



National Federation of Democratic Women Resolution #4

To Protect Voting Rights

WHEREAS, the right of American citizens to cast their ballots and to rest assured that their votes will be counted correctly is a cornerstone of our nation. Millions of Americans have died protecting the democracy that we enjoy in this republic called the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, there is a long and ugly history of attempts by some individuals and states to prevent others from voting. To remedy this disenfranchisement, the 14th Amendment granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, including former slaves; the 15th Amendment gave African American men the right to vote, and the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote. To further resolve racism and inequity, the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964, and the Voting Rights Act, passed in 1965, made an even greater impact on protecting all citizens' right to vote; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, new voter suppression tactics have included imposing Voter I.D. laws that have been executed with little regard for the impact on the elderly and low-income citizens; closing voter precincts in minority voting areas; attempting to reduce early voting days, gerrymandering; and withholding adequate training and equipment for election workers. Now, during the months leading up to the 2020 election, Donald J. Trump has launched a vicious campaign to interfere with voting rights by espousing untruths about voting by mail. Despite the wisdom of curtailing in-person voting during the projected fall pandemic resurgence, he vilifies mail-in voting though he and the military enjoy this right. He fails to understand the difference between an application for an absentee ballot and the ballot itself and has threatened secretaries of state who follow the laws of their states.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the National Federation of Democratic Women stands firmly in support of the right of all citizens to vote by mail/absentee, online, via satellite, at the polls, or by any other method of voting sanctioned by their jurisdiction and to be confident that their votes will be counted correctly. We are calling on members of Congress, State Legislatures and Assemblies, and Governors to speak up and speak out to set the record straight about the necessary option to safely vote by mail. We expect all elected officials to be vigilant in protecting our voting rights.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee and the Legislative Committee

Adopted by the NFDW Members at the 49th National Convention on June 13, 2020