I was recently reading through the LWVC Facebook page and someone commented on one of our posts, "I don't want to resist - find better language!" And I was reflecting on whether this was actually a matter of semantics and finding better language. Because, really, do any of us WANT to have to resist? Do we want to live in a world that calls upon us again and again to have to dig in and fight for a future that includes everyone? My sense is that none of us WANT to have to resist. But that is our world. And that is our calling.

The League was born as a resistance and has always resisted. Resisted a world in which women were second class citizens. Resisted a government where power was held only by white men and in which women could not vote. Resisted a world in which democracy was held for only the chosen few to dominate the many. Resisted a world where women did not have control of their bodies, their healthcare. Resisted a society in which politicians can guarantee their reelection through gerrymandering. Resisted the notion that public officials, and public policy should be able to be bought by dark money influences. Resisted a world that restricts human rights just because people are different.

## And so like it or not, we are a product of resistance. We are resistance.

History and human nature tell us that our resistance will not end now. Or anytime in the near future. The League must continue to fight for the things it values - for our democracy, for climate, for justice, for human rights and all of the places that the League is needed to keep resisting regression and keep fighting for a better future.

No matter where I am or what work I am doing, I will always personally stand shoulder to shoulder with League members and collaborators in forging forward a better and more inclusive democracy and way of life for all people who live here. **Your work has mattered for over 100 years and it matters now.** 

Resist forward, friends. And thank you for allowing me to have been a small part of history with you.

Onward,

Stephanie Doute, CAE

**Executive Director** 

League of Women Voters of California

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