



National Federation of Democratic Women Reaffirmation of Resolution on The National Democratic Redistricting Committee

WHEREAS, the act of gerrymandering that gives one political party an advantage in voting strength over another political party has occurred in the United States since before the U.S. Constitution had gone into effect. In 1788, former Virginia Governor Patrick Henry asked the state legislature to change the district lines of Congressional District 5 to prevent James Madison from getting elected to Congress. In the Election of 1800, the Federalists created districts to help defeat the Democratic-Republican candidates. To keep his party in power in 1812, Eldridge Gerry, Governor of Massachusetts, created a district which many believed looked like a salamander, and the name Gerrymander was created; and

WHEREAS, gerrymandering continues to thwart the will of the voters even today. The National Democratic Redistricting Committee, a newly formed group being led by former President Barack Obama and former Attorney General Eric Holder, has as its mission to untangle the creatively drawn districts that have helped cement the Republican Party in power in Washington and in many state capitals; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee are focused on challenging, in court, the Republican drawn maps that they see as violating the law; on the campaign trail, where they will seek to win offices that influence redistricting; and through ballot referenda in states that allow voters to give direct approval to laws mandating new procedures for legislative apportionment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Federation of Democratic Women supports the National Democratic Redistricting Committee as this organization works to undo the damage created by Republican-led redistricting.

Adopted by the NFDW in 2018

Reaffirmed by the NFDW Membership at the 48th Annual Convention on June 15, 2019

Reaffirmed by the NFDW Members at the 50th National Convention on June 12, 2021