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NEWS RELEASE CORRECTION

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R.I. DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CAUCUS ADOPTS BYLAWS, APPROVES PAC & SUPPORTS RESOLUTION ON REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Organization Formalizes Structure & Mission and Launches Rhode Island's *Resistance Summer* Program to Recruit Latina/ Minority Women and 'Red-District' Voters

WARWICK, R.I. – An estimated hundred members of the state's newly-revitalized Democratic Women's Caucus gathered Monday evening in Providence to adopt bylaws, establish a political action committee, and formalize their activities for the 2017 – 2018 election cycle. They also passed a [resolution](#) to protect reproductive rights. The meeting included launching of Rhode Island's *Resistance Summer* program, which will include hiring two coordinators to engage more Latina and minority women voters, and those in red-district communities.

"It's exciting to see how energized our 'silent majority' of women have become as a result of the 2016 presidential election," said state Democratic Party Chair Joseph M. McNamara. "It's America's women leading this grass-roots activity in our communities, and who will help assure Democratic victories nationwide and at all levels, in the next elections. They are making their voices heard," he said.

Rhode Island's Women's Caucus is co-chaired by state Senator Gayle Goldin and state Representatives Lauren Carson, Grace Diaz, and Shelby Maldonado. Since late January, nearly 400 women have signed up as members and to volunteer - many of whom had not previously been involved in political activities.

"On November 9, 2016, women in Rhode Island woke up with one question on their minds, "what can I do to make a difference?" said co-chair Senator Gayle Goldin. "Since then, they have been working to ensure our Democratic Party truly stands for gender equality. They are meeting with local, state, and federal officials, marching in near-weekly protests, organizing petitions, testifying up at the State House, participating in trainings, and getting involved in their city and town committees. Every one of them is making a difference. We invite others to join us."

On Monday night, the Women's Caucus took the formal step to pass [bylaws](#), set up a membership system and pass its first resolution, which calls upon the House and Senate to pass the Reproductive Healthcare Act. The [resolution](#) reiterates the RI Democratic Party [platform](#) which states the Party will "continue the battle to protect a woman's right to choose."

The Party's new Executive Director, Tolulope Kevin Olasanoye, addressed the group about the DNC's *Resistance Summer* project and how the Party was looking to engage and expand women's roles in campaigns and elections. Majority Leader Joseph Shekarchi also addressed the group.

Women signed up as members with nominal contributions (\$1 and up) to join the PAC and to be entitled to vote on resolutions, bylaws and how donations will be used.

The [bylaws](#) detailed the structure of the Caucus (four co-chairs, an Executive Committee, individual committees,) and how to participate as members or elected officers, and the mission and vision of the organization.

Copies of the bylaws and [mission/vision](#) statement will be posted online at the Party's website www.ridemocrats.org, as of Wednesday, June 14, and links will be posted on Facebook and Twitter. Rhode Island Democratic women looking for information and/or to join the Caucus should email agooding@ridemocrats.org, or call 401.272.3367.

The next meeting will be held July 11 at the Rogers Free Library Central Library, 525 Hope Street, Bristol. The [schedule of meetings](#) will also be posted on the Party calendar and disseminated through its website, Twitter account @RIDPWomensCaucus and through the Party's Facebook pages.

*****COVERAGE INVITED*****

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The date of next meeting has been corrected and resolution information (and links) updated from original release.