



Doris "Granny D" Haddock

EQUAL VOICE

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



Together, we fix it
and end the influence of Big Money politics

December 2019

Executive Director's Message

Thank You to Two Amazing Volunteers

Open Democracy Action and Open Democracy have been blessed with two amazing volunteer board members these last few years, who, unfortunately, have to take leave of the board.

Co-chair of Open Democracy Action Rick Bourdon has been a fixture on our boards for the last six years. Rick has authored the last three New Hampshire Democracy Legislation Scorecards as part of ODA's Policy Committee, a herculean task by any measure. He's met with both state and federal legislators, crafted legislation, and worked to get it passed. Since his addition to both boards for OD and ODA, he's also walked the talk, participating in 2015 NH Rebellion long walks and the Democracy Spring walk in 2016. He and spouse Lucie will be returning to Fort Collins, CO, where Rick previously served on the faculty of Colorado State University. Rick, Open Democracy is grateful for your service to New Hampshire and the nation.

Thank You! Steve Rand was a board member and treasurer of Open Democracy Action until this month, as he'll be returning to help run his family business, Rand's Hardware on Main Street in Plymouth. Steve was a

leader in the Independent Voters of New Hampshire, an ally to NH Rebellion initiatives in 2015 and 2016. Passionate about campaign finance reform, he was asked to join Open Democracy Action in 2018, and had just taken on the role of treasurer for ODA in June 2019 before changing circumstances required him to be back in the store on a daily basis. Steve, we'll miss your playful sense of humor and your drive for action, but hope that we'll see you back on a board in the coming years.

These gentlemen are just two of the amazing core of volunteers we have. When you walk for reform, make phone calls to a state rep, or join a Regional Democracy Team, you make a difference for our Democracy. And your state and your country are grateful.

Coming Up!

- **Dec. 3** – Central NH Regional Democracy Team, 6 pm, 4 Park St Offices, Ste 301, Concord. Contact [Jim Howard](#), 603-491-8131.
- **Dec. 10** – Seacoast RDT leadership meeting, 6:30, Stratham. Contact [JoEllen Cuff](#) at 603-793-9960 for more information.
- **Dec. 11** - Open Democracy Board Meeting, 4:30, Bow Library.
- **Dec. 11** - Monadnock RDT, Peterborough Library, basement, 7 p.m. Contact [Brian Beihl](#) at 603-620-8300 for more info.
- Be on the lookout for upcoming Democracy Town Hall Series events with Bernie Sanders and Amy Klobuchar
- More Regional Democracy Team meetings for Southern NH and Upper Valley

Olivia

Olivia Zink, Executive Director

Contact Us!

Office Phone: 603-715-8197
Olivia@OpenDemocracy.me
Doreen@OpenDemocracy.me
Garrett@OpenDemocracy.me
Brian@OpenDemocracy.me

Follow & Join Us!

Like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter
Open Democracy OpenDemocracyNH.org [Twitter](#)
ODA: OpenDemocracyAction.org [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#),
NH Rebellion: NHRebellion.org [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)
Haven't joined us yet? Visit any one of the websites' [Join pages](#)

How Did Your Reps, Senator and Governor Vote on Democracy Bills? See their Votes on ODA's 2019 NH Democracy Legislative Scorecard

Open Democracy Action's [2019 NH Democracy Legislative Scorecard](#) has been posted to the ODA website and it has been distributed to our members via email and social media.

As you know from previous issues, we had eight bills which passed both the House and Senate and reached the governor's desk. Six of those bills were vetoed, and none of our bills had enough bipartisan support to override.

The good news is that 145 NH State Representatives had 100% scores on the roll call legislation, representing 36% of the legislature. The bad news is that 142 members have a 0% score.

>Take Action! After reviewing your legislators' voting record on the Scorecard, write a letter to the editor to your local paper pointing other voters to this important information. Also, if you could take the time to call or write your representatives and senator, please thank those who voted for Democracy reform legislation, and ask those who voted against that legislation why they did so, given that most voters support such reforms. Thank you! You'll feel good about letting them know how you feel!

Regional "Democracy Teams" Leadership Begin Meeting

Our first Regional Democracy Team organizational meeting took place November 14 at the Open Democracy Action's offices in Concord. As we'd hoped, there were great ideas exchanged, meetings set for December and initial plans to support Granny D Day around the state January 24, and upcoming legislation in early January.

Be a Part of a Team!

Central NH RDT: [Jim Howard](#), 603-491-8131
 Upper Valley RDT: [Olivia Zink](#), 603-661-8621
 Monadnock RDT, [Peter Martel](#) (603) 831-3287
 North Country RDT: [Olivia Zink](#), 603-661-8621
 Seacoast RDT: [JoEllen Cuff](#), 603-793-9960
 Southern NH RDT: [Brian Beihl](#), 603-620-8300

Or, go to our [Take Action page](#) and click on [Regional Democracy Teams](#) and sign yourself up.

Upcoming meetings:

Central NH RDT: Tues, Dec. 3, 6:30 pm, Open Democracy offices, Concord
Seacoast RDT Leadership meeting, Dec. 10 (full RDT meeting in early January, date TBD.)
Monadnock RDT, Wed., Dec. 11, 7 pm, Peterborough Town Library
 Look for other RDT dates coming up shortly!



Questions? Call Brian Beihl at 603-620-8300 or send an [email](#) and let's make some change!

#GivingTuesday, Dec. 3

Tuesday, December 3 is the national #GivingTuesday initiative of nonprofits around the country. "It's a simple idea. Whether you come together with your family, your community, your company or your organization, find a way to give back and then share your idea." If you can make a gift today, or each month, to support Open Democracy Action, we'd be grateful for your support. ODA is a 501c4 and is not tax deductible, but our work none-the-less important. [Donate to ODA here](#)



SB 304 Lives to Fight Another Day

Earlier this year, the Voter-Owned Elections Act was our number one piece of legislation. Unfortunately, it became clear that it did not have enough support in the Senate Elections Law and Municipal Affairs committee to move forward. The bill was “re-referred” – held in committee – to be worked on over the summer.

Unfortunately, its chances didn't improve, as one of our key Senate votes finally explained he was opposed to the concept of public funding of elections. Bummer.

In November, [SB 304 was amended](#) to become a legislative study committee, and passed. Usually study committees is where good bills go to die, but in this case, we have an opportunity to work with legislators, bring in experts from around the country, allow legislators to learn how it works, and to design a stable funding source for the system. Voter-Owned Elections will be a stronger bill for 2021 as a result.

Policy Wonks Needed

Our ODA Policy Committee could use a couple more members, given the number of bills we've been supporting at the State House. If you are detail-oriented, don't mind coming to Concord three times a month and want to make a BIG difference, this might be for you! Contact [Bob Perry](#) at (603) 715-4474

>Take Action! In early January, we'll need you to call your NH Senator to make sure SB 304 gets passed.

Granny D Legacy Committee

Research continues on Granny D “Power of One” venues next spring, and on the Granny D Democracy Stage in Depot Square in Peterborough. Two other discussions are picking up speed as well, however. “Rosie,” Granny D's RV and support vehicle, has been stored in Keene and needs restoration. A museum in Chicago has opened discussions about accepting the RV and making it part of their collection. That offer is under discussion.

Bev Westheimer, Doreen Desmaris, and Garrett Walker attended the Social Studies Consortium, a conference of New Hampshire social studies teachers, encouraging schools to bring in the Granny D play. Garrett, Open Democracy staff organizer also distributed a one-class curriculum on teaching about campaign finance reform, prepared for a class at Southern NH University. Open Democracy may present at a seminar for next year's event.

A trove of online Granny D resources was shared by the Mason Library at Keene State College, including some videos unknown to the Open Democracy staff. There is a discussion as to where we can put links on the Open Democracy website, and perhaps the GrannyD.org domain, recently acquired for future use.

Submit Questions for the Pete Buttigieg Appearance on NHPR's *The Exchange* This Friday

The Exchange has asked for listener questions for Mayor Pete Buttigieg for this Friday's program. Would you help us by [submitting some Democracy Reform questions](#)?

- Do you support publicly-financed elections? If so, with voter dollars? Or matching funds?
- We have a democracy where Congressional members spend too much time raising money. How much time did you spend raising money? What do we do to change the way we fund campaigns?
- Unlimited corporate money has made our democracy pay-to-play. Do you support a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United?
- If elected President, will you support disclosing every dollar spent or contributed to influence our elections? Do you think States need this same level of disclosure too?
- What do we do to reform the system of gerrymandering so it doesn't favor incumbents and polarize parties?
- And any other questions you may have

(These questions have been asked to other 2020 Presidential Candidates on both sides of the aisle. Keep asking these questions of all the candidates!)

New Democracy Reform TV Program Debuts in Concord, Aims for Statewide Distribution

Open Democracy's super-volunteer, Jim Howard is producing a new show on Concord Community Television, hosted by Rose Marie Lanier, which discusses some of the challenges to our Democracy. The first episode on campaign finance reform features OD Executive Director Olivia Zink, former NH Senator and money-in-politics activist Jim Rubens, and American Promise state manager Azor Cole. See the episode on the [Open Democracy Action YouTube Channel](#).



A new episode will be recorded in January, this time on gerrymandering and fair redistricting. It's Jim's hope that other NH community TV stations will pick up the series, bringing the reform message to more voters. Well done, Jim!

>Take Action! Help us get other stations to broadcast Take Back Our Democracy by calling your local community public access television station and ask them to download the show from the [New Hampshire Coalition for Community Media's TelVue Connect server](#).

The Open Democracy Annual Fundraising Appeal Will Arrive Shortly by Mail or Email

If you are able, consider making a tax-deductible sustaining membership donation or a legacy gift to our sister 501c3 organization, Open Democracy, to further the organization's long-term efforts. Call [Olivia Zink](#) at 603-715-8197 to find out more, or [donate online](#).

Have You Heard the *Open Democracy Minute*?

Early last year, Open Democracy and WNHN 94.7 in Concord began a partnership to broadcast the [Open Democracy Minute](#). Produced by Open Democracy's Brian Beihl, founding station manager of WNHN, the minute follows current legislation, informs listeners about upcoming events, and teaches voters about Democracy reform issues, such as gerrymandering, Pay-to-Play politics, the LLC loophole and other issues to which voters should be paying attention.



In addition to being heard on WNHN Monday-Friday at 10:58 AM, it is also distributed on the Facebook and Twitter pages for Open Democracy Action and NH Rebellion. This week marks the 40th episode this year, and all can be heard at the [Open Democracy Minute page](#) on the OD website.



Copyright 2019,
Open Democracy Action
4 Park Street, Suite 301, Concord, NH
03301
603-715-8197