



Resolution: Regarding the continued importance of civil discourse and better discussions

Passed November 2019

WHEREAS, the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) has established that political discourse has remained challenging and disparaging, and there has been a shift away from bipartisan collaboration that pervades national politics.

WHEREAS, NFWL has established that participating in democracy requires knowing each other, and recognizes that scheduling formal and informal events as a way to encourage friendships across the aisle is critical.

WHEREAS, the tone of campaigns has an outsized impact. Lawmakers take great note of their often negative campaign experience, and will ascribe those characteristics to the opposing party, resulting in a sentiment that extends accordingly in the legislature. NFWL notes that a way to combat the lingering campaign negativity, it is important to host bipartisan social or orientation events between the end of elections and the beginning of the session to create positive relationships.

WHEREAS, legislative leaders are crucial. Their example, in modeling civil and collaborative behavior in their chamber, or opposing it, will have great influence. By leading by example, NFWL women will raise all boats.

WHEREAS, NFWL recognizes that listening is important and pledges to listen first to understand.

WHEREAS, a public demand for civil discourse and a government that works in the best interests of the country as a whole. Your public office has to actively plant civility. NFWL commits to make it a priority to cultivate and protect it.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of the National Foundation for Women Legislators commit to

- (1) lead by example to act as models of civility;
- (2) engage in opportunities to understand those with different point of views;
- (3) promote civility in political discourse by speaking the truth and acting with integrity;
- (4) listen first in arguments to better understand.