

# UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7TH NATIONAL CONGRESS RECAP • JUNE 2021



## Idea Sharing at National Congress Highlights Value of Coalition Model

A Message from the President of Vision 2020

Vision 2020's 7th National Congress was a key component of the yearlong Women 100 celebration and, like most events planned for 2020, its pandemic postponement and execution presented many challenges. But we did it!

With the generous support of sponsors, the enthusiastic participation of coalition members, the wonders of technology, and lots of determination, we presented two half-day sessions packed with information and ideas about the status of American women. We assessed progress toward economic, political and social equality, and the role of women's leadership.



Underscored repeatedly were the importance of women helping other women and the value of our coalition model in working collectively to impact attitudes about gender equity and the institutions that perpetuate inequities. Together, we laid the groundwork for a bold new agenda to complete the unfinished business of gender equity.

Looking to the future, we announced Vision Forward, the new initiative that will succeed Vision 2020. Vision Forward will launch publicly on August 26, National Women's Equality Day, at our annual Toast to Tenacity event. That will be the grand finale of the Women 100 celebration. Plan now to join us then, in person or virtually.

This year's Toast to Tenacity also will kick off Vision Forward's inaugural four-day City of Sisterly Love Celebration in Philadelphia. We will be inviting our Proud Partners, Allies and others to take part. Stay tuned for more information about these exciting next steps!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Lynn".

**N.B. June is Pride Month and Joyce Lewandowski has written [an important column about Pride.](#)**

## National Congress Recap

# 7th National Congress Was Largest Ever

[View a recording of the Congress in its entirety](#)

[View the Congress program e-book](#)

Vision 2020's two-day National Congress convened June 15-16 around the theme "Leveraging Our Power for Positive Change." It was the largest Congress to date, with more than double the usual attendance.

On the first day, Vision 2020's national leaders, professional team and special guests hosted the Congress via livestream from the lobby of the Kimmel Center Cultural Campus in Philadelphia, where Vision 2020's "Seat at the Table" exhibition was installed immediately prior to the COVID-19 shutdown.

The second day was fully virtual as members and guests continued to tune in from across the country.

**Recordings of individual sessions will be posted to the [National Congress page](#) on the Women 100 website next week.**

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Chat messages:  
Jun 15, 2:08 PM: Dawn Dyer (guest): Dawn Dyer, California Delegate, honored to be with you today. I need to jump out of meeting for a while to go give a performance of our Suffrage one-act play to the local Republican Women's Club! I'll rejoin this afternoon.  
Jun 15, 2:09 PM: V2020\_Keyonna (Moderator): Sure, thank you for tuning in Dawn!  
Jun 15, 2:23 PM: V2020\_Joyce (Moderator): We have many Delegates who get involved in campaigns (and several who have run for office)! It's great to know that Dare to Run is focusing on those states where we need more women represented.  
Jun 15, 2:26 PM: V2020\_Joyce (Moderator): Remember to submit questions to our speakers using the "ask the panel a question" button, just in case we have time.

*The virtual experience of the National Congress enabled delegates and others to participate from across the country by asking questions and sharing comments in the chat.*

## Recap of Congress Session by Session

**10 Years in 45 Minutes**

Lynn Yeakel, Vision 2020 founder and president, and Rosemarie Greco, who helped launch the initiative and serves as executive advisor, took us through a fast-paced program tightly packed with look-backs and impact stories. A video of highlights brought to life a decade of Vision 2020 challenges. We heard from National Leadership Circle members and Delegates as well as leaders of Vision 2020's Women 100, who summed up results so far and previewed the grand finale coming up in August.

[View participant bios](#)

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*Subha Barry (top left) moderated the panel on "What We've Learned," leading a discussion with panelists (clockwise from top right) Nicole Mason, Roberta "Bobbi" Liebenberg and Juliana Menasce Horowitz.*

## **What We've Learned**

We are still learning the potential long-term effects of pandemic setbacks for women at home and in the workplace. In a virtual, interactive panel discussion, we placed the current moment in context by exploring what we know about women's position in society, the changing landscape women must navigate and the particular barriers faced by women of color. We heard from some of the sharpest analytical minds in the country, gaining the insights we need to seize this moment as an inflection point for positive change.

[View participant bios](#)

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*Vision 2020 executive assistant Keyonna Douglas (right) led a Q&A with Page Talbott following her curator's tour of Vision 2020's "Seat at the Table" exhibition.*

### **Curator's Tour of Equality Exhibition**

Curator Page Talbott took us on a very special virtual tour of the award-winning "Seat at the Table" exhibition that shows how far women have come in their quest for equality and the unfinished business that remains. Vision 2020 executive assistant Keyonna Douglas joined Page and asked questions along the way. After the tour, Keyonna led a live Q&A with Page.

[View participant bios](#)



*Among the 11 voices from Vision 2020's coalition heard during the session "What's On Our Minds" were Nicole Stephenson (left) and Jeanie Heffernan.*

## What's On Our Minds

Members of the Vision 2020 coalition engaged in structured conversations on topics selected from a survey of their top concerns.

[View participant bios](#)

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*MSNBC journalist Mika Brzezinski (left) was interviewed by Lucy Bustamante, an anchor for NBC10 and Telemundo62.*

### **Our Value – Individually and Collectively**

In an exclusive interview for the Vision 2020 National Congress, MSNBC's "Morning Joe" co-host Mika Brzezinski spoke with NBC10 and Telemundo62 anchor Lucy Bustamante about her *Know Your Value* book and national initiative empowering women to assert their worth in the workplace. Brzezinski shared takeaways on playing by the rules (or not), adopting strategies men use to get ahead, avoiding hidden traps, who can (and can't) negotiate aggressively, and how to stop sabotaging your own success.

[View participant bios](#)

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*Past president and board chair of AJLI, Deborah Brittain (left), and former Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts, were among four charter members of the Vision 2020 National Leadership Circle contributing to the panel discussion led by Lynn Yeakel.*

## **Where Are We Now and What Holds Us Back?**

There's good news and bad news about women's progress. Vision 2020 president Lynn Yeakel led a panel discussion with four charter members of the Vision 2020 National Leadership Circle in which we considered the barriers women have overcome in just the last few years and the barriers that still hold us back.

[View participant bios](#)



*Krysta Jones was a panelist for the discussion of civic participation and getting more women elected.*

## **Where Are We Going? FORWARD!**

Moderated by Florida Delegate Madelon Stewart, the "Where Are We Going" panel focused on getting more women into elected office. Panelists shared

their experiences in training and running for office. They also discussed voting trends and voter suppression bills that continue to be introduced across the nation.

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