SECURING RIGHTS, SHAPING THE FUTURE



DEMOCRACY

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

OVERVIEW

Democracy is strongest when every person has an equal voice in the decisions that shape their lives. However, voter suppression, political disenfranchisement, misinformation, and barriers to civic participation continue to undermine democratic representation, particularly for women and historically marginalized communities. NOW works to protect democratic institutions, expand political participation, and advance policies that promote equitable representation, accountability, and civic engagement.

FOUNDATIONS

The National Organization for Women (NOW) has a longstanding record of advancing democracy. Through their adoption of resolutions such as the 2001 *Voting Representation for the District of Columbia,* which called for full congressional voting rights for D.C. residents; the 2001 *Thief-in-Chief Declaration*, which made election reform and protection against voter disenfranchisement a national priority following the 2000 election; and the 2001 *Clean Money Legislation to Benefit All U.S. Women*, which endorsed campaign finance reforms aimed at reducing the influence of money in politics, NOW has consistently worked to strengthen democratic institutions and broaden civic participation.

ACHIEVEMENTS



1999

In 1999, NOW adopted a resolution designed to create more representative democratic institutions and expand opportunities for women and historically underrepresented communities to hold political power.



2021

In 2021, NOW also endorsed the Freedom to Vote Act and efforts to strengthen federal voting protections.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT H.R.1

2021

In 2021, NOW also endorsed the Freedom to Vote Act and efforts to strengthen federal voting protections.



2023

In 2023, NOW urged passage of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore protections weakened by Shelby County v. Holder.

LEGISLATION & POLICY PRIORITIES

- H.R. 11 / S. 1: Freedom to Vote Act → Protect voting access, election integrity, and fair redistricting.
- H.R. 14 / S. 4: John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act → Restore and strengthen Voting Rights Act protections.
- H.R. 51: Washington, D.C. Admission Act → Grant D.C. residents full congressional representation and equal political rights. (Consistent with NOW's D.C. representation policy.)
- H.R. 1 (117th Congress): For the People Act → Advance comprehensive democracy reforms, including campaign finance transparency, ethics reforms, voting access, and anti-gerrymandering measures.

OUR WORK TODAY

NOW continues to defend democracy through voter mobilization, advocacy, and organizing. In 2024, NOW elevated women's electoral participation through its Women Voters & Campaign 2024 initiative and publicly emphasized the decisive role women voters play in protecting democratic institutions and civil rights.

In 2025, NOW also launched its nationwide Disrupt NOW campaign, partnering with organizations such as the League of Women Voters of the United States and the ERA Coalition to strengthen civic participation, train advocates and candidates.

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