

BADASS GRANDMAS DEMOCRACY

★ for our grandchildren ★



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE!

August marked the 104th anniversary of women's right to vote and it is only appropriate that we take a moment and reflect on some of the earliest BadAss women, who did the very hard work needed to pass the 19th amendment. Just as we do, they worked on behalf of future generations.

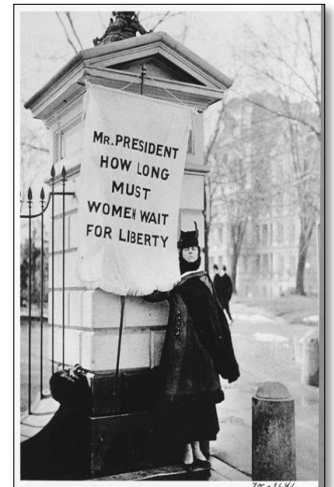
We salute and thank all of those BadAss women (and men). Let us honor them and grow more of the same!



Few early supporters lived to see final victory in 1920.

Beginning in the 1800s, women organized, petitioned, and picketed to win the right to vote, but it took them decades to accomplish their purpose. Between **1878**, when the amendment was first introduced in Congress, and **August 18, 1920**, when it was ratified, champions of voting rights for women worked tirelessly, but strategies for achieving their goal varied. Some pursued a strategy of passing suffrage acts in each state—nine western states adopted woman suffrage legislation by 1912. Others challenged male-only voting laws in the courts. Some suffragists used more confrontational tactics such as picketing, silent vigils, and hunger strikes. Often supporters met fierce resistance. Opponents heckled, jailed, and sometimes physically abused them.

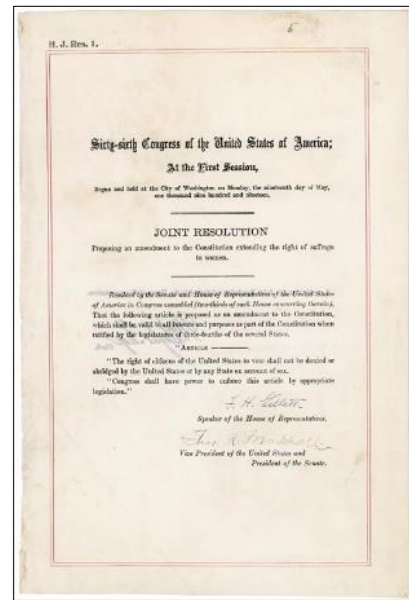
By 1916, almost all of the major suffrage organizations were united behind the goal of a constitutional amendment. When New York adopted woman suffrage in 1917 and President Wilson changed his position to support an amendment in 1918, the political balance began to shift.



On May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives passed the amendment, and 2 weeks later, the Senate followed. When Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment on August 18, 1920, the amendment passed its final hurdle of obtaining the agreement of three-fourths of the states. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby certified the ratification on August 26, 1920, changing the face of the American electorate forever.

From the National Archives, the Library of Congress:

Passed by Congress June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920, the 19th amendment granted women the right to vote. The 19th amendment legally guarantees



American women the right to vote. Achieving this milestone required a lengthy and difficult struggle—victory took **decades** of agitation and protest.

Beginning in the mid-19th century, several generations of woman suffrage supporters lectured, wrote, marched, lobbied, and practiced civil disobedience to achieve what many Americans considered a radical change of the Constitution.

Women's Equality Day (quoted from the United States Department of State's website):

"National Women's Equality Day, observed annually in the United States on **August 26**, marks the adoption of the 19th Amendment in 1920, which granted women the right to vote. While this was a pivotal victory in the United States, **it was not an end to the struggle for women's rights**. It wasn't until the **Voting Rights Act of 1965** that more comprehensive protections were established for historically excluded groups in the United States. Officially recognized by Congress in 1973, National Women's Equality Day not only commemorates these achievements but also underscores the importance of continued advocacy to achieve true gender equality.

Today, women and girls continue to face significant barriers to their safety and meaningful participation in social, economic, and political life – both in the United States and across the globe. The Department of State, led by the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues (S/GWI), is at the forefront of U.S. efforts to advance gender equality overseas, including to promote women and girls' rights and empowerment through U.S. foreign policy, programs, and partnerships...Despite significant progress since the 19th Amendment, today, Women's Equality Day serves as a vital forcing function for the work that remains to be done to achieve gender equality both in the United States and abroad. Women make up half the global population but continue to face disparities in pay, representation, and opportunities. **Women hold only 10.6% of Fortune 500 CEO positions, 32.8% of university presidencies, and less than a third of global leadership roles.** Bridging the gender gap could add an **estimated \$5.3 trillion to the global GDP**. Women's Equality Day serves as a poignant reminder that the pursuit of gender equality is an ongoing global priority, while commemorating the achievements of women and all those who have supported them in their efforts.

By continuing to promote the rights and empowerment of all women and girls, we can move closer to a world where gender equality is not just an aspiration but a reality...on National Women's Equality Day, while significant progress has been made, the fight for true equality continues, and it is a fight that we must all champion."

FEATURED BADASS: Kathleen Tweeten, BadAss #3

As we celebrate Women's Equality Day and our voting rights anniversary, we continue to

celebrate and learn about our own BadAss women. Each month, we are featuring information about our BadAss founders, or an article from one of our founders or leaders.

This month's insight into who she is comes from Kathleen Tweeten, BG4D #3!

"I've had numerous titles in my almost 70 years, but none of them, or even all together, would really tell you who I am. They would give you some insight into the fact that I'm married, a mom, a grandmother, retired, a volunteer, a teacher, spent most of my professional career as a UNL and NDSU Extension Agent, specialist, and then center director in the areas of community/economic development and leadership.



The titles would tell you that I've had several leadership opportunities including as president of local, state, national and international organizations. But the titles wouldn't tell you, however, that I am most proud of the North Dakotans for Public Integrity/BAGS4D work. We changed the constitution of North Dakota, for crying out loud!!!"

"So, who am I? I am the person who sits in the back but not scared of the front; who loves her family; who isn't done living but is more careful in her choices; who enjoys good conversation and friends; who believes in democracy; and who's ready to show this world that together we are a force!!!"

Kathleen Tweeten

**I do not wish women to
have power over men;
but over themselves.**

Mary Wollstonecraft

NEWS FROM THE RED RIVER VALLEY AND ELSEWHERE



An offshoot of the BadAss Grandmas has been flourishing in east central North Dakota. The organizing meeting of **Voters for Democracy** will be held on Sept 7 at the **Lake Region Heritage Center in Devils Lake.**

Anyone interested in attending should contact Julie Schuler at jschuler6@gmail.com.

FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



The **League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley** will once again be hosting their First Fridays, on September 6. The featured guest speakers on September 6 will be the Clay County and Cass County Auditors, who will

speak about the upcoming elections and remind us of how safe the election process is, as well as provide information and answer any questions.

First Fridays are free and open to the public. Come at 11:30 am if you want to enjoy one of the fabulous lunches at the Sons of Norway in Fargo.

Vote 411 is a great resource, where you can find a lot of information about who is running in your area – **wherever you live!**

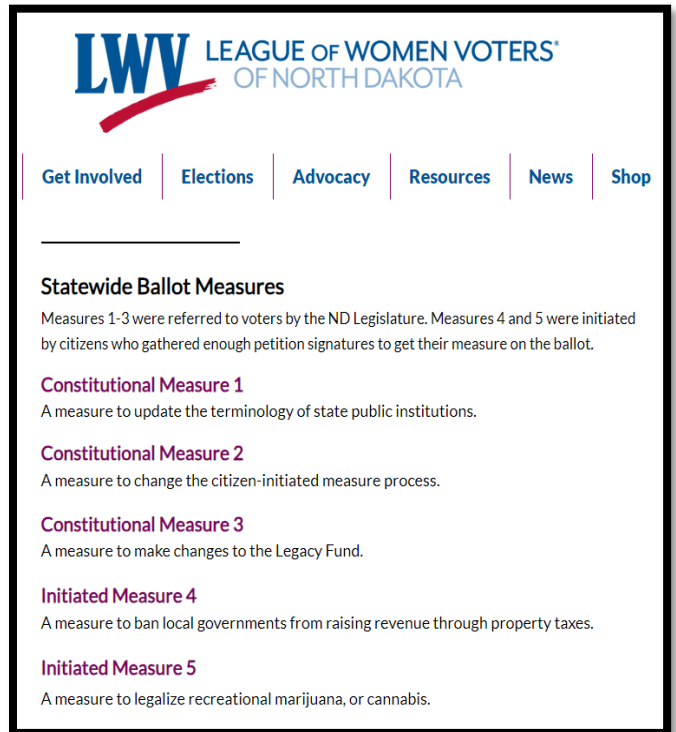


Be prepared on Election Day with knowledge of the ballot, the election process and any changes to your state's requirements.

Also important – in addition to learning about each of the candidates, know what other measures are on your ballot in November. In many states there are constitutional amendments which might impact your voting rights. Learn about what is on your ballot from your state's League website or your Secretary of State's website (the screen shot below is from the MN Secretary of State's website). **All Secretary of State's websites in any state contain a lot of invaluable election and voting information.**



Close to home, there are a number of constitutional initiatives on the North Dakota ballot, which are worth learning about. You can find out more about these initiatives on the ND Secretary of State's website or on the North Dakota League's website:

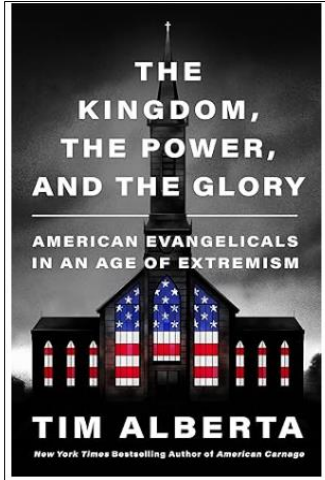


WORTH REPEATING: The ND League has a new resource for anyone who wants to be involved in the 2025 ND legislative session. The Citizen's Guide to Lobbying in North Dakota can be found at www.lwvnd.org/citizen-guide. Specifically to North Dakota, if you are interested in being on the ND League of Women Voter's advocacy team, which is all about tracking bills or watching committee hearings, email nodakLWV@gmail.com.

Our August Speaker - fighting white Christian Nationalism: There are a variety of organizations in the fight for the soul of our nation and our democracy, and we heard in August from Jerry Gale from the **Minnesota Christians Against Christian**

Nationalism. Many members said it was the 'scariest' presentation that we have had as the threat is larger than some of us suspected and is growing. For those who missed it, the recording is posted on our Facebook Page. Learn more on their website: <https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/>

Virtual Book Club: as a result of a suggestion made by Jerry during that same presentation, we are forming a BG4D virtual book club – anyone can join from anywhere as we will be using Zoom. We are going to start with reading some of the books about white Christian Nationalism that we heard about last month. Our first book will be The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, by Tim Alberta. We are going to meet the **last Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm, CST. Let me know if you are interested in joining us!**



OTHER DEMOCRACY ACTIONS / RESOURCES
Each month's newsletter highlights some of the many resources available to help navigate the many challenges to our democracy. Every day, it seems there is news of some assault on our democracy and our voting rights. That's why we BG4Ds highly recommend getting involved in your local community with your state or local **League of Women Voters** or some other organization working to protect voting rights. These recent August headlines from trusted news sources reflect the challenges we face **TODAY** in protecting our Democracy.

From USA TODAY:

Trump-approved Georgia election officials' new rules could spur 'doubt and suspicion'

2024 election rule changes implemented by Georgia officials have drawn bipartisan criticism



Want to learn more? We invite you to check out some of the other excellent resources we are highlighting this month:



The Brennan Center for Justice:
"Americans head to the polls this fall in arguably the most important election in modern history. More than just a contest between candidates or parties, the 2024 general election will decide the future

direction of American democracy itself. The Brennan Center is working up to and after Election Day to protect the institutions that sustain rule by the people and fighting fear with facts."
<https://www.brennancenter.org/election-2024>

The Southern Poverty Law Center:

"The United States has a long history of denying voting rights to its citizens, including



people of color, women, young people, and people with disabilities. Despite the gains made over the past several decades, we face a renewed commitment by many in power to take us back to the old, shameful days of poll taxes, literacy tests, identification cards, and citizenship tests...In recent years, for example, states have gerrymandered maps to make it harder for Black and Brown people to elect candidates of their choice, imposed harsh voter identification laws, reduced early voting timeframes, targeted private individuals and groups who seek to assist voters with registering and voting, restricted alternative voting methods — particularly voting by mail — that have historically expanded access to the ballot, and reduced or eliminated the availability drop boxes. States have even banned people from offering snacks and water to voters waiting in line to vote...Until Congress restores the Voting Rights Act to its full strength and states pass progressive legislation, the fundamental right to vote will remain under attack."

<https://www.splcenter.org/our-issues/voting-rights>

The Voting Rights Lab:

“Through (the Voting Rights Lab) analysis, we identified four swing states where voters will face significant new restrictions.

Their ability to overcome these restrictions could play a pivotal role in determining the outcome of the 2024 presidential election.

Battleground 2024: How Swing States Changed Voting Rules After the 2020 Election

With the 2020 election, ID laws in the country – and a new photo ID requirement for in-person voting as well. Pending legislation may make it far more likely that mail ballots cast by eligible voters will be discarded.

--With the lapse of pandemic-era expansions to mail voting and in-person early voting, **New Hampshire** is now one of only three states in the country where the only option for most voters will be to cast a ballot in person on Election Day in the 2024 presidential election. In addition, new rules will likely result in the rejection of ballots cast by eligible voters who register to vote on Election Day.

--**Georgia** voters must overcome new restrictions on mail voting, including ID requirements to apply for, and return, mail ballots. Voters will also encounter new limits on drop boxes.

--**Wisconsin** voters may face significant new barriers to returning mail ballots this election – though pending litigation could change the rules before the 2024 election.”

<https://votingrightslab.org/>



--In **North Carolina**, voters must adapt to the state moving from having no ID requirement to the one of strictest mail ballot

tracking this trend for three years, since the 2020 election. **In that time, state legislatures have introduced more than 600 of these bills, and 62 have become law in 28 states.”**

As noted in our Report earlier this year, the 2022 elections were largely successful and free of serious subversion efforts. But we remain concerned that recently enacted laws could help precipitate a crisis — particularly in an election involving a candidate at the top of the ticket who has already attempted to subvert an election. **At the very least, these laws will make it harder for professional election administrators, who already face a rise in unjustified suspicion and unprecedented levels of harassment, to do their jobs on behalf of our democracy.”**

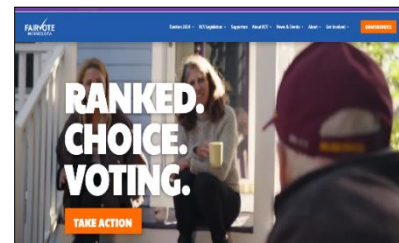
<https://protectdemocracy.org/work/a-democracy-crisis-in-the-making/>

FAIR VOTE:

“FairVote is a nonpartisan organization working for better elections for all. We research and advance voting reforms that make democracy more functional and representative for every American, with a focus on two key reforms: ranked choice voting and the Fair Representation Act.

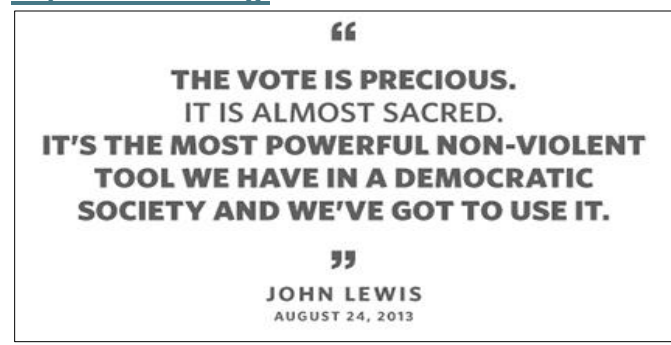
Through our research and advocacy, we are making the case for reform at the federal, state, and local levels and empowering state and local allies with the resources they need to drive reform in their communities. Working together, we’ve already made ranked choice voting the fastest-growing nonpartisan voting reform in the nation.”

Note: Many states also have state – specific offices for **Fair Vote**. Learn more at: <https://fairvote.org/>



A DEMOCRACY CRISIS IN THE MAKING YEAR-END UPDATE

“As the 2024 election approaches, state legislatures continue to propose and enact laws that expose our election system to partisan disruption and manipulation. These laws ultimately increase the risk of subversion — that is, a declared outcome that does not reflect the true choice of the voters. They also abandon long-standing principles of nonpartisan election administration and instead allow for — or even encourage — dysfunction, misinformation, confusion, or manipulation by partisan actors. Our organizations have been



WE CHOOSE US

A former speaker and strong partner in pro-democracy efforts is **We Choose US MN**. We Choose Us MN is having a virtual event to engage members on **Saturday, September 14th, from 10:30 to 2:00 PM**. The meeting will be a conversation about how to instill trust in our elections—both the process and the people who run them—and inspire engagement in and outside of the ballot box. You can also join their monthly strategy calls and learn about what they do, as well as register for the September 14th event, here:



<https://www.wechooseusmn.com/>

More GREAT Speakers Ahead! Join us and invite your friends!



BUFFALO'S FIRE

Independent News from the Indigenous Media Freedom Alliance

SEPTEMBER 18th Speaker:

Our September speakers will be from **Buffalo's Fire** and the **Bismarck Documenters**. **Buffalo's Fire** is working to report local news in the Bismarck – Mandan area and rural communities across North Dakota. The IMFA publishes independent news online at buffalofire.com.

Documenters

POWERED BY CITY BUREAU

The Documenters in Bismarck are part of a nationwide movement; regardless of where you live, there are documenters who attend public meetings and provide and share information. Find out more here: <https://www.documenters.org>

OCTOBER 16th's Speaker: American Future

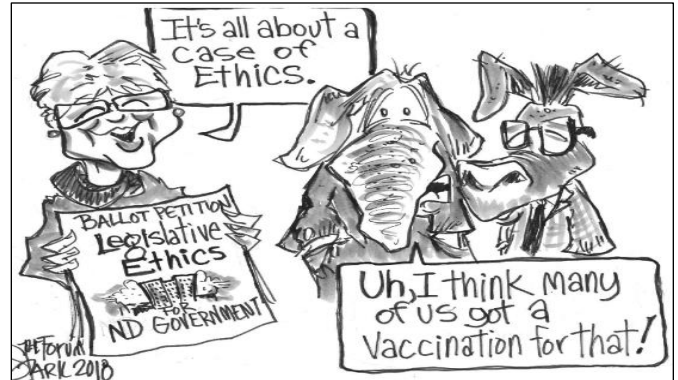


NOVEMBER 20th's Speaker: Project Optimist
Regardless of the election outcomes, a little dose of optimism will help us in as we near Thanksgiving!



JOIN US IN OUR MISSION TO SAVE OUR DEMOCRACY

Our goal in BadAss Grandmas is to inform and help you engage. We learn about pro-democracy organizations and learn about how to protect our Democracy. One person CAN make a difference ~ BadAss women did, and you can, **AND ARE**, too!



Final Thoughts - There is an old saying that all politics is local. Most of what affects us in our daily lives are not actions by the President of the United States, although that election justifiably gets a lot of our attention because it certainly does matter for our Democracy. Rather, decisions made by the state legislature, county commission, the city council or local school board play a huge role in the things that impact us every day. Those elections are often decided by just a few votes and candidates sometimes run unopposed. We **NEED** pro-democracy candidates! Consider running for one of those seats at some point in the future. Many organizations provide info on how to run for office - such as **West Central Initiative** and their **Run4Rural** initiative.



Vote as if Democracy depends on it – it does.

Do what you can, when you can, however you can, for our Democracy. Join your local League or political party and write some postcards. Write a letter to the Editor or put up a yard sign. Most important of all, **vote** – and urge everyone you know to **VOTE**. Voter turnout is particularly impacted by authentic messages from people we know – let the people around you know, **regardless** of how they vote, our Democracy depends upon us to VOTE.

Do you have an interesting story or idea for our next newsletter? Feel free to send it to us for review and publication! Have an upcoming event? Send it to us for the newsletter or post it on our Facebook page! lynpinnick@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR BEING A BADASS!