



Doris "Granny D" Haddock

THE EQUAL VOICE

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



Open
Democracy
AN EQUAL VOICE FOR ALL



Open
Democracy
Action



January 2020

Executive Director's Message

I'm Optimistic about 2020. Here's Why.

When I say I work for campaign finance reform, many of the voters I talk with say "Good luck with that." The money is getting more insidious on the federal level, and now it's infiltrating New Hampshire as well. Scary stuff. People understand the problem, but often don't know what to do to fix it, *so they have given up.*



But here's some good news for you to share with your friends and family. Most of us who do Democracy reform work every day are optimistic about 2020. In 2019, Congress introduced the largest Democracy Reform package in history, HR1. In NH, eight bills to pass the NH House and Senate last year, two of them signed by the governor.

Despite the independent redistricting commission bill HB 706 being vetoed, engaged voters now understand gerrymandering and at least one solution on how to fix it. There were 145 House legislators who voted for every Democracy bill for which there was a roll call vote, and dozens more who had mostly positive votes on voting rights, disclosure and closing the LLC loophole. And NH became the 20 state to officially call for a 28th amendment to overturn Citizens United. This is more progress than we've seen in a decade here in New Hampshire.

Another thing to be optimistic about: Open Democracy Action has now launched its six Regional Democracy Teams. For those legislators who voted against reform, our RDTs will be calling you. And writing you. And writing letters to the editor. And getting their friends and neighbors to do the same.

I'm optimistic about 2020 because after 10 years of Citizens United, and decades of Big Money politics, the people are getting educated, and mobilized, to save our republic's democracy. YOU make that possible by inviting your community to get involved, spreading the message for reform, and supporting our organization. Thank you for thinking positive and making change possible.
#TogetherWeFixIt

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](#)



We Decked the Democracy Town Halls in December

After a lull in November and early December, Open Democracy Action and its partner Equal Citizen hosted three Presidential candidates for Democracy Town Hall Series events, including Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado, businessman and activist Tom Steyer, and Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont.



On Friday, December 20, Sen. Bennet spoke to 45 voters in Peterborough in a discussion moderated by Executive Director Olivia Zink. Bennet has been an active advocate for reform, having been the prime sponsor of bills

including public funding of elections. [See the video](#)

The next evening, 125 voters packed the Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua to hear Tom Steyer speak with Larry Lessig. Steyer was well prepared for the event and gave some specifics to some of his democracy reform proposals. He supports public funding of elections, and connected his signature issue, climate change action, with Big Money politics. [See the video](#)



One week later, our coalition hosted the largest of the ten Democracy Town Hall Series events so far when Sen. Bernie Sanders addressed a crowd of over 500 at Concord High School auditorium. Joining Prof. Larry Lessig as moderator was another giant voice in campaign finance reform, Prof. Zephyr Teachout of Fordham University. The event was covered by CNN, CBS, NBC, ABC, the New York Times, Politico and several other news organizations. Its streaming video has already been viewed 140,000 times on Facebook, YouTube, Now This, and our partner websites. Thank you to the 40 ODA volunteers who helped make this event happen!



[See the Video](#)

Regional Democracy Team Meetings This Month

Our ODA Seacoast Team is off to the fastest start, with a great core group of volunteers. This month includes a leadership meeting on January 9, then a larger public event on January 14 at the Wiggin Memorial Library in Stratham, 6:30 pm. At that meeting the Seacoast time will show one of Lawrence Lessig's TED talks, followed by a business meeting.



Coming Up!

- **Jan. 5 – 9** – OD staff & volunteers table at New England College Student Convention.
- **January 6**, - Southern NH Regional Democracy Team (RDT), 7 p.m., Merrimack Public Library.
- **Jan. 13** - Monadnock RDT, Dublin Public Library, meeting room 5 p.m. Contact [Brian Beihl](#) at 603-620-8300 for more info.
- **Jan. 14** – Seacoast RDT general meeting, 6:30, Wiggin Memorial Library, Stratham. Contact [JoEllen Cuff](#) at 603-793-9960 for more information
- **Jan. 14** – Central NH Regional Democracy Team, 6 pm, Franklin Public Library, Franklin. Contact [Jim Howard](#), 603-491-8131.
- **Jan. 16** – First meeting for the ODA Campaign Finance Corruption Choir, OD offices, 4 Park Street, Suite 301, Concord. Contact [Brian Beihl](#) at 603-620-8300 for more info.
- **Jan. 21** - "Funeral for Democracy" political theater, 10th anniv. of Citizens United. State House, Concord. Mourners needed. Contact [Brian Beihl](#) at 603-620-8300 for more info.
- **Jan. 23** – Granny D Day Legislator Luncheon St. Paul's basement, Noon. Contact [Brian Beihl](#) at 603-620-8300 for more info.
- **Feb. 11** – NH Primary

The Central NH team has met in Concord, and rotates to Franklin Public Library on January 14. As part of their meeting, they will be taking a "Veto-the-Veto" action, returning the HB 706 veto statement to the governor's office with a veto statement of our own in red pen.

After meeting in December in Peterborough, Monadnock RDT meets in Dublin, Granny D's hometown, Monday, January 13. It, too, will be discussing plans for Granny D's birthday later in the month, and will be setting a calendar for the upcoming meetings. Upper Valley and North Country are yet to meet, but will do so as weather allows.

Be a Part of a Team!

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



Do YOUR PART for Democracy and go to our [Take Action page](#) and click on [Regional Democracy Teams](#). Questions? Call Brian Beihl at 603-620-8300 or send an [email](#).

Upcoming Votes on SB 304, SB 8

As noted last month, the SB 304 Voter-Owned Elections Act was amended to be a legislative study committee, rather than a full-fledged bill. This subcommittee of Election Law & Municipal Affairs will allow us to educate the legislature on value of publicly-funded elections, particularly because of the recent Dark Money LLC donations for the 2020 in the NH governor's race and the influence of a handful of wealthy donors. The question is no longer whether we can afford public financing of elections; it's whether we can afford not to.

Remember the HB 706 Independent Redistricting Commission that would have ended gerrymandering in New Hampshire? *It's baaaaack!* A competing independent redistricting bill in 2019, [SB 8](#) was amended recently with HB 706's language. Normally, bills judged to be the same as a previous bill can't come back, but when vetoed by the governor, they may return. HB 706 was a bipartisan bill, and SB 8 also had a bipartisan endorsement out of the Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs committee, on an 18-2 vote. Since SB 8 is a 2019 bill, it will be acted on within the next few weeks.

Be part if the change at the State House!

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! 1) Call your NH State Senator and ask that SB 304 Voter-Owned Honest Elections study committee, and SB 8 Independent Redistricting Commission be passed in the full Senate vote. 2) Write a letter to the editor calling for the SB 8 Independent Redistricting Commission to be passed by the legislature. It's bipartisan; it's home grown; it's constitutional and it's the right thing to do for the voters of New Hampshire.

Want to Follow Legislation in the State House?

Subscribe to the New Hampshire Democracy Report

With the second half of the new legislative session about to begin, we're about to restart the [New Hampshire Democracy Report](#). This weekly newsletter follows legislation

The New Hampshire Democracy Report

NH legislation on campaign finance, voting rights, redistricting, and money in politics



**OPEN
DEMOCRACY
ACTION**
Open Democracy Founder Doris "Granny D" Haddock
America's Campaign Finance Reformer
1910-2010

that Open Democracy Action is working on or supports. It also contains requests for actions you can take to help our cause at the State House. To subscribe, go to our [Email Preferences page](#) and sign yourself up (or take yourself off if you need to).

Take Back Our Democracy Records New Episode in January

We mentioned last month that 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. January's episode discusses gerrymandering and redistricting, with Olivia Zink, Rep. Ned Gordon, and Rep. Marjorie Smith. When it's posted, see the new episode on the [Open Democracy Action YouTube Channel](#).



>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.

We Fell Short – And We Still Need Your Help!



We just got the numbers for the End-of-Year Appeal, and we fell short. We raised \$8,995.00, but are \$1,005 short from our \$10,000 end-of-2019 goal. It's your support which powers our work for America's Democracy here in New Hampshire, like the Democracy Town Hall Series, the legislative work, and the Regional Democracy Teams. Can you chip in to support our critical mission?

>Take Action Consider making a tax-deductable one-time or sustaining membership donation, or a plan a legacy gift to Open Democracy, to further the organization's long-term efforts. Call [Olivia Zink](#) at 603-715-8197 to find out more, or [donate online](#).

New England College “First in the Nation” College Convention

January 5 – 9 volunteers and staff will be exhibiting at the New England College “First in the Nation” Student Convention. This was an event we found valuable in 2016 for meeting engaged political science students and talk with them about combating Big Money influence with campaign finance reform. Open Democracy is also coordinating a campaign finance reform panel discussion with Azor Cole of American Promise, Adam Eichen of Equal Citizens, Manu Meel of BridgeUSA, and Steve Bourne.



“Mourners” Needed for “Funeral for Democracy” Action for Jan. 21 Anniv. of Citizens United in Concord

Calling all political theater actors! Tuesday, January 21 is the 10th anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's Citizens United decision. With your help, we are going to commemorate this tragedy with a “funeral” on the plaza in front of the New Hampshire State House, out by Main Street at 11:30. We may do a New Orleans-style walk down Main Street, then return to the front of the State House at noon.



The message we're trying to convey is “We need to act before it's too late.” We need volunteers to read eulogies we've prepared, such as “We knew Democracy was sick but didn't take action until it was too late,” and “We thought this was only a Washington problem, but the disease spread to New Hampshire, too.”

If you can help, please email [Brian Beihl](#) (with your condolences). We'd ask that you dress in black as if you were going to a real funeral.

Celebrating January 24 Granny D Day with Proclamation, Movies, Legislative Luncheon

As has been the case few years, a proclamation by Governor Chris Sununu will commemorate Doris "Granny D" Haddock's birthday, January 24, as Granny D Day. Some of our regional democracy teams will be host movies on or before January 24, and Open Democracy Action staff will host a Granny D Luncheon in Concord on January 23, using the opportunity to discuss the 2020 Democracy legislation with state senators and representatives. This would have been Granny D's 110th birthday. There is also a 2020 bill put forward by the Granny D Legacy Committee to create a permanent Granny D Day holiday to remember Doris in the State of New Hampshire – though it won't give you the day off. Sorry!

Granny D Day



Jan. 24, 2020

"Campaign Finance Corruption Chorus" Being Formed for Last Days of New Hampshire Primary



Are you a singer? We're forming a nonpartisan chorus to sing at campaign events in the last 10 days of the New Hampshire Primary.

We'll supply you with a winter hat & scarf as a uniform, and special money-in-politics song lyrics to familiar tunes. We'll sing "corruption carols" outside candidate events (both parties), the Democratic debate in New Hampshire, and for the national & international press corp in Manchester. We will guarantee you your 5 minutes of fame!

Our objective is to bring a message of the dangers of Big Money influence on our system, but do it with humor and a smile. First gathering is at the Open Democracy offices on January 16, 6:30 p.m.

C'mon, it will be fun! [Sign up here](#), or send an email to Deputy Director [Brian Beihl](#).

Our New Year's Wishes

As you know, we're a pretty lean and mean organization. But there are a few things that would make our mission more effective.

- **Volunteer**, part or all of 1-day per week, to help update our NationBuilder database. We'll train you, and can be done partly at home. **THANK YOU, Jean Lightfoot!**
- Good quality **digital video camera** for recording events, news conferences.
- Donation of \$500 or more to **underwrite purchase of incentives** for fundraising: Bumper stickers & magnets, allowing us to entice more small donors AND help spread the word.
- Working **32"+ flat screen TV** with HDMI input for video conferencing in the conference room (shared with Peace Action, AFSC and other groups).
- Doreen's raw fingers have asked for a letter folder/envelope stuffer
- Wireless lapel microphones to help record events and press conferences

