SECURING RIGHTS, SHAPING THE FUTURE



CIVIC EDUCATION

CAPSULE THREE | **SECTION 1** | **JULY 7TH - JULY 19TH 2026**

OVERVIEW

Civic education equips people with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate effectively in civic and political life. However, misinformation, unequal access to civic learning opportunities, and barriers to public engagement continue to prevent many women from fully exercising their rights and influencing the decisions that affect their lives. NOW works to strengthen civic education, expand public understanding of democratic institutions, and empower women to become informed and active participants in civic life.

FOUNDATIONS

The National Organization for Women (NOW) has a longstanding record of advancing civic education. Through their adoption of resolutions such as the Feminist Communications Network, which promotes media education and public communication training for activists; the Feminist Media Institute, which develops media literacy and advocacy skills among members; NOW has consistently worked to equip individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate effectively in public life and advocate for social change.

ACHIEVEMENTS

FEMINISM NOW

1999

In 1999, NOW established the Feminist Media Institute, a training program designed to teach activists media engagement, public communication, and advocacy skills, helping women more effectively participate in public life.

YOUNG FEMINISTS

1992

In 1992, NOW established the Young Feminists program, designed to educate young people on civic engagement, voting, public policy, community organizing, and advocacy while preparing them to be the next generation of civic leaders.

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ACHIEVEMENTS



2024

In 2024, NOW launched the Women Voters Campaign to educate women about electoral participation and emphasizing their role in shaping public policy and democratic outcomes.



2025

In 2025, NOW launched the Disrupt NOW campaign in partnership with organizations such as the League of Women Voters to educate, train, and empower advocates, candidates, and community leaders.

LEGISLATION & POLICY PRIORITIES

- **H.R. 1 (117th Congress):** For the People Act → Expand civic participation through automatic voter registration, expanded voter education and outreach, increased government transparency, and greater access to the democratic process.
- **H.R. 11 / S. 1: Freedom to Vote Act** → Establish national voting standards, strengthen election administration, and improve public access to democratic participation and civic engagement opportunities.
- **H.R. 5: Equality Act** → Prohibit discrimination in education, housing, employment, and public accommodations while advancing public understanding of gender equality and civil rights protections.

OUR WORK TODAY

NOW continues to promote civic education by providing public policy resources, action alerts, and educational materials that help individuals understand and engage with issues affecting democracy and equality.

Additionally, NOW has expanded opportunities for local chapters and affiliated organizations to conduct nonpartisan voter education, voter engagement, and community outreach activities, helping strengthen civic knowledge and participation on the grassroots level.

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