



# The Communicator

DECEMBER 2025

## 2025 HOLIDAY ISSUE

Don't give up — our country needs you now more than ever. This is a pivotal moment in the history of our country.

KAMALA HARRIS



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SEE PAGE 16 TO REGISTER FOR THE  
DECEMBER BOOK CLUB MEETING FEATURING  
"107 DAYS" BY FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT  
KAMALA HARRIS



NATIONAL FEDERATION of  
DEMOCRATIC WOMEN  
*Leading the Way: Policies, Power, and Priorities*

## *A Message from NFDW President Lovie West*



Dear Federation Family:

The current crisis in the United States continues the challenge we, as women, face for equality and inclusion. For this reason, we are more thankful than ever for your leadership and the members that are crucial to the work that we do to balance the scales of justice.

Recently, we have seen redistricting of states, federal takeover of our cities, and a shutdown of our federal system. The hardship placed on people of color and the underserved is a continuance of government overreach that has disregarded fundamental rules, principles, and norms that are the pillars of democracy. Amid the Department of Justice showering retribution at will, we must still fight more than ever to save our democracy. That is why our Political Directors extended an invitation for us to join No King's Day rallies across the nation, and our Communications Team used the power of social media to keep NFDW members informed about political issues and calls to action. It is our hope that each member selects an opportunity to make your voice heard. In addition, recruitment is underway for young Democrats under the age of 40 for our Growth and Development teams. We will also introduce our inaugural leadership cohort – *NFDW Young Women Leaders on the Move* – at our Annual Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, June 3–6, 2026.

As we continue our work during this election season, we have the opportunity to elect more women to power to represent our interests. The impact of NFDW can and will come in many forms such as GOTV support for Democratic candidates in battleground states. Supporting our candidates is what we do, and this election is no different. Please reach out to your state presidents and regional directors for opportunities to serve at the polls, on a phone bank, organizing candidate forums or even making a donation. And, most importantly, please remember to **vote** (early if you can) and ask those in your circle of influence to **vote** as well.

During these challenging times, NFDW will continue to offer safe discussion environments because your input is valuable. We will begin the virtual conversation at the quarterly NFDW Book Club on December 14th featuring "107 Days" by Kamala Harris – followed by the virtual NFDW Holiday Reception on December 21st. Preparations are also underway for our highly anticipated 2026 Women in Blue events. Despite our present circumstances, we still have many reasons to be thankful. And your support of the NFDW is one reason I feel grateful. Enjoy this Thanksgiving Season!

Yours for the Federation,

*Lovie West*



# **THE COMMUNICATOR**

-- *Putting It All Together*



## **PUBLIC RELATIONS** *STANDING COMMITTEE*



**Pamela Williams Kelly, Esq., Chair**  
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---

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**R. Denise Everson**  
Washington, DC

**Mary Kuehler**  
Idaho



# NFDW LEADERSHIP

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

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Rilla Moran Woods

North Carolina





# COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND KEY LEADERS

The National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) is supported by a number of active committees that help drive the organization's mission forward. President West has recently revamped the organizational structure of committees to strengthen communication and collaboration across all levels. This enhanced structure ensures more efficient coordination, clear channels for member involvement, and a unified approach to empowering Democratic women nationwide. This year, every committee is under the direction of either the President or a Vice President.

NFDW has two types of committee designations: standing committees and ad-hoc committees. Standing committees, which are indicated by an asterisk(\*), of the NFDW are working groups that carry out specific functions throughout the year as specified by our bylaws. Other committees are designed to address specific areas, projects, or events not mentioned in our bylaws.

## COMMITTEES OF THE PRESIDENT

*All NFDW committee members are listed on the website.*

### ADMINISTRATION

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### STRATEGIC PLANNING

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*Chairs of the following committees have yet to be appointed: Convention Credentials, Convention Planning and Oversight, and Convention Rules.*

# COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND KEY LEADERS

## COMMITTEES OF THE 1ST VP

### WOMEN IN BLUE

**Carolyn Fowler, Co-Chair**  
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**Hazel Thomas, Co-Chair**  
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**Roberta Walters, Co-Chair**  
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## COMMITTEES OF THE 2ND VP

### MEMBERSHIP

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### RISK MANAGEMENT

**Toni Denis, Chair**  
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## COMMITTEES OF THE 3RD VP

### MARKETING

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**Michael Chandler, Consultant**

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# COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND KEY LEADERS

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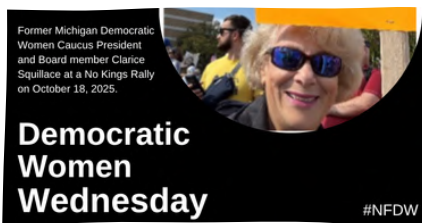
## PROMOTE YOUR CLUB

*We can help!*



The **Marketing Committee** can help your committee design flyers for events and other collateral materials.

**Marketing Chair:** Telisa Franklin | [telisafranklin@gmail.com](mailto:telisafranklin@gmail.com)



The **Public Relations Committee** wants to promote your club or state association! Send us your stories and photos for possible inclusion in social media posts.

**Public Relations Committee Chair:**

Pamela Williams Kelly | [attorneypwkelly@gmail.com](mailto:attorneypwkelly@gmail.com)



The **Social Media Committee** encourages you to follow NFDW on Facebook, Instagram and Threads.

#NFDW #DemocraticWomen #vote

**Social Media Chair:** Shulandra Kerr | [shulandra@comcast.net](mailto:shulandra@comcast.net)

NFDW 2026 Convention Planning Committee  
Co-Chairs: Audrey Dempsey (Nevada), Susanna  
French (Kentucky) and Inez James (Ohio)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE GOLDEN NUGGET HOTEL AND CASINO LAS VEGAS

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### RE: NFDW 2026 CONVENTION

*Thank you for choosing the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino for your group reservation. Envelope yourself in our world-renowned Las Vegas hotel, located in the heart of Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas. We will have you living in style from the moment you make your grand entrance at the Golden Nugget Las Vegas. We look forward to welcoming you as a guest at our hotel and hope you enjoy your stay here in Las Vegas.*

*Please utilize the calendars on the registration page to select the dates of your stay: June 3, 2026 to June 7, 2026. Hotel rates start at \$83.00 per night but do not include \$35.00 daily resort fee or taxes. The last day to book any reservations will be on May 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. PST. If you require any assistance booking your reservation, please reach out to the Grand Nugget Las Vegas at 1-800-634-3454 and mention **Code GSNFD26**.*

### REGISTRATION NOW OPEN AT:

<https://goldennugget.book.pegasbe.com/promo?offerCode=GSNFD26&hotel=GNLV>





## LEADING THE WAY: POWER

NFDW 2026 Convention Planning Committee  
Co-Chairs: Audrey Dempsey (Nevada), Susanna  
French (Kentucky) and Inez James (Ohio)



**Reservations**  
**NOW OPEN**



**Golden Nugget Las Vegas**  
**129 Fremont Street**  
**Las Vegas, NV 89101**

*Luxurious*

**A C C O M M O D A T I O N S**

The **Spa Tower** is an all-suites tower featuring our most luxurious suites, most of which are two-story with large entertainment and living areas.

The **Rush Tower** is our most recently built tower. Rush Tower provides luxury rooms and suites with redefined spacious layouts, contemporary furnishings and designer finishes.

The **Gold Tower** is our most centrally-located tower providing guest immediate access to the casino floor and hotel amenities.

The **Carson Tower** offers affordable luxury with rooms that have a residential feel with a sophisticated palette inspired by the warm, natural tones of the surrounding desert landscape.



**NFDW Bylaws (Excerpt)**

*Amended at Annual Meeting, June 4-7, 2025*

## **BYLAWS OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN**



### **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The organization shall be known as  
The National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW).

### **ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the organization shall be to unite women of the Democratic Party, to promote the cause of the Democratic Party, and to encourage full participation of women in every level of the Democratic Party Structure.

### **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

Sec. 1. The National Federation of Democratic Women shall be made up of Full Member States, Provisional Member States, Club, and Individual and Associate members.

Club membership and Individual membership shall be granted from only those states that are not members of the NFDW.

Associate members are men and any others who wish to affiliate at the national level. Associates and men from member states are not eligible for office at the national level.

## AWARDS COMMITTEE

**Patricia Sirois, Chair**  
**NFDW Awards Committee**



The NFDW Convention in Las Vegas is fast approaching! The Awards Committee want you to start thinking about who would be deserving nominees from your home state before the Holidays are upon us. I will send out another email after the Holidays as a reminder.

The Awards to consider are as follows:

OUTSTANDING NFDW MEMBER OF THE YEAR  
OUTSTANDING ELECTED DEMOCRATIC WOMAN HOLDING  
PUBLIC OFFICE  
THE NFDW HUMANITARIAN AWARD  
THE RILLA MORAN WOOD INTERNSHIP AWARD  
THE AGNES BIRD INTERNSHIP AWARD  
THE EMERGE AMERICA INTERNSHIP

Deadline for nominations must be received by May 1, 2026 to be considered. Please email all documents to me at [pasirois@comcast.net](mailto:pasirois@comcast.net)



**AWARD GUIDELINES, DESCRIPTIONS AND THE INTERNSHIP APPLICATION  
ARE ON THE NFDW WEBSITE (WWW.NFDW.COM).**

# 1971 CONVENTION FUNDRAISER

Consider making a one-time donation of **\$19.71** in honor of our founding year. Your support helps bring young Democratic women into the fold—because if we’re going to grow in the years ahead, we need them at the table now.



**1971 CONVENTION FUNDRAISER**

*Help send young Democratic women to Convention!*

Invest in the Next Generation of Leaders

Foster Mentorship and Connection

Break Down Financial Barriers

**DONATE NOW**

**EVERY DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE!**

[nfdw1971.com](https://nfdw1971.com)

Your donation helps send passionate young Democratic women to our National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) Annual Convention. By covering travel, lodging, and registration costs, you’re opening the door for the next generation of leaders to learn, connect, and step into their power. Every dollar helps build a stronger, more inclusive Democratic future—led by the women who are ready to make change happen.

**DONATE AT**  
**[NFDW1971.COM](https://nfdw1971.com)**

OR





# Holiday Reception

*Come together with your  
Democratic sisters to celebrate  
the holiday season.*



NFDW Holiday Reception  
Sunday, December 21, 2025  
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. ET  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. CT  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m. PT  
Via Zoom

Please share any favorite holiday appetizer and beverage (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) recipes so that we can compile and exchange them before the reception. Send your favorites to Gina Sims Johnson at [gigisomeone62@gmail.com](mailto:gigisomeone62@gmail.com).



**REGISTRATION LINK: [US06WEB.ZOOM.US](https://us06web.zoom.us)**

LEADING THE WAY: POWER



H A P P Y  
*Veterans Day*



Honoring ALL NFDW Served





NFDW 4TH VICE-PRESIDENT

**Telise Ezell-Turner**

presents

# The 4 Pillars of Progress



## 1 Mission

Empower NFDW members by advancing political education and training, strengthening growth and development and building young women leaders from across the nation

## 2 Growth and Development

- NEENA MURPHY MARTIN, CHAIR

Recognition Programming: "40 under 40"

"Conversation and Coffee" to discuss issues & solutions

## 3 Political Education and Training

- DR. DEBORAH WILLIAMS, CHAIR

- BARBARA SCOTT, CO-CHAIR

Book Club: December 14, 2025 | 5:00 pm EST

Training: RecruitHER | January 10, 2026 | 12 noon

Training: Fundraising | April 11, 2026 | 12 noon



## 4 Young Women Leadership

- DR. JUANITA WILCHIE, CHAIR

"Young Women Leaders on the Move"

NFDW training cohort designed for young ladies aged 18 to 30 years old

Details coming soon!







# Moving America Forward: A Conversation

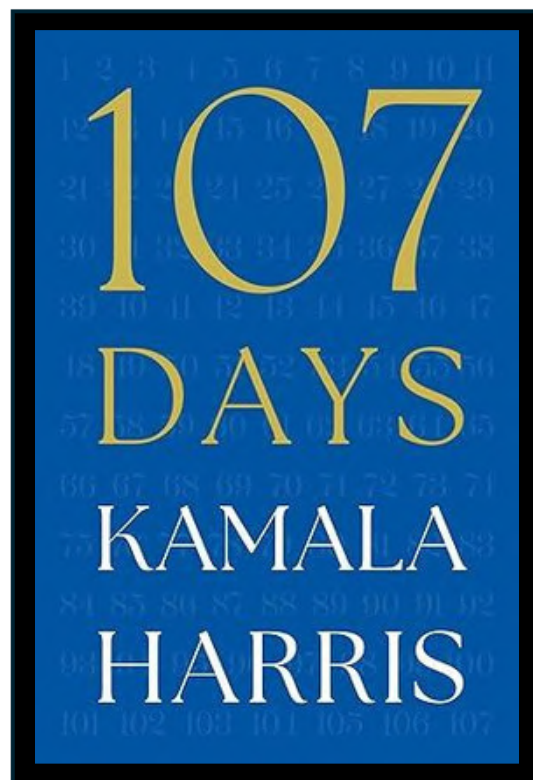
Dr. Deborah Williams

## The NFDW Fourth Quarter Book Club

As the Trump administration increasingly attempts to dismantle our long-held respect for expression and discourse, we reject this effort by honoring these bastions of democracy and engaging with one another. Therefore, we are thrilled to announce the fourth quarter **NFDW Book Club**, a space for Democratic women to connect, share ideas, and explore topics that inspire action and broaden perspectives.

Our members in Mississippi began this endeavor on a state level and found immense success. We are now mirroring that value on the national level.

*“When we fight, we win!”*



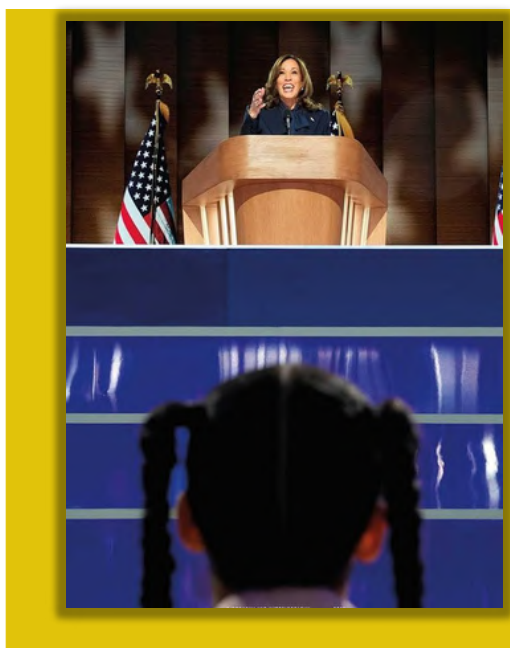
Join us for our discussion on **Sunday, December 14th at 5:00 p.m. EST via Zoom** where we will begin with a powerful and timely read: **Vice President Kamala Harris's new book, 107 Days**. This is a story of leadership, perseverance, and the power of women's voices in American democracy.

We welcome both member and non-member participation.

**Participating clubs will earn points toward our Annual Awards Ceremony**, making this not only a chance to connect and learn, but also to celebrate engagement and leadership.

**REGISTER HERE**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84451234567>





## NFDW Political Education and Training Committee

Additionally, we are excited to introduce our new **NFDW Political Education and Training Committee**. This committee, chaired by **Dr. Deborah Williams** of Mississippi and co-chaired by **Barbara Scott** of West Virginia, will provide guidance and resources for our members to ensure excellent leadership and preparation. We hope to work closely with our members to provide insight and support as needed, enabling our teams to operate to their fullest potential. We are looking forward to the great work we will be able to achieve together!

*Your Secret Service code name is Pioneer.*

*You are the first woman in history to be elected vice president of the United States.*

*On July 21, 2024, your running mate, Joe Biden, announces that he will not be seeking re-election.*

*The presidential election will occur on November 5, 2024.*

*You have 107 days.*



## CALL TO ACTION

**Nenna Murphy Martin, Chair  
Growth and Development Committee**



# Forty UNDER 40

**The Growth and Development Committee solicits your help in finding the inaugural honorees for the NFDW “40 Under 40” Award. The Growth and Development Committee is seeking the next generation of Democratic female leaders. We will recognize 40 women who are already leading and generating change in their communities through grassroots efforts, political strategizing and more! Details about the nomination process will be released in January 2026. Please watch your email!**

**Winners will be recognized in June 2026 at the NFDW Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.**



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN  
2025 MEETING CALENDAR\*



TUE	DEC 09	Regional Directors' Meeting
TH-SAT	DEC 11-13	DNC Quarterly Meeting
FRI	DEC 12 8:00 PM	Political Education & Training Committee Meeting
SUN	DEC 14 6:00 PM	Political Book Club Meeting "107 Days"   Kamala Harris
SUN	DEC 21 3:00 PM	Virtual Holiday Reception



\* Calendar may not include all meeting dates.  
\* All times listed are Eastern Standard Time.



- **General NFDW Email:**  
info@nfdw.com
- **NFDW Officers and Committee Chairs:**  
See pages 4-7 in this edition of *The Communicator*



Missouri Federation of Democratic Women  
Beverly Anderson and Margart Owens

**Stay connected** with the NFDW!  
Don't miss NFDW news, DNC updates, upcoming events and many opportunities to get involved. Click the "Subscribe" button below to sign up for the NFDW email list.

[CLICK TO SUBSCRIBE](#)

## ***NFDW Quarterly Newsletter***

***THE  
COMMUNICATOR  
ARTICLE  
SUBMISSION  
DEADLINE***

**Saturday  
January 31, 2026**

### **NFDW Public Relations Standing Committee**

- Pamela Williams Kelly, Esq.,  
Chair (TN - South)
- Patty Cohn (FL - South)
- Jennifer Ellis (IL - Midwest)
- Amber Faith (AZ - West)

Email newsletter articles and photos to your Public Relations Committee Regional Representative, Regional Director and  info@NFDW.com.

Every item in each submission may not be included in the newsletter. But look for your photos and events in other NFDW publicity/social media.



## LEADING THE WAY: POLICIES

**Mary Kuehler, Treasurer**



Committee Chairs,

Thank you for your time, participation, and thoughtful input during this year's budgeting process. I am pleased to share that the NFDW Executive Board officially passed the Fiscal Year 2026 Organizational Budget. The approved budget was sent to each Committee Chair via email on November 10, 2025.

Looking forward, please note that a notice for FY2027 budget requests will be sent out at the beginning of January 2026, with a one-month deadline for submissions. Your timely responses will help ensure a smooth and efficient process as we begin planning for the next fiscal year.

Thank you again for your partnership and commitment. Let me know if you have any questions at [treasurer@nfdw.com](mailto:treasurer@nfdw.com).

With appreciation,

*Mary Kuehler*

NFDW Treasurer



# DNC SUMMER MEETING RECAP

FROM THE DNC...

**Virgie Rollins, DNC Representative**



To: NFDW Executive Board | September 14, 2025

## August 24-27, 2025 Democratic National Committee (DNC) Meeting

The DNC met in Minneapolis, Minnesota August 24-27, 2025 at a welcome members reception at the State Fair, which included a tour of the fair. The first General Session was held Monday 9/25/25. We heard from elected speakers from the Minnesota Governor, Senators, and state elected representatives. We also elected Chairs-at-large members and standing committee members. Credentials committee gave a report which was not approved. Caucuses and Councils met Monday and Tuesday and elected their respective officers. We had a great Black Caucus meeting, and I was happy to introduce our new NFDW President in our meeting. I was re-elected Black Caucus Chair, and Joanne was re-elected Vice Chair of the Women's Caucus with no oppositions. Rules/Bylaws and Finance Committees also met to take up reforms the Chairman submitted and other party business for membership to approve. Due to the tragic shooting event in Minneapolis, the full DNC meeting on Wednesday was cut short. A motion was made to approve the full report of the resolution and rules/bylaws. The motion passed. The next meeting will be held in Los Angeles, California from December 11-13, 2025. DNC is launching September 15-22, 2025 as Voter Registration Week of Action. If you can register voters, connect with your state party.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your DNC Representative.

In Solidarity,

**Virgie M Rollins**, NFDW DNC Rep & DNC Black Caucus Chair

# DNC SUMMER MEETING RECAP

FROM THE DNC...

**Joanne Sullivan, DNC Representative**

DNC Summer Meeting, August 24 - 27, 2025 Report



The DNC summer 2025 meeting was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 24-27, 2025. A welcome reception was held Sunday evening at the Minnesota State Fair. DNC members and guests were treated to a light reception of Minnesota's corn dogs, fried cheese curds, French fries, and mini cinnamon donuts (my favorite!). Special guest speakers included Governor Tim Walz, Senator Amy Klobuchar, and DNC Chair Ken Martin and everyone had time to walk around and experience the fair. The Minnesota State Fair is known to be one of the largest State Fairs in the country!

Monday's general session was devoted to the election and ratification of Standing Committee members and the At Large members recommended by Chair Martin. Monday's session featured speakers Senator Amy Klobuchar, Governor Tim Walz and Texas House Democratic Caucus Chair Gene Wu -- who received a hero's welcome as the leader of the Texas redistricting standoff. The various caucuses and councils met on Monday and Tuesday to conduct business. The Tuesday sessions were devoted to the election of Chairs and Executive Board members of the Caucuses. I was honored to be reelected as one of two Vice Chairs of the Women's Caucus unanimously and Alicia Andrews of Oklahoma was elected as Chair of the Women's Caucus following the departure of longtime Chair Lottie Shackelford as Chair. Virgie Rollins was again elected as the Chair of the Black Caucus. A motion was made at the Women's Caucus meeting by Virgie Rollins to give the title of "DNC Women's Caucus Chair Emeritus" to Ms. Lottie for her years of service and devotion to the Women's Caucus and women's issues. The motion passed unanimously and is a well-deserved honor for Ms. Lottie!

I have enjoyed working with her and am pleased that she will still be active in an advisory role. Thank You, Ms. Lottie Shackelford! Due to the tragic events in Minneapolis, Wednesday's general session was cut short. Before adjourning the meeting, the DNC voted to approve the reports of the Resolutions Committee and the Rules and Bylaws Committee. Members were encouraged to focus their energy on Voter Participation events and activities during the week of September 15-19, designated as a week of action for "Voter Participation Week." The next general meeting of the DNC will be held in Los Angeles, December 11-13, 2025. I am so grateful to have served as one of the two elected representatives for the DNC for the past number of years and to have been re-elected to serve on the DNC at last year's NFDW Convention.

Democratically Yours,

**Joanne Sullivan**

Past President NFDW

NFDW DNC Representative

DNC Women's Caucus Vice Chair



# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

What You Need to Know?

## THE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Plans are underway to eliminate Grad Plus Loans, which help graduate and professional students pay for education-related expenses not covered by other financial aid.

List of Degrees Not Classed as 'Professional' by Administration

- Nursing
- Physician assistants
- Physical therapists
- Audiologists
- Architects
- Accountants
- Educators
- Social workers

"The impacts of narrowly construing professions could include barriers to opportunities for students seeking a career in what is otherwise considered a profession under other legal standards.

---

The American Nurses Association has, as a result, started a petition to get the Department of Education to include nursing as a professional degree.

**SIGN HERE**





# MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

RECRUIT, RECLAIM & RETAIN

Celeste Garcia, Chair

***Membership Committee:***

**Here to Help Us Recruit, Reclaim, and Retain Members**



The Membership Committee's goal is to support the states, clubs, and counties as they recruit, reclaim, and retain (the 3 Rs) members. Now more than ever, it is critical that we engage Democratic women, particularly younger women. President West has designated December as our month to focus on recruiting and reclaiming members. The states with the largest year-over-year percent increase in memberships at the end of 2025 will be recognized and celebrated at the NFDW Convention. As part of our efforts to retain members, the NFDW will host a Virtual Holiday Reception on Sunday, December 21, 2025 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. EST. Save the date. Be on the lookout for more details and a registration link. We are planning an afternoon of holiday revelry, including games and a holiday recipe exchange. Please share your favorite recipes for holiday appetizers, desserts, and beverages (alcoholic and non). Send your recipes to Gina Sims Johnson at [gigisimone62@gmail.com](mailto:gigisimone62@gmail.com) by November 17, 2025. We will compile and share before the holiday reception.

For more information, contact any member of the Membership Committee:

Celeste Garcia (Eastern Region), Chair  
Inez James (2nd Vice President), Advisor  
Neena Murphy Martin (Eastern Region)  
Margaret Suttles (Southern Region)  
Catherine Voutaz (Western Region)  
Norma Welling (Midwest Region)

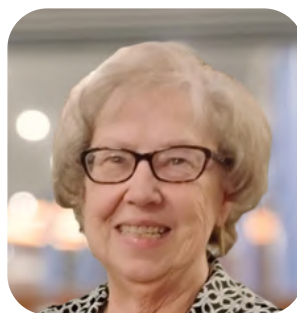


# NFDW



# EASTERN REGION

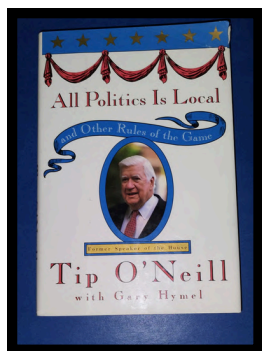
**Susan Rutt**  
Eastern Regional Director



As I write this message almost on the eve of the 2025 general election, I was reminded by a friend of the significance of this year's election. The impact of a "no" vote is very critical as it affects the redrawing of congressional districts (already in danger in some states) healthcare, workers' rights, crucial programs for citizens in need, veterans, education, infrastructure and countless other federal and state mandates. We cannot overlook the importance of 2025's local elections for our courthouses, city halls, and school boards. Remember that "all politics is local." This was a popular expression and book by former U.S. Speaker of the House, Mr. Tip O'Neill. All national eyes are on the Eastern region as New Jersey elects its new governor and lieutenant governor, along with legislative seats and local positions. Maine voters will decide on a referendum on state election procedures. New York will elect mayors along with numerous local races. Connecticut voters will choose local officials. These are some of the critical races that will be decided on November 4. After the last vote is cast on November 4, then it will be time to turn our eyes and efforts to 2026. On November 14 and 15, the Eastern region will meet in Albany, New York, where our theme is "Clean the House - Save Democracy - Taking Back the House and Senate in 2026." Registration is available through the NFDW website. A special thanks to New York State Federation President Denise Murphy McGraw and Past President Lena Bishop for scheduling this event.

I have kept in contact with the Eastern region presidents and look forward to seeing many of them and their members at our regional meeting. I have participated in zoom meetings for the NFDW Executive Board, the Young Women's Leadership Committee, the Growth and Development Committee, regional directors, and committee chairs. I also attended, via zoom, the Western Region Meeting in September. Looking forward to a successful election on November 4 and to seeing many of you in Albany on November 14 and 15. Remember... All Politics is Local!

Your Regional Director,  
**Susan Rutt**



**CONNECTICUT**  
JOYCE PETTEWAY

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
SUSANA BARANANO

**MAINE**  
BARBARA CRAY

**NEW JERSEY**  
RACHEL GREEN &  
ROBERTA WALTERS

**NEW YORK**  
DENISE MURPHY MCGRAW

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
LORI VARGO HEFFNER

**PUERTO RICO**  
IRMGARD PAGAN

***"All Politics is Local"***



Susan Rutt, Eastern Regional Director

2025



**NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION  
of DEMOCRATIC WOMEN**

# **NFDW EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING & NYSFDW ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING CLEAN THE HOUSE. SAVE DEMOCRACY.**

**Taking Back the House  
and Senate in 2026**

**Schedule At a Glance:**

## **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

Welcome Cocktail Reception – Connect, network, and kick off the weekend with fellow Democratic women and allies. Featuring Dorcey Applyrs, Albany, NY's first Black mayor.

Dinner on your own following the reception.

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

**Morning Program** – A packed session of speakers, strategy discussions, and updates from elected officials, campaigns, and NFDW leadership. Breakfast, snacks, and lunch provided. Locations: Provided upon registration.

### **1:00 PM – NYS Federation of Democratic Women Business Meeting**

Join New York State members to discuss the future of the organization and elect our **2025–27 Board of Directors**.

## **LOGISTICS**

Hotel - Room Block Reserved at Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown Albany  
25 Chapel St, Albany, NY 12210  
1-518-318-1031



**Join the Federation of Democratic Women, party leaders, and elected officials from across the Northeast to plan for 2026—what we can do together to take back the U.S. House & Senate, protect our state houses, and fight to save democracy.**

**FRIDAY–SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 14–15, 2025**

**ALBANY, NY**

REGISTRATION:

**\$35 • DEADLINE:  
NOVEMBER 1, 2025**

<https://nysfdw.org/2025-northeast-regional-conference/>



<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/neregionalmeeting2025>

**Questions? Contact: [presidentnysfdw@gmail.com](mailto:presidentnysfdw@gmail.com)**



# CONNECTICUT UPDATES

## CT Women's Leadership Luncheon

**Joyce Petteway**  
President, CFDW



Local candidates for Alderman, Board of Education, Senator  
Joan Hartley (D-05), 4<sup>th</sup> from left, State Rep. Larry Butler, D-  
05, 7<sup>th</sup> (left to right on the end)



Congresswoman Johana Hayes 3<sup>rd</sup> VP of NFDW, CFDW Pres.  
Joyce Petteway @ Women's Leadership Luncheon 9/13/2025



Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett in Waterbury CT 4/2025.  
Pres CFDW, Joyce Petteway



State of CT Women's Leadership Luncheon. Joyce Petteway,  
3<sup>rd</sup> VP of NFDW, newly elected Secretary of CFDW &  
State Representatives



CFDW members attending Women's Leadership Luncheon with Congresswoman Rosa Delauro D-05 CT (center)

# NEW JERSEY UPDATES



**Rachel Green & Roberta Walters  
Co-Presidents**



## New Leadership in Jersey

### New Jersey Federation of Democratic Women Executive Board

Rachel Green MPA, Co-President

Roberta G Walters, Co-President

Bessie Walker, 1st Vice President

Maria Littles, 2nd Vice President

Sheryl Fields, Secretary

Heather Boyce, Treasurer

Pat Ceasar, Strategic Communications Director



An Afternoon with Rev. Dr. Dale Caldwell,  
our Lieutenant Governor candidate

New Jersey has been very busy. With one of only two Governor elections this year, our members have been busy hitting the doors, phones, and speaking with voters from High Point State Park to Cape May and all points in between. On September 13th, women from across the state joined our South Jersey sisters in welcoming the Rev Dr. Dale Caldwell, a Lt. Governor candidate, to a meet and greet luncheon. He spoke of his vision for New Jersey and rallied those in attendance to continue the work they are doing to get him and Mikie Sherrill elected this November.



Middlesex County Federation of  
Democratic Women "Swing" event



For the last several months, several of our county chapters have been holding postcard parties targeting women voters who have been inactive. The purpose was an "all hands-on deck" approach to encourage them to vote. NJFDW is proud to have sent over 2,000 postcards to women voters across the state. We took a "beachy" approach to catch the voter's eye and get them to read the handwritten message.



Co-Presidents Rachel Green and Roberta Walters with  
former President Margaret Weinberger



# NEW YORK UPDATES

**Denise Murphy McGraw**  
President



## New York Democratic Women Lead with Strength, Spirit, and Solidarity

Recently, the New York State Federation of Democratic Women once again showed what happens when women lead with courage, conviction, and community. From organizing a rally in defense of Jimmy Kimmel's right to free speech to standing shoulder to shoulder with NYSFDW member Attorney General Letitia "Tish" James, the Federation proved that when Democratic women unite, we don't just participate — we lead.

**Rallying for Fairness: Standing Tall for Free Speech**  
When a local New York Nexstar affiliate blocked Jimmy Kimmel's return to the airwaves, the New York State Federation of Democratic Women took action — organizing a spirited rally in front of the Albany ABC station to defend Jimmy Kimmel's right to free speech and demand accountability.

The event, led by the New York State Federation of Democratic Women and joined by Congressman Paul Tonko, State Senator Patricia Fahy, and Assemblymember Gabriella Romero, along with support from local Democratic committees and grassroots advocates, underscored the essential role of a free and independent media in a thriving democracy. Speakers emphasized that fairness, transparency, and the free exchange of ideas are the lifeblood of our political system — and that corporate interference has no place in silencing diverse voices.

With energy, purpose, and conviction, the Federation made it clear: New York's Democratic women will always stand up for truth, democracy, and the right to be heard.



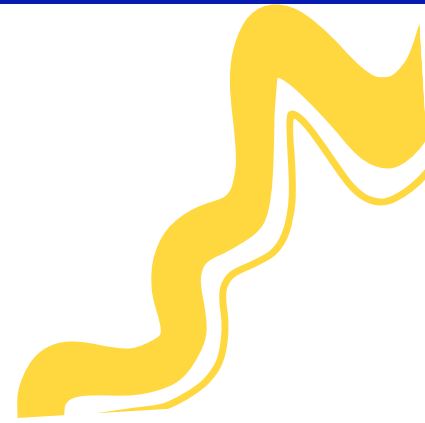
**NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION  
of DEMOCRATIC WOMEN**

**RALLY FOR JUSTICE & DEMOCRACY**  
IN SUPPORT OF  
**AG LETITIA JAMES**  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12  
11:00 AM  
U.S. COURTHOUSE  
445 BROADWAY, ALBANY, NY



# MIDWESTERN REGION

Jennifer Franklin  
Midwestern Regional Director



## MIDWESTERN REGION

### ILLINOIS

KIM SAVAGE & LEE FRANKLIN

### INDIANA

ROXANNA LUCAS MURRAY

### KANSAS

CASSIE WOOLWORTH

### MICHIGAN

MARILYN CONNER

### MISSOURI

TAMMY HARTY

### NEBRASKA

KRIS KINZIE

### OHIO

EDNA BORDERS

### OKLAHOMA

BETTYE RECTOR

**"Keep America Moving"**





**Kim Savage and Lee Franklin**  
Co-Presidents



## Making Moves Throughout Illinois

Illinois Democratic Women continue to honor Penny Severns, who served as a State Senator. Among her accomplishments were serving as the minority caucus whip and minority spokesperson for key committees. She ran for Lt. Governor with Dawn Clark Netsch on the first all female ticket for the top leadership positions in the state. She died from breast cancer in 1993.

The Democratic Women of Macon County held their annual Penny Severns Memorial Reception on October 1. In addition, applications are now open for the IDW Penny Severns Memorial Scholarship.

A Fall Social is planned for November 9 in conjunction with the Southwestern Illinois Democratic Women in Fairview Heights. The Kane County Democratic Women are holding a docuseries on October 18, 2025 called, "Young Americans and the High Cost to Rent or Own." Their annual meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2025 with keynote speaker, Kristina Zahorik, State Central Committeewoman and DNC Member. The Democratic Women of DuPage County will hold their annual Legislative Dinner on November 17, 2025.

Women across the state are preparing to participate in the No Kings Day Rallies on October 18, 2025!

# KANSAS UPDATES



**Cassie Woolworth**  
President



## KFDW has been busy in the Sunflower State!

KFDW will join the Kansas Democratic Party and the Kansas Young Dems on October 11th in Dodge City, and on October 18th in Hayes, as we reach out to our rural friends and soon-to-be friends.

### KFDW THANK YOUs!

Special SHOUT OUT to David Hogg and the Crawford County Democrats, Crawford County Young Dems, the KDP, & Kansas Young Dems (WHEW!) for the **Rally for Young Democrats at Pitt State University**.  
I do believe this next generation will be a **FORCE!**



We were at Pitt State with the Crawford County Democrats & Young Dems for Leaders We Deserve - this time with David Hogg!



KFDW attended the Kansas Democrats rural event in Colby, Kansas, where we met many first time rally attendees - all who believe women should have bodily autonomy ...

Kathleen Sebelius Gov. Laura Kelly John Carlin  
**WyCo Democrats Celebrate**

**40**  
YEARS  
of  
**DEMOCRAT GOVERNORS**

Featured Special Guests:  
Governor Laura Kelly  
Governor Kathleen Sebelius  
Governor John Carlin  
Jill Docking

George Docking Joan Finney  
Robert Docking Mark Parkinson

Sunday, October 19th, 2025 at 2PM  
Venue at Willow Creek  
3150 N 91st Street, Kansas City, KS 66109  
Tickets \$75.00

Coming up in October, our WyCo Progressive chapter is hosting 40 Years of Democrat Governors with Gov. Laura Kelly, Former Governor Kathleen Sebelius, Former Governor John Carlin & Jill Docking on October 19th.



## The Fight for Women's Equality Continues . . .



**CELEBRATING 105 YEARS SINCE THE  
PASSAGE OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT**



## Michigan Women's Caucus (continued)

We have been busy in **Michigan** these last few months. We are more committed than ever to take back our State House & hold control of our State Senate. We are fighting to keep our US Senate seat and elect Democrats (especially women) up and down the ballot. We celebrated Women's Equality Day, our State Convention, and No Kings Day among other activities.



MI Supreme Court Justice Kyra Harris Bolden speaking at our Caucus meeting.



Some of the participants at our Women's Caucus meeting at the Michigan Statewide Democratic Convention



Past Caucus Chair Clarice Squillace & Executive Board member Robyn McCoy at our Convention caucus



Virgie Rollins, Caucus Chair Marilyn Conner, Caucus Vice Chair Eleanor Carey introducing a speaker at Women's Caucus meeting at Statewide Convention



Virgie Rollins & Secretary Deb Haaland



Caucus Vice Chair Eleanor Carey at No Kings rally on Oct. 18



Caucus Vice Chair Eleanor Carey with Board Secretary Theresa Rich at Theresa's fundraiser for re-election to her seat as Farmington Hills, MI mayor



Congresswoman Haley Stevens in her video message she created for the MI Democratic Women's Caucus to celebrate Women's Equality Day in August



Past President & Board member Clarice Squillace at No Kings rally on Oct. 18



# MISSOURI UPDATES



Margart Owens  
Acting President of  
the MFWDC



## Missouri Federation of Women's Democratic Clubs

Our club's primary fundraising and social gathering is the Missouri Federation of Women Democratic Clubs' annual June Convention.

### Missouri Federation of Women's Democratic Clubs

#### 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention



*"Just Keep Swimming"*



June 6 – 8, 2025

Capital Plaza Hotel & Convention Center

Jefferson City, MO

Co-chairs: Dorothy Adams & Nanda Nunnelly



Angela McQuinn  
Woman of the Year



Amy Raddle, Tammy Hildebrand Harty, Lynda Stewart,  
Michael Davis & Leslie Washington



Marie Gladbach Dolan, Angela McQuinn, Karen Meador,  
Sharon Shores and Margaret Gladbach

# OKLAHOMA UPDATES



**Bettye Rector**  
President

## We Will Be Heard!

GATHERING OF COUNTIES:

*Written by Marion Hill*

Oklahoma has a brand new chapter in Norman, Oklahoma. We've been working with the state party for several months getting approval for this new club.

Now we are 10 clubs strong in Oklahoma. There are 5 Congressional Districts in Oklahoma and I'm proud to say we have at least one club in all 5 districts.

The Bryan County Club is large and very active. They helped resurrect the county party three years ago. Their leadership provided the leadership to get it started again. They support it in every way. This is an amazing club!

The Bryan County Democratic Party (BCDP) hosted training session to prepare members to effectively support candidates in the 2026 elections. Presenters included two staff members from the Oklahoma Democratic Party, Executive Director Lauren Craig and Operations Director Molly Oeffner.

A record 39 people attended. Attendees came from four counties in CD2: Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, and Marshall. "We appreciate the good turnout tonight as we gear up for the important campaign that's coming," said Pat Notley, BCDP chair.

*Notice the sign by the table. It acknowledges the county party AND the Federation!*



# SOUTHERN REGION

**Patty Farley**  
Southern Regional Director



I hope you had an opportunity to attend the Southern Regional Fall meeting which was held via Zoom on October 25th. Our theme was "Meeting this Moment in History. There is no single, universally agreed-upon answer for how to meet this moment in history as it depends on one's personal values, goals, and the specific issues with which they are most concerned. A wide range of actions are possible including engaging in civic life, contributing to societal well-being, or participating in efforts to understand the present for future generations.

Our members of the Southern Region of the National Federation of Democratic Women are daily actively engaged in civic and community life to protect our democracy by educating citizens on issues, registering voters, and leading discussions on current events. We are out there volunteering with other local organizations and charities and participating in festivals and community gatherings to show support for our communities.

Our members work closely with other organizations that address social inequality and advocate for justice. Many of us are finding it hard to deal with the actions of the Trump administration which seem determined to destroy our democracy. However, we are finding and leading ways to work against it.

*President Obama taught us 5 years ago that "The bottom line is this: if we want to bring about real change, then the choice isn't between protest and politics. We have to do both."*

The women of the Southern Region are doing both non-stop as we constantly are educating voters, organizing protests and working to GOTV. Our members are on the front lines of saving our democracy and will have major stories to tell in the future about where they were and what they did at this moment in history.



NFDW REGIONAL DIRECTOR FARLEY  
ADDRESSING A DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE IN AN IBEW UNION HALL

Your Regional Director,

**Patty Farley**



**ARKANSAS**  
GRACIE ZIEGLER

**FLORIDA**  
PATTY COHN

**GEORGIA**  
JUNE KRISE

**KENTUCKY**  
TAMMY CRANFILL

**LOUISIANA**  
LISA TOMKIES

**MISSISSIPPI**  
BROOK HERMAN

**NORTH CAROLINA**  
PAULA SHELTON

**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
MERRILL CHAPMAN

**TENNESSEE**  
GLENDA WHITFIELD

**TEXAS**  
CORETTA GRAHAM

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
PAM VAN HORN

**"Bless Your Heart!"**



**Gracie Ziegler**

## Building Power

Arkansas Democratic Women are building power by working together. Across the state, our caucuses — from Women's to Black, Latinx, Young Democrats, LGBTQ+, labor, and rural voices — are joining forces to train candidates, defend our values, and grow strength together through conversations about issues that impact ALL Arkansans.

Each caucus is a spark, and together we WILL light the way for progress in Arkansas.

Thanks,  
Gracie







**Wanda Bynum Ashley**  
Past President

## Creating Opportunities

Past Arkansas Federation of Democratic Women's President Wanda Bynum Ashley spearheaded an opportunity to place NFDW's 2025 Agnes Bird Internship Award Winner Madolyn Ward with an opportunity to work at the Democratic Party of Arkansas' Headquarters for one month. The Madolyn did an incredible job and the opportunity was mutually rewarding. The staff described Madolyn as an incredible addition to the staff during her tenure. Subsequent to her internship, Madolyn was asked to serve as the first administrative assistant in NFDW history to serve under President Lovie West and her chief of staff Christina Dixon. In that role, she spends about ten to fifteen hours a week answering emails, setting up conventions, running zoom calls, making email corrections to help NFDW run smoothly. Her goal is to become more present on social media and get the younger Democratic women involved by making them aware of what NFDW does. In addition, she will be assisting with planning the NFDW convention in Las Vegas. Madolyn said, "I am super excited and I can't wait to see where it goes. We are so proud of Madolyn!"

Arkansas clubs are busy participating in community engagement activities, partnering with other Arkansas Democratic Party auxiliaries, engaging in voter registration, and preparing to support female candidates in the upcoming primary. Many areas are facing food insecurity.

To address that problem, one of our clubs hosts a monthly food box giveaway. Currently, they have provided food for 264 families. Arkansas Club leaders and members supported a townhall with former Governor and Social Security Commissioner Martin O'Malley to discuss Social Security, Medicare and the shutdown and its potential impact on Social Security. He warned against attacks on the program by the Social Security administration.

# FLORIDA UPDATES



**Patty Cohn**  
President



## DWCF Leading the Way

Across Florida, members of the Democratic Women's Club of Florida (DWCF) are making a difference and shaping our state's future. From big cities to small towns, we step forward with passion and purpose, leaving a lasting impact on our communities.

Each of us plays a crucial role. We register new voters and reach out to neighbors who may have fallen off the rolls, ensuring that every registration becomes a voice ready to be heard at the ballot box.

We have had several special elections with Democratic wins, and DWCF members are always ready. Whether writing postcards, canvassing door-to-door, or organizing community events, we know grassroots energy fuels victory. Our time, voices, and persistence help carry candidates across the finish line.

Beyond elections, our meetings create spaces to connect, learn, and inspire. DWCF's story is one of resilience and hope, and we proudly stand with Democratic women nationwide.



Democratic Women's Club of Southeast Hillsborough registering voters

# GEORGIA UPDATES



## Women Leading in Such a Time as This

**June Kris  
President**



**25TH OCT 11:00AM**

GEORGIA FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

JOIN US FOR OUR

**GFDW**

**ANNUAL FALL MEETING**

Location:  
**Story on The Square**  
19 Griffin Street  
McDonough GA.

TICKETS: \$35.00

Hosted By  
**D**  
HENRY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC

Keynote Speaker  
**Dr. Penny Brown REYNOLDS**

*"Women Leading in a Time Such as This"*

Be a sponsor or purchase your tickets today!  
[secure.actblue.com/donate/gfdw2025fallmtg](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/gfdw2025fallmtg)

Contact us at [GFDW.ExecutiveBoard@gmail.com](mailto:GFDW.ExecutiveBoard@gmail.com)

**OCT. 25 @ 11AM**

The Georgia Federation of Democratic Women (GFDW) believes in the power of women and will play an integral role in taking back state power in 2025 and 2026. They are hosting their Fall Meeting on Oct. 25th where the inspirational Dr. Penny Brown Reynolds, candidate for Georgia Secretary of State will speak to them about the stakes of this election. Workshops, organizational business, and fellowship will be the order-of-the-day for GFDW members from all over Georgia! GFDW Chapters have been extraordinarily busy hosting candidate forums and meet & greets for local elections, 2026 races, and our upcoming 2025 statewide Public Service Commission (PSC) special election. For five years, this Republican only commission has been a "rubber stamp" to raise utility bill rates whenever asked by Georgia Power. GFDW is actively working to Get Out The Vote on November 4, 2025, for Democratic candidates Peter Hubbard and Dr. Alicia Johnson.

**Critical Election!**

**GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ELECTION**

**PETER HUBBARD**  
DISTRICT 3

**ALICIA JOHNSON**  
DISTRICT 2

**ELECTION DAY 04 NOV, 2025**  
**EARLY VOTING 14 Oct, 2025 31 Oct, 2025**

**VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE 6 OCT, 2025**  
**SATURDAY 18 OCT, 2025 VOTING 25 OCT, 2025**

Follow Us @GeorgiaFDW Website GFDW.org



# KENTUCKY UPDATES



## DWCK Increases Membership

### NFDW Report – Kentucky

The Democratic Woman's Club of Kentucky (DWCK) held its 98th Convention October 4, 2025 in Owensboro at the Hampton Inn Waterfront. The Daviess County Woman's Club under the leadership of Club President Sagan Storm hosted nearly 55 women and guests. President Tammy Cranfill presided with assistance from 1st Vice President Sherry Spradin who Chairs the Hospitality Committee. Davis County club member, Susan Guilfoil, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the communal reading of the Democratic Creed. Pres. Cranfill followed with reading of the DWCK Purpose.

### Speakers included:

John Steffen, Executive Director, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, sharing specifics on financial reporting requirements for KREF pertaining to Contributing Organizations and Permanent Committees as well as resources for candidate reporting requirements; Robin Gabbard, Democratic Woman's Club of Pike County & Mountain Association, presenting on crowd source fundraising; Allison Wiseman, President, Kentucky Young Democrats, informing on club development across the state, the need for supporting young democrats in our communities, and the value young democrats bring to the process and future of the party; Billie Berry, Democratic Woman's Club of Shelby-Henry Counties, sharing her involvement with Voices for Justice and her journey to become more politically involved; and Havanna Scarberry, Pike County, was introduced by Pike County Club President Cathy Bartley. Ms. Scarberry was the \$1,500 scholarship recipient who plans to attend Berea College majoring in psychology and possibly political science. She shared her story of moving from poverty to educational success with support from social programs supported by the Democratic party including free school lunches, disability assistance, SNAP, and SSI. She will attend college next year, an accomplishment neither of her parents had the opportunity to do. New club officers were elected to a serve 2 year term including: Cathy Barnett, 2nd Vice President; Barbara Pollock, 3rd Vice President; Paula Bowling, Recording Secretary; and Jane Elkin Thomas, 2nd Member-at-Large. The DWCK has increased membership since the 2024 convention from over 700 members to 1,021. It is not to our pre-COVID numbers but we are gaining ground! We have 33 registered clubs inclusive of 41 counties. Three additional clubs are in process of registering.

**Tammy Cranfill**  
President







**Brook Herman**  
President

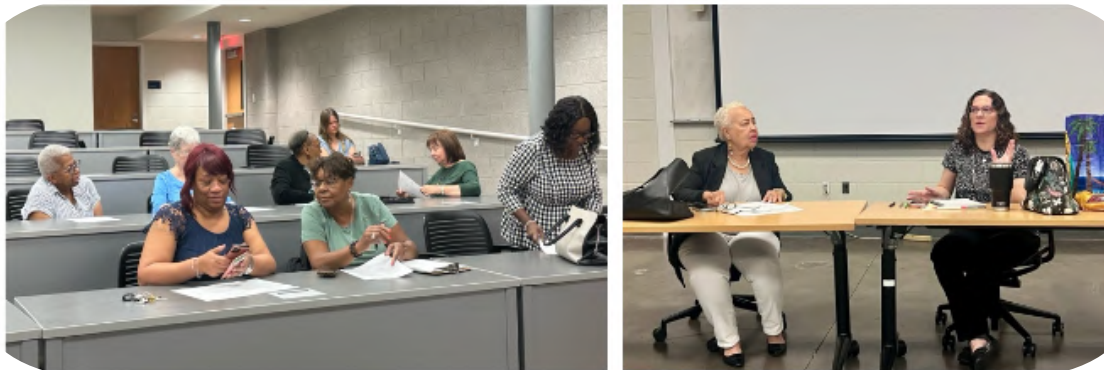


## 500 Postcards for Swing States

**Ladies of Forrest-Lamar County, Hattiesburg, MS**



**Ladies of Lowndes County | Columbus, Mississippi**



The Mississippi Federation of Democratic Women county clubs have been joining together to participate in Postcards for Swing States, virtually that is. President Herman has been meeting with county clubs over the months of August-September to participate in their monthly meetings and bring hundreds of postcards for the members to fill out as a collaborative fun activity. Members have been able to fill out almost 500 postcards.

The postcards have been mailed to voters in Virginia to inform them of the negative consequences of the recent Big Beautiful Bill, namely reduction in suicide prevention and addiction treatment funding, which will have an outsized impact on rural and poor communities. President Herman stated "This is one activity that our clubs can do together and will help make a difference in the coming elections. It was wonderful to accomplish this together."

# TENNESSEE UPDATES

Glenda Whitfield  
President



## Convention, Community, and Civic Engagement: The Women of the TFDW Are Busy!

### TENNESSEE:

**ONLY CHANCE to FLIP a RED SEAT BLUE in the COUNTRY**

When Congressman Mark Green announced his retirement in June, Tennessee became the only chance this year to flip a Republican seat anywhere in the country. Green represented Congressional District 7, which includes Nashville, and his term expires January 2027. On October 7th, State Representative Aftyn Behn won the Democratic Primary and will face Republican Matt Van Epps in a Special Election on December 2, 2025. Behn is leading the charge against the GOP's "Big Bad Bill" that slashes health care and raises costs for working families. The Davidson County Democratic Women are knocking on doors and building the voter turnout for Aftyn.

The next election for governor of Tennessee will happen on November 3, 2026 when Governor Bill Lee's term expires. Two Democratic Women from Memphis are candidates, Carnita Atwater and Jerri Green. There has never been a woman governor of Tennessee and the last Democratic governor served from 2003-2011. The Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women will be busy phone banking, writing postcards, and knocking on doors after the Primary Election on August 6, 2026.

TFDW added three clubs in 2025 and our current membership is above 1,000. During our fall board meeting, it was empowering to hear what TFDW chapters are doing across the state. Activities include educating members on current issues that impact women and families, hosting training sessions for candidates and those thinking about running for office, communicating with legislators and showing up for important days on Capitol Hill, building community partnerships, and engaging in peaceful protests. Tennessee had a record-breaking turnout for the second "No Kings" rally, an estimated total of 43,697. Many of the rallies were led by Democratic Women committed to democracy and protecting our First Amendment Rights, voters rights, due process, and reproductive freedom. She Votes, She Leads, She Changes the World. The Power of Women!





# WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES



## WVFDW Conducts 61st Annual Meeting!

The West Virginia Federation of Democratic Women held their 61st Annual Meeting September 19-21, 2025, in Morgantown, West Virginia. It was hosted by the Clinton District, Marion, and Monongalia Democratic Women's Clubs. The Opening Session, presided over by President Pamela Van Horn, featured the Pledge to the Flag led by Sharon Burrows, President of Marion County DW. Inspiring speeches were given by Mayors Patty Lewis and Danielle Trumble. Greetings were offered by Cal Carlson, Chair of the Monongalia County DEC, Kelly Palmer, President of the Monongalia County DW, Cindy Jones, President of the Clinton District DW, and former Delegate and Mayor Charlene Marshall.

Delegate Anitra Hamilton, Monongalia County DW offered the Cornerstone Address reflecting on her experience as a young Black leader serving in a super minority in our state legislature. She spoke of her efforts to reach Republicans and to other young leaders across our nation. Afternoon workshops included Women's Suffrage: The Great and Glorious Cause by Renate Pore, Kanawha County DW; The Vaccine War Comes to West Virginia by Robin Godfrey, Kanawha County DEC; and The Ties That Bind: Working with Like-Minded Organizations by Pam Garrison, Fayette County DW. Keynote Speaker, Author Courtney Balestier led us through a workshop on Sparking Generational Connections Through Traditional Appalachian Skills. She offered a fascinating look at how we can connect the generations through sharing of spaces and activities. We enjoyed a laugh-filled evening, La Famiglia Democratica! to benefit our political committee, FAD PAC. Chair Belinda Biafore and Secretary of Development Tina Caputo led a successful auction and drawings for prizes. We enjoyed live music, and several candidates practiced their 2-minute stump speeches. The Business Meeting took place Saturday morning with officers and committee chairs offering reports on their year of work. Election of officers for the 2026-2027 cycle were held. Of note, our membership grew by 166 members, bringing us to 1,226 dues-paying members in 23 clubs. All clubs were represented by delegates. We welcomed two reorganized clubs back into our Federation, Fayette County DW and Hardy County DW. Our luncheon featured Delegate Kayla Young, Kanawha County DW, moderated by Teddie Grogan, Ohio County DW.

**Pamela Van Horn**  
President



Afternoon workshops included Next Level Fundraising with Sarah Umberger, Secretary of Public Relations; Building Membership Through Texting, Pam Van Horn; Effective Messaging in a Red State, Elaine Harris, CWA Staff Representative; and a candidate recruitment and support workshop led by Delegate Hamilton, Sam Petsonk, DNC member, WVSDEC, Cal Carlson, Chair of the County Chairs, and Olivia Dowler, Interim President of WVYDs. Saturday evening, we held our banquet Stronger Together: Our Federation at 61 with a parade of presidents, installation of officers, awards, and a Keynote Address by Courtney Balestier that was skillfully mixed with indignation and hope. Sunday morning, we held our memorial service, enjoyed A Grandma Gets Arrested with Councilor Beth Kerns, Kanawha DW, and had a great breakfast with remarks from local legislators.

# WESTERN REGION

**Gini Ballou**  
Western Regional Director



The National Federation of Democratic Women's Western Regional Meeting on September 13, 2025, brought together state presidents, party leaders, and activists to focus on women's leadership and political engagement. Western Regional Director, Gini Ballou, hosted the meeting, which included a welcome from NFDW President Lovie West followed by speakers who discussed candidate recruitment, rural and Native outreach, voting rights, pay equity, and immigrant support. Former Nevada State Senator Pat Spearman delivered a powerful message, declaring that **"DEI stands for Definitely Earned It,"** underscoring the strength and perseverance of women leaders.

Utah's Susan Merrill highlighted new opportunities for competitive races with fair redistricting maps and outlined plans for candidate training and rural-focused messaging. Arizona's Amber Faith discussed outreach to Native communities and young voters, while other leaders from California, Idaho, New Mexico and beyond shared legislative wins and strategies for advancing women's leadership.

Looking ahead, Utah Democrats are concentrating on grassroots organizing and candidate preparation, and Arizona Democratic Women will host major events, including their annual "Women for the Future" fundraiser and reservation outreach. Regional leaders also expressed interest in future in-person meetings in Hawaii or Salt Lake City. The gathering reinforced the collective power of Democratic women to lead, organize, and fight for fairness in their communities.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaT5KgwsBJg>

Your Regional Director,  
**Gini Ballou**



**ARIZONA**  
JUDY STAHL

**CALIFORNIA**  
MONICA WILSON

**IDAHO**  
GINI BALLOU

**NEVADA**  
AUDREY DEMPSEY

**NEW MEXICO**  
JULIA BROWN

**WASHINGTON**  
CARIN CHASE

**UTAH**  
CATHERINE VOUTAZ

**"It's the Wild, Wild West!"**



# ARIZONA UPDATES



**Judy Stahl**  
President

## Power in the Southwest: AZDW is on the Move

As I write this, the United States federal government has been shut down for nearly 24 hours. Republicans are in charge of the entire federal government. They have total control of the Congress--both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Yet, somehow, they still want the media to report that Democrats are at fault for this government shut down. Let's just have some straight talk here--a scarce commodity since January 20th of this year: Republicans have bent the knee to the authoritarian, Donald Trump, and his merry band of unwell, incompetent, corrupt grifters, hypocritical Christian nationalists, and billionaire tech brologarchs. It's a sad state of affairs, but we patriotic Americans who believe in Democracy will not be stopped. AZDW will carry on. Our Douglas event on Saturday, September 27th, was a powerful and productive affair. Our thanks to April Newman, President of the Democratic Women of Southeastern Arizona who showed up and spoke truth. April is a strong, brilliant leader who stepped away from counting ballots for the most recently elected member of the US Congress, Adelita Grijalva, of Arizona's 7th District, to make the trip to Douglas. (Adelita won in a landslide, but the cowardly, hypocritical Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, sent the Republicans home before she could be sworn in and become the 218th, and deciding, vote to pass the bill that would release the Epstein files).

Renée Montelongo, one of the self-described 'spicy Latinas' in attendance said, "I live in rural Arizona, but I'm here because I want to do something. I have two daughters; one is 13 years old. I have a stake in what's going on in this country." AZDW will ensure that Renée can make the difference that she so passionately wants to make. Aidan Swallow, a member of the US military and veteran of multiple tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, after nearly twenty years of impeccable service, is now being discharged because she is a trans woman. Aiden is running for Arizona State House in LD 19. Aiden is the epitome of courage and integrity.

We know that every vote counts in our critical swing state. AZDW is proud to have shown up at the border in the far reaches of rural Southeastern Arizona in Cochise County to let Democratic women (and all who believe in Democracy) know that they matter, that we are here for them, and that we are all in this together. On September 13th, the Arizona Democratic Party (ADP) State Committee met. A special election was held in which Charlene Fernandez of Yuma was elected our new Chair with nearly 58% of the vote among a field of five impressively qualified candidates. Charlene has everything needed to lead our party to great success in 2026. The ADP is unified!

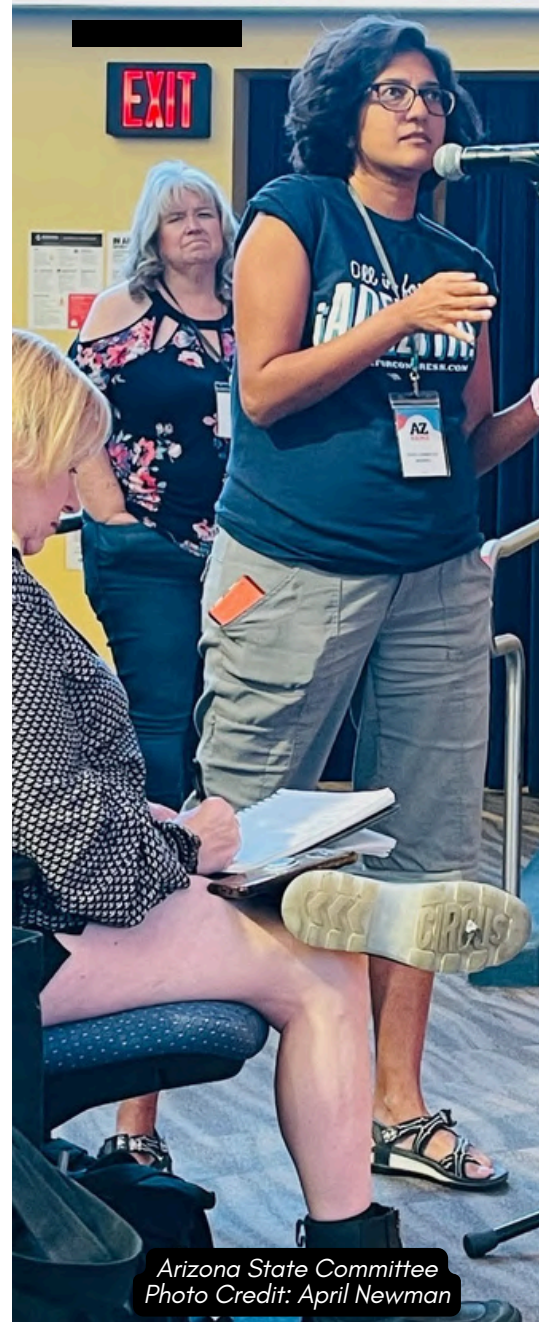
The night before the state committee meeting was the ADP Annual Hall of Fame Dinner filled with the diversity of the Arizona Democratic Party. There were young Dems, Native American Dems, Latino Dems, African American Dems, Asian American Dems, LGBTQ+ Dems and more celebrating our shared commitment to each other, our state, our country, and Democracy. Governor Katie Hobbs, Secretary of State Adrian Fontes, and Attorney General Kris Mayes ignited the crowd with their speeches about Democratic leadership in a state that the convicted felon won in 2024. There were videos from both Senator Ruben Gallego and Senator Mark Kelly. Mayor Kate Gallego of Phoenix and Tempe Mayor Corey Woods were scintillating as Masters of Ceremonies. AZDW President Judy Stahl wasted no time inviting everyone to attend our local event in Cochise County on September 27th and our 2nd Annual Women for the Future (W4F) Luncheon on Saturday, December 6th. Newly-elected ADP Chair Fernandez will be one of our honorable speakers at W4F in downtown Phoenix! We also look forward to hearing about the safety and security of our 2026 election from Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes. We are thrilled that Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego will share the progress being made on multiple fronts in our state capital. We are very excited that Christine Pelosi, NFDW 1st VP, will join us for our biggest fundraiser of the year to share about NFDW's direction, momentum, and the power of women in community. We are also happy that Idaho President Gini Ballou, NFDW Western Regional Director, will be joining us with details about NFDW's National Convention in Las Vegas in June 2026.

Keep the Faith.  
Judy Stahl, AZDW President  
October 1, 2025

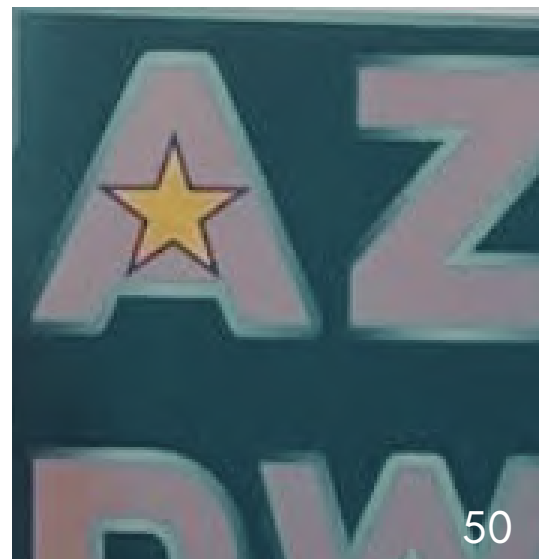


Power in the Southwest:  
AZDW is on the Move

Arizona (continued)



Arizona State Committee  
Photo Credit: April Newman





# IDAHO UPDATES



**Mary Kuehler**  
Idaho Democratic Women's Caucus  
Vice President

## WVFDW Conducts 61st Annual Meeting!

Over the past few months, the Idaho Democratic Women's Caucus has been an active and visible force across the state. Members have taken part in parades, rallies, and protests, proudly representing Democratic values and lifting up women's voices in every corner of Idaho. Whether marching in community celebrations or standing in solidarity at issue-driven events, their presence has helped keep critical conversations about equality, justice, and opportunity front and center in towns and cities alike. Members have also been on the ground gathering signatures for the Idahoans United for Women & Families petition, ensuring reproductive rights remain at the forefront of Idaho's political dialogue.

The Caucus made its mark during the Idaho Democratic Party's Fall State Central Committee Meeting at Idaho State University in Pocatello. At our recent breakfast event, members and allies heard from featured speaker Kaylee Peterson, who inspired attendees with her vision for leadership and the importance of organizing at every level. The Caucus also successfully advanced a resolution calling for the creation of a National Infrastructure Bank, a proposal designed to support investment in Idaho's future by funding vital projects and strengthening local communities.

Looking ahead, the Idaho Democratic Women's Caucus remains focused on outreach, education, and preparation for the important elections ahead. By engaging with voters, supporting Democratic candidates, and ensuring women's perspectives remain central in the political conversation, we are laying the foundation for meaningful change. Our efforts this summer reflect not only our dedication to visibility and advocacy, but also our determination to shape a stronger, fairer, and more inclusive future for Idaho.



# NEVADA UPDATES



Audrey Dempsey  
President



*Our New Wicked*

**Board President**  
Audrey Dempsey

**First Vice President**  
Cynthia King

**Second Vice President**  
Linda Symonds

**Secretary**  
Rosa Mendoza

**Treasurer**  
Nancy Downey

**Political Director**  
Senator Pat Spearman

**Host of the  
NFDW Convention**  
2026





# Nevada Federation Of Democratic Women



Save the Date!

National Convention  
Las Vegas, NV  
June 3-6, 2026

Our New Wicked Board President  
Audrey Dempsey  
First Vice President Cynthia King  
Second Vice President Linda Symonds  
Secretary Rosa Mendoza Treasurer  
Nancy Downey Political Director Senator  
Pat Spearman

On September 20th,  
Special Guest  
Nicole Cannizzaro and Zach Conine

After a fantastic conference in June, Nevada participated in the Western Region meeting on zoom. Our Political Advisor State Senator Pat Spearman's passionate speech left all of us spellbound enough we forgot the time. Pat emphasized the importance of telling the truth and standing together against injustice, urging others to continue fighting for their rights

September 27th, our President Audrey Dempsey attended the Women's Democratic Club of Clark County 70th Jubilee and took a photo with DNC Vice Chair Artie Blanco(middle) and Clark County Chair Ashley Lovell.





# NEW MEXICO UPDATES



**Julia Brown**  
Chair



## From Santa Fe to the Streets: NMFDW Champions Democracy

New NMFW Officers include:

Idalia Lechuga-Tena, President, IdaliaIt@gmail.com  
Lela Holmes, Vice President, Lela1788@gmail.com  
Secretary - Karen Dyer, karendyer@sbcglobal.net  
Treasurer - Beverly Michael, Bevmike505@gmail.com  
CD 1- Marisol Enriquez, marisol.enriquez79@gmail.com  
CD 2 - Rebecca Touchin, rfmtouchin@gmail.com  
CD 3 - Darla Whitney-Welles, dwhitneywelles@gmail.com

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The NM Federation of Democratic Women had its Fall State Conference on Oct 10-11 in Las Cruces, hosted by the Federation of Democratic Women of Doña Ana County. The Friday evening reception featured greetings from outgoing President, Julia Brown, the State Party Chair Sara Attleson, and State Party Co-Chair Cam Crawford. The capacity crowd was treated to the musical stylings of Roman Chip and Sax Appeal, and delicious gluten-free, appetizers, desserts and a cash bar. The Federations from across the state reported on their activities, programs and initiatives. Candidates for statewide offices described their respective campaigns highlighting the need to keep NM Blue. On Saturday we conducted business in the morning with financial reporting, and announcements of upcoming events across the state hosted by various County and Tribal Federations including an update on efforts to establish a second Tribal Federation (we already have the only one in the nation at the Laguna Pueblo). New officers for the next two-year cycle were elected and a proposed amendment to the Bylaws was approved.

At the afternoon program meeting we were informed and motivated by our "Resist Tyranny" panel, featuring Pam Hett, Director of the Las Cruces Indivisible organization and Deanna Warren an attorney with the NM ACLU. Not only did they share tips on planning and implementing safe, and effective rallies, marches and events to resist tyranny and save democracy; they provided an update on legal actions and cases in defense of the constitution, civil liberties and the rule of law. More statewide candidates delivered rousing speeches. One of the fun highlights of the afternoon was the bidding war and high dollar live auction of a beautiful necklace with turquoise donkeys!

# UTAH UPDATES

**Catherine Voutaz**  
President



## Engagement Takes Center Stage in Utah

The 3rd Quarter showcased the Women's Democratic Club of Utah's commitment to education, empowerment, and engagement. Through informative luncheons, leadership development scholarships, and active candidate support, the club continues to advance women's voices in Utah politics. Membership. As of September 30, 2025, the Women's Democratic Club of Utah has 372 active members, reflecting continued growth through monthly luncheons and community events.

### Additional Achievements:

**Candidate Endorsement Committee:**  
The Candidate Endorsement Committee convened in July and August to review applications from Democratic candidates seeking endorsement in local municipal races. The committee finalized its recommendations: the WDC distributed \$5,000 to 44 candidates, 56% were women.

### Scholarship Program:

The club awarded \$2,400 for 12 scholarships to democratic women participating in the *Women's Leadership Institute's Political Development Series*. These scholarships help Utah women gain the skills and confidence to pursue elected offices, strengthening the pipeline of Democratic leadership in Utah.

## Behind Utah's Ballot: Mail in Voting Changes & Fighting for Fair Maps

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13  
11AM TO 1PM



**Lannie Chapman**  
Salt Lake County Clerk



**Elizabeth Rasmussen**  
Exec Director Better Boundaries



**SVUU**  
6876 S Highland Dr  
Cottonwood Heights, UT

**Luncheon:** On September 13<sup>th</sup>, the WDC luncheon covered Utah's changes in Mail in Ballots with Salt Lake County Clerk Lannie Chapman, and an update on the Utah's Fight for Fair Maps. Utah's Legislature must redraw Utah's Congressional maps using voter-approved reform standards. The Legislature was required to propose new maps by September 24, with a special session expected October 6 for final approval. Meanwhile, GOP leadership is advancing bills to limit judicial review and redefine how partisan fairness is judged, creating tension over how "fair maps" will be enforced. 98 people attended the luncheon.



**Fundraiser:** On August 17<sup>th</sup>, partnering with the Salt Lake Acting Company (SLAC), Utah's Premier Professional Contemporary Theatre, the WDC of Utah raised \$6,500 to support Candidates in the 2026 election cycle. The SLAC's Summer Show: "The Secret Lives of the Real Wives in the Salt Lake Hive" was a great Hit! with over 100 people attending.



# WASHINGTON UPDATES

**Carin Chase, President**



## Washington State Federation of Democratic Women

Women across Washington State have demonstrated powerful democratic participation and leadership. From Shasti Conrad's historic role as DNC Vice Chair to Shannon Braddock's appointment as King County's first female acting executive, women continue to shape policy and representation at every level. Washington remains one of the top states in gender parity — with women holding over 41% of municipal offices in cities with populations over 10,000, a rate well above the national average.

Equally inspiring are the efforts of the Washington State Federation of Democratic Women (WSFDW), whose chapters statewide have celebrated community leadership by hosting candidate forums, voter registration drives, and events championing women's voices. Chapters in Clark, Cowlitz, Thurston, and Snohomish Counties, for instance, have spotlighted candidates and advanced issues like reproductive rights, education, and economic justice.

Together, these achievements highlight how Washington's women are not only participating in democracy — they're leading it, building it, and ensuring its future reflects the strength and diversity of their communities.

## Let's Talk Voices & Vision

**Saturday  
September 27<sup>th</sup>**

🕒 4:00 - 8:00 PM

📍 Tap Union Freehouse  
1300 Washington St  
Vancouver, WA 88660-2925

Hosted by  
Clark County  
Democratic Women

Featured Speakers:

🗣️ **Sen. Adrian  
Cortes**

🗣️ **Sen. Annette  
Cleveland**

🗣️ **Rep. Monica  
Stonier**



*Inspiring voices. Real solutions.  
Stronger communities. ★*

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<https://www.facebook.com/wsfdw.org/>

# CLOSING THOUGHTS

Answer the Country's "Call to Action for Women"



**NFDW PRESENTS**  
**"A WOMAN'S  
CALL  
TO ACTION"**



**LOVIE WEST**  
President of National  
Federation of Democratic  
Women



**REYNA WALTERS-  
MORGAN**  
DNC Vice Chair for  
Civic Engagement and  
Voter Participation

**WEDNESDAY,  
OCTOBER 29TH**  
**6:30PM -8PM EASTERN**



**Stay connected** with the NFDW! Sign up for our email list! Join a NFDW Committee. Volunteer at a NFDW sponsored event. Answer the call in 2025 and beyond!

[CLICK TO SUBSCRIBE](#)

# THANKS *Happy* GIVING



**SHARE THE BLESSINGS**

May your Thanksgiving be filled with warmth, joy, and cherished moments. Wishing you a wonderful holiday season



*Happy*  
**HANUKKAH**



**NATIONAL FEDERATION of  
DEMOCRATIC WOMEN**  
*Leading the Way. Policies. Power, and Priorities*

**NFDW ACTION**

**NEWS**

> Visit the NFDW website and social media pages for our position statements, press releases and more!



# REGISTER NOW



**BOOK YOUR  
HOTEL FOR THE  
NFDW NATIONAL  
CONVENTION**



## WAYS TO BOOK HOTEL



Call (800) 331-5731 and use group code  
**GSNFD26**  
Call hotel office directly if cancellations  
or revisions are required.



**JUNE 4-6, 2026**

**\*\*VISIT THE NEW 2026 NFDW CONVENTION WEBSITE AT:  
[HTTPS://WWW.NFDWCONVENTION.COM](https://www.nfdwconvention.com) ! \*\***