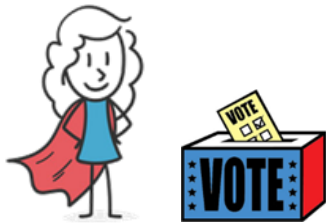


LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA

October 2024 E-Mail Bulletin

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Voting is my super power!

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The Power of Rhetoric

Nyoka Baker Chapman

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Rhetoric is the master tool of political manipulations. If voters hear misinformation often enough it can take root as truth, even though the words used may be designed to deceive. Rhetoric can fuel campaign financing which in turn may give advantage over an opponent despite the damage done. When candidates can make claims with no guardrails and our citizens become the targets of attack it creates a very difficult time for Democracy.



"I can give you hyperbole, some spin, a little rhetoric, but, no, no comment."

Free speech spouting misinformation is touted as being protected by the first amendment, yet, it defies everything that should be acceptable in ethical campaigning. The political antic of promoting divisiveness to cause voters to see differences which do not exist is an example. We are all just normal folk who want the best for our families and communities and that we have more in common than we are being led to believe is a truth in plain sight.

To see voters categorized as a 'radical left' political faction because they want to see our laws move in favor of conservation to support regulations that champion clean air and water, create safer workplaces and living spaces, and maintain our most basic rights to freedom and privacy it is an assault to the collective psyche. One sum does not equal all, but such is a common shield to hide behind when candidates and lawmakers depend on a 'them and us' playbook to influence constituents. When reading newsletters from our WV U.S. Representatives or information found on candidate websites, one can see unwelcome doses of partisan cliches in action.

The term 'woke mob' is an earful that few can even define that is spewed frequently. That the right to learn authentic history in our schools and to be free from the banning of books that have traditionally been available and even required reading has been attached to the term is dangerous indeed. That awareness of historical and social realities makes one 'woke' has created a vacuum of confusion. The simple one syllable word continues to be promoted as an easy ignition to gaslight voters and has become a goldmine for political opportunists

There seems to be an assumption that partisan rhetoric will garner votes in WV and so far, it has. When candidates are not discussing actual issues but campaigning with rhetorical narratives voters must discern the quality of a candidate's substance. If there is no clear agenda set forth to improve WV's horrible statistics, then who are those candidates intending to represent? If candidates cannot give voters a sincere plan for a future that meets the needs of the people to support their wellbeing, prosperity and their constitutional rights, voters should pause and take a closer look. A healthy democracy deserves votes for candidates, not parties.

The Federal Election Commission and the Federal Communications Commission would seem to have the authority to stop demeaning rhetoric and misinformation, but the 1st amendment seems to cloud an agency's ability to control campaign language. Designing laws that would limit advertising to equal time and creating a neutral playing field could help, yet, the media that controls our airwaves will continue to go where the action is and typically the rhetoric will be there.

There is a NEW Excess Levy On the Ballot! And We Like it!

 **Schools, Libraries & Parks
Are All Winners!**



So We Are

LWW[®] **VOTING
YES!**

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

Thank You Ballotpedia!

Nyoka Baker Chapman

These points are a simple cut and paste that answers lingering questions about what has happened to voting rights in several states that have seen recent actions and litigation, as reported by Staff Writer Ethan Rice in the Ballotpedia Bulletin. Thank you for this excellent research!

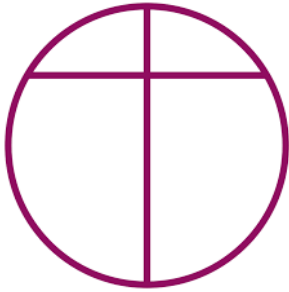
- On Oct. 17, a U.S. district court judge [*dismissed*](#) a portion of a [*lawsuit*](#) challenging the validity of up to 225,000 North Carolina voters' registration status. The [*Republican National Committee*](#) (RNC) and the state's Republican Party filed the lawsuit on Aug. 23, alleging that the [*North Carolina State Board of Elections*](#) (NCSBE) unlawfully registered ineligible voters.
- On Oct. 17, the RNC and the [*Georgia Republican Party*](#) [*appealed*](#) a [*Fulton County Superior Court*](#) judge's [*ruling*](#) that Georgia's State Election Board lacked the authority to institute new election rules. Judge [*Thomas Cox*](#) [*said*](#) the board's actions were "unsupported by Georgia's Election Code and are in fact contrary to the Election Code."
- A U.S. district court judge in Texas [*struck down*](#) provisions of a state election law on Oct. 11, including provisions requiring people assisting a voter to sign an oath that the voter qualifies for assistance and prohibiting the compensation of those providing assistance. Texas Gov. [*Greg Abbott*](#) (R) signed the bill, [*SB1*](#), on Sept. 7, 2021.
- On Oct. 11, the U.S. Department of Justice [*sued*](#) the state of Virginia, alleging that Gov. [*Glenn Youngkin's*](#) (R) Aug. 7 [*executive order*](#) has led to qualified voters having their registration canceled. Youngkin's order directed the [*Virginia Department of Elections*](#) to remove ineligible voters from the state's voter rolls, including those unable to verify their citizenship.

<https://ballotpedia.org>



Opus Dei, Connecting the Dots

Nyoka Baker Chapman



The Catholic organization Opus Dei was founded in Madrid Spain in 1928 by Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer, who was only 26 at the time. The young priest who was trained in law claimed to have received a vision from God. Opus Dei is Latin for 'Work of God.' By the 1970's Opus Dei was active in over 30 countries. There is a history of association to conservative, even fascist movements and their political players throughout the world since its inception.

The architect of Project 2025, Kevin Roberts (who is also the president of the Heritage Foundation), has said that he visits the Catholic Information Center (which is headed by an Opus Dei priest) on a weekly basis for mass and religious guidance. Opus Dei also organizes monthly retreats at their center (CIC) on K street in Washington DC. Although Opus Dei has been generally acknowledged as a secret society within the Catholic Church, its legal and political affiliations seem involved in a process to realize its potential as a framework for America's future, a future that some think must be guarded against the free will of the people.

Recommended reading: <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-features/opus-dei-leonard-leo-supreme-court-moneybags-kid-1235115538/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/jul/26/kevin-roberts-project-2025-opus-dei>

Wikipedia gives a list of in-depth history as do other available sources.

Change doesn't spring from out of nowhere and neither did Project 2025. It seems like it has been almost a century in the making.

Join or Renew Your Membership



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan volunteer organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate, but is engaged in local, state, and national issues of importance to our communities. The League works to influence public policy through advocacy and education. Membership is open to anyone age 16 or older. Dues are free for full-time students, \$50 for an individual, and \$75 for two persons in a household. Send your check to Carolyn Bagby, 79 North Bradley Foster Drive, Huntington, WV 25701.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

League membership is open to all men and women aged 16 or older.

Single membership is \$50.00. Two Memberships in the same household are a total of \$75.00. Students may join for free. Please pay by cash or a check made out to the League of Women Voters of Huntington. Dues are needed one year since your last payment.

Mail dues to: LWVHA c/o Carolyn Bagby, 79 N Bradley Foster Dr, Huntington WV, 25701.

Please write "Dues" on your payment, if paying by check.

Please include this information with your payment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone number for local League use. _____ (Optional, but increases LWVHA effectiveness.)

Amount paid: \$ _____

NOTE: When you join the local League, you also become a member of the LWV United States and LWV WV. (We share your mailing address and email with them.) We do not share your personal information with any other organization. Most communication from the Huntington League is by email.

MY AREAS OF GREATEST CONCERN:

Please indicate if you are a student. (Students are exempt from paying dues.)

I am a full-time student at _____ and qualify for free membership.

Student ID number: _____,

Note: Additional donations are always welcome. PLEASE write **"Donation"** on your check, if making a donation.

Thanks!