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Election Perspective from a Woman Born Before the Suffrage Act of 1920

MIDDLESEX COUNTY – She was born in Cleveland in the summer of 1919, a little more than a year before women were constitutionally granted the right to vote.

Almost a lifetime later, 97-year-old Mary Baumann, a resident at Roosevelt Care Center at Old Bridge, is casting her ballot for the first viable female presidential candidate in the 2016 General Election.

“I’ve been a Democrat all my life..because of Roosevelt, he brought in the jobs,” she said.

Still mastering the art of walking when legislators ratified the 19th Amendment, a measure that guaranteed American women their entitled independence, Baumann has stood witness to nearly a century of progress forged by the fairer sex.

“I think it’s a lot different today,” she said, citing advances women have made in both industry and the military.

In her 20s, Baumann took to manning the polls in the Fords section of Woodbridge, conducting voter outreach in a much different fashion than one might see in the modern era of social media, television commercials and digital campaigns.

“I would knock on doors and ask them if they voted,” she said. “Then I’d take them to the polls. I’d never ask or tell them who to vote for.”

Baumann, who spent much of her career in retail and as a nanny, is proud to see her female descendents professionally climb to the ranks of “executive” and “physician’s assistant.”

“Women are more educated...and ambitious today, and it’s a wonderful thing,” she said.

Still, according to Baumann, lawmakers fall short in leveling the playing field for this nation’s women in one glaring arena.

“Women should get the same pay as a man, if they’re doing the same work,” she said.

For more information on Roosevelt Care Centers, log onto www.rooseveltcarecenter.com or call 732-321-6800 for a representative in Edison or 732-360-9830 to reach staff in Old Bridge. Further details may also be found on facebook by liking the pages “Roosevelt Care Center at Edison” and “Roosevelt Care Center at Old Bridge.”

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