

## RESOLUTION 2:

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OPEN AND FAIR ELECTIONS AND PROTECTION OF OUR RIGHT TO VOTE

**WHEREAS** the right to vote is an essential element of democracy in any country, and the proportion of adult citizens who exercise that right in free, fair, and frequent elections is one measure of how democratic a country is.

**WHEREAS**, over the course of our Country's history, legislation has been passed to increase and protect our voting rights.

**WHEREAS** the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the United States Constitution increased the ability of Ohioans to vote in our elections to previously disenfranchised individuals and

**WHEREAS** the Voting Rights Act—along with the Civil Rights Act, one of the two most important pieces of civil rights legislation in U.S. history—introduced nationwide protections of the right to vote and thereby greatly increased voter registration and voting among minorities.

**WHEREAS, Article V, Section 1** of the Constitution for the State of Ohio provides that a citizen of the United States, who is eighteen years or older, who has been a resident of the state, county, township, or ward, such time as may be provided by law, and has been registered to vote for thirty days, has the qualifications of an elector, and is entitled to vote at all elections.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the Ohio Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW/OHIO) will actively work to strengthen and improve voting systems so that they are free, nonpartisan, secure, equally accessible, fair, encourages participation, and ensures one person, one vote.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2023-24 BPW/OHIO Legislative Chair and the 2023-24 BPW/OHIO Legislative Consultant are hereby directed to monitor proposed legislation that is introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives and/or the Ohio Senate and keep the membership of BPW/OHIO informed of any developments regarding legislation and/or efforts to limit or restrict our voting rights.

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED** that the 2023-24 BPW/OHIO Legislative Chair, in conjunction with our 2023-24 Regional Legislative Chairs shall organize a letter and/or post card writing campaign for BPW/OHIO members to send to our Ohio Legislators, as needed in support of legislation that enhances our voting rights and/or in opposition to legislation that seeks to restrict or impede our voting rights.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that members of BPW/OHIO will reach out to their legislative representatives to support the passage of legislation that ensures easy access to voter registration and the voting process including but not limited to early and mail in voting, online and automatic voter registration, and flexible voter ID options and providing accommodations for disability challenges.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that members of BPW/OHIO will reach out to their legislative representatives to oppose the passage of legislation that creates barriers and impediments to voters having easy access to voter registration and the voting process.

**AFFIRMED AND ADOPTED THIS** 21st **DAY OF** May, **2023.**