



WNDC PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

2020 POSITIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

WNDC believes that in a democracy, government should be accountable to the people. We hold that shared values and strong institutions are essential to ensure that accountability—values such as the rule of law and institutions such as a free press. We consider our founders' plan to control government's power through establishing three co-equal branches of government to have been brilliant. 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 democracy and for democracies around the world.

Therefore, WNDC calls for national lawmakers to:

- Build alliances with other democracies to protect and advance our shared interests.
- Appoint fully qualified judges to the federal courts.
- Pass the Whistle-blower Protection Act as a guarantor of disclosure of wrong-doing in our government.
- Reverse *Citizens v United*, which has reduced accountability and increased inequality in politics.
- Restrict gun purchase and use—democracy cannot function if citizens live in fear of violence.
- Protect a woman's right to choose—we oppose efforts to amend the Constitution to eliminate that right.
- Reform the Electoral College, requiring that all state delegates vote for the winner of the popular vote.
- End gerrymandering—Congressional districts should be drawn by non-partisan commissions.
- Designate Election Day as a federal holiday.
- Require paper back-up for electronic votes cast.
- Protect the rights of Native Americans to vote without a “fixed address” requirement.
- Provide civic education for all.