

FORWARD

News & Updates from the New Hampshire Women's Foundation



Women Building Community across the State

On October 22, more than one thousand people joined us virtually to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment at our 2020 WBC Lunch-Online.



Women Building Community Lunch-Online

Our annual WBC luncheon went virtual this year. Check out what you missed or relive some highlights with us.



Fulfilling the Promise

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, we recognize the work left to fulfill its promise: that all people can vote!



Women Run!

This year, we trained 63 New Hampshire women to run for state and local office — meet a few who ran in 2020!



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What a year.



The Women's Foundation kicked off 2020, the centennial of the 19th Amendment, with big plans for celebration. Yet, as we all now know, even the best laid plans came to a screeching halt in March with the arrival of COVID-19 and the global pandemic.

Just days after schools closed and businesses shuttered, it became clear that some of our oldest and longest funded grantees were in big trouble. Without immediate financial assistance, these organizations were facing the possibility of permanent closure. In less than three weeks, we awarded rapid response grants to seven organizations—all of whom used our grants as stop gaps until federal and/or statewide assistance arrived.

In May, we retooled our *Women Run!* program to an online format and launched our virtual *Women Run!* Wednesdays series. The month-long programming drew more than 200 participants—by far our best attended *Women Run!* events to date—with more regional diversity and a broader representation of office seekers. Six months later, 14 *Women Run!* alumnae were elected to the New Hampshire House and Senate.

And while our 19th Amendment programming looked very different than what we planned in January, our online “She Votes” series culminated in our Women Building Community Lunch-Online with former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton who reminded us that we can best fulfill the promise of the 19th Amendment by achieving social, economic and political parity.

Nothing this year has been what we expected, yet the Women's Foundation has risen to the challenges of 2020. Thanks to your support, we'll continue invest in women and girls, train women to run for office, and advocate for policies and legislation that help fulfill the promise of the 19th Amendment. The global pandemic has laid bare the gender and racial inequities that exist in our country and it is up to all of us to resolve to do better. There is a new dawn approaching and while it may not always be easy, by investing in women and girls, we can change the future.

As always, I remain, with you in spirit and in action,

Tanna Clews, CEO

2020 Women Building Community Lunch On-Line



Watch or rewatch the event at: [NHWomensFoundation.Org/WBC](https://www.nhwomensfoundation.org/WBC)

Fulfilling the Promise of the 19th Amendment

As we celebrate the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment as a hard-fought victory, we also recognize that there's still much work that needs to be done to ensure equal access to the vote, as well as broader gender equity and political parity for everyone.

Not all women got access to the ballot box in 1920. It wasn't until the 1965 Voting Rights Act that most Black women were able to access their right to vote. And it was not until the 1975 expansion of the Voting Rights Act that non-English speaking women, including many Latinx and Asian American women, were granted that same access. Native American women, houseless women, incarcerated women, poor women and more still face discriminatory documentation requirements and other modern-day poll taxes. The work continues to ensure that all people can vote, and achieve equal representation.

Reflecting on the implications of women's suffrage, past and present, the Women's Foundation launched our "She Votes" series to explore how we can help fulfill the promise of the 19th Amendment.

She Votes Event Series

The She Votes series explored women's suffrage through a variety of lenses. Throughout the fall, the Women's Foundation presented conversations with experts on voting in New Hampshire, and partnered with other organizations to amplify

the importance of intersectionality in our work advocating for women's continued participation in our democratic process.

In August we hosted New HampsHER

Votes to explore how 2020 was both expanding and presenting new challenges to women casting their ballots. The panel was led by legal expert Maggie Goodlander, and included State Senator Melanie Levesque, longtime State Representative Marjorie Smith and ACLU's Trans Justice Organizer Palana Belken. The group discussed the importance of a fair redistricting process, what new voting options were available due to COVID-19, and how we can continue to advocate for everyone's voice to be heard.



Barbara Arnwine

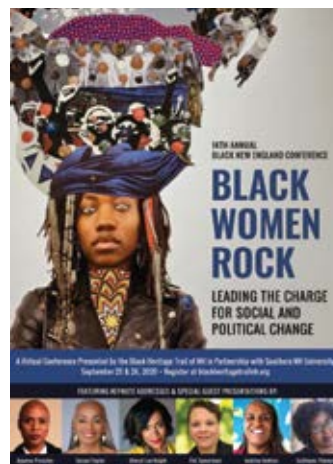
In September, we co-sponsored, with Global Citizen's Circle and Southern New Hampshire University, a conversation with Barbara Arnwine to explore the role in women's suffrage that



Black women like Pauli Murray played. Arnwine noted the continued link between women's rights and civil rights for Black Americans, saying "It's the intersectional failure of the suffrage movement that has brought us here — we continue to suffer the racist arguments used to promote the 19th Amendment."

Also in September, we were proud to be a sponsor of Black New England Conference, "Black Women Rock!," organized by Black Heritage Trail — two full days of educational, inspiring and engaging speakers, as well as panels and online community-

building. Panelists from Sheryl Lee Ralph to Ayanna Pressley discussed the importance of women exercising their right to vote. Panelists lifted up the resilience, versatility and courage of Black women, and noted how activists and elected officials reflected on the storied history of suffrage for women, Black Americans and other marginalized groups of people.



Finally, we wrapped up our She Votes events with our annual WBC Lunch-

Online, where our featured special guest was former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Secretary Clinton's famous proclamation, "Women's rights are human rights and human rights are women's rights, once and for all," was given 25 years ago at the 4th Annual Conference on Women and was the historic moment that inspired the New Hampshire women in attendance to form the New Hampshire Women's Fund. It was so special to have her celebrate this milestone year with us, and offer us these words of encouragement: "Keep going, New Hampshire women! The best is yet to come!"

Meet the **WOMEN RUN!** Class of 2020

How do you recruit and train women to run for office without being able to physically gather together? As most of the world did this year, we brought our programming online. With geographic location and travel no longer a barrier, this year's virtual *Women Run!* class included 63 trainees across eight New Hampshire counties, 34 of whom ran for office. Of those 34 candidates, 32 advanced into their general election races and 14 ultimately won their seats.

Our hard work to replicate the camaraderie of our candidacy skills-building workshop paid off, and we were delighted to see alliances and connections form among the 2020 trainees. We look forward to continuing to engage with our alums, whether they were successful in their 2020 races or not, through continued policy and data support, mentorship opportunities, continued leadership in public office and advocacy efforts and additional skills-building for future races.

We are excited to introduce you to just a few of these great leaders. Some won their 2020 races, and some will be working on advocacy outside of elected office this year — every one of them is a strong leader in their community who we know we'll all be seeing much more of in the days ahead!



Alexis Simpson

**State Representative,
NH Rockingham County,
District 36**

What did you learn from running this year? As a leader, it's important to me to listen to the people I represent. This was especially true this year, during the pandemic, to be able to understand what people need from their government as the campaign season evolved. *What did you find helpful about the Women Run! program?* I really valued the conversation with

women leaders about the ability to pivot as a leader in the midst of a crisis. It was empowering to hear women leaders speak about the capacity we often have to adapt to changing circumstances. *What is one issue or topic that you want to focus on in 2021?* There are many important issues that will be in front of us this year. We will be working hard to have a budget that honors the needs of Granite Staters. I also hope to work with others who are devoted to implementing a comprehensive mental health-care system that is accessible and affordable for everyone.

women leaders in New Hampshire and I hope to continue that tradition with intentionality. I strongly believe in the power of lifting up other women and the strength we have in creating deep connections with other women leaders. *What is one issue or topic that you want to focus on in 2021?* My priority will be to continue standing up for working families with a laser focus on the communities disproportionately impacted by these crises. Recovery will require removing the underlying structural failures that exacerbated COVID's devastating impacts and laid bare deep inequities in our state. We need a vision for recovery that ensures the Granite State is no longer moving from crisis to crisis. This means protecting and building NH's framework of support for our most vulnerable citizens and working families and building a clean energy economy that protects our beautiful state and addresses the climate crisis in a meaningful way.

Carrie Duran

**2020 Candidate, State
Representative, NH Carroll
County District 6**

What did you learn from running this year? I learned what I am capable of, and it's so much more than I expected or dreamed of. I also learned how important it is to set an example for my daughters. I really showed them what being fearless is like. *What did you find helpful about the Women Run! program?* I loved having access to the alumnae network.

I was able to reach out to ask questions in the Facebook Group, and I had so many people to reach out to for advice. It was so important to know that I wasn't doing it alone. And I made a lot of new friends! *What is one issue or topic that you want to focus on in 2021?* I've already decided to run again in 2022 — but in 2021, I'll be focusing on childcare! Even though my kids are a little older now, coordinating childcare has still made working difficult. 2020 has brought us a childcare crisis. 2020 was also a year I saw more women and mothers running for office than ever before, and that was great! But if we don't solve the childcare crisis, I worry about the future of who is able to run office next time.



Becky Whitley

State Senator, NH District 15

What did you learn from running this year? I learned about the importance of listening. So many people just want to be heard and feel frustrated that they don't have a voice and that no one is listening to them. In our campaign, we tried to prioritize conversations with voters that were transformation, not transactional and to be responsive to what voters were telling us. *What did you find helpful about the Women Run! program?* Connecting with other women running for office was inspiring and empowering. We have a proud history of strong



Liza Draper

2020 Candidate, State Representative, NH Sullivan County District 5

What did you learn from running this year? As a first-time candidate, I had little understanding of the many different groups involved in the Granite State's political process. Working not only with local grassroots organizers, but also the NH Secretary of State's office, the NHDP, Organize NH, and the Committee to Elect House Democrats, as well as the Biden/Harris, Shaheen, and Kuster campaigns was eye-opening. I am incredibly grateful for all the insight and support I received from other candidates' staffers up and down the ballot. *What did you find helpful about the Women Run! Program?* It was exhilarating to hear from others who have already succeeded. Their presentations were more than informative — I found them inspirational. Thank you for making it possible to tap into their expertise! *What is one issue or topic that you want to focus on in 2021?* I am focusing on revitalizing my moribund local town committee so that we are truly prepared for upcoming local races — and ready to take back the State House in 2022!



Sue Prentiss

State Senator, NH District 5

What did you learn from running this year? Be clear on why you are running and what qualifies you — people/voters want to know this. You have to circle back to this, the center of your message, all the time. *What did you find helpful about the Women Run! program?* I benefited from the wisdom and experience of women who have run and are running. From social media to fundraising, I came away with a number of lessons to apply and I did. Running for an office at the state level is different than a local City Council, and the group of women I spent time with helped me to quickly understand those differences. *What is one issue or topic that you want to focus on in 2021?* The State's response to the pandemic; improving our public health infrastructure, including the build out of broadband to support the workforce; education and healthcare delivery in a pandemic and after — these will all be part of our economic recovery.



“*The Women Run! program taught me a lot about running for office. But the first thing they taught me was that it was okay to ask for help. By saying “yes” when I asked for childcare, let me know that moms like me can and should run for office.*”

- Carrie Duran at WBC

Michelle Moge

2020 Candidate, NH Rockingham County District 6

What did you learn from running this year? I learned not to underestimate the need to educate voters and non-voters. *What did you find helpful about the Women Run! program?* I love the contacts I've made and kept within the program, I have a wonderful network of friends now. *What is one issue or topic that you want to focus on in 2021?* Voter education and voter suppression!



2021 Municipal programming announced soon!

We're gearing up to bring our successful online programming model into January & February of 2021 for those interested in running for municipal seats in their Town Meeting Day elections in March, and city elections in November.

Sign up for *Women Run!* alerts at: NHWomensFoundation.org/WomenRun

Honoring the Legacy of a Notorious Justice



We lost an icon in our fight for gender equality this year with the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Justice Ginsburg, known to many as “RBG”, was pivotal in the women’s rights movement, and demonstrated how vital the courts are in ensuring that “equal protection under the law” is applied to all genders. As we reflect on fulfilling the promise of the 19th Amendment, we also reflect on how to carry on Justice Ginsburg’s legacy.

How We Honor Her Legacy

Many of the rights and freedoms that Justice Ginsburg fought to achieve are still on the line today in courts and legislatures around the country, as efforts are underway to dismantle long-established rights. We must raise our voices in the policy and advocacy arena, or risk sliding backwards on issues of equality and civil rights. As she famously wrote in her dissent to the Supreme Court decision to overturn parts of the Civil Rights Act, eliminating protections because they are working “is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you’re not getting wet.” Sustained pressure on our New Hampshire legislature and courts will be required to make sure that our umbrellas are not thrown away in the coming deluge.

Protecting our fundamental civil rights, reproductive rights, voting rights and LGBTQ+ rights will also require cultivating and elevating women’s leadership in all branches of government, including the judiciary system. The Women’s Foundation will continue to press for women and those who uphold the rights of women to be represented in our justice system.

“*Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.*”

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg

In talking about the promise of the 19th Amendment, Justice Ginsburg told the Georgetown University Law Center, “It was the first step toward equal citizenship stature for women.” From her landmark cases in front of the US Supreme Court as a lawyer, arguing that equal protection under the law must be fairly applied regardless of gender, to her iconic opinions and dissents as a Supreme Court Justice, “The Notorious RBG” dedicated her life to fulfilling that promise of equality.

The Women’s Foundation will honor the Notorious RBG’s legacy by continuing to defend and champion the hard-fought rights and protections she spent her life’s work to achieve. Justice Ginsburg once said, “Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.” It’s up to us to take the next step.

Why We Invested in a Complete Census 2020 Count



The deadline to respond to the Census was October 31, 2020 and nearly 100% of New Hampshire households were counted! This response rate is higher than 2010, and is a testament to the incredible coordination of the Bureau, New Hampshire’s Office of Strategic Initiatives, the Statewide Complete Count Committee, local municipalities, and the many nonprofits, community organizers and volunteers who were instrumental in the outreach and follow-up of the census.

Of the high response rate, 67.1% of households self-responded while 32.9% of households required additional outreach. In any Census year, it is the non-responders who require increased focus, resources, and outreach. And it is this group that was of particular concern for the Women’s Foundation. Historically, non-responders include hard-to-count individuals and communities, including seniors, children, immigrants, college students, non-English speaking citizens, undocumented, and people living in remote areas with little to no access to internet without access. And hard-to-count individuals include a disproportionate number of women and children.

It is for this reason that in the fall of 2019, even before the global pandemic, The Women’s Foundation, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the Couch Foundation, the Progress Alliance and Tufts Health Foundation joined forces to fund a contract position to support statewide and local efforts to ensure an accurate count. Housed at the Women’s Foundation, Bill Maddocks, former project manager at the Carsey School of New Hampshire, was instrumental in coordinating grassroots efforts with the Statewide Complete Count Committee, and assisting nonprofits and volunteers to secure a complete count.

The Women’s Foundation believes that a fair, accurate and complete Census count was vital to women and families and the organizations who serve them. Moreover, the Foundation relies on accurate, complete data to inform our grantmaking, research, and advocacy work and we can’t afford to have inaccurate data on women and girls. We are proud to have supported a Complete Count!

Marking New Hampshire's Role In Women's Suffrage



In 1919, the nation's first Citizenship School, held July 8–12, was organized at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH, which was then known as New Hampshire College. This school, run by women, was established to help educate women on their citizenship rights and how to vote, in preparation for the adoption of the 19th Amendment. The Citizenship School was organized by a Miss Wright and presided over by Mary Inez Stevens Wood, of Portsmouth, who was also the first president of the New Hampshire League of Women Voters.

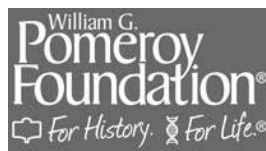
Invitations were sent to women all over New Hampshire from the National Association of Women's Suffrage and President Hetzel of the New Hampshire College. This was a huge milestone for the women's suffrage movement in New Hampshire because it was the first time the College agreed to work with women en masse on the movement. The Citizenship School brought together 200 women from all over New Hampshire and its success inspired state colleges in other suffrage states to host similar schools.



Armenia S. White

The Pomeroy Foundation, based in Syracuse, New York, is committed to supporting the celebration and preservation of community history, and is working to establish plaques in every state in the country highlighting accomplishments of the Suffrage Movement.

In addition to the proposed marker at UNH for the Citizenship School, the other proposed markers are for Armenia S. White (1817-1916) and Mary N. Chase (1863-1959), both of whom were pivotal to the women's suffrage movement in New Hampshire. The marker for Armenia S. White will be at White Farm in Concord, the farm she and her husband established in 1846; and the marker for Mary N. Chase will be at Proctor Academy in Andover, NH, where she began teaching in 1899. All three markers should be erected in the spring of 2021.



As we wrap a year of celebrations commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, we are reminded of our responsibility to continue to tell the stories and highlight the lives of the incredible women who have come before us. While our plans for the Women's Heritage Trail have been slowed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are as committed as ever to the Trail's mission "to give visible recognition to the historic women



Mary Inez Stevens Wood

of New Hampshire and celebrate their significant contributions to the life and culture of the state since its founding."

In 2021, the Women's Foundation hopes to move forward with plans to work with the State of New Hampshire, local communities and property owners to erect markers for the 27 women inaugurated to the trail including Amy Cheney Beach, America's first internationally celebrated female composer; Hannah Davis, an entrepreneur and one of the first documented women inventors; and Sharon Christa Corrigan McAuliffe, NASA's first Teacher in Space.



Wear your support of the New Hampshire Women's Foundation with limited-edition swag!

Limited availability of some designs and sizes.

View and shop at:

NHWomensFoundation.Org/Shop



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Help us **fulfill the promise**
of the 19th Amendment by
investing in women & girls **today.**

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