



Resolution: Advancing Civility and Strengthening Discourse

Passed November 17, 2025

WHEREAS, the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) recognizes that trust in government is eroded when political discourse becomes hostile, personal, or unproductive;

WHEREAS, state legislatures, city council chambers, county commission offices, and every elected body in-between are where solutions are forged closest to the people, and elected officials bear responsibility to ensure that debate both online and in-person remains respectful, constructive, and focused on the common good;

WHEREAS, NFWL believes that civility is not weakness but strength, and that demonstrating integrity, honesty, and respect in disagreement is essential to effective self-governance;

WHEREAS, campaign rhetoric and national politics too often foster division, but legislators can set a different standard in their home states by modeling bipartisan cooperation and mutual respect;

WHEREAS, NFWL believes that political violence is unacceptable;

WHEREAS, public demand for civil, solutions-focused leadership is growing, and citizens expect their representatives to work together across political differences;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of the National Foundation for Women Legislators commit to advancing civility in their home states by:

1. **Modeling respectful debate** in chambers, committees, and public forums, regardless of political disagreement;
2. **Hosting bipartisan gatherings and dialogues** in their home states to build personal trust and understanding across the aisle;
3. **Encouraging civil engagement** from constituents by promoting respectful communication at town halls, public meetings, and online platforms;

4. **Mentoring new legislators** to embrace civility as a cornerstone of effective lawmaking;
5. **Speaking out against incivility** in political discourse, whether in campaigns, media, or legislative debate;
6. **Partnering with colleagues across party lines** to champion legislation, events, or initiatives that foster collaboration and unity in their states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NFWL members affirm civility as a public duty, pledging not only to lead by example but also to actively cultivate a political culture in their states where collaboration, respect, and productive discourse can thrive.