



Voter Education in North Dakota

By Laurie Freid

This year the North Dakota Women's Network expanded their reach to Eastern North Dakota. Through the last couple of years, voters in North Dakota have seen changes in laws and policies surrounding how to vote in elections. There has been much discussion on what types of voter affidavits citizens could use to vote if they did not have proper identification. In conjunction with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of North Dakota, the North Dakota Women's Network (NDWN) decided to educate the Eastern North Dakota area on the recent changes to ensure a proper voter turnout. By employing an intern in Grand Forks, NDWN gave comprehensive presentations in Grand Forks, North Dakota on how to vote at the polls in North Dakota's general election. Knowing your voting rights is an important aspect of being an American citizen. The 'Know Your Rights' presentation was geared towards college students on and off campus; additionally, the 'Know Your Rights' presentation addressed how to vote if the audience was experiencing homelessness, a criminal record, or changes to names and addresses. The ACLU and NDWN expressed culpability through the 'Know Your Rights' presentation by exposing what to do if a citizen experienced issues at the polls and gave contact information for citizens to utilize.

Additionally, the presentation was transparent and straightforward with what voters could expect at the polls. The 'Know Your Rights' presentations shed light on how to vote for Eastern North Dakota's citizens. The presentation was a pertinent resource for college students as there were many mixed messages presented to them regarding voter education. The presentations garnered relevant conversations and brought relief to many during the campaign season.

The state legislature is again making voting laws changes in HB 1369 with both good and bad changes.