

VOTING FOR LOVE & JUSTICE

WITH WONDER WOMAN





FORWARD

BY LYNDA CARTER

Forty-five years ago, I was asked to bring one of my childhood heroes to life on screen. As a little girl growing up in Phoenix, Arizona, I would flip through the pages of Wonder Woman comics and find myself immersed in Diana Prince's extraordinary adventures.

For women and girls of my generation, Diana Prince was THE media representation we had in the world of fantasy and comics. It's now hard to imagine a world without Dana Scully, Hermione Granger, or Princess Shuri, yet even in 1975, studio executives had little faith that a Wonder Woman TV show would attract an audience. Of course, they were proven wrong!

I have been asked many times over the years why I think the character of Wonder Woman is such an enduring icon. While her superhuman strength, agility, and lasso of truth come to mind, I believe that the wisdom and humanity behind the character is why she will remain beloved for the ages.

Diana Prince is an Amazonian princess, but in my portrayal I focused on everything that connected her to humanity. Diana's love and empathy for the people around her empowers her to fight for love and justice at every turn. With kindness, she sets examples that change minds and hearts when you least expect it.

Diana also brings intellect and wisdom to the table, reminding us that there's nothing you can't do with both a kind heart and a brilliant mind. Throughout her story, she is more than just a superhero in satin tights: she is everything from a devoted civil servant to a savvy businesswoman. Whatever she does, she always does her due diligence. In her own world, she is a Hermione! I believe this quality can serve any real-life wonder woman, man, or nonbinary person well.

I am proud to support The Harry Potter Alliance's "Fandom Forward" initiative. This Wonder Woman-themed Voting Toolkit will empower you with the tools you need to become a well-informed voter who is true to themselves, while encouraging others to do the same.

Whatever you do, do not let anyone tell you that your vote doesn't count. Civic engagement is the cornerstone of a healthy society. Together, we can all fight for love and justice, just like Diana.

Lynda Carter

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INTRODUCTION

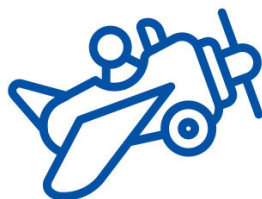
Wonder Woman wasn't always Wonder Woman; on the island of Themyscira, Diana was raised in comfort and protection, unaware of her own power. But when Steve Trevor crash lands there during World War II and reveals to Diana that there is war and suffering happening around the world outside of her island, Diana makes the difficult decision to leave home so she can fight for an end to the suffering. She takes up a mission to defeat the God of War, Ares, and embraces her identity as Wonder Woman.

As she adjusts to new surroundings, Diana learns that it's not as simple as one fight, one moment, or one god of war to defeat -- but this only means that every single battle is all the more worth fighting. For Diana, any way she could reduce harm and human suffering would be worth it.

Diana decides to fight for what she believes in, even when the odds feel insurmountable, even when she's heartbroken, even when she doesn't know if she will win. Though her epic story is the stuff of myths, her story is not so different from the real-life struggles of ordinary citizens. **Even in times of despair, we have to hold onto hope the way Wonder Woman does.**

Voting is an important way to keep fighting for what you believe in like Diana. The change we want to see in the world might not happen overnight (or in one election), but it's important to keep fighting for each step on the journey to it.

You can fight like Wonder Woman by voting for love and justice!



UNDERSTAND HOW ARES OPERATES

“YOU HAVE GREATER POWERS THAN YOU KNOW.”- GENERAL ANTIOPE

At first, Diana believes she can end the war by simply defeating Ares, but she soon learns that it's not that straightforward; the God of War knows how to influence humans to work in his favor. In fact, Diana searches for Ares by looking for someone who seems like a great warrior, but in the end it turns out that Ares has been masquerading as a seemingly well-mannered and soft-spoken bureaucrat.

This same principle can be applied in our world: though sometimes it can feel like there's a single figure whose defeat could save the world, in actuality it will take battling corrupt systems and influence at every level. That starts with understanding each issue and candidate.

You can use [Ballotpedia's sample ballot tool](#) to look up your address and find out exactly what will be on your ballot in the upcoming election! Once you've done that, it's up to you to investigate each candidate and measure on the ballot to understand how you can use your vote to best fight back against evil forces like Ares. Here's some steps to get you started:

- ★ Visit candidate pages to review their policy stances and platforms. How do these policies align with your vision for the world?
- ★ Time to get out your Lasso of Truth. Any time a candidate makes a statement of fact, check for other sources to confirm the truthfulness of the information. Sites like [Politifact](#) help fact check candidate statements for accuracy.
- ★ When reviewing measures, pay close attention to how things are worded. Information can be presented in a way that is technically true, but also misleading or missing important details. Don't let anyone trick you!
- ★ If there are organizations you trust, check to see if they have endorsed any measures or candidates. Measures and candidates may have their own websites that list endorsements from organizations and community leaders



WORK WITH A TEAM

“WE’RE GOING TO NEED REINFORCEMENTS.” - STEVE TREVOR

Diana has always understood the power of working together. The Amazons showed her from the very beginning how important it is to work as a team, and when she makes new friends in the mortal world they rely on each other to fight the war.

When Diana makes the courageous decision to step out into No Man's Land, her friends see that she still needs help to accomplish her goal. It only takes four more people following her into battle to show the other soldiers what they can accomplish.

One of the best ways to get out the vote is to do what Diana did and enlist a small number of your friends to vote with you. It's a concept called **vote tripling**.

Before the next election, reach out to three people in your life. They could be friends, family, classmates. The people you want on your team! Talk to them about why voting is important to you and what you're fighting for. Then make sure they're registered and they have a plan to vote. Do they need to sign up for a mail in ballot? Do they know where their polling place or mail-in ballot drop box is?

Finally, ask them to keep the tripling going by talking to three more people in their lives. Soon, you'll have an entire army of warriors ready to fight Ares!



REMEMBER TO FIND MOMENTS OF JOY

“YOU SHOULD BE VERY PROUD!” - DIANA PRINCE,
CONGRATULATING AN ICE CREAM MAKER.

Wonder Woman is a fierce warrior, committed to fighting Ares and ending human suffering. But even in the midst of preparing for battle, she stops to appreciate all the beauty of the world she's working to save. Diana delights over babies, eats ice cream on her way to find the war, and dances when the battle has been won.

When faced with so much suffering, it's hard to remember to make time and space for these moments of joy. It might even feel like you *shouldn't* make that space, not when so many people are hurting. But Diana reminds us that these moments are important. They serve as reminders for the world we're fighting for, a world where the beauty and sweetness of life has more power than Ares.

How can you work moments of joy into your own fight for justice?

- ★ In between your battle plans, plan for one thing that brings you happiness — even if it's just an ice cream or ten minutes to stop and dance — at least once a week. Preferably once a day!
- ★ When you and your team finish voting, have a plan for how you'll celebrate. Make that part of your plan to vote!
- ★ Think if there's some little moment of joy you could bring to someone else, whether that's a card in the mail, a fun treat, or doing something joyful together.

Together, we can undo the influence of forces like Ares in our world. We can fight like Wonder Woman for a world controlled by love and justice by lifting our voices with our votes.



This toolkit was produced by Fandom Forward, an international nonprofit that turns fans into heroes by making activism accessible through the power of story. This toolkit provides resources for fans of Wonder Woman to think more deeply about the social issues represented in the story and take action in our own world.

Find more guides to fan activism at fandomforward.org. If you enjoyed this toolkit, please consider making a donation to support our work at fandomforward.org/donate.

