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*A 1973 Newsletter, Revitalized.*

## **Feminist News, Today**

*At least 123 million people residing in the United States — or over a third of the population — are ineligible to vote. This includes people under eighteen; people who are currently or formerly incarcerated, on parole, or on probation; people who are not U.S. citizens; and people who are deemed ineligible based on mental disabilities. In fact, nearly 30 states allow voting rights to be taken away from any person who has been deemed “mentally incapacitated” by a court, for things such as suffering a traumatic brain injury or having dementia. Additionally, 1 out of every 13 Black people — versus 1 in 56 non-Black people — have become disenfranchised due to a felony conviction. And, during the 2016 election, 92 million of the people who were eligible to vote did not cast a ballot. Between voter ineligibility and voter apathy, only a small percentage of the United States population had a say in the previous presidential turnout.*

*This year can be different. Though a large proportion of those residing in the United States remain unable to vote, the people who can vote can make a conscious decision to turn up to the polls. With both the Earth and human rights on the line, it is imperative that everyone who is able to vote does. So, on behalf of women, on behalf of queer people, on behalf of Black people, on behalf of undocumented people, on behalf of poor people, on behalf of incarcerated people, on behalf of students, and on behalf of Planet Earth ... VOTE. And, while you are at it, get someone else registered, too.*

## **Alumni Spotlight**

*LMU Women's & Gender Studies alumna, Emily Cañas is this month's alumni spotlight. Soon after graduating from LMU in 2019, Emily got a job in Nashville teaching Spanish to students who are in kindergarten through high school. Emily has used her WGST degree in her profession and in life in general. She notes that her degree has helped her maintain an equitable and just class environment. It has also given her the tools to be able to communicate with colleagues and teach her students to the best of her ability. She appreciates how powerful thinking critically is, stating: "I am able to think critically about systems that I'm a part of. I can see how I am affected, and how I affect others." Additionally, as many of us are struggling during the pandemic and unsure about our plans post-grad, Emily provides some helpful insights from her transition after graduation: "It's nice to see that people change jobs, move to new cities and pick up new hobbies all the time. I don't feel the same undergrad pressure to figure out a plan because things always work out differently than we expect anyway."*

## **Quote of the month**

*“Caring for myself is not self-indulgence. It is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare” -Audre Lorde*

## **Past + Upcoming Events**

**September 25th:** Fall Welcome

**October 28th:** Legacies of Suffrage: 100 Years of the 19th Amendment

**November 4th:** Post-Election Debrief