

## National Federation of Democratic Women Resolution to Protect Voting Rights



**WHEREAS**, ensuring and protecting the right of every citizen to vote is a bedrock principle of our democracy. However, our democracy suffers from deliberate voter suppression and disenfranchisement that severely limit enacting a proactive agenda for minorities, the underserved, and women, their families, and their communities; 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**, voting in elections should be as convenient, fair, and secure as possible. However, many citizens face voter suppression tactics such as limits to early voting, fewer polling locations, cumbersome Voter ID laws, malfunctioning voting machines, long lines, and intimidation at polling locations. The assault on voting rights by Republican-controlled state legislatures is unrelenting. These restrictions and curtailments are common means of restricting the expression of the political voices of our vulnerable populations and persons of color.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Federation of Democratic Women strongly reaffirms its commitment to expand and protect voting rights at the federal and state level, including the full restoration of the federal Voting Rights Act and the enactment of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. The NFDW believes that it is imperative the Voting Rights Act of 1965 should be strengthened and modernized, thus codifying the guarantee of equal access to the ballot for all. We need to move our nation toward ending discrimination at the ballot box.

Submitted by Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs. Recommended by the Resolutions Committee. Adoption at National Convention on June 11, 2022.