TOAST TO TENACITY TOOLKIT
August 26th is Women’s Equality Day — the date the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was adopted in 1920, granting many American women the right to vote.

Vision 2020, a national women’s equality coalition headquartered at Drexel University in Philadelphia, celebrates the anniversary of this historic milestone every year with its Toast to Tenacity™, where people come together and raise their glasses in a united salute to those who worked so hard to make women’s right to vote a reality.

As a part of this nationwide toast, CCFWG and our partners and supporters in Chester County join together in raising our glasses to the suffragists and other female leaders in our communities. What you toast with is up to you — coffee, tea, wine or grape juice, just as suffragist Alice Paul did back in 1920.

By participating in the Toast to Tenacity, we honor the women who persevered against the odds. We also acknowledge the many Black women and women of color left out of the conversation, even as they worked hard to secure voting rights for their white counterparts.

GET FESTIVE: Wear purple or white in honor of the early suffragists, or download, print and cut out a Votes for Women button to wear at our toast!
When the US Constitution was written in 1787, women were not given equal rights to men. The right to vote, for instance, was only granted to women after a hard-fought campaign that lasted over 70 years.

In 1848, women and men came together to write the Declaration of Sentiments in Seneca Falls, New York. This document served as a rallying cry for equal rights to generations of women.

In the decades to follow, suffragists became divided in their opinions about other important social justice issues. The movements to end slavery and achieve Black male suffrage rose to the forefront. By the 1910s, women were eager to fight for their own rights to full citizenship, often through the organization of various women's clubs.

On August 26, 1920, women gained the right to vote through the adoption of the 19th Amendment. Though a monumental achievement, women’s suffrage was not immediately universal — African American and Native American women were still denied access to vote. It was not until the 1965 Voting Rights Act that African American and Native American citizens were granted equal voting rights.

It is also important to note the racial divides that emerged within the suffrage movement. Many white suffragists excluded women of color, fearing that addressing racial inequality in addition to gender inequality would weaken their cause. In some cases, white organizers of suffrage marches barred African Americans from participating or made them walk in the back. Nevertheless, Black suffragists persisted and fought for their rights as both women and African Americans.
Welcome from CCFWG

Welcome from the Chester County Women's Commission

Greeting from PA Secretary of State

Remarks from New Voters

Remarks from the League of Women Voters

Remarks from Black Women of Chester County in Action

Presentation of the SHEro Award

Acceptance Remarks

"The Toast"

Breakout Rooms

Closing Remarks

Michelle Legaspi Sanchez, CCFWG Executive Director

Jacquelyn Hickey Rothera, Chair of the Women’s Commission

Secretary Kathy Boockvar

Jahnavi Rao

Susan Carty

Cheryl Miles

Jacquelyn Hickey Rothera

Carol Kuniholm

Judi Bell, CCFWG Board Chair

All

Michelle Legaspi Sanchez
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Kathy Boockvar  
PA Secretary of State

Secretary Boockvar leads the PA Department of State. The mission of the Department is to promote the integrity of the electoral process, to support economic development through corporate filings and transactions, and to protect the health and safety of the public through professional licensure. She is an attorney with an extensive background in public interest law and policy, election administration, and non-profit healthcare administration, and has worked in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Most recently, Secretary Boockvar served as senior adviser to the governor on election modernization, leading and managing initiatives to improve security and technology in PA’s elections and voting systems, in collaboration with federal, state, and county officials. Prior to joining the Department of State in 2018, she served as executive director of Lifecycle WomanCare, one of the oldest continually operating birth centers in the US. For many years, she worked as a poll worker and a voting-rights attorney, gaining extensive knowledge of and experience with state and federal election laws and regulations, as well as local and county-level practices and procedures. She also worked for over a decade as a private practice attorney with a focus on employment law. Secretary Boockvar is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the American University, Washington College of Law. She is a member of the Bar of the US Supreme Court, Third Circuit Court of Appeals, US District Courts, and Pennsylvania, New York, and Washington, DC courts. In 2017, she received a SmartCEO Brava Award that recognizes high-impact female business leaders.
Jahnavi Rao
President and Founder, New Voters

Jahnavi is a rising junior at Harvard, studying Government and Environmental Science & Public Policy. As a junior in Conestoga High School, she founded the club "2018 New Voters," which registered over 85% of her eligible senior class to vote and received recognition from PA state officials. As President, Jahnavi and her team have grown New Voters to a national 501(c)3 with 200+ high school student leaders and over 100 college mentors, with the goal of registering 100,000 students to vote by the 2020 election. Outside of New Voters, Jahnavi serves as Director of High School Engagement at the Harvard Votes Challenge, President of the Harvard South Asian Women's Collective, and an active cast member of the Harvard College Opera Society.

Carol Kuniholm
Chair and Co-Founder, Fair Districts PA; Vice President of Government and Social Policy, League of Women Voters PA

Carol received a PhD in literature from the University of Pennsylvania, worked for over a decade as youth pastor at Church of the Good Samaritan in Paoli, and lives in Exton with her husband, Whitney.
TOAST TO TENACITY

SOCIAL MEDIA FUN

Join us in our nationwide Toast to Tenacity by posting a photo or video of yourself at our event, raising your glass to the suffragists and other women leaders in your life! Include the hashtag #ToastToTenacity in your caption and tag @ccwomenandgirls so we can participate in a collective “cheers.”

Help spread the word and encourage your friends and followers to participate in #ToastToTenacity using the sample language below:

Sample social media post
Today is Women’s Equality Day, the anniversary of the day the 19th Amendment became law, giving women the right to vote. Join me and @ccwomenandgirls in a #ToastToTenacity honoring those who made this right a reality.

Use our event sticker in Instagram stories
If you’re posting to your Instagram story, search for "Toast to Tenacity" in the stickers to find and use our event sticker.

Download and print a fun suffrage button to wear

Spice up your Zoom background
Click to download a politically-oriented Zoom backdrop!
Here are some resources and ways to take action:

1. Start now! Request your mail-in ballot at votespa.com and encourage your family and friends to do the same.
2. Advocate for equal access to the ballot box for all eligible voters.
3. Sign up to be a poll worker. Due to COVID-19, our country is facing a shortage of poll workers. Even as many states expand access to vote-by-mail and absentee voting options, voters with disabilities and those who lack reliable mail service will still rely on in-person voting. Young and healthy citizens are encouraged to sign up as poll workers this year.
4. Check out vote.org/state/pennsylvania for everything you need to know about election dates, deadlines, and rules.
5. Sign up for the League of Women Voters’ news alerts about how you can help expand voter access. Be sure to check out their Vote411 initiative, another one-stop-shop for nonpartisan election-related information.

If you’re a high school or rising college freshman, check out New Voters’ initiatives for mobilizing your peers to become active citizens. Hint: there’s an upcoming new voters text bank! Visit new-voters.org/initiatives for details.