SECURING RIGHTS, SHAPING THE FUTURE

ELECTIONS & VOTING RIGHTS

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

OVERVIEW

The right to vote is the foundation of democracy and the primary tool citizens use to influence public policy. Yet voter suppression, restrictive election laws, disinformation, and barriers to ballot access continue to disproportionately affect women. NOW works to protect free and fair elections and ensure every eligible woman voter can participate fully in our democracy.

FOUNDATIONS

For decades, the National Organization for Women (NOW) has advocated for voting rights and free, fair, and accessible elections as essential to women's equality and democratic participation. Through formal resolutions adopted by its national membership, including the 2013 Voting Rights Act (Alice Paul/Fannie Lou Hamer Resolution) and the 2017-2018 Advance Voting Rights resolution, NOW is committed to opposing voter suppression, supporting restoration of Voting Rights Act protections, combating racial and partisan gerrymandering, expanding ballot access, and educating voters about threats to electoral participation. NOW has also backed broader election reforms, including Election Day accessibility measures, voting representation for Washington, D.C., and efforts to ensure historically marginalized communities can fully participate in the democratic process.

ACHIEVEMENTS

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT H.R.1

2021

In 2021, *NOW publicly supported the For the People Act, advocating for expanded voter access, campaign finance reform, and an end to partisan gerrymandering.*

FREEDOM TO VOTE

2021

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

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ACHIEVEMENTS



2023

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



2024

In 2024, NOW launched Women Voters & Campaign initiatives encouraging women's electoral participation and leadership.

LEGISLATION & POLICY PRIORITIES

- H.R. 14/S. 4: Voting Rights Advancement Act → Restore & strengthen Voting Rights Act protections.
- Voting Rights Act Protections → Oppose voter suppression tactics, including restrictive voter ID laws, voter roll purges, and polling place closures.
- District of Columbia Voting Rights → Support full voting representation in Congress for D.C. residents.
- Election Day Accessibility Reforms → Support policies that expand voter participation, including making Election Day more accessible.
- Anti-Gerrymandering Reforms → Oppose racial and partisan gerrymandering that dilutes the political power of women and communities of color.

OUR WORK TODAY

NOW continues to work through coalition voter education, organizing, and legislative advocacy to protect voting access.

Over the past year, NOW has actively opposed the SAVE Act (H.R. 22/S. 128) through national press releases, action alerts, voter education campaigns, and grassroots advocacy efforts. NOW has repeatedly urged Congress to reject the legislation, arguing that its proof-of-citizenship requirements would disenfranchise millions of eligible voters, particularly women whose legal names differ from their birth certificates.

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