



Doris "Granny D" Haddock

EQUAL VOICE

A newsletter for those who walk the talk of campaign finance reform



September 2019

Executive Director's Message

Welcome to our new newsletter, *Equal Voice*. We are often asked, "What does Open Democracy DO?" This newsletter will help to answer some of those questions, and show you ways you can become involved. Not everyone walks, but we have roles for every ability, and every political persuasion, left, right or independent.



Open Democracy, Granny D's original organization, has roots going back to 1997 as a nonprofit to educate citizens about civic engagement and the perils of our current campaign finance system, and to advocate for solutions. In 2014, NH Rebellion was formed by Prof. Lawrence Lessig in preparation for the 2016 primary campaign, and used Granny D's long walks as a way of drawing attention to the scourge of Big Money politics and mobilizing activists. Open Democracy eventually took on NH Rebellion as a project, and continues to do walks and actions as part of its mission.

But just bringing attention to the problem of money in politics hasn't been enough to move reforms forward. For that, Open Democracy Action was created in 2016 as a 501c4 nonprofit, with the purpose of moving Democracy reform legislation forward, lobbying legislators to take action. ODA advocated for over 20 bills this year, helping get six of them to the governor's desk, testifying at hearings, convincing legislators, and mobilizing constituent calls and letters to the editor.

So as you can see, Open Democracy not only **talks the talk** with its work behind the scenes, but also **walks the walk** with our walking events and amazing speaking events, like former FEC Chair Ann Ravel on Oct. 3.

We couldn't do any of this without YOU. Your actions, your phone calls, your footsteps and your donations. Thank you for all you do.

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Haven't joined us yet? Visit any one of the websites' [Join pages](#)

Coming Up!

- **Sept. 6** Democracy Town Hall w/Tulsi Gabbard, Dover, 6 p.m. RSVP
- **Sept. 7** NH Democratic Convention, Manchester – All day
- **Sept. 7** Laconia Multicultural Festival – RSVP to help
- **Sept. 16** "20th for the 28th" Celebration of NH's 28th Amendment Call, Concord, Noon, RSVP
- **Sept. 18 & 19** – Veto Override votes in NH House & Senate
- **Sept. 22** - Movie – SEA showing of "Suppressed, The Fight to Vote" RSVP
- **Sept. 29** - Memorial Service, Barbara Hull Richardson, 2 pm, Keene

Ann Ravel, former Federal Elections Commission Chair Speaks October 3 in Peterborough and Portsmouth

Join us for “Unraveling America's Democracy Problem” with former Federal Elections Commission Chair Ann Ravel on October 3, a fundraiser for Open Democracy.



There are two events open to the public, the first a [luncheon at noon at Hilltop Golf Course, Peterborough](#), and a [dinner later that evening at the Portsmouth Country Club](#) in Greenland, with cocktails starting at 5:30, and dinner at 6:15. Tickets are \$60.00 for the luncheon, and \$75.00 for dinner, and proceeds benefit Open Democracy's mission. RSVP online or by calling Doreen at 603-608-6211. Are you able to help with a generous sponsorship of Ann Ravel's visit? Please contact Doreen to find out how.

Help Us Overturn Vetos of Democracy Bills Before Sept. 18/19

After a successful legislative session, with six high priority bills reaching Governor's desk, all six have disappointingly now been vetoed. HB 706, the bipartisan independent redistricting commission bill, was vetoed after the Governor's office had signaled it would be signed. An effort to overturn this and three other vetoes is underway, and you can help by contacting your local state reps and senator. Instructions on how you can help on HB 706 are on [Open Democracy Action's site](#).

Other shocking vetoes included SB 106, a bill requiring groups spending \$2500 or more in political activity in New Hampshire to register with the Secretary of State. The bill passed unanimously in both House and Senate committees, and passed unanimously in the full Senate, but was still vetoed by the Governor, citing “a chilling effect” on free speech.

SB 156, which attempted to close the “LLC Loophole” allowing anonymous donors of both major parties to launder unlimited Dark Money campaign donations through limited liability corporations, was also vetoed on “free speech” grounds. SB 156 would have required donors to disclose their identity, but would not be able to set maximum amounts, due to the Citizens United decision. This is a sleazy practice by both parties to hide out-of-state, Big Money donations for NH gubernatorial and U.S. Senate races.

NH 20th State to Call for a 28th Amendment to End Citizens United

September 16 at noon in front of the State House steps there will be a “20th for the 28th” celebration [RSVP Here](#), as New Hampshire becomes the 20th state to have it's Congressional delegation call for a 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The language of the HB 504 resolution allows Congress to regulate money politics without it being a violation of free speech, effectively neutralizing the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision. It also outlaws gerrymandering and requires fair redistricting. This bill, too, was vetoed by Governor Sununu, however, this type of bill requires only action from the legislature to be enacted. The September 16 event is open to all, and features Open Democracy and NH Rebellion volunteers who spearheaded petitioned warrant articles calling for the ending of Citizens United, legislators who moved the bill forward, and possibly members of our Congressional delegation.



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Call or Write Your State Rep and Senator and tell them to side with the voters and

OVERTURN THE VETOS

<p>Shouldn't Voting Districts be Fair? The Governor Doesn't Think So.</p> <p>Our voting district maps are currently drawn behind closed doors, and by the party in charge of the NH House, resulting in unfair "gerrymandered" districts.</p> <p>HB 706's independent commission uses a pure, non-partisan style for committees, and must draw its maps in public meetings, not back rooms. Fairness for the voters, and for the parties.</p> <p>Tell your legislators they must do what's right and override the veto of HB 706. It's constitutional, and it's fair.</p>	<p>NH Voters and the NH Legislature Say They Want \$\$\$ Out of Politics. NH Gov? System OK Like it is?</p> <p>Gov. and NH voters say there is too much money in politics. 92% of NH voters oppose Citizens United. NH voters passed resolutions to overturn Citizens United.</p> <p>Good News! The NH legislature passed HB 504, asking for a 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution so Congress can regulate Big Money in politics. Bad news? Governor Sununu vetoed the bill saying unlimited money in politics is OK with him. Why? That's between the Governor and his donors.</p> <p>If you want politicians to work for the voters, not their donors, tell your legislators that the veto for HB 504 should be overturned.</p>
<p>Sick of Sleazy Political Mailers?</p> <p>Thousands of political mailers are coming from deep in gross like "Prison for Me" & "Apple Pie". These are anonymous, one-way political donors trying to influence YOUR elections.</p> <p>SB 106 requires political groups spending \$2500 or more to register with the NH Secretary of State. Not too much to ask, right? This bill even passed UNANIMOUSLY in the House and Senate committees, and UNANIMOUSLY in the full Senate! But it got vetoed.</p> <p>We should know who is trying to influence our elections. SB 106's veto should be overturned.</p>	<p>Shine a Light on Millions of Dark Money Campaign Donations</p> <p>Money (Dark Money) donors use Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs) to make thousands of thousands of dollars in anonymous donations to a candidate – all because of a loophole in campaign funding laws.</p> <p>SB 156 fixes the LLC Loophole, and makes anonymous donors be visible to the NH voters. Tell your legislators to override the veto for SB 156!</p>

Your Reps Should Also SUPPORT SB 304
The Voter-Owned Elections Act

Did you know that campaign funding for New Hampshire elections, particularly Governor and Congressional candidates races, comes from 80% of New Hampshire's population? Financial officials SHOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE TO YOU, not to wealthy NH and increasingly out-of-state donors.

That's where The Voter-Owned Elections Act, SB 304, comes in. This bill creates a system of funding where EVERY REGISTERED VOTER gets two 25-dollar "Voter Dollars" certificate, which they can give to qualified candidates. To qualify, candidates need to get matching money to equal \$250 or less donation, then come to VOR to ask for your vote and for your Voter Dollars. Maine and Connecticut also have successful voter-owned election systems.

Ask your legislators to support the SB 304 Voter-Owned Elections Act, and let's take back our electoral system!

Actions This Summer – Open Democracy & NH Rebellion

Walk for Independence from Big Money

Thanks to the many of you who took action at events this summer. The July 9 Walk for Independence from Big Money attracted over 100 participants, including Presidential candidate U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, as we walked from Kittery, ME over the bridge to Market Square in Portsmouth. Sen. Gillibrand later spoke at a Democracy Town Hall, for which Open Democracy was a partner. Sen. Gillibrand's reform agenda was one of the most robust and specific among the Democratic candidates, but she had now dropped out of the race.



Granny D Memorial Walk & Rally

The sixth annual Granny D Memorial Walk & Rally celebrated the 20th anniversary of Doris Haddock's epic walk and included representatives from three Presidential campaigns, but also Executive Councilor Andru Volinski and several NH Representatives. As important were the 65 supporters who walked 6.3 miles to Peterborough, another 12 who walked the last mile, and dozens more who attended the lunch and rally in the park. Thank you to our speakers Jeff Clements from American Promise and Prof. Lawrence Lessig of Equal Citizen, for the anecdotes from Granny D friends Carol Wyndham, Leslie Vogel, Fred Simmons, Francie Von Mertens, and a written message from Ruth Meyers. Music was provided by FolkSoul, including, Leslie Vogel and Fred Simmons members of Granny D's personal band, Tatoo.



Milford Labor Day Parade

The weather was less than perfect for the Milford Labor Day Parade, but the Open Democracy Action volunteers brought campaign corruption and solutions to life for the crowd. Corrupt Senator Philmore Pockets got his bribes from Big Money (Jo Ellen Cuff), and SuperPAC Man (Lester Cuff) tried, but failed to influence Honest Tom, who uses Voter Dollars for his campaign. Other volunteers distributed the recently revised Open Democracy "Million Dollar Bills," with our six-point campaign finance reform message. Yes, campaign finance reform can be FUN! [Join us for the next event!](#)



Granny D Legacy Committee Picks Up the P.A.C.E

P.A.C.E, an independent nonprofit founded prior to Open Democracy to carry on Doris "Granny D" Haddock's legacy, recently dissolved as a separate organization. But simultaneously, the Granny D Legacy Committee was formed to carry on its work as part of Open Democracy. From co-chairs Pat Waterman and Carol Wyndham, here's a report on GDLC's activities:

Doris "Granny D" Haddock said "Democracy is not something we have, but something we do."

The Granny D Legacy Committee's mission is to preserve the history of Doris Haddock's extraordinary accomplishment of walking 3,200 miles across America to get big money out of politics and to encourage citizens to participate in their local, state and national governments.

To accomplish this mission, the Granny D Legacy Committee has an ever-growing list of projects such as an inspiring play about Granny D performed all over New Hampshire, an annual Granny D Memorial Walk, a postage stamp with her picture on it, a podcast of her speeches, a portrait or bust of Granny D at the New Hampshire Statehouse, a celebration of her birthday, and to establish that day, January 24, as Granny D Day in New Hampshire, and other projects just getting started.

Granny D is a New Hampshire treasure and the Granny D Legacy Committee strives to remind our citizens of her good work. May we all be inspired by her dedication to restoring our democratic goals as a nation. We welcome all volunteer help.

[Pat Waterman](#) and [Carol Wyndham](#), Co-Chairs



Passing of Barbara Hull Richardson

Our friend Barbara Hull Richardson, Open Democracy activist, a nine-term NH State Representative, and friend of Granny D, died on March 23, 2019 at age 96. She served on the board of PACE for many years, which recently became the Granny D Legacy Committee, among many boards she served. A memorial service will be held in Keene on September 29. We urge you to read the [obituary](#) for this amazing woman, and celebrate a life well lived.



What Will Your Democracy Legacy Be?

Open Democracy and NH Rebellion members are known for using their feet and their pens fix our campaign finance system. But it does take money as well. If you are able, consider making a sustaining membership donation to help with our cause, or a legacy gift to further the organization's long-term efforts. Call [Olivia Zink](#) at 603-715-8197 to find out more. You can also make a one-time donation anytime by visiting the websites for [Open Democracy](#) (501c3, tax deductible) or [Open Democracy Action](#) (501c4, not tax deductible). Thank you for supporting our work.

Make Changes to Your Membership & Email Preferences

Equal Voice goes to all supporters of Open Democracy, Open Democracy Action, and NH Rebellion on a monthly basis. If you don't wish to receive this newsletter, please let [Doreen](#) know by email, or call 603-715-8197. By next month, we hope to have a system in place to subscribe and unsubscribe to our various communications, so you are able to made changes directly. Look for details on that in next month's *Equal Voice*.