 27
From African American Read-in	Page 28
In the news	Page 29 to 46
From the ACLU	Page 47 to 48
Photos from the March 28 No Kings Demonstration	Pages 49 to 52

HAPPY APRIL EVERYONE!



◀ Mar 2026		April 2026						▶ May 2026	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
			1 Passover (Begins) April Fool's Day Assyrian New Year Nat'l. Walking Day	2 Holy Thursday Passover (Cont.) Nat'l. Burrito Day Autism Awareness	3 Good Friday Passover (Cont.)	4 Passover (Cont.) Int'l. Mine Awareness Day Nat'l. Hug a Newsperson Day			
5 Easter Passover (Cont.) Deep Dish Pizza Day	6 Passover (Cont.) Dyngus Day Int'l. Day of Sport for Devel. & Peace National Public Health Week Starts Nat'l Tartan Day	7 Passover (Cont.) Int'l. Day of Reflection on the 1994... Nat'l. Beer Day World Health Day	8 Passover (Cont.) Int'l. Day of Pink Rex Manning Day	9 Passover (End) Nat'l. Unicorn Day	10 Nat'l Siblings Day	11 Nat'l. Pet Day World Parkinson's Day			
12 Divine Mercy Sunday Orthodox Easter Int'l. Day of Human Space Flight Nat'l. Grilled Cheese Day	13 Songkran (Lao/Thai New Year)	14 Holocaust Remem. Day Bengali New Year Cambodian New Year Tamil New Year	15 Tax Day (Taxes Due) Jackie Robinson Day World Art Day	16 Nat'l. High Five Day	17 Burmese New Year Nat'l. Haiku Poetry Day	18 Record Store Day			
19 Bicycle Day	20 Yom HaZikaron Begins 420 Day	21 World Creativity and Innovation Day	22 Earth Day Yom-Hasatzmeut Administrative Professionals	23 English Language Day Int'l. Girls in ICT Day Spanish Language Day Take Child to Work Day World Book and Copyright Day	24 Arbor Day Int'l. Day of Multilateralism and... World Immunization Week Starts	25 DNA Day Indep. Bookstore Day Int'l. Delegate's Day World Malaria Day World Penguin Day Veterinary Day			
26 Int'l. Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day Lesbian Visibility Day Nat'l. Pretzel Day	27	28 National Superhero Day World Day for Safety and Health at Work	29 Denim Day Duke Ellington Day Int'l. Dance Day	30 Int'l. Jazz Day					

Events in April 2026

Grid List Month Week Day							April 2026 Go	< Previous	Today
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
			1	2	3	4			
5	6	7	8 10:00 am: LWV meeting with guest speaker Rachel Montgomery	9 10:00 am: Coping with Dementia Care Partner Conference	10	11			
12	13	14 1:00 pm: Board of Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida meeting 4:00 pm: Citrus County School Board meeting	15	16	17	18 10:00 am: Earth Day and Trash to Treasure event			
19	20	21	22 4:00 pm: Cattle Dog Social for the League of Women Voters of Citrus County	23	24	25 9:00 am: Healthy Kids Day at the College of Central Florida			
26	27	28 9:00 am: Library Advisory Board 1:00 pm: Board of Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida meeting	29	30					

This calendar is from our website:
Lwvcitrus.org

The League of Women Voters of Citrus County
Invites the public to join us for an informational meeting about
the safety of our students in Citrus County Schools on

Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 10:00 AM

**Coastal Region Library
8619 W. Crystal St. Crystal River**

**Rachel Montgomery,
Chief of Police,
Citrus County Schools**



Rachel Montgomery is the Police Chief for the Citrus County School Board Police Department. She has a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration. She is a Citrus County native with over 18 years of experience in law enforcement. She also does volunteer work, including as a board member of NAMI Citrus, Citrus Crime Stoppers, and the Citrus County Education Foundation.

The League of Women Voters of Citrus County is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. LWV never supports or opposes candidates and/or political parties.



League of Women Voters of Citrus County invites the public to a special meeting on education, focusing on:

**Career & Technical Education in
Citrus County Schools**

followed by

Meet & Greet for Candidates for School Board

Wednesday, May 13 at 10:00 AM

Coastal Region Library
8619 W Crystal St., Crystal River, FL 34428



- *Featured guest speaker is Debra H. Stanley, Director of Career & Technical Education (CTE) for Citrus County Schools.* She will discuss local vocational opportunities, including programs in Health Sciences, IT, and Agriculture offered through Withlacoochee Technical College.



- *Meet and Greet for Candidates for Citrus County School Board.* Candidates for Districts 1, 3, and 5 will briefly introduce themselves and share their ideas and plans. Following introductions, each candidate may answer individual questions at their own tables and informational material.

This meeting is part of a series of outreach events to educate the public on important community topics and to prepare for upcoming elections. The Public is invited. For more information, please email lwvcc2013@gmail.com. Visit lwvcitrus.org and Facebook page "League of Women Voters of Citrus County."

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.





Linda Abels, Membership Chair, 2nd Vice President

Are your flowers blooming yet? Mine aren't quite there, I'll admit, I'm not much of a gardener! However, Spring is finally here, and it is the perfect time for things to take root and grow.

Let's work together to grow our League this season. We currently have **72 members**, and we are eager to increase our presence and involvement within the Citrus County community.

If you're wondering, "*How can I help?*" it's simple:

- **Share your experience:** Tell others about the fascinating speakers we host at our monthly meetings.
- **Highlight the community:** Mention the new friendships and our fun social gatherings, like our meetups at Cattle Dog or our group luncheons.

Finally, please join me in giving a warm welcome to our newest members: **Elaine Moore, Vicky Mourer, and Delinda Beem**. Be sure to say hello when you see them at our next meeting!

Best,

Linda



**Vicky Iozzia, 1st President, Newsletter Editor,
Webmaster, Speakers Bureau Chair**

Usually it is easy for me to write an article for this newsletter. Not this month. I am dealing with a situation that is draining the life energy from me.

Many years ago, when I would speak to my Aunt Rose on the phone, I would hang up and think, “She is getting morbid.” She would tell me about her aches and pains, and about friends who were sick or had died. In my youthful ignorance, I judged her, I am ashamed to say.

My mother used to say, “Wait!” So many years later, after reaching a certain age, when I talk to friends we talk about aches and pains, and what is falling off or has stopped working on our body today.

In dealing with my own aches and pains, and most recently those of a dear friend, I am sad, frustrated, and angry. Allow me to make some recommendations to anyone reading this:

If you don’t have a will, make one out. It can be done online or by buying the paperwork at Office Max. Don’t put it off. You never know when it will be needed.

Have a person whom you trust as a healthcare surrogate, to make decisions for you when you are sick and cannot make those decisions for yourself. Judgment gets confusing when you are sick.

Have a power of attorney whom you trust to take care of your financial affairs when you are sick.

If you have to go in the hospital, or a rehabilitation center, make sure that there is someone to speak for you.

If you have more than one specialist involved, make sure there is someone coordinating what is being done to you and for you.

Often when you are sick you have brain fog, from illness or from the medications you are receiving, so take notes or have someone else take notes on what the doctors are saying. Don't be afraid to ask questions or ask to have things repeated.

Thank you, nurses, for all that you do. A tone of voice, a gentle touch, empathy for the patient, means everything to someone trying to heal.

You never know when something is going to happen, so take the time to hold your partner, pet the cat, tell those around you how much you appreciate them.





Our March 11 luncheon featured Jim Gouvellis, Editor of the Citrus County Chronicle.

Jim Gouvellis, Executive Editor of the Chronicle, discussed “Freedom and the Press” with the League of Women Voters of Citrus County and their guests at lunch on March 11.

Chronicle journalists, he said, focus on local issues. They protect the public’s right to know, especially about everyday decisions by local government. Since they must carefully verify the facts of a story, their work helps dispel rumors on social media.

Jim also noted the paper’s commitment to publishing opposing viewpoints.

The Chronicle, like the League, aims to facilitate informed voter participation.

Below is the text of what he said:

League of Women Voters

Thank you for inviting me to speak today.

I'm here to talk about why local journalism is more important than ever in this age of misinformation — and why freedom of the press, while still enshrined in the First Amendment, is being slowly eroded in ways that should concern all of us.

We are living in a time when information is everywhere — and truth can feel harder to find.

Social media has created a world where rumors travel faster than facts. A misleading headline can circle the globe before a correction ever gets written. Artificial intelligence can generate convincing falsehoods in seconds. And increasingly, people choose news that reinforces what they already believe rather than challenges them.

Because of that, I have hope for news organizations like ours.

In that mixed up environment, local journalism becomes not just important — but essential.

National politics may dominate cable news, but your daily life is shaped much more by decisions made in rooms right here in Citrus County. The county commission. The school board. The sheriff's office. The city councils in Crystal River and Inverness.

When those bodies vote to raise impact fees, adjust millage rates, change zoning rules, alter school policies or fund — or defund — public projects, those decisions directly affect your taxes, your children and your property values.

If no one is in the room taking notes, asking questions and publishing what happened, then government operates in darkness.

At the Citrus County Chronicle, we see our job as simple — though not always easy. We show up. We watch. We verify. We ask uncomfortable questions. And we publish the answers.

We correct our mistakes publicly. We identify our sources. We separate news from opinion. Those standards may seem old-fashioned in the age of viral posts and anonymous accounts, but they are the guardrails that protect democracy.

But here's the challenge.

Freedom of the press is not being erased overnight. It is being chipped away slowly.

It happens when public officials attack the credibility of journalists simply for asking questions. It happens when access to public records is delayed, restricted or made prohibitively expensive. It happens when reporters are excluded from meetings or when public business is shifted to private text messages and back channels.

It also happens economically.

Local newspapers across the country have closed at an alarming rate. News deserts are expanding. When a community loses its newspaper, studies show voter turnout declines, government spending rises and corruption becomes more likely. Accountability suffers when scrutiny disappears.

Even here, we face pressures — shrinking advertising dollars, rising costs, competition from free online content that often lacks standards. Yet the expectation that reliable news should simply appear — without financial support — is one of the quiet forces eroding local journalism. You would be surprised how often I hear "I shouldn't have to pay for news" Well, I think I shouldn't have to pay for food. So I'm going to start going to Publix and take bread off the shelf and just walk out the door. Publix has to pay their employees and so do we.

So how do local journalists fight the good fight?

First, by doubling down on accuracy and fairness. Trust is our currency. Every story must be thoroughly reported, balanced and transparent. In a skeptical age, credibility is everything.

Second, by educating readers about how journalism works. Many people don't realize that public records requests take time. That sources must be verified. That ethical guidelines prevent us from publishing rumors, even when they're circulating widely online.

Third, by building relationships in the community. When residents know their local reporters and editors — when they see them at meetings, at high school football games, at civic events — journalism becomes less abstract and more personal. It becomes a shared community endeavor.

And finally, by defending the principles of open government.

Florida has some of the strongest Sunshine Laws in the country. But laws only matter if citizens insist they be followed. Journalists can challenge violations in court, but public support is powerful. When voters demand transparency, officials listen.

Freedom of the press was never meant to protect journalists as individuals. It was designed to protect the public's right to know.

The Founders understood that self-government requires information. You cannot hold leaders accountable if you don't know what they are doing. You cannot make wise choices at the ballot box if you are operating in the dark.

In today's fragmented media landscape, local journalism remains one of the last places where facts are gathered carefully, where opposing viewpoints appear side by side, and where the focus stays on the community rather than national outrage.

The Citrus County Chronicle is not perfect. No newsroom is. But our mission is straightforward: to inform this community honestly and thoroughly.

Misinformation thrives in silence. Accountability thrives in light.

Local journalism provides that light.

If we want strong schools, responsible spending, ethical leadership and an engaged electorate, then we must value — and support — the institutions that make transparency possible.

The League of Women Voters has long stood for informed participation. Local journalism is one of the tools that makes that participation meaningful.

Thank you for caring about this community. Thank you for supporting open government. And thank you for recognizing that in an age of misinformation, the simple act of showing up, asking questions and printing the truth still matters.

At our March meeting our slate of officers was elected. We are:

1st President Vicky Iozzia

2nd President Peg Primeau

1st Vice President Rosemary Nilles

2nd vice President Linda Abels

Secretary Jeanne Messersmith

Co-Treasurers Devora Stager and Peg Primeau

I urge you to reach out to the Board so that we can get to know you, get your feedback, and have more people to work together.



Peg Primeau, 2nd President, Reproductive Health & Justice Chair

EARTH DAY: Disinformation is still out there about pills and our waterways*:

Rhetoric versus reality: Facts about the abortion pill

By Kelcie Moseley-Morris

States Newsroom

END OF SESSION: First the sad news:

- Florida's extreme abortion ban is still the law. SB 1308/ HB 1151, the Reproductive Freedom Act, sponsored by Sen. Tracie Davis and Rep. Fentrice Driskell, did not make it to floor votes.
- Private, unregulated crisis pregnancy centers in FL will still be getting about \$30M of taxpayer money annually. HB 6001, introduced by Rep. Kelly Skidmore, sought to stop this funding. It died in committee, as did companion bill SB 242.

Now the good news: bad bills were stopped by the people's objections! The way the House and Senate were spinning their wheels probably helped, too. The laws we were spared include:

- SB 1090/HB 1071 would have restricted sex education materials in school curricula, omitting essential information about reproduction.
- SB 166/HB 173 would have prevented health care providers from treating minors whose circumstances prevent them from involving a parent. It encompassed STI treatment, crisis mental health resources, health surveys, and birth control.
- SB 164/HB 289, called "Civil liability for the wrongful death of an unborn child," would have given fertilized eggs (IVF) and embryos the same legal standing as children. Among the potential consequences, abusive partners could have been empowered to harass patients and providers.

We can expect these issues to come back in 2027. Keep your legislators on speed dial



**Rosemary Nilles, 1st Vice Pres,
Gun Safety Chair, Education Chair**

Accountability Matters!

By Rosemary Nilles, LWV Citrus Education Chair, LWVFL Education Action Team Member

What does accountability mean to you? What should it mean to Florida taxpayers? Florida's School Choice scholarship funding debacle makes one wonder.

Last fall, Florida's Auditor General released a scathing report on Florida's \$4 billion scholarship – aka voucher - program. The audit showed that Florida's Department of Education (FLDOE) ran a \$398 million funding shortfall. They lost track of \$270 million in unaccounted-for funds and made overpayments for about 30,000 voucher students last year- many of whom had returned to public schools! Public schools were shortchanged in the process.

School choice scholarships have existed in Florida for many years. But in 2023, HB 1, also called "universal" expansion, made every Florida K-12 student eligible for vouchers, regardless of income. The expanded vouchers cover students who were already in private schools and also cover homeschooling. Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFO) like Step Up for Students administer these funds. This rapid expansion of school choice has resulted in record-level spending, and ongoing debates about whether public education dollars should be shifted to private or home schooling with minimal accountability.

After all, the state doesn't track results for voucher students, as it does for public schools. It doesn't monitor what is taught, or who's teaching it, in private or home education. Teacher certification and curriculum standards are not required. Unlike public schools, private schools are free to reject students for their religion, disability, sexual orientation, or discipline history.

Florida doesn't get involved in the hundreds of for-profit private schools that pop up in empty shopping centers or unused office space. Periodically, we learn of private schools that close suddenly, leaving parents to scramble. "Let the market prevail" has been the answer to concerns about parental recourse if they're not happy.

Yes, there are high performing private schools right here in Citrus, with excellent student outcomes. Yet many parents were already choosing and paying for those schools before vouchers were expanded.

Everyone seems to agree that Florida's massive school voucher system need improved accountability, at least financial. In January, the FL Senate unanimously approved **SB 318** to overhaul the voucher system. The bill focused on fiscal accountability, introducing consistent use of student ID for stricter tracking, more frequent audits, and increased documentation for scholarships. It proposed voucher payment windows that would better align with enrollment surveys used to budget voucher funding. Importantly, SB 318 separates funding for public schools from school choice scholarships, since the current mix of funds described as "a scrambled egg."

So, what happened? Despite the strong leadership of the FL Senate, the Florida House refused to hear SB 318! The 2026 legislative session ended with *not even one step towards fiscal accountability* for taxpayer-funded vouchers – let alone educational accountability!

Unfortunately, the legislative session also ended without a state budget – the only mandatory requirement. Now, at greatly increased cost to taxpayers, the Governor has called for at least one "special session" in April: To set a budget, to address his proposals to eliminate homesteaded property taxes, and to redraw congressional districts prior to the 2026 elections. Perhaps they'll try again to tackle accountability as a budget item.

Taxpayers and students deserve better! Financial accountability and transparency are the bare minimum. Let's keep the emails and phone calls coming to our state elected officials as they head back to Tallahassee, and let them know we're watching and that we care.

Sen. Ralph Massullo, FL Senate Dist. 11:
Inverness 352-666-5707
Tallahassee 850-487-5011
Email:
massullo.ralph.web@flsenate.gov

Rep. JJ Grow, FL Dist. 23:
Inverness 352-560-6075
Tallahassee 850-717-5023
Email: jj-grow@flhouse.gov

During "National School Choice Week" remember that private voucher schools reject students because of their:

- ✘ DISABILITY
- ✘ RELIGION
- ✘ SEXUAL ORIENTATION
- ✘ DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

...AND OTHER REASONS TOO.

SCHOOL VOUCHERS ARE NOT REAL SCHOOL CHOICE.

County Meetings

YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- District 1 (Crystal River, Ozello, Citronelle, Red Level): Jeff Kinnard, jeff.kinnard@citrusbocc.com
- District 2 (Homosassa, Sugarmill Woods): Diana Finegan, diana.finegan@citrusbocc.com
- District 3 (Beverly Hills, Pine Ridge, Citrus Springs): Janet Berek, janet.barek@citrusbocc.com
- District 4 (Floral City, part of Inverness): Rebecca Bays, rebecca.bays@citrusbocc.com
- District 5 (part of Inverness, Hernando, Arrowhead): Holly L. Davis, holly.davis@citrusbocc.com

NOTE: Correspondences, including email, are public records once received by commissioners or county staff.

Community Meetings March – June 2026

Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

1:00 PM 2nd & 4th Tuesdays (note exceptions!):

March 10 & 31, April 14 & 28, May 12 & 26, June 9 & 22 (Mon)

Citrus County Courthouse, 110 Apopka Ave. Inverness

Agenda & watch meetings online:

Citrus County BOCC/Departments/Commissioners Meetings are livestreamed on the Citrus County Government YouTube Channel.

Broadcast live: Comcast - Channel 71, Spectrum - Channel 643

Find all county meeting dates:

<https://citrusclerk.org/calendar.aspx>

****Governing Body of the Special Library District****

Thurs. Feb. 10, 9:00 AM; Citrus County Courthouse, Inverness

Citrus County Library Advisory Board (Regular Meetings)

9:00 AM, 4th Tuesdays: April 28, June 23

Lecanto Gov't Bldg., 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto 34461

For more information:

Citrus County/BOCC/Special Library Board

<https://citrusclerk.org/calendar.aspx>

Citrus County Schools District (CCSD) School Board

4:00 PM, 2nd Tuesdays: Mar. 10, April 14, May 12, June 9

1007 Main St. Inverness 34450

Agenda & watch meetings online:

Citrus County School District/School Board tab/ Board

Agenda and Minutes:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/fl/citrus/Board.nsf/Public>

View School Board Meetings:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CitrusSchools>

**State Legislators Representing Citrus
Contact Information:**

Sen. Ralph Massullo, FL Senate Dist. 11:

Inverness 352-666-5707 Tallahassee 850-487-5011

Email: massullo.ralph.web@flsenate.gov

Rep. JJ Grow, FL Dist. 23:

Inverness 352-560-6075. Tallahassee 850-717-5023

Email: jj.grow@flhouse.gov

**US Senators and Representative Representing Citrus
Contact Information:**

Sen. Rick Scott: Tampa 813-225-7040. Washington 202-224-5274

Contact via Senate Website: [Contact Rick Scott](#)

Sen. Ashley Moody: Washington 202-224-3041

Contact via Senate Website: <https://www.moody.senate.gov/>

US Rep. Gus Bilirakis: Inverness 352-654-1004 Washington: 202-225-5755

Contact via House Website: <https://bilirakis.house.gov/>

US Capital Switchboard: 202-224-3121 to contact any federal legislator.

Voting Related bills filed in the 2026 Legislative Session:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19luy9zmaKemyGUggt4wnp1yhZ5BGKolwo1ia-wpvMt8/edit?gid=2029535294#gid=2029535294>

Good sources of Action Alerts with positions similar to positions of LWV:

- **Common Cause FL:** Focus on voting rights and holding government accountable. Opposes mid-decade redistricting. Subscribe here: <https://www.commoncause.org/florida/>
- **Florida Policy Institute (FPI):** Detailed analysis of policy that impacts health, education, overall prosperity in Florida. <https://www.floridapolicy.org>
- **Florida Legislative Action Group (FLAG):** Based from Marion County. Explicit, clear alerts, many with legislators' contact information. Email: floridalegislativeactiongroup@gmail.com
- **Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida:** Action alerts related to justice, education, voting, etc., with links to respond. Email: infouujf@gmail.com
- **Families for Strong Public Schools:** Action Alerts related to education and equity in education. They frequently partner with LWVFL Education Action Team. Explicit actions and talking points. Email: info@strongflschools.com
- **Equality Florida:** Action alerts related to full equality for Florida's LGBTQ community. Sign up here: https://www.eqfl.org/join_our_mailing_list#!
- **ACLU of Florida:** Defending justice in FL: <https://www.acluf.org/>

FL Legislative Contacts

Sen. Ralph Massullo, FL Senate Dist.

11:

Tallahassee 850-487-5011

Inverness 352-666-5707

Email: massullo.ralph.web@flsenate.gov

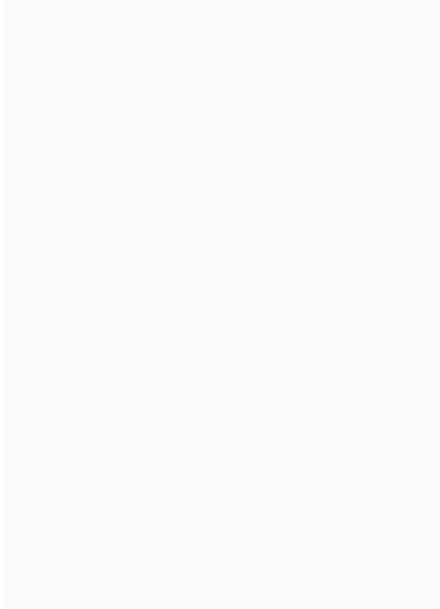
Rep. JJ Grow, FL Dist. 23:

Tallahassee 850-717-5023

Inverness 352-560-6075

Email: jj.grow@flhouse.gov

From our Supervisor of Elections, Maureen “Mo” Baird




ELECTION DATES

2025 ELECTIONS
Special Primary Election - September 30th, 2025
Last Day to Register or Change your Party - Sept. 2nd, 2025
Special General Election - December 9th, 2025
Last Day to Register - November 10th, 2025

2026 ELECTIONS
Primary Election - August 18, 2026
Last Day to Register or Change your Party - July 20, 2026
General Election - November 3, 2026
Last Day to Register - October 5, 2026

VOTE BY MAIL
When returning your ballot by U.S. Mail, please allow at least 7 days for delivery. The return postage is prepaid.

POLLS OPEN
7am - 7pm Election Day




VOTE-BY-MAIL REQUESTS HAVE EXPIRED

FLORIDA STATUTE §101.62(1)a

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Supervisor of Elections, Maureen “Mo” Baird, reminds voters that Vote-by-Mail requests expire on December 31st after each election cycle.

To receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot for the 2025-2026 election cycle, you must request a ballot.

 If you have not already requested a Vote-by-Mail ballot after January 1, 2025, you may do so today by scanning the QR code below.



Or visit the Supervisor of Elections website at www.votecitrus.gov and select “Request a Vote by Mail Ballot” under the “Vote by Mail” tab.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS: Maureen “Mo” Baird

ELECTIONS OFFICE: The Supervisor of Elections Office is located at 1500 N. Meadowcrest Blvd, Crystal River, in the West Citrus Government Center.

QUESTIONS: Call 352-564-7120.

8610726F

Speaker's Bureau

**Rosemary Nilles is co-chair of the Florida Speakers Bureau
Vicky Iozzia is the chair of the LWV Citrus Speakers Bureau**

If your organization is interested in having a speaker, contact Vicky Iozzia at
vickyiozzia@gmail.com



Speakers Bureau

Our well-prepared speakers are available to speak at your events and meetings. We offer up-to-date, nonpartisan educational presentations on a variety of current topics including:

Voting and Elections Presentations

- Your Local Power: State & Local Government (Citrus)
- Protecting Your Voting Rights
- Say No to Mid-Decade Redistricting
- Election Security vs Access: A Delicate Balance
- Your Voice. Your Vote. Your Power.
- Write-In Loophole
- Voting Rights for Returning Citizens
- Florida's Constitutional Amendments (summer 2026)
- Preparing for the 2026 Elections (summer 2026)

Civics Presentations

- The US Constitution
- Separation of Powers/Checks and Balances
- From Idea to Law: Understanding Florida's Legislative Process
- Interacting with Elected Officials and their Staffs
- Immigration
- Identifying and Combating False Information
- Disinformation: Spot it! Stop it!
- What Is the League of Women Voters?
- Why Public Schools Matter
- Understanding School Choice

Presentations can be customized to your time and audience. Contact Vicky Iozzia, vickyiozzia@gmail.com or go to our website, www.lwvcitrus.org to receive a Speaker Request form.



League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, never endorsing or opposing political parties or candidates, and encouraging informed, active participation in government.



This is from our March 25 Social.
Come join us for our Monthly Social! Have a
cup of something or a snack.
Join the conversation or listen.
Our next meeting is at the Cattle Dog Restaurant
in Inverness, 4:00,
Wednesday, April 22, 2026

From the new League of Women Voters Impact on Issue

The League's Position

Statement of Position on Money in Politics (formerly Campaign Finance), as announced by the national board, April 2016:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should:

Enhance political equality for all citizens; ensure maximum participation by citizens in the political process; protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns; provide voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices; ensure transparency and the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections; enable candidates to compete equitably for public office; ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public; and combat corruption and undue influence in government.

The League believes that political corruption includes the following:

A candidate or officeholder agrees to vote or work in favor of a donor's interests in exchange for a campaign contribution; an officeholder or staff gives greater access to donors; an officeholder votes or works to support policies that reflect the preferences of individuals or organizations in order to attract contributions from them; a candidate or officeholder seeks political contributions implying that there will be retribution unless a donation is given; and the results of the political process consistently favor the interests of significant campaign contributors.

In order to achieve the goals for campaign finance regulation, the League supports:

Public financing of elections, either voluntary or mandatory, in which candidates must abide by reasonable spending limits; enhanced enforcement of campaign finance laws that includes changes to ensure that regulatory agencies are properly funded, staffed, and structured to avoid partisan deadlock in the decision-making process; abolishing Super PACs and abolishing spending coordinated or directed by candidates (other than a candidate's own campaign committee); and restrictions on direct donations and bundling by lobbyists, which may include monetary limits as well as other regulations.

Until full public financing of elections is enacted, limits on election spending are needed in order to meet the League's goals for protecting democratic processes. Among the different entities that spend money to influence elections, the League supports the following comparative limits:

- Higher spending limits for political parties, genuinely nonpartisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote organizations and activities, and candidates spending money raised from contributors.

- Mid-level spending limits for individual citizens (including wealthy individuals), Political Action Committees (with funds contributed by individuals associated with the sponsoring organization, such as employees, stockholders, members, and volunteers), and candidates spending their own money.
- Lower spending limits for trade associations, labor unions, and nonprofit organizations from their general treasury funds.
- Severely restricted spending by for-profit organizations spending from their corporate treasury funds.
- No limits on spending by bona fide newspapers, television, and other media, including the internet, except to address partisan abuse or use of the media to evade campaign finance regulations.

This position is applicable to all federal campaigns for public office — presidential and congressional, primaries, and general elections. It also may be applied to state and local campaigns.

The Link Between Florida Driver License/Identification Card and Voting **Monica Elliott, LWVFL**

As I write this, the Election Integrity bill (HB 991/SB 1334) has just been passed by both the Florida House and the Senate. It will become law unless the Governor were to veto the bill. In the meantime, let's look at the current and potential relationship between your Florida Driver License/Identification Card (DL/ID) and voting.

Your Florida DL/ID is a REAL ID!

"The REAL ID Act became effective nationwide on May 11, 2008. Florida began issuing REAL ID compliant credentials after January 1, 2010. The new credentials have a star in the upper right corner of the card . . . Florida is a REAL ID compliant state and all Florida licenses should be accepted nationwide." As of May 2025, over 99% of Florida DLs/IDs were REAL ID compliant! Let me repeat – only REAL IDs are issued in Florida. There are no other types of DL/ID cards.

Obtaining Your REAL ID

What you likely don't remember is what you had to do to obtain your REAL ID. If you were a U.S. citizen, you had to bring a primary form of identification – e.g., birth certificate, passport, etc. – the same items that will be required if HB 991/SB 1334 becomes law. If you were a person who had changed their last name from the one on your birth certificate, then you had to bring documentation of that name change – e.g., a marriage certificate. Again, the same documents as required by these bills.

If you were not a U.S. citizen, you had to bring other primary form of identification, depending on whether you were an immigrant, non-immigrant, or Canadian.

Everyone, whether a U.S. citizen or not, also had to bring: proof of social security and proof of residential address; the latter required two different documents to prove.

Now, is it coming back as to what a hassle it was the first time you did this, unless, of course, you had a U.S. passport. With a U.S. passport, you could do a happy dance, as you didn't have to produce those hard-to-find documents, such as birth and marriage certificates. You had already done that in order to obtain your passport!

FLHSMV has your legal status on file!

Therefore, if you possess a Florida DL/ID, Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) already has in their (hopefully secure) database your legal status. They already know if you are a U.S. citizen or not.

Theoretically, that means the Supervisors of Elections (SOE) can easily "ping" the FLHSMV database to determine if you are, in fact, a U.S. citizen and eligible to register to vote and then vote, as would be required under HB 991/SB 1334. Easy peasy!

U.S. citizens unable to vote?

The problem, of course, will be for those U.S. citizens who do not possess a Florida DL/ID. Currently, you can register to vote with just a social security number. It may take longer for the SOE to process that application, but they are able to do it. If HB 991/SB 1334 becomes law, the SOE will have to verify the citizenship status of every new voter registration applicant before the application is processed by “pinging” the FLHSMV database. Marking the “yes” box to the question “Are you a citizen of the United States of America?” will no longer be adequate, even though you also sign an oath “that all information provided in this application is true” at the end of the form! For those currently registered to vote, the state (i.e., our overworked SOEs) must verify your citizenship status. How? By using official government databases, with the FLHSMV being the obvious first choice. If the SOE can’t find a database that confirms you are a U.S. citizen, you will have to provide those primary forms of identification to prove citizenship, the same forms that have to be given to FLHSMV to obtain Florida DL/ID.

This means that the 90-year young, twice married woman who no longer drives and no longer has a Florida DL/ID, but who has been voting her entire adult life, may NOT be allowed to vote without providing the primary forms of identification IF they cannot determine by searching the databases if she is a citizen or not. Not so easy peasy!

And, then they changed the DL/ID Numbers To increase security, the FLHSMV began issuing NEW driver license or identification numbers in August 2020. This is not a problem except that your new number doesn’t match your DL/ID number in the voter registration database. Voters began having problems accessing their voter registration file online or requesting a vote-by-mail ballot online.

As more people obtained the new, more secure DL/ID, and more voters complained about the glitch with their voter registration file, the people working at the DL/ID service centers have begun to ask people at the beginning of the RENEWAL process if they want to UPDATE their voter registration file.

Some people think they are being asked to re-register to vote when they update their voter registration. It seems like it because you essentially have to complete the entire voter registration form when you change name, address, party affiliation and, now, DL/ID number. Another NEW DL/ID Card If HB 991/SB 1334 becomes law, by July 1, 2027, the state will begin replacing our current DL/ID cards with NEW ones which will indicate legal citizenship status directly on the card!

One More Thing

The bill which passed both the House and Senate includes a provision which would reduce the number of allowable IDs you could present if you vote in person. You could no longer present a debit or credit card, student identification, retirement center identification,

neighborhood association identification or public assistance identification. However, you can still use a Florida DL/ID.

Confused? Help the young voters!

Probably, but don't worry, be happy! We can wring our hands, bite our nails and complain bitterly. Instead, encourage every voter to obtain a Florida DL or ID card. This is especially important for young voters, as only about 56% of young people obtain a driver license anymore. Their perfectly good logic is: if you don't drive, you don't need a driver license. BUT, they do need a Florida ID in order to easily register to vote and then vote! If you know a young person, help them obtain a DL or ID - be it by providing them funds or helping them obtain the documents. Like voting, just do it!

For others such as the disabled and elderly who may not have a Florida DL/ID, it will likely be a more complicated process. If you know a person who may not have a Florida DL/ID, ask them. Don't be shy – voting is important to them and we need to find out if they have a DL/ID. If they do not, determine if you can help them.

Voter Registration

Currently, to register to vote online, you had to provide a Florida DL/ID and the last four digits of your social security number. This remains exactly the same with passage of HB 991/SB 1334.

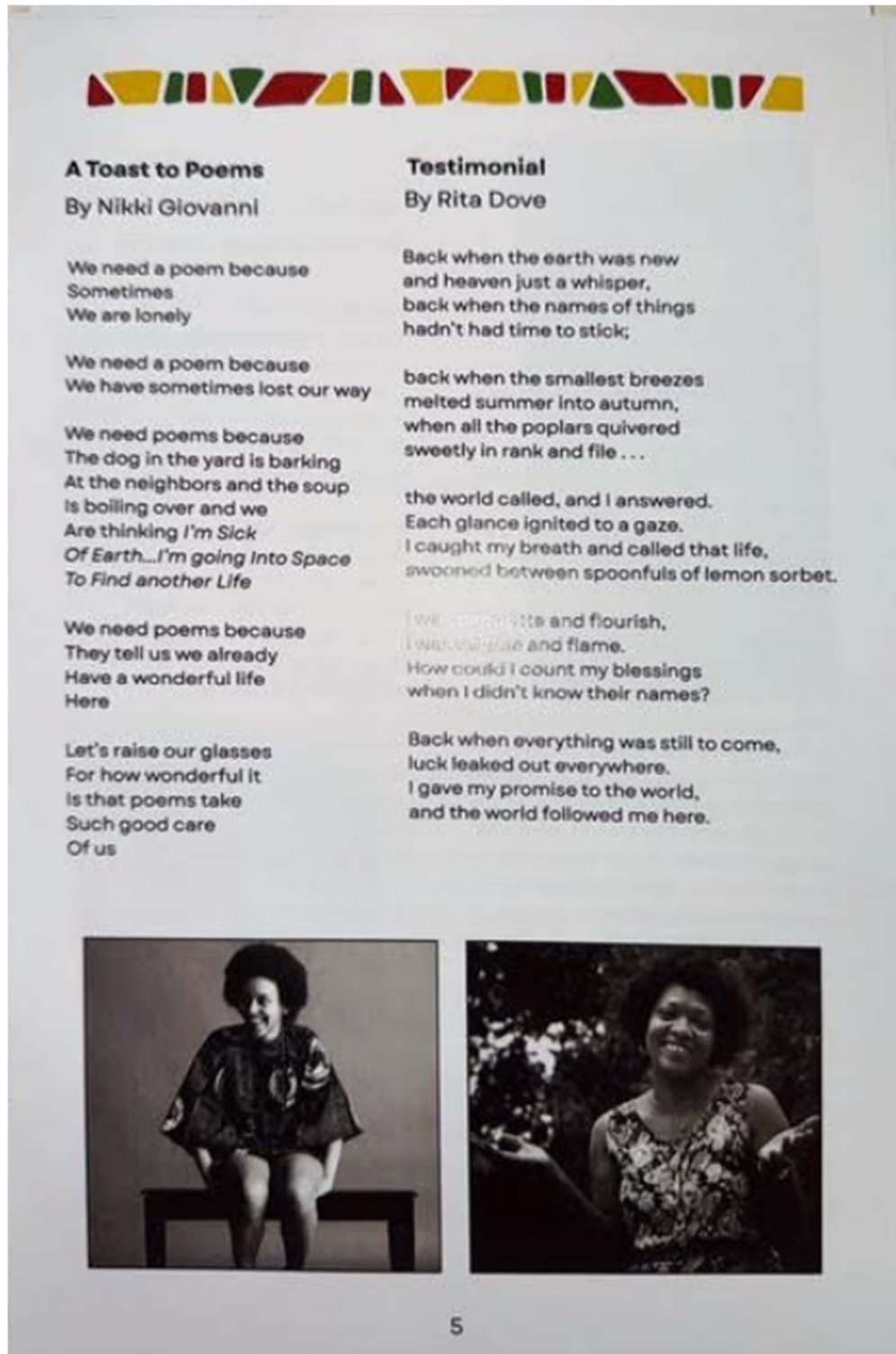
To register to vote currently with the paper voter registration application or to update your voter registration information, you only had to provide Florida DL/ID or last four digits of your social security number. Now, applicants will need to provide both. This is the information we need to convey to voters using the paper application as they register to vote for the first time or if they are updating voter information, such as name, address, party affiliation or signature.

Stay tuned as we continue to determine exactly how HB 991/SB 1334 are implemented.

African American Read-in

The 18th Annual African American Read-in took place on Sunday, February 22, 2026, at the Curtis Peterson Auditorium. It was a well-executed presentation which was positive and often emotionally moving.

I will be including the literary pieces which were read in future newsletters. Once a year is not enough to enjoy this literature.



IN THE NEWS





ANNUAL
Florida Emancipation Day &
FAMU Farm Fest
Saturday, May 16, 2026 - 10 am to 5 pm

Fun for the Whole Family • History • Tours • Demonstrations
Agri-Showcase • Health Expo • Entertainment • Food • Music

On May 20, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was announced in Tallahassee, Florida. Join the Tampa Bay History Center and the Florida A&M University Brooksville Agricultural and Environmental Research Station for a day of healthy family fun celebrating history and agriculture!

Chinsegut Hill Historic Site
22495 Chinsegut Hill Rd., Brooksville, FL

SEEKING
VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT
Fred Hearn, Curator of Black History at
(813)545-3183 or fhearns@tampabayhistorycenter.org

EXHIBITORS/VENDORS: CONTACT
Cheryl Danley, FAMU Extension Agent at
(313)492-3496 or cheryl.danley@famuedu

GHINSEGUT
HILL
HISTORIC SITE
TAMPA BAY HISTORY CENTER
PARTNERSHIP

FAMU FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
100 UNIVERSITY BLVD
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32307-1000

6th Annual



CITRUS ABUSE SHELTER

Sat., April 11th, 2026

5pm-9pm at Copp Brewery
7855 Gulf to Lake Hwy in
Crystal River

To purchase Tickets
scan this QR code:



Hosted by:



Pre-sale Tickets are \$35 PP
\$40 at the door
for 4 hours of unlimited
craft beer and spirits tasting.
Also enjoy special release drinks!
Designated Driver ticket
\$15 (includes water and soda and
Non-Alcoholic beer)

Some of your favorite
breweries/distilleries such as:
Nine State Brewery
Marker 48 Brewing,
3 Daughters Brewing,
Aggregation Distillery,
Homosassa Distillery, and
many more!!!!

Music, Silent Auction, Raffles,
Escape room, axe throwing,
scavenger hunt, and there will
also be food available for
purchase.

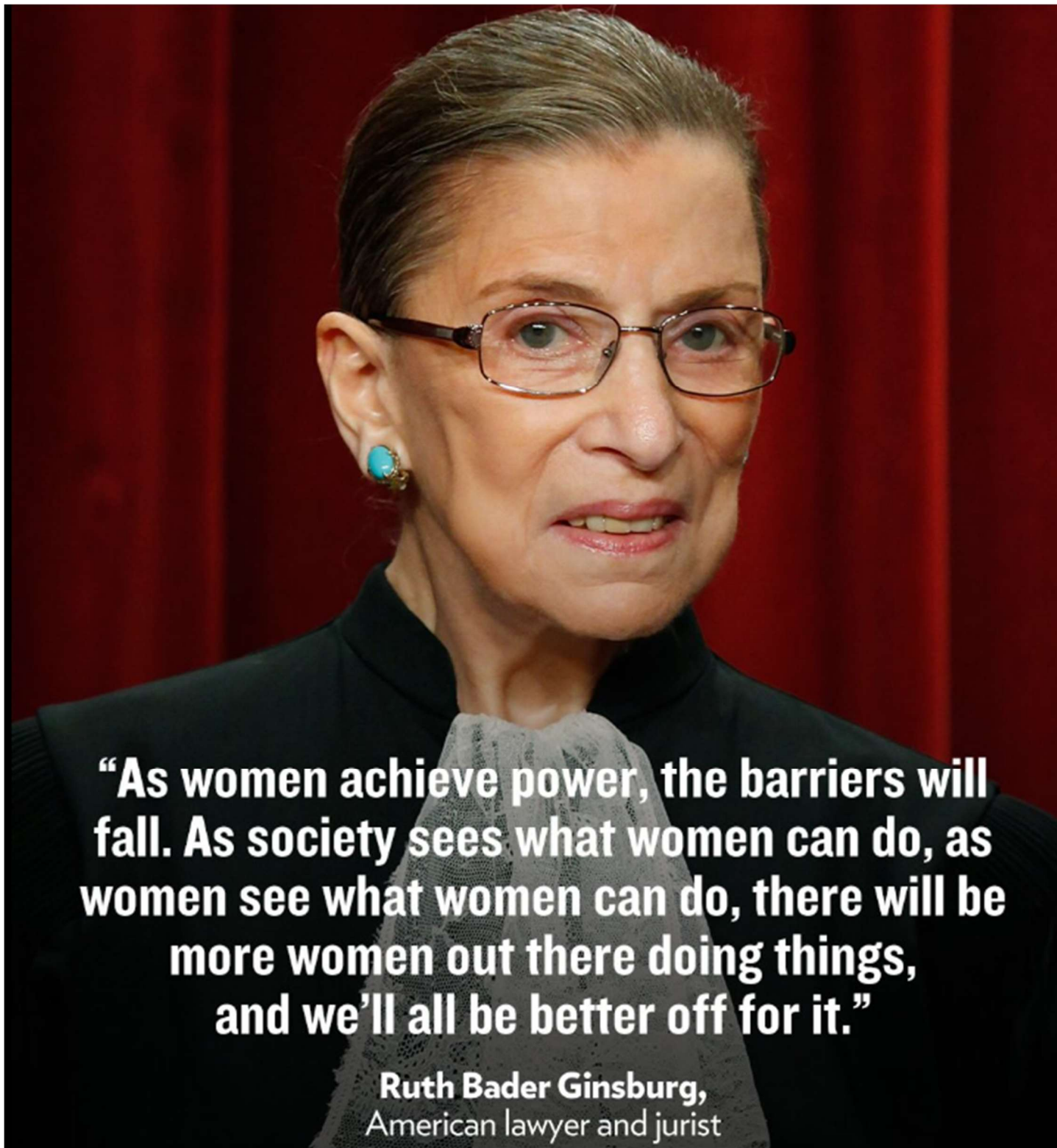
Did we miss **National Women's Month**? It should be every month.



“I know who I am and I don’t try to be anybody else. And if that ain’t good enough for you, too bad... I can walk in any room, knowing I’m going in as myself and that’ll just have to do.”

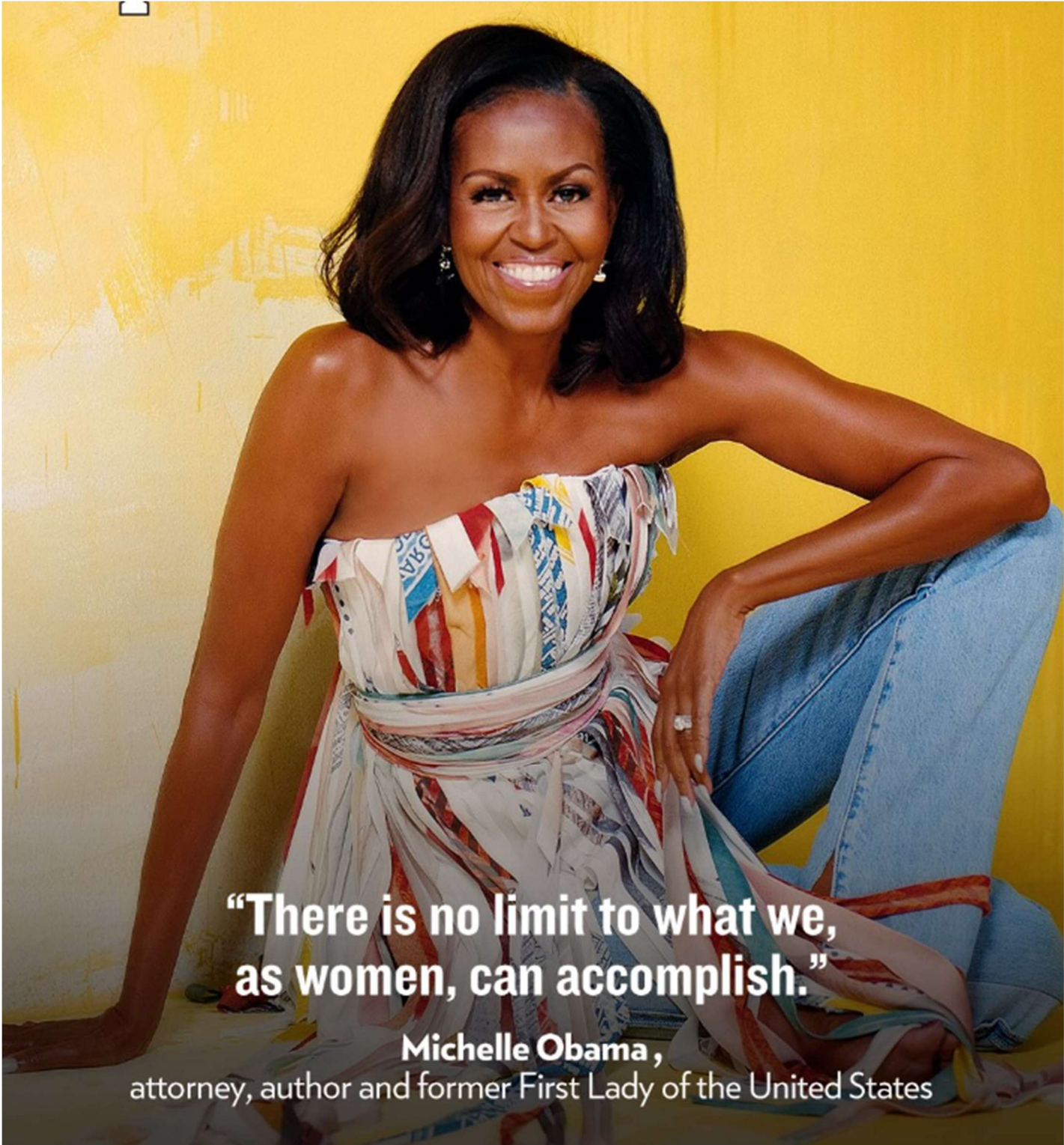
Dolly Parton,
Grammy award winning singer-songwriter and musician

Dolly won the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award on November 16, 2025. I can’t think of anyone more deserving.



“As women achieve power, the barriers will fall. As society sees what women can do, as women see what women can do, there will be more women out there doing things, and we’ll all be better off for it.”

Ruth Bader Ginsburg,
American lawyer and jurist

A photograph of Michelle Obama smiling, wearing a strapless dress made of newspaper strips. She is sitting on a blue chair against a yellow background. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

**“There is no limit to what we,
as women, can accomplish.”**

Michelle Obama,
attorney, author and former First Lady of the United States



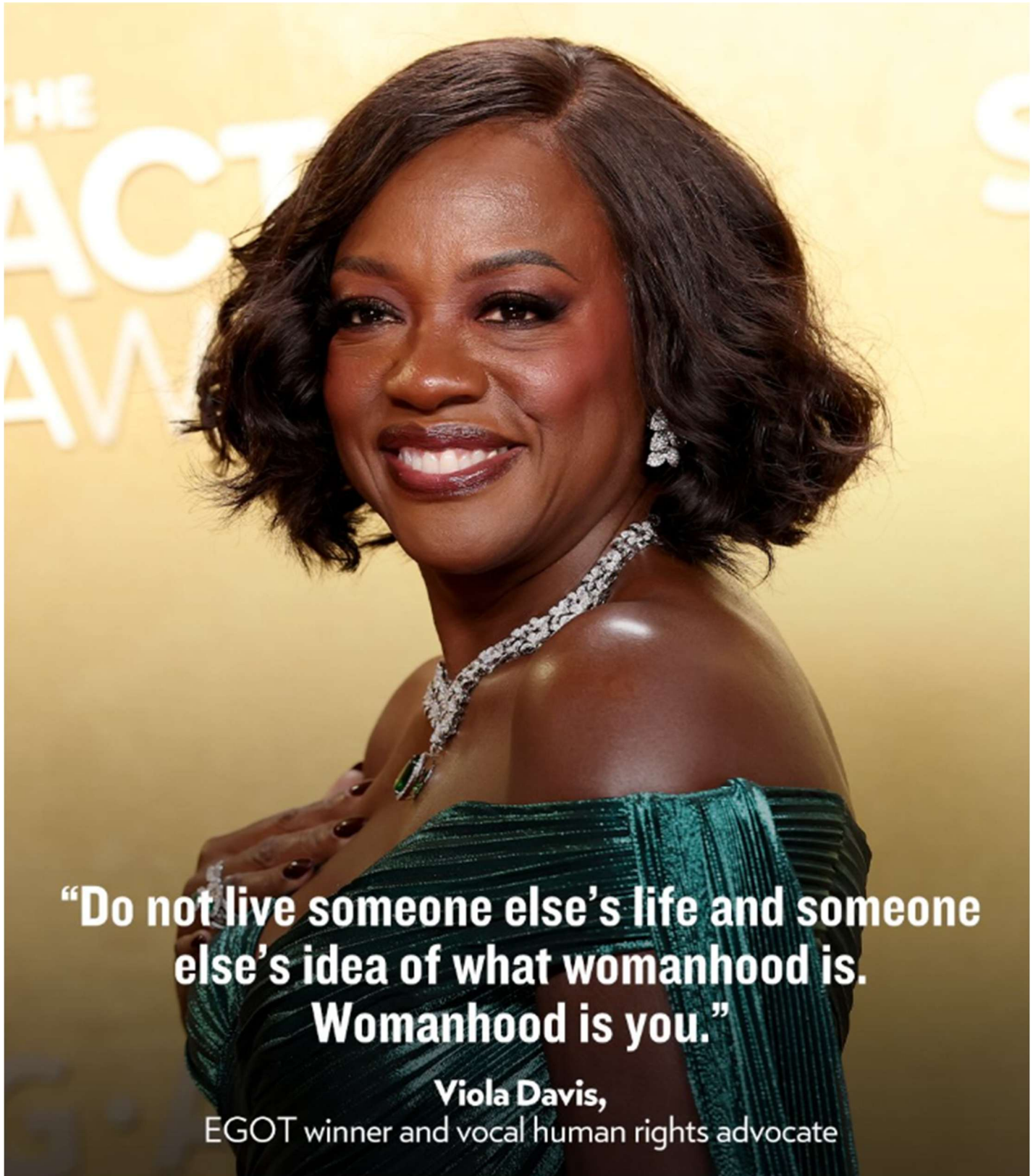
“I am grateful to be a woman. I must have done something great in another life.”

Maya Angelou,
memoirist, poet and civil rights activist



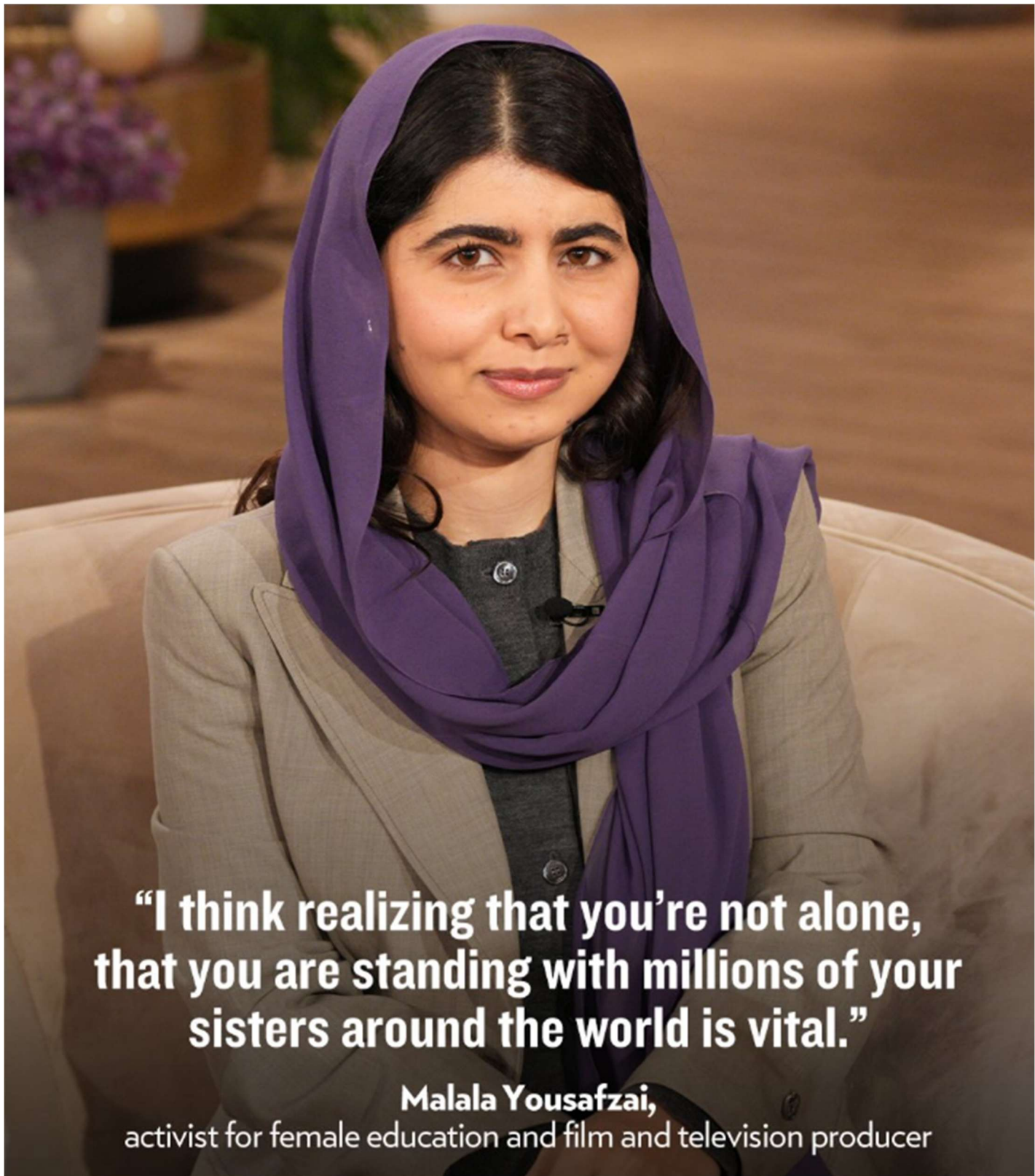
**“I have learned you are never too small
to make a difference.”**

Greta Thunberg,
activist



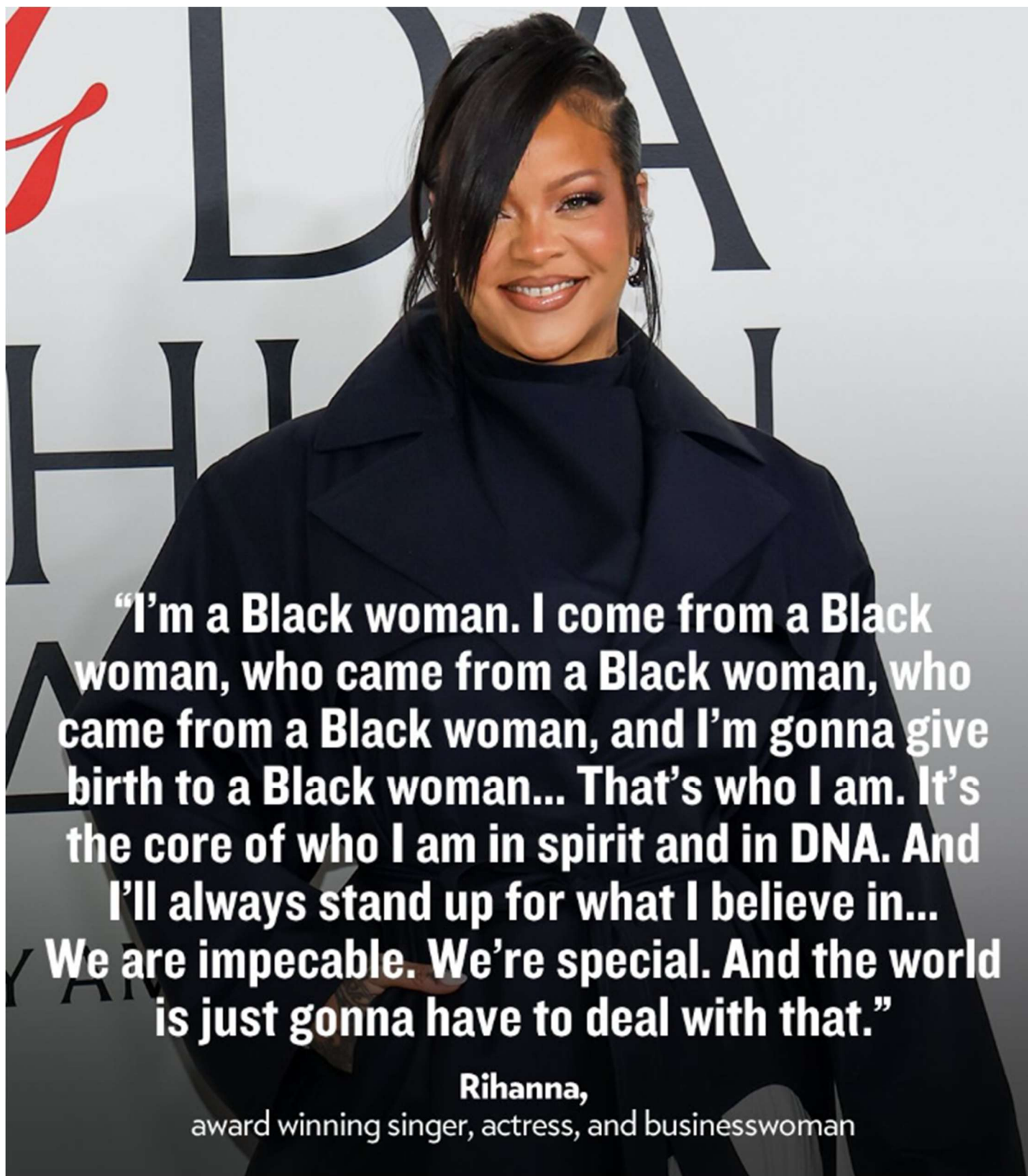
“Do not live someone else’s life and someone else’s idea of what womanhood is. Womanhood is you.”

Viola Davis,
EGOT winner and vocal human rights advocate



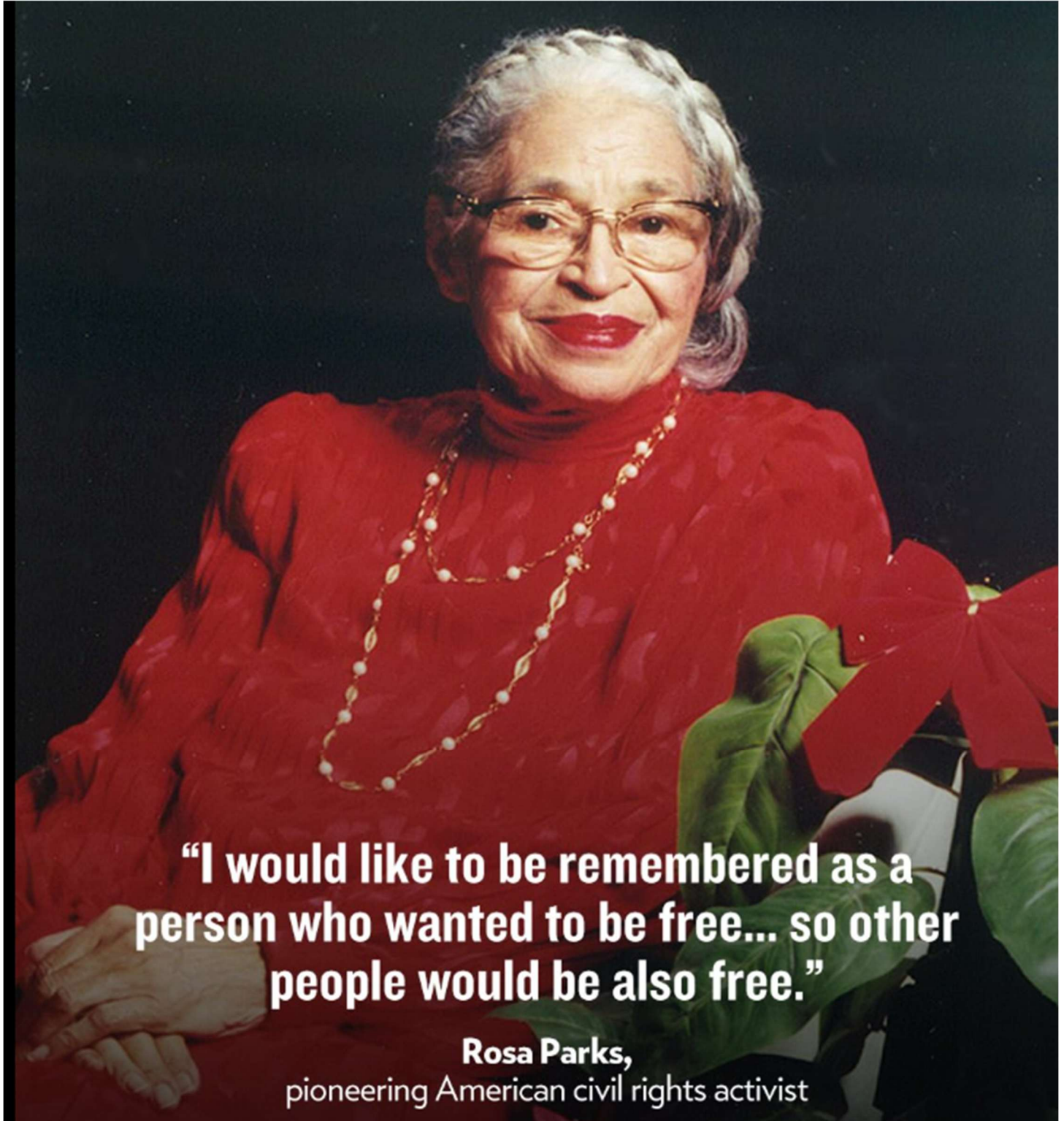
“I think realizing that you’re not alone, that you are standing with millions of your sisters around the world is vital.”

Malala Yousafzai,
activist for female education and film and television producer



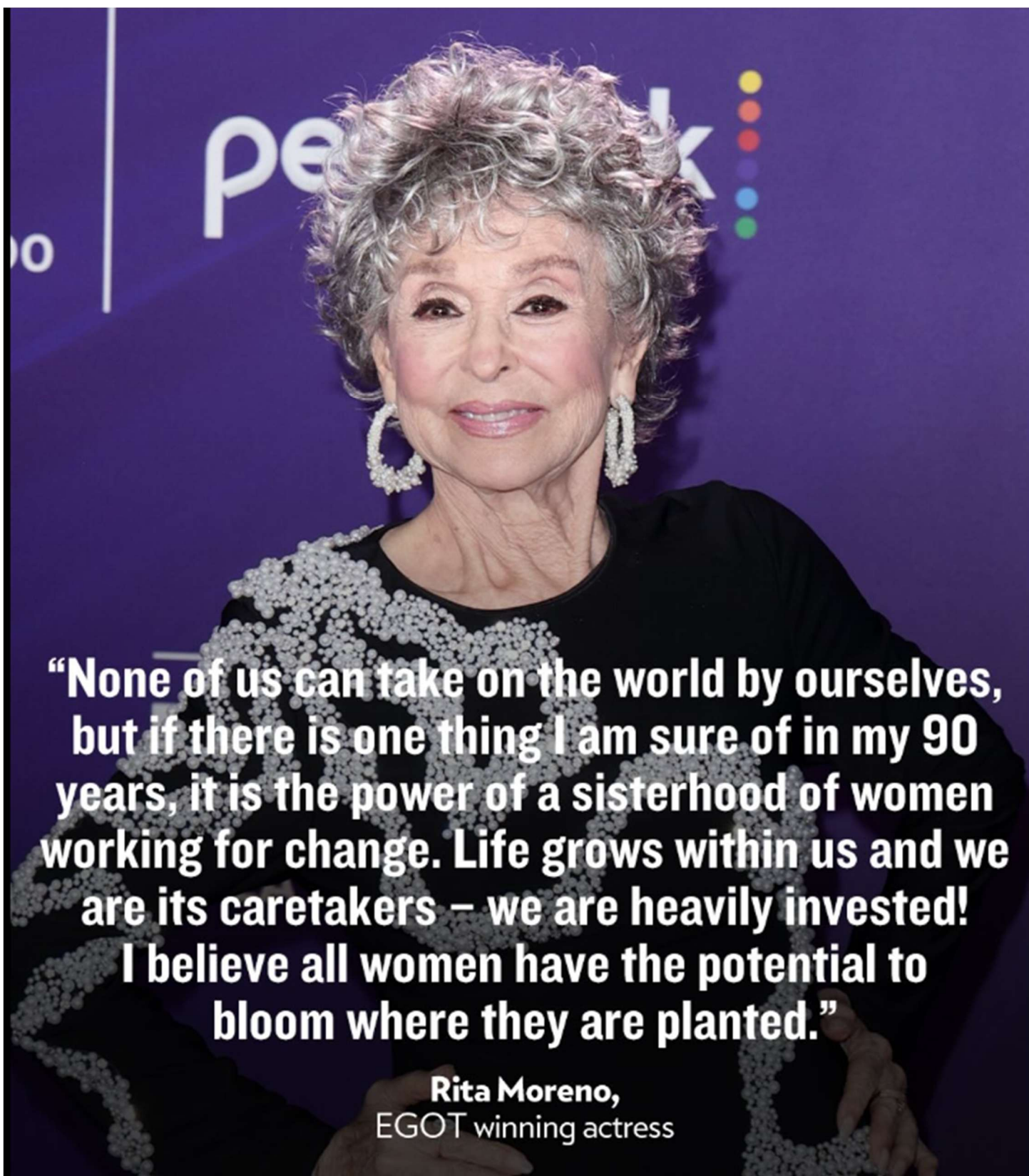
“I’m a Black woman. I come from a Black woman, who came from a Black woman, who came from a Black woman, and I’m gonna give birth to a Black woman... That’s who I am. It’s the core of who I am in spirit and in DNA. And I’ll always stand up for what I believe in... We are impeccable. We’re special. And the world is just gonna have to deal with that.”

Rihanna,
award winning singer, actress, and businesswoman



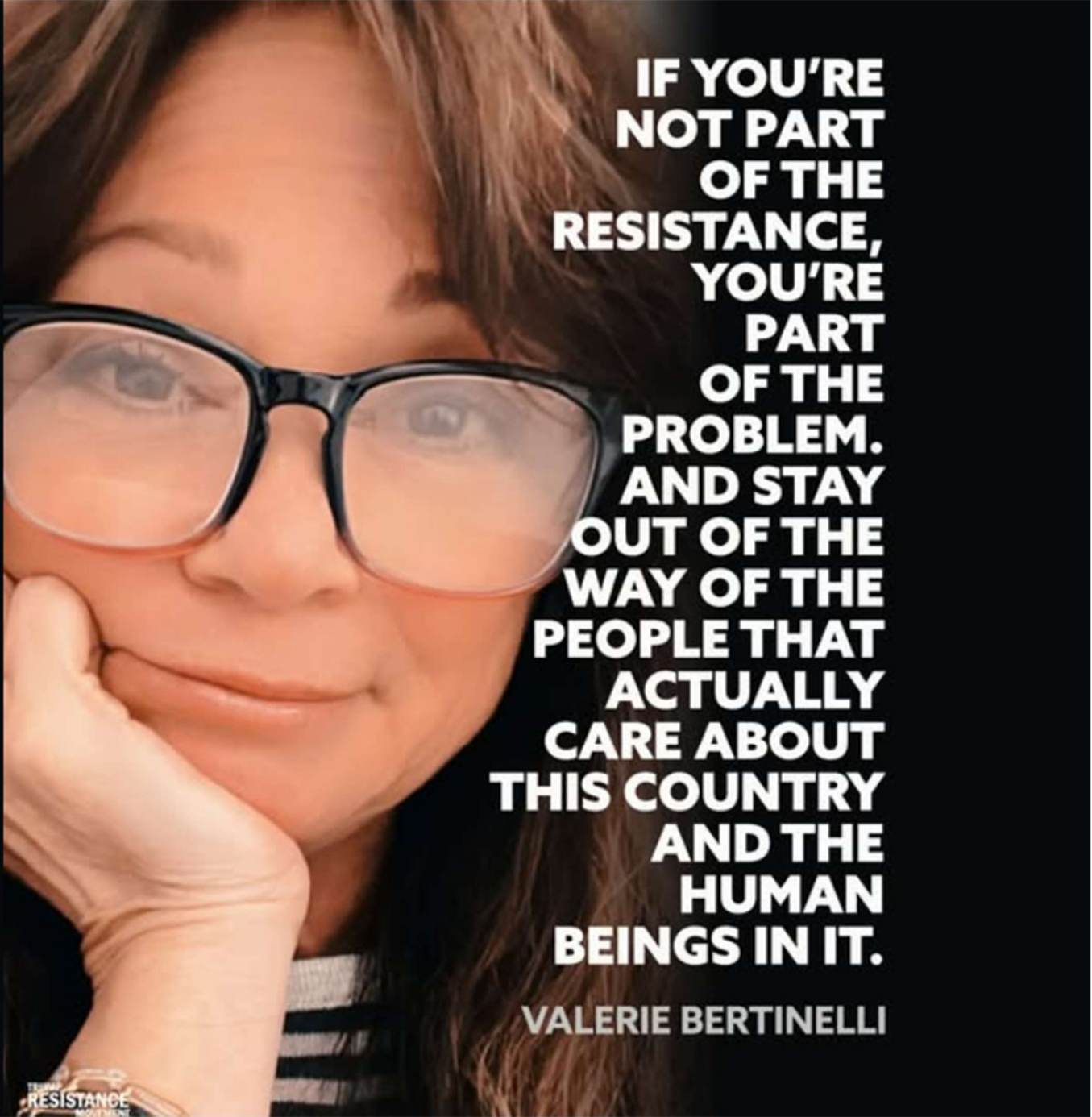
“I would like to be remembered as a person who wanted to be free... so other people would be also free.”

Rosa Parks,
pioneering American civil rights activist



“None of us can take on the world by ourselves, but if there is one thing I am sure of in my 90 years, it is the power of a sisterhood of women working for change. Life grows within us and we are its caretakers – we are heavily invested! I believe all women have the potential to bloom where they are planted.”

Rita Moreno,
EGOT winning actress



**IF YOU'RE
NOT PART
OF THE
RESISTANCE,
YOU'RE
PART
OF THE
PROBLEM.
AND STAY
OUT OF THE
WAY OF THE
PEOPLE THAT
ACTUALLY
CARE ABOUT
THIS COUNTRY
AND THE
HUMAN
BEINGS IN IT.**

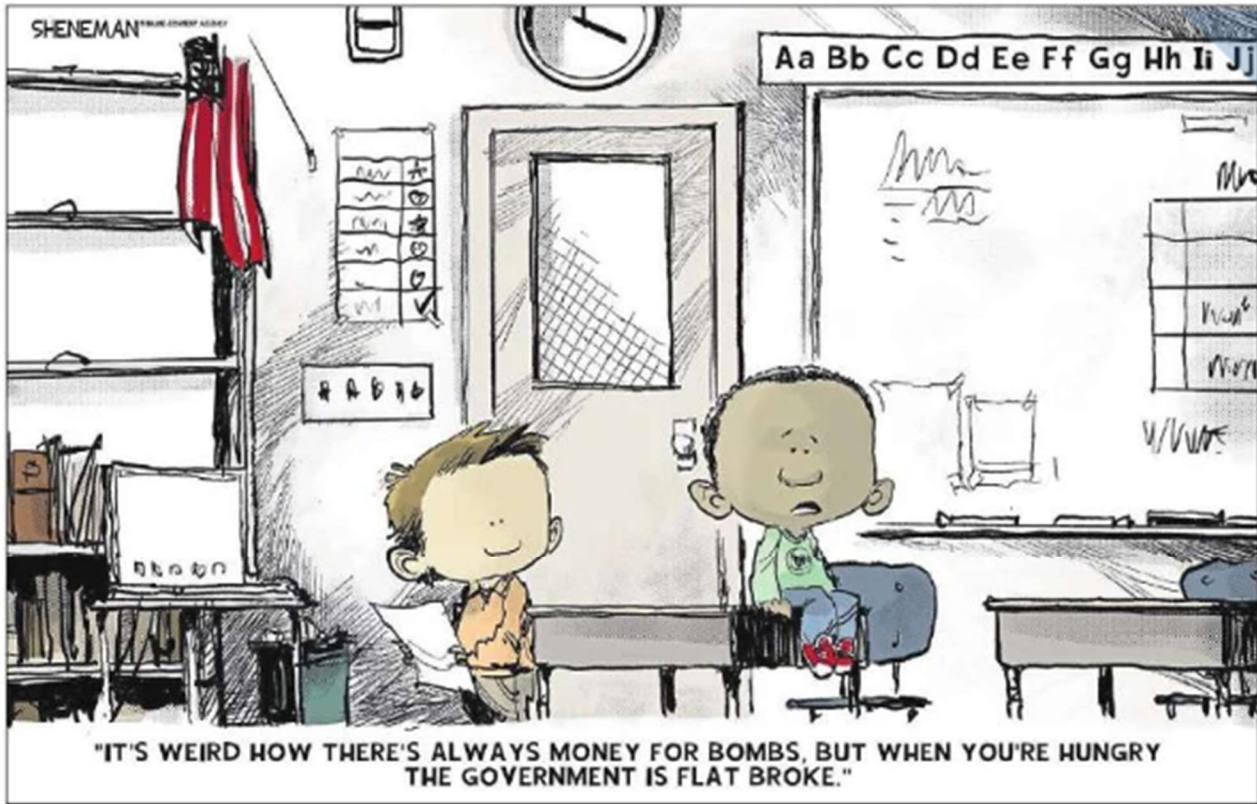
VALERIE BERTINELLI

**TRUMP
RESISTANCE
MOVEMENT**

**I AM DIFFERENT,
NOT LESS.**

**Autism didn't stop me.
It helped me see the world
in a different way.**

- TEMPLE GRANDIN



KOTERBA
CAGLE.com/KOTERBA
JEFFREYKOTERBA.com



1910 Women could wear pants

1920 White women could vote

1963 Women gained equal paid rights (sort of)

1965 Black women could vote

1969 Women were allowed to initiate divorce

1972 Women could get birth control, without a man

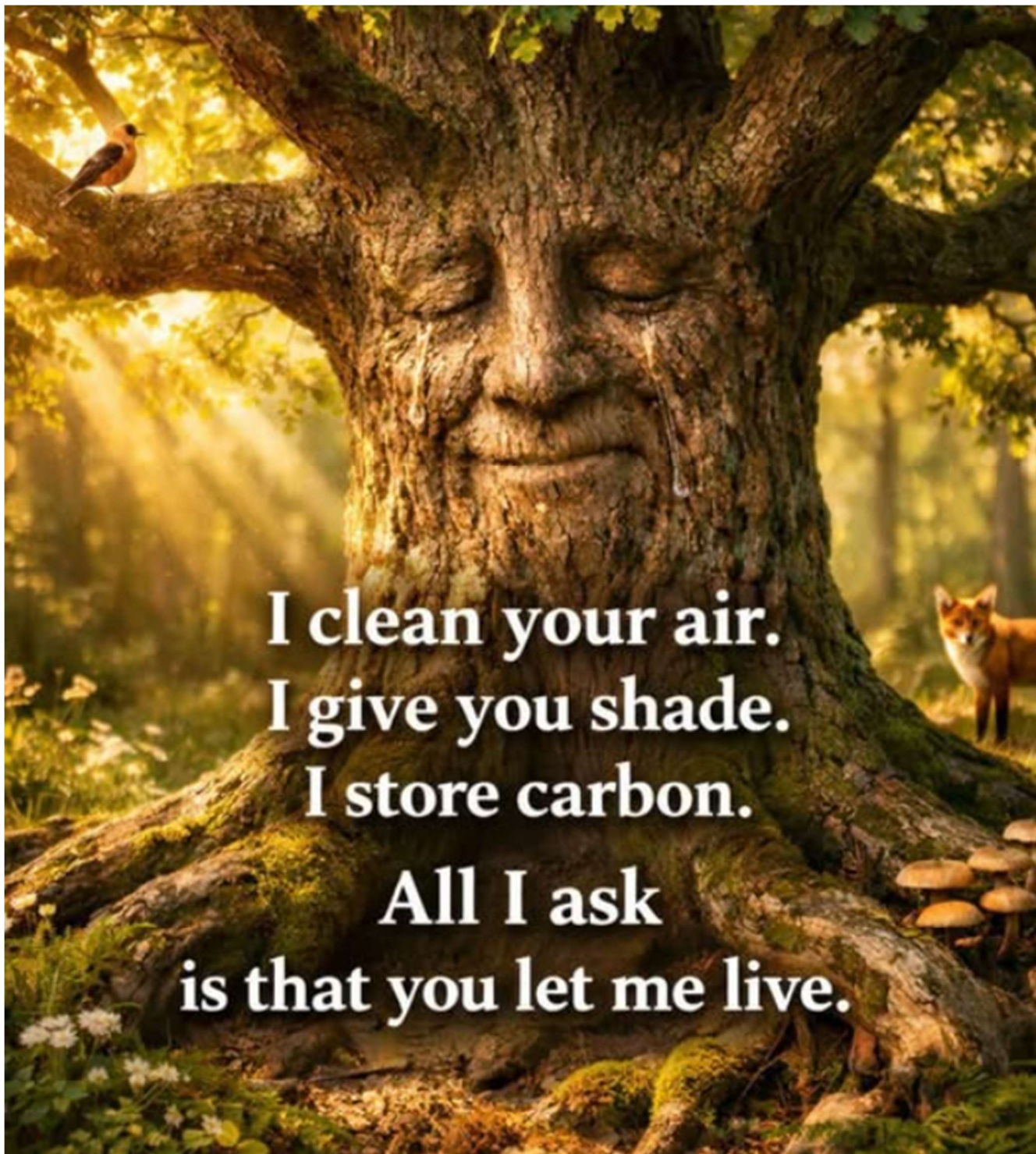
1973 Women could choose to get an abortion, legally

1974 Women could buy a home, without a man

1988 Women could own their own business, without a man

1994 Women gained legal protection against domestic abuse

2022 Women lost the constitutional right to abortion



**I clean your air.
I give you shade.
I store carbon.
All I ask
is that you let me live.**



+ "My great joy this year has been to see the many, many people in my community come together time and again to say 'NO, this is wrong!'. To see individuals find their courage and determination and hope has been my inspiration to keep going."

– Teresa, ACLU community member from California

ACLU Condemns President Trump's Unconstitutional Military Strikes on Iran

Arizona Court Strikes Down Abortion Restrictions as Unconstitutional

The U.S. Department of Education ended a directive that sought to restrict DEI efforts in schools and other institutions nationwide. The court's ruling prevents the government from enforcing, relying on, or reviving its directive.

ACLU Reacts to Trump Administration Ending Operation Metro Surge

The Trump administration announced it will end its domestic federal deployment in Minnesota. This deployment resulted in shootings, deaths, and innumerable constitutional rights violations. We will continue to defend those affected and litigate the cases we have filed against it.

President Trump seems to think that he alone can decide who belongs in this country. He's gone after our immigrant neighbors, launching cruel raids in our communities and holding thousands in inhumane detention centers. He's even lied about and disparaged people shot and killed by out-of-control ICE agents.

And in this case, he's threatened our very Constitution – attempting to overturn the 14th Amendment guarantee of birthright citizenship via executive order.

We won't let him. From day one of President Trump's second term, ACLU supporters like you have held his administration accountable, fought back against abuse of power, and defended our communities and neighbors. Together, we'll do it again as we meet the Trump administration in court to once again defend our fundamental rights.

Photos from the March 28, 2026

No Kings Demonstration

In Inverness, Florida

(There were two advertised demonstrations, one at 9 and one at 11am.

The smarter of us went to the one at 11. I would have loved to have slept in!)











