

We Stand Together

Women's March 2018

By: Ketzal Gomez

I stand here before you to break stereotypes

I stand here today as the great granddaughter of Yaqui people who lived on this continent for hundreds of years before this land became America.

I stand here today as the granddaughter of a farm worker and cannery worker whose education ended at 9th grade, but because she knew the importance of being a teamster, her children wouldn't go hungry.

I stand here today as the Daughter of Teresa Castellanos, a first generation college student who did not learn to read until 5th grade and is currently a school board trustee at the school district she attended as a child.

I stand here today as a strong, educated, prochoice, feminist, millennial Chicana and I VOTE! I am a leader, community organizer, and a game-changer. I research trends, strategize solutions, and mobilize my peers, and there is no greater time for us all to mobilize than now!

After more than 500 years of negative stereotypes, discrimination and barriers, I know that I am not the exception, but the norm. Look around ... we are here, we are a leaders, and we have the power to effectuate change.

We know that women—specifically Latinas—get their families to vote. And by voting we have the power to make a difference.

When we vote

We stand with Black Lives matter because we are Afro Latinos

We stand with the LGBTQ+ community because we are queer

We stand with environmentalist because we know that Tonantzin and Pachamama are mother Earth

We stand with a comprehensive immigration reform and a Clean DREAM Act because we come from blended families and we will not allow our families to be torn apart again.

We are the answers to our ancestors' prayers. It has been a multi-generational movement. We have been resisting for 500 years. We will not be silenced; we will rally with each other to support each other. We will vote and we will run for office!

It is time that our elected officials look like us, think like us and most importantly vote like us. The moment is ours!

Get involved!

Register to vote! And if you can't vote, find people that can and make sure they vote in every election, not just presidential!

Remember that in CA there is early voting where you can vote 30 days before Election Day.

Also in CA, every citizen has the right to vote even if you've been formerly incarcerated or currently serving a sentence, as long as it is not a felony sentence.

In a county where our average voter turnout is less than 50%, your vote can make a difference!

For more ways to get involved, follow Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy on social media, we are also at the Call to Action Ally, so come visit us!

Remember, the time is ours and it has only just begun.