



Monday Monday

Connecting the Dots with Karen Kaplowitz



*Helping you create and reinforce the habits of successful career building,
gleaned from my work as a business development strategist, trainer and coach*

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Asserting Your Power

This week, on Wednesday, August 26, 2020, we celebrate 100 years of women having the right to vote in the United States. August 26 is [Women's Equality Day](#), the date in 1920 when the Secretary of State certified that the 19th Amendment had been ratified by sufficient states to become law. Of course, for many women of color, voter suppression prevented their exercising the right to vote until passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. I am proud to be part of the [Leadership Circle](#) of Vision 2020, a national celebration of the centennial of women's suffrage. One of Vision 2020's goals is for the 2020 election to draw a record number of eligible women voters. To insure that you and especially all the women you know who are eligible to vote are asserting their power, here are some questions to consider:

- Is every eligible woman you know registered to vote? Here is a [link](#) from the League of Women Voters to start the process to share with anyone you know who is not registered.
- If your state allows mail-in voting, have you already signed up for mail-in voting? Here is [information](#) on what your state allows.
- If you cannot take advantage of mail-in voting, have you considered what you will need to do to vote in person, including childcare or eldercare?
- If you have children who are eligible to vote and are away at school, have you checked on their arrangements to vote? Here is [state by state information](#) from the Campus Vote Project.
- If Election Day is not a [holiday](#) in your state, can you advocate to at least make it a holiday in your law firm to free up yourself and colleagues to insure they can vote or work at the polls?
- When people express cynicism about elections and politics and you are concerned that they may not vote, do you engage with them to remind them of the significance of their vote, especially this year?

I am the daughter of an immigrant. My mother, Esther Gerber Kaplowitz, left Eastern Europe with her family at age 13 to start over in the United States. If you have ever wondered about the name of my firm, The New Ellis Group, it is a reference to my mother's journey through Ellis Island. When I worried about leaving a secure law firm partnership to launch a consulting firm, I thought of how much less risk I faced than my mother and her family faced as immigrants who spoke no English when they came to America for freedom and safety. I named my firm to remind myself that I could be brave, too. Please join me in voting in memory of people like my mother who cherished democracy and freedom so much that they uprooted their lives to come to this country.

On Women's Equality Day, Vision 2020 will host a Toast to Tenacity to celebrate the occasion. The webcast will be streamed live from Independence National Historical Park. You can [register](#) for an email reminder of the free event at 12:00 noon on August 26. Join me for the Toast to Tenacity, plan to vote, and assert your power in every way this year!

Enjoy your Labor Day holiday. The next newsletter will be published on Monday, September 14, 2020.