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MECKLENBURG - Charlotte Women's March - January 20, 2018

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS!

GENDER JUSTICE IS RACIAL JUSTICE IS ECONOMIC JUSTICE!

CIVIL RIGHTS ARE OUR BIRTHRIGHT!

YOUR LIBERATION IS MY LIBERATION!

Those words are from last year's Women's March on Washington. And I believe the strength of those words is on display today as we celebrate the one year anniversary of the Charlotte Women's March, the diversity of women on this stage, and the thousands of you who are here to say: We're still here and we're not going away!

For those of you who don't know about the League of Women Voters, we are a **non-partisan, grassroots, political** organization that been around for almost 100 years.

The founders of the League of Women Voters and their predecessors led a 70-year fight for the **right of women to vote** in this country. After protesting, marching in blizzard conditions in front of the White House, going on hunger strikes and lobbying legislators, women in the United States were finally able to vote in 1920.

I wanted you to know about the League of Women Voters because our organization is not **new** to the struggle of fighting for **voting rights and equal rights and civil rights and women's rights and a representative government for all**.

We were and are the **original warriors** for women's rights in this country and I'm glad to represent here today.

In my opinion, there have been three great movements led by women in the last 100 years in the United States :

- The fight for women to vote
- The feminist movement of the 60's
- And now, though still in its infancy, the **Women's March to reclaim our country**.

Today, we march to reclaim a democratic nation being destroyed at its core.

Tactics of divide and conquer - by race, religion, gender and socio-economic status are now how the United States is known around the world.

In the past several years we've lost voting rights through gerrymandering and voter suppression. There have been attacks on freedom of speech - and freedom of the press. We've lost transparency and accountability. There's been a rise in the visibility of white supremacy.

But **we** must remain true to the values and vision and **principles** put forth in our Constitution and what **had** made America great.

So what do we do? We must vote! We must promote and support candidates who share our belief system. We must convince the populace - that if they don't vote in the best interest of **all** Americans, the American dream we wish this country to be will be destroyed.

We women are leading the latest, greatest progressive movement for justice in this country.

And we must continue to fight to keep **anyone from turning us** around.

Our power is at the polls.

Thank you!