

WNDC PUBLIC POLICY and POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Positions on Democracy and Human Rights

WNDC believes that in a democracy, the government should be accountable to all people within its jurisdiction. We hold that shared values and strong institutions are essential to ensure accountability. Fundamental to preserving our democracy and the integrity of our established institutions and norms is our Founding Fathers' plan to control government's power by establishing three co-equal branches of government. We support a continuing effort to become a more perfect union, reaffirming and strengthening the principle of equality under the law, the universal right to vote, freedoms of speech and worship, and freedom from discrimination. We support these values and principles for our own democracy and for democratic governments around the world.

WNDC calls for policymakers to:

- Introduce legislation and support efforts to build and strengthen alliances with other democracies worldwide to protect and advance our shared democratic interests and our support for preserving and expanding NATO.
- Ensure a fair and credible nomination and confirmation process for the appointment of fully qualified judges to the federal courts.
- Fix the broken campaign finance system established by the Citizens United Supreme Court decision, which opened the door for special-interest, big-money donors to influence elections without transparency and accountability, and which in turn has led to inequities in the political process.
- Reform the Electoral College to better reflect the democratic process and the will of the people as reflected in their votes.
- Safeguard voters' rights with comprehensive federal laws invoking strict punishment and penalties for interfering with election results, including protection of election poll workers and election officials who are harassed, threatened, and harmed while exercising their civic duties.
- Pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.
- End partisan gerrymandering by ensuring that nonpartisan commissions draw the lines that delineate congressional districts.
- Designate Election Day as a federal holiday.
- Require civics to be taught in schools at all grade levels so that students understand the meaning of democracy, how government works, and the importance of voting and other civic engagement.

- Pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation, including: expediting processing for those eligible under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA); creating a path to citizenship for undocumented individuals currently in the country who pass background checks; improving the efficiency and timelines of the asylum process; providing oversight of the border to ensure the humanitarian treatment of migrants; and allocating adequate funding to the federal agencies responsible for the implementation of these immigration programs.
- Respect the country's tradition of the peaceful transition of power. Uphold officeholders' oaths to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and vocally oppose challenges to democracy.
- Speak out against ideologically motivated actions, such as banning books or rewriting history, that threaten select segments of our society, including people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, and immigrants.
- Enact statehood for the District of Columbia so that its citizens can at last have full and equal representation in Congress and the rights of self-determination.