

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote

Friday, August 21, 2020

To All Financial Journey Partners Clients,

We understand the recent California fires have been threatening homes and many of you are under an evacuation warning. Thankfully, our team members and our office are safe.

We encourage everyone to create a "Go Bag", should you need to leave your home quickly. Take stock and gather key items you'll need as well as important documents:

- Take computers, tablets, phones, chargers (label them) and password pages or files (put a password on that file), as well as hearing aids with extra batteries and glasses.
- Marriage certificate, birth certificate, passports, DL, health insurance cards, home insurance policy info and your house deed (put in plastic waterproof container).
- Take photos and even a video, of the inside of your house as well as the exterior.
- Consider unplugging TVs, turn off air conditioner and some say turn off electricity and gas, but that has other consequences of how to get it back on when you return.

This is a challenging time. Being prepared can help - even if you are not immediately threatened. Get prepared, have a full tank of gas and a plan for where you can go. Don't forget to let us know how you are doing, so we can be of help as well.

We are also in the midst of planning to vote. There is a lot of focus on the election this year, since it includes the selection of a new president. We can see how important it is to elect people to office that have the goal of improving things for local communities, states and our country overall. It is also important to understand the significance of propositions and ballot measures before voting for them.

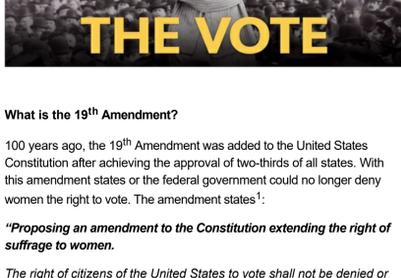
We believe that the ability to cast your vote is an important responsibility of everyone in our country. On August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment, earning women the right to vote. In this week's email we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of this important event in American history and how to be prepared to vote.

Have you considered How the SECURE ACT Impacts Your Beneficiaries?

Our "Six Estate Planning Pitfalls to Avoid" webinar on **Wednesday, September 16 at 4 PM**, is just a few weeks away. Are you registered?



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What is the 19th Amendment?

100 years ago, the 19th Amendment was added to the United States Constitution after achieving the approval of two-thirds of all states. With this amendment states or the federal government could no longer deny women the right to vote. The amendment states¹:

"Proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage to women.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

History in the Making

"Suffrage" means "right to vote." When women advocated for their own right to vote, they were known as "Suffragists" as well as great organizers and activists. Their fight to win the right to vote was 70+ years in the making².

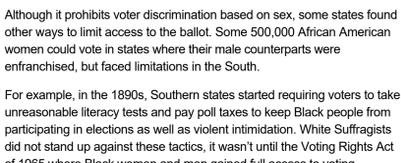
In 1848, 200 women attended the Seneca Falls Convention to begin work towards women getting the right to vote. For decades, women continued the suffrage movement which led to the House of Representatives passing the amendment giving women the right to vote in January 1918. In June 1919, it was approved by the Senate and sent to the states for ratification.

Campaigns were rallied by women around the country to secure ratification and on August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment, giving it the two-thirds majority of state ratification to make it a law.

A 24-year-old Tennessee Senator was originally against the ratification. Legislators wore roses indicating their vote and the visible count forecast defeat, yet he cast the decisive vote, at the bidding of his mother who wrote "Dear Son, Hurrah and vote for suffrage!" With his vote the amendment was ratified and women won the right to vote³.

We invite you to learn more about the history of how the women's vote was won and stream the excellent PBS film *The Vote* here: pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/vote/.

The Original Women's March



The Suffragists drew large crowds when they marched to elevate their cause, wearing all white in solidarity and to show up in black and white newspaper photos. Before their movement marches had not been done before³. They also lobbied President Wilson as "Silent Sentinels" holding pickets and banners outside White House windows six days a week.

California women won the right to vote on October 10, 1911 after their own 40+ year battle. When they finally got on the ballot, they had 8 months to elevate their message to all male voters⁴.

They were marketing innovators producing buttons, pennants and posters, postcards, playing cards, and shopping bags. They used electric signs, 8-foot tall billboards, and lantern slides at night to flash their message. This led to their winning tactics becoming part of the national effort.

After the 19th Amendment was ratified, 10 million women marched into voting booths in 1920, and represented the biggest voting block increase in history⁷!

Winning the Vote for All Women

When the 19th Amendment passed, all US women citizens won the right to vote, however it did not guarantee all women the vote³.

Although it prohibits voter discrimination based on sex, some states found other ways to limit access to the ballot. Some 500,000 African American women could vote in states where their male counterparts were enfranchised, but faced limitations in the South.

For example, in the 1890s, Southern states started requiring voters to take unreasonable literacy tests and pay poll taxes to keep Black people from participating in elections as well as violent intimidation. White Suffragists did not stand up against these tactics, it wasn't until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 where Black women and men gained full access to voting.

Native American and Asian American people had to wait as long to vote as their US citizenship was not recognized. Native Americans earned the right to vote in 1924 and Asian Americans in 1952. They also were subjected to state-level discriminatory policies.

The fight to gain the vote can be won, but the struggle for voter rights continues.

SAVE THE DATE: for our VOTER EMPOWERMENT WEBINAR on OCTOBER 8!



Every election has the opportunity to influence our local, state and national communities. Deciphering our ballot at times is a challenge which can be met with impartial information.

We want you to be an empowered voter! We have invited representatives of the League of Women Voters to highlight the unbiased pros and cons of California propositions and discuss the expected voter experience as well as important dates and tools to stay informed.

SAVE THE DATE! THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, from NOON to 1:30 PM. Plan to spend your lunch with us to learn more about what is on the California ballot. We will alert you next week to webinar registration. Reach out to Arielle at arielle@financialjourney.com to register early and let's get prepared to vote!

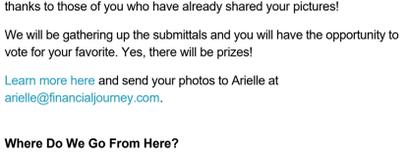
We Encourage Everyone to Get Prepared to Vote in November

For those of us in California, everyone has the option to vote by mail, making it very simple and easy. You can also take your ballot in-person to the County Registrar of Voters, a voting center and other designated drop-off locations.

We encourage you to get prepared by following these steps:

- **Now: Register to Vote** if you have not voted before! The deadline to register is October 19, but now is always the best time! You can register online here: registertovote.ca.gov/
- **Now: Check Your Voter Registration Status** to ensure your registration is current and your address is correct at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/
- **Have process questions?** Here is a good starting point: vote.ca.gov. You can also learn how to become a poll worker and possibly suggest young adults to participate!
- **Where's My Ballot?** California ballots will start being mailed to voters on October 5. You can track when your ballot is mailed to you as well as when your completed ballot is received and counted. Sign-up at WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov
- **Vote Early!** Early voting in California starts on October 2. We encourage you to avoid potential postal service delays and drop your ballot off In-person. **Official drop-off locations** will be announced soon. Check with your County Registrar.
- **Learn About the Issues on Your Ballot:** Bookmark votersedge.org for candidate statements, proposition pros and cons and information on who the top funding organizations and contributors are. We also hope you will plan to attend our Empowering Voters Webinar on October 8!
- **Outside of California?** Reference vote411.org for state by state election information. We encourage you to also look for information from a local League of Women Voters in your area. You don't need to be a member to benefit from their information. Find a League near you here: lwv.org/.

We hope you all take the opportunity to vote and let your voice be heard! Every voice matters.



Pulling It All Together

At this time and in this place, we believe it is vital that all those who are eligible, register to vote, get informed, take the time to vote and get your ballot delivered in time to be counted. Our country needs people to care about our future and actively participating in making our nation a place that is just and fair for all.

This week we celebrate the 19th Amendment and honor the activism of all those who persisted until the vote was won and the trajectory of women was changed forever.

Unfortunately, it was an imperfect battle and with this learning, women and men need to continue fighting to ensure free and fair elections and voting rights for all.

Democracy is not a spectator sport. Our future depends on our actions collectively. We can all work together to make our democracy work.



We Are Celebrating Our Own Anniversary!

The votes are in and we could not be happier to celebrate our 2nd anniversary as our own independent company built on a foundation of over 30 years of experience in the business.

It is also built on strong industry partnerships and innovative technology, as well as deep relationships with our clients that extend beyond just meeting to discuss your investments.

We recognize that the purpose of our financial advice is to support your overall health and well-being so you can achieve your financial goals and enjoy the journey.

We know these are extra challenging times right now and we are thankful for the trust you show us every day.

Please Share our Newsletter and Encourage Sign-up

We seek to provide timely information and insight in our newsletter each week. We have our clients in mind and also your extended family and friends and encourage you to share it with those it would interest. If you are one of those interested folks and would like to register to receive this newsletter, simply register at financialjourney.com/insights-newsletter-sign-up

Sharing the Summer Photos from Our Team

Elaine and Scott visited clients in Santa Rosa this past weekend. We had a wonderful trip and we really enjoyed being able to connect in person (but following all the rules) with our clients.

Did you know Charles Schultz spent the later part of his life living in Santa Rosa? The city put these fun statues of many of his Peanuts characters around the city. It's a great way to generate smiles all around town.

2020 FJP Summer Photo Contest Ends August 31!

There is a rumor that there are photos on your phone just waiting to be shared with Arielle for the Summer Photo Contest! Be sure to set them free by August 31! We'd love to see them and add them to the mix. Our thanks to those of you who have already shared your pictures!

We will be gathering up the submittals and you will have the opportunity to vote for your favorite. Yes, there will be prizes!

Learn more here and send your photos to Arielle at arielle@financialjourney.com.

Where Do We Go From Here?

The heat wave of the past week, along with potential power-outages has been difficult and we send out our heartfelt concern for those impacted by the fires throughout California. We have all been dealing with the smoke and sadly some of you have also had to deal with evacuation orders.

We encourage you to check in with your neighbors or possibly call someone you may not have connected with in a while and share some memories. Perhaps read a Peanuts cartoon or watch your favorite live sports. Hopefully the smoke will clear and you will be able to get out to enjoy the end of the summer.

We hope you get a chance to get out and enjoy the nice summer weather and share your photos with us too!

Feel free to forward our emails and as always, if there is anything we can do to help, or you just want to talk, [give us a call](mailto:arielle@financialjourney.com). We enjoy visiting with you.

We hope everyone stays healthy and safe.

Elaine, Scott and Linda

COVID-19 Resource Page – This page has lots of great resources available for many areas related to the Coronavirus, including where you can get free COVID-19 testing in Santa Clara county, stats, government programs, and the latest information on what businesses are open and closed.

References

- ¹ National Archives Catalog – [19th Amendment to the United States Constitution](#)
- ² Insider – [The 19th Amendment passed 100 years ago today. These photos of suffragettes will make you want to get out and vote.](#)
- ³ Associated Press – [Heeding mom, Tennessee lawmaker helped women gain the vote](#)
- ⁴ Evoke – [Truth Be Told: Stories of Black Women's Fight for the Vote](#)
- ⁵ California Archives – [On the Road to Ratification - California and the Struggle for Women's Suffrage](#)
- ⁶ Business Insider – [The 19th Amendment passed 100 years ago today. The evolution of American voting rights in 244 years shows how far we've come — and how far we still have to go](#)
- ⁷ The Conversation – [19 facts about the 19th Amendment on its 100th anniversary](#)

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