

SEASON OF FEAR

Counter campaign scare tactics with knowledge

The scary season is upon us. Not only are we about to be inundated with ghosts, witches and monsters, but some of our elected leaders are warning us that an alien invasion of thousands of murderous souls is fast approaching our southern border. Vicious gangs are roaming our city streets slaughtering innocent people. Drugs and terrorists are pouring across our borders. If you believe the fear-monger-in-chief, the carnage in America is so great that we are living in a dystopian nightmare.

Halloween has nothing on election season when it comes to sending a shiver down your spine. The mid-term election is nine days away, and the

fringe of each side is painting its opponent as the bringer of end times.

Our salvation may be in the hands of women. Female candidates are running for office in record numbers this election. The surge in women candidates is much more pronounced in the Democratic party, partly because of the misogynistic behavior and policies of the president and other Republican leaders.

While the increased participation of women in this election is partisan, the non-partisan League of Women Voters (lwv.org) is probably very happy to see it. The group was formed in 1920 as part of the suffrage movement that gave women the right to vote.



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InSites

Since then, it has been working to educate people — men and women — about the right and responsibility to vote. Their website is a very useful resource for learning about the issues and candidates' stances on them.

The site has three main areas of focus: Voting Rights, Elections and Other Issues. Each main area is subdivided into related categories.

The Voting Rights section has subsections on Expanding Voter Access, Redistricting,

Money in Politics and Fighting Voter Suppression.

The Elections section covers Educating Voters, Find Your Elected Officials, Increasing Voter Registration and Vote411, which is a separate LWV-run site that has information on registering to vote and contacting your elected officials at every level, from local to national.

The Other Issues section covers Health Care Reform, Immigration and The Environment.

Each subsection starts with a brief description of the issue followed by a series of articles that explain it in greater depth.

There also are numerous opportunities throughout the site to donate to the league and to take action on various

issues. The take-action sections provide prewritten statements of support for policies the league believes are good solutions. By entering your address and zip code, your support is forwarded to the appropriate elected officials.

The website is nicely designed with intuitive navigation, a bright color palette, strong typography and good visuals. And its message is important. No matter what side you're on, democracy only works when people are educated on the issues and participate. So get out and vote on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

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