

2017

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2018

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IN

2021

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2022

YEARS.

2023

Stories of Impact
EDITION

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A Message from our Virginia Team

To The States Project Community,

This year, we made history together in the states — again. You fueled the work to flip the Virginia House of Delegates and defend the State Senate, shattering records. **You have set the bar for what it looks like to truly treat state legislatures like the strongest force for change in America.**

You powered our \$4.7 million impact in Virginia's state legislative elections — **more than double** what any other national group spent. You seeded investment in our **gold-standard Core Electoral Program**, ensuring we had the resources we needed to drive evidence-based tactics in critical majority-making districts. You recognized there are no off years in this work, you stayed focused, and you showed up. **Thank you.**

This is what you made possible: **lawmakers in Virginia's new majorities have more power as they work to defend democracy, protect individual freedoms, and make people's daily lives better.**

Our policy team has been supporting Virginia lawmakers to prepare for this very outcome, ensuring they are equipped with the tools and training they need to effectively use their governing power from day one.

The result? Virginia's majorities have already filed two resolutions to amend the state constitution that would **protect abortion and expand voting rights** and two policies that would **raise the minimum wage and limit purchases of assault weapons.**

We're so grateful to have you as our partners in the states. Thank you for choosing to show up for this crucial work — again and again.

Onward.

Maryli

Regional Political Director

Joe

Senior Director of Lawmaker Engagement

The States Project in the News

How a Little-Known Group Helped Resurgent Democrats Wield Power

By NICK CORASANITI

For decades, Republicans have outmaneuvered and outspent Democrats in state legislatures, gerrymandering them into the minority in both red states and political battlegrounds.

G.O.P. state lawmakers have used that advantage to pass countless conservative policies — with a lot of help along the way.

In back rooms and behind the scenes, conservative think tanks and other policy groups like the Heritage Foundation and the American Legislative Exchange Council drafted model legislation for Republican lawmakers to cut taxes, expand gun rights and loosen environmental regulations.

Now Democrats are trying to put themselves on even footing.

An increasingly prominent player in this liberal push is a little-known group called the States Project, which was founded in 2017 and made a financial splash in state legislative elections last year, pouring \$60 million into races in five competitive states: Arizona, Michigan, Maine, Nevada and Pennsylvania.

That investment reflects a broader recognition by Democrats that with Congress often deadlocked, many of the nation's most urgent battles over abortion access, gun control and voting rights are now unfolding in state capitols. Liberal groups, including issue-based ones like Everytown for Gun Safety and Planned Parenthood, now direct more of their attention to state legislative races.

The States Project, however, focuses solely on them.

"They are very unique and filling a vacuum," said Joanna E. McClinton, the Democratic speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

goals, including investments in public education, paid family leave and measures to combat climate change and institute equal pay.

When Democrats unexpectedly took narrow control of the House in last year's elections, she said, they had a running start. Even with the Senate still in Republican hands, Democrats managed to pass a state budget with a \$567 million increase in school funding, including free breakfast for all public school students.

That liberal success, Ms. McClinton said, could be attributed in part to the States Project.

"The work they did with us while we were in the minority was very crucial in helping us to have a governing one-seat majority in a split legislature," she said.

Taking full advantage of even a razor-thin majority has become crucial in a country where 39 states are now fully controlled by one party — the most in at least three decades. That one-sided-

Filling a void by focusing solely on state lawmakers

ness means that in many places lawmakers are pushing unflinchingly partisan agendas.

Last year, Democrats flipped one or more chambers in several states, including Michigan and Minnesota, and they have acted quickly, passing measures to tighten gun laws, set limits on carbon emissions, increase education funding and protect abortion access.

The States Project has had a

"Going back to 1972, the right had seen the extent to which state legislatures were a place that they could impose their worldview," Mr. Squadron said, noting that the Heritage Foundation and the American Legislative Exchange Council were both founded the next year. "The fact that there's no glamour, and you're not going to get a presidential candidate sitting on your living room couch by doing this work, the fact that you're not going to be the top rung of the Beltway, didn't matter to them structurally, because the return was just too good."

Mr. Pritzker, who is a cousin of Gov. J.B. Pritzker of Illinois, said, "If you take yourself back to 2017, '18, '19, when we got started, it just seemed like this niche backwater, at least in our part of the world, that really no one cared about."

The inspiration for the States Project began in Albany, where Mr. Squadron, a newly elected lawmaker, was part of the class of Democrats that first took over both chambers in 2008.

It was not smooth, as he recalls. "It was a mess," he said. "We were on the front page of The New York Post with clown faces superimposed over our own faces."

In the next cycle, Republicans retook control. "Worst of all, we lost the majority," Mr. Squadron added, "and didn't just lose the majority, but lost the majority in a way where the Democratic governor used us as an example of what not to be and didn't recover from that for years and years."

Last year, the States Project made large donations to Democratic state legislators' campaigns across the country. The group's founders saw it as a shrewd investment.

"When we were initially building our budget, the total cost to



The States Project was founded by the ex-lawmaker Daniel Squadron, left, and Adam Pritzker.

like that? In terms of the power of the states, the power of having a majority, of passing laws that improve people's lives in the state."

Mr. Squadron and Mr. Pritzker are quick to point out differences between the States Project and its conservative counterparts. For one, their group doesn't lobby lawmakers to pass specific bills or have lobbyists on the payroll. And its efforts in state capitols have a much smaller budget: roughly \$5 million per year, with about 20 full-time staff members working in 15 states.

The group is funded by Future Now Action, a tax-exempt, so-called dark-money group that is not required to disclose its donors. The States Project declined to reveal its donor list.

While most organizations seeking to craft state policy share their model legislation and plans out of the public eye, the States Project posts all of its proposals on its website.

state senator in Michigan. She said the States Project's online policy library had been helpful for drafting the final version of a bill she wrote on paid family leave. (The bill hasn't advanced, but Gov. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, a Democrat, mentioned it as a top priority in her "What's Next" address last month.)

In some cases, lawmakers have taken cues from their peers in other states.

In Pennsylvania, as Democrats sought their expansion of the school meal program, State Representative Matthew Bradford, the party's majority leader, said that he looked to similar efforts in Michigan for a blueprint.

"Obviously they do have a trifecta, but I believe they also have the distinction of being a Trump 2016 state," Mr. Bradford said. Michigan, he added, showed how "you can do the possible" and offered a road map for "synthesizing the general ideas."

One popular States Project pro-

"A quick call to someone in the States Project saves me time," said Sarah Anthony, a Democratic state senator from Michigan who serves as chair of the budget committee. Otherwise, she added, "My team and I try to scour the internet to try to figure out who's tackling which problems where."

Lawmakers can also provide accounts of their experiences on the portal.

"I was the chief author of our 100-percent-clean-energy-by-2040 bill in Minnesota," said Jamie Long, the Democratic majority leader in the Minnesota House. "And so the States Project had me on a panel conversation with legislators from other states to talk about how we did it, what some of our secrets to success were and used us as an example."

With Democrats likely to continue to focus on abortion rights as a key issue in 2024, the States Project is girding for another busy year in state legislatures.

"Abortion was definitely an important catalyst that brought an

THE STATES PROJECT IN THE NEWS

In 2023, we shined a bigger, brighter spotlight on the importance of state legislatures and what was at stake in Virginia’s elections. Here’s a snapshot of those messages in the media. [Check out our website to see more.](#)

The New York Times

How a Little-Known Group Helped Resurgent Democrats Wield Power

“When we were initially building our budget, the total cost to run a slate of candidates in Virginia was something like in the hundreds of thousands of dollars,’ **Mr. Pritzker** said, adding that the last presidential election cost about **\$14 billion**. ‘The delta there is astounding. How’s that even possible where there’s an asymmetry like that? In terms of the power of the states, the power of having a majority, of passing laws that improve people’s lives in the state.”

READ THE ARTICLE

Intelligencer

The Data-Driven Strategy Behind Democrats’ State-Level Success in 2022

READ THE ARTICLE

POLITICO

Dem-leaning States Project group pours \$4.5 million into Virginia legislative races

READ THE ARTICLE

NBC NEWS

Glenn Youngkin united Virginia Republicans around a 15-week abortion ban. Some have pushed to go further.

READ THE ARTICLE

THE STORY BEHIND THE HEADLINE

This year, it became clear that the rightwing understood that extreme abortion bans are not popular with a vast majority of Americans — and the issue is causing them to lose elections. That’s why Governor Youngkin publicly claimed a position different from the one held privately by the state legislative candidates that he endorsed.

We knew that privately, Youngkin and a majority of state legislative candidates supported an extreme, unpopular ban on reproductive care, and that they were willing to do anything — including deceiving their own voters — in the pursuit of power. We also had the research to prove it.

We shared our findings with **NBC News**, who published **this story**, featuring TSP’s research, just three weeks before the election. **The story put a national spotlight on rightwing candidates’ true policy positions.** It ensured more people understood the role these state legislative elections would play in protecting — or dismantling — abortion access across the South.

Victory in Virginia!

VIRGINIA GIVING CIRCLES

A & L's States Project Giving Circle • Action Beats Inaction • All Hands on Deck • Altered States Giving Circle • Americans Abroad Defending Our Democracy • Big Red's Blue Angels • Blair Holt's Giving Circle • Blue Devils for NC • Blue Rising Giving Circle • Bluebirds • Bluegrass Blue Wave • Burnt Toast Giving Circle • Busy's Giving Circle • Caroline, Nicki & Melissa's Channel Your Rage Giving Circle • Chop Wood, Carry Statehouses • Coast to Coast Giving Circle • Comrade Besties • Creatives for Democracy • DC Blue Wave • Do Something! Giving Circle • Dollars For Democracy • Earth and Education For All • Ever True • Evil Witches • Fabulous Women's Huddle • Fighting for Justice in the States • Fired Up for Democracy • Flip Blue. Defend Blue. • Flipping Seats and Taking Names • For the People • Forever35 Podcast • Galvanized Givers • GoodTrouble • Greater Boston Giving Circle • Green Lake Giving Circle • "Hold On" Minnesota • In It To Win It • In Pursuit of Clean Countertops Giving Circle • Indivisible Euclid Giving Circle • La Resistance • Let's Go Giving Circle • Little Bites to Blue • Make a Difference • MAKE IT BLUE! • Markers For Democracy • Michigan Strong • Moving the Branch • Onward • Paint A State Blue! • Partners for Democracy • Potlucks and Politics • Purple to Blue • Raising the States Giving Circle • ReSisters Giving Circle • San Francisco Black and Jewish Unity Coalition • Save Our States • SeedMN • Seniors Taking Action • State by State • State Democracy Matters! • State Fair • State Legislatures Matter • Swing These States • Tamar's Giving Circle • Tending to Democracy • The Los Angeles Giving Circle • The Mainiacs • THE REAL PATRIOTS • The Riveters • The Shirtwaists • The Wednesday Group • To What End (the Patriarchy) • Together For Choice • Tracy Place Giving Circle • United Flippin States • Uphold Democracy • Virginia is for Book Lovers • We Dissent • We The Women - States Project



“Being in the majority and being in the minority is like night and day. When you’re in the majority, you can get things done. When you’re in the minority, you’re just going to a lot of meetings.”

— **SPEAKER DON SCOTT, VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

THE STORY IN VIRGINIA

Together, we flipped the Virginia House of Delegates and defended the State Senate, making history in the states once again!

With majorities in both chambers, lawmakers focused on improving lives will have the governing power they need to block rightwing Governor Glenn Youngkin’s extreme agenda, including the abortion ban he campaigned on.

From early in the cycle, it was clear that the rightwing was banking on Youngkin’s popularity to drive state legislative results. Youngkin, whose approval ratings were much higher than President Biden’s in Virginia, raised nearly \$19 million for these races. His name and face were often prominently featured on the ads and mailers for rightwing candidates.

Ultimately, we knew candidates in the districts where we invested would need to outperform the previous cycle’s Democratic candidate for governor for the first time in 20 years in order to win both chambers. They did, and candidates running in districts that were part of our gold-standard Core Electoral

Program, overperformed Terry McAuliffe’s results in his race for governor by 2 percentage points.

OUR CORE ELECTORAL PROGRAM

We powered \$4.7 million in Virginia — more than double what any other national group did — in districts our research showed could decide control of each chamber. We identified the dollar amount we needed to invest to effectively deploy each tactic in our arsenal and an evidence-based maximum investment goal to ensure we weren’t spending dollars that would produce diminished returns.

In other words? We used the playbook we’ve been developing and refining for years: our **Core Electoral Program**.

THE TACTICS

Early impact. Our earliest investment, made in December 2022, helped flip a key Senate seat. We knew this was the smartest use of early dollars because it gave a strong candidate time to build name recognition and reach voters early, which made the district safer in the general election.

Candidate door knocking. Our innovative Door Knocking Challenge (DKC) incentivizes candidates themselves to use the most effective tool in their toolbox: meeting voters face-to-face. Virginia candidates who participated ultimately knocked **3x more doors** on average than candidates who did not participate.

But we didn’t just want candidates to focus on the **quantity** of doors they knocked, we wanted them to focus on the **quality** of those interactions too. That’s why we layered a new tactic into our DKC called **clinch cards** — personalized follow-up notes from candidates to voters they met on the doors. This tactic reinforced that the candidates they met were **really** listening to them! Candidates who wrote the most clinch cards each month earned an additional campaign contribution.

Television ads. Candidates in districts supported by our Core Electoral Program invested in **13x more broadcast TV airtime** than candidates in districts not directly impacted by our program. But we didn’t just fuel ad buys. We also funded

testing for 30 unique TV ads, a brand new tactic for Virginia state legislative races, to ensure the messages in those ads resonated with voters in each district. By allowing the persuasiveness of each ad to be measured **before** it aired, we ensured campaigns could reach voters with their most effective message, right off the bat.

Local press support. We fueled our partners’ ability to hire media specialists who provided press support for campaigns in 10 tipping point districts. We implemented this tactic for the first time in 2022, and applied our learnings to this cycle. This year, this program didn’t just help candidates get their message

out as often as possible, it was also focused on earning local press coverage from media with a larger reach to increase impact.

THE PATH TO POWER

The tipping point seat in the Senate was SD-30, where Senator-elect Danica Roem won her race by 2,259 votes to secure the majority, a margin of less than 4%. Just 1,130 votes changing could have flipped the chamber for the rightwing.

The tipping point seat that created the new majority in the House of Delegates was HD-21, where Representative-elect Joshua Thomas won his seat by 975 votes.



Here’s an effective ad from a winning VA candidate.

TSP’S TIMELINE IN VIRGINIA

- 2017**
In The States Projects’ earliest work in state legislative races, we helped flip enough seats in the House of Delegates to come within one seat of ending rightwing control in the chamber.
- 2019**
We helped flip the House of Delegates, building a Democratic trifecta in the state for the first time since 1993!
- 2021**
While the rightwing regained control of the House of Delegates, our work in the districts with the closest margins meant that if 400 votes across three districts had gone the other way, we would have held the House majority.
- 2023**
We successfully defended the Senate majority and flipped two seats to build a new majority in the House of Delegates!

THE STORY IN VIRGINIA

Thanks to our investment, media specialists were hired to provide local press support to Virginia candidates.

Here are some of the press headlines generated from Virginia this year:

The Free Lance-Star
Candidate for delegate visits local barbershops

READ THE ARTICLE

ESSENCE
A Black Woman Running For Office In Virginia Could Be The State’s Last Hope In Protecting Women’s Reproductive Rights

READ THE ARTICLE

Richmond Times-Dispatch
Va. Democrats renew call for gun safety laws following Maine shooting

READ THE ARTICLE

npr
What Virginia’s legislative elections could spell for 2024 abortion rights

READ THE ARTICLE

DOGWOOD
Democratic House candidate Josh Thomas’ closing pitch

READ THE ARTICLE

THE FUTURE

Lawmakers in Virginia’s majorities can ensure harmful, rightwing policies don’t reach Youngkin’s desk, including dangerous and extreme abortion bans that he has advocated for.

The governing power Giving Circles helped build will serve as a critical firewall for millions of patients across the South, as Virginia is the only southern state without a post-Dobbs abortion ban.

In fact, Virginia’s new majorities are already leveraging their governing power to give voters the opportunity to secure protections in their state constitution. Just two weeks after Election Day, they filed two resolutions to amend the state constitution to let voters decide to:

- **Protect abortion access** to ensure every Virginian has the freedom to make their own healthcare decisions.
- **Strengthen democracy** by safeguarding the right to vote for people with felony convictions after they have served their sentences.

During the 2022 legislative session, the Senate majority pushed to send voters

constitutional amendments to protect abortion access, voting rights, and marriage equality. But the rightwing House majority blocked their efforts. Because Giving Circles helped build majorities committed to improving lives in both chambers, these constitutional amendments, which don’t require gubernatorial approval, will now move forward.

The Virginia majorities can also defend our democracy, both by ensuring the state’s 13 electoral votes are awarded to the presidential candidate that voters select in 2024, and by blocking anti-voter laws.

And finally, the majorities Giving Circles helped fuel will now have the governing power to advance broadly popular, life-improving policies, like these two policies — the first filed for the upcoming legislative session:

- **Raise the minimum wage** to \$15 an hour by 2026 to ensure all workers are able to afford basic necessities and build toward a better future.
- **Make communities safer** by limiting purchases of assault weapons.

Youngkin will be forced to either

publicly veto these popular, commonsense policies or sign them into law.

Enacting life-improving policies won’t be easy with Youngkin continuing to wield the veto pen, but TSP’s policy work with lawmakers in both chambers can ensure they have the tools, training, and resources to advance their policy priorities and communicate those wins to their constituents.

 **Schuyler VanValkenburg**
@ScVanValkenburg

The first bill I will submit in the Senate is the safe storage legislation I’ve carried in the House. We can and must do more to keep our kids safe from gun violence.

The Governor should sign it when it passes the House and Senate.

Immediately after winning his race on election night, Senator-elect Schuyler VanValkenburg pledged to introduce a safe gun storage policy in the upcoming legislative session!

CHANGING WHO IS AT THE TABLE

When we work to shift power in a state chamber, we're not just shifting the party majority — we're changing who is at the decision table. State lawmakers who are more representative of the diversity of their state? That's **real** change.

Here's a look at how power has shifted in the Virginia House of Delegates, where we helped build a new majority, and the Senate, where we defended the majority, while also drastically increasing diversity — including doubling the number of women.



"I know I stand on the shoulders of my ancestors who built that Capitol. I just wake up with so much gratitude to be in this position."

— Speaker Don Scott, Virginia House of Delegates, to the Associated Press



"I first came to the House as part of the Blue Wave of 2017 where voters repudiated MAGA extremism for the first time. I cannot wait to return in this role now that voters have rejected that extremism yet again."

— Delegate Kathy Tran, new Virginia House of Delegates Chair

Speaker Don Scott will become the first Black person to serve as Speaker of the Virginia House in the chamber's 400-year history. In an interview ahead of the vote, Scott told the **Associated Press** that his election as Speaker would show the progress made in Virginia and Richmond — the former capital of the Confederacy — over their long history.

Delegate Kathy Tran, re-elected to serve HD-18, will become the first member of the AAPI community to serve as Caucus Chair in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Senator-elect Danica Roem, who was elected to serve in SD-30, became the first openly transgender person elected to the Virginia Senate.



"We are going to have a record number of out, LGBTQ+ members in the Virginia General Assembly and I think that sends a message that when you have legislators focused on delivering on core quality of life issues — fixing roads, feeding kids, protecting our land — you won't have legislators who are focused on singling out and stigmatizing the very people they're elected to serve."

— Senator-elect Danica Roem, elected to serve Virginia Senate District 30, to **MSNBC**



VIRGINIA HOUSE MAJORITY



was **21% Women**



is now **53% Women**



was **2% BIPOC**
0% Asian & MENA, 0% Latino, 2% Black



is now **67% BIPOC**
12% Asian & MENA, 10% Latino, 45% Black



was **0% LGBTQ+**



is now **14% LGBTQ+**

VIRGINIA SENATE MAJORITY



was **23% Women**



is now **52% Women**



was **28% BIPOC**
5% Asian & MENA, 23% Black



is now **47% BIPOC**
14% Asian & MENA, 33% Black

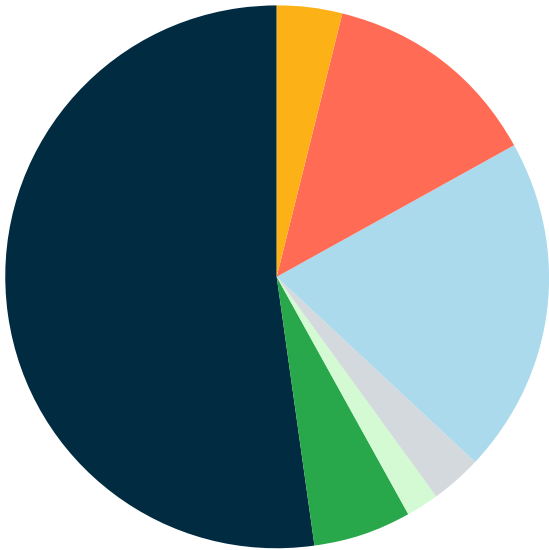
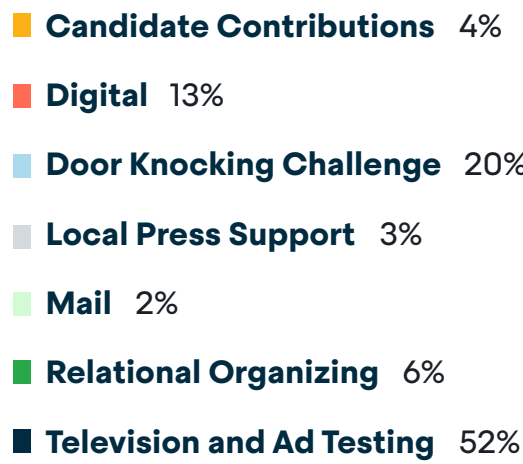


was **5% LGBTQ+**



is now **10% LGBTQ+**

What Your Dollars Fueled



Candidate Contributions: Contributions directly to candidates’ campaigns

Digital: Highly targeted ads that play before online videos

Door Knocking Challenge: Instead of dialing for dollars, candidates participating in this signature program earn campaign contributions while meeting their voters face-to-face

Local Press Support: Media specialists who work directly with candidates on placing stories — interviews, local TV hits, news articles — in local press

Mail: TSP’s contributions help ensure that the optimal number of mail pieces are sent to individual voters, preventing significantly diminishing returns and saving dollars

Relational Organizing: Program to help people ask voters they already know to get out and vote to increase turnout.

Television and Ad Testing: Audience-tested ads on broadcast TV

HOW MAJORITIES ARE MADE

State legislative races in majority-making districts are often decided by razor-thin margins. Here are the districts that determined the majorities in Virginia’s legislature.

CHAMBER	DISTRICT	CANDIDATE	MARGIN	HOW CLOSE?
VA Senate	22	Aaron Rouse	10.3%	4th Closest Win
VA Senate	16	Schuyler VanValkenburg	9.5%	3rd Closest Win
VA Senate	31	Russet Perry	5.7%	2nd Closest Win
VA Senate	30	Danica Roem	3.8%	Closest Win
VA Senate	24	Monty Mason	-1.1%	Closest Loss
VA Senate	27	Joel Griffin	-1.8%	2nd Closest Loss

CHAMBER	DISTRICT	CANDIDATE	MARGIN	HOW CLOSE?
VA House	94	Phil Hernandez	11.6%	6th Closest Win
VA House	58	Rodney Willett	9.0%	5th Closest Win
VA House	84	Nadarius Clark	6.2%	4th Closest Win
VA House	65	Joshua Cole	6.0%	3rd Closest Win
VA House	97	Michael Feggans	4.8%	2nd Closest Win
VA House	21	Joshua Thomas	3.6%	Closest Win
VA House	82	Kimberly Pope Adams	-0.3%	Closest Loss
VA House	41	Lily Franklin	-0.7%	2nd Closest Loss
VA House	89	Karen Jenkins	-1.8%	3rd Closest Loss
VA House	71	Jessica Anderson	-1.9%	4th Closest Loss
VA House	57	Susanna Gibson	-2.0%	5th Closest Loss
VA House	22	Travis Nembhard	-4.6%	6th Closest Loss

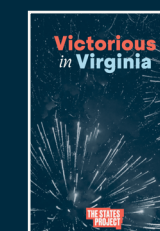
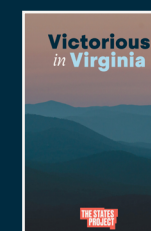
GIVING CIRCLE SPOTLIGHT

“Earlier this year, rightwing state lawmakers who control the Virginia House of Delegates advanced at least a dozen policies that aimed to ban our freedom to make our own healthcare decisions and make it harder for us to vote.

We deserve better. That’s why I led a Virginia Giving Circle with The States Project this year.”

— LARRY, UNITED FLIPPIN STATES GIVING CIRCLE LEADER AND VIRGINIAN

Celebrate our work together by downloading these commemorative images to make note cards, post on social media, or even create a commemorative poster to hang in your office!





This year, Giving Circle Leaders gathered to strategize and rally their communities (and sometimes eat ice cream).



Giving Circles: The Smartest Political Investors in America

Dear Giving Circles,

We're in the middle of what will be the most expensive political cycle of all time. According to a recent analysis from AdImpact, a whopping \$10.2 billion will be spent on political ads alone. An overwhelming majority of those dollars will be spent on the shiniest objects: the battles for the White House and Congress.

Far fewer dollars — and way less attention — will be given to state legislative campaigns. **But this past year was a masterclass in why that must change.**

News clips from this Congressional session often read like a bad daytime soap opera. Rightwing lawmakers in D.C. focused on infighting and gridlock, stalled meaningful policy progress.

But in state legislatures, a completely different story unfolded. As you'll read in the following pages, majorities you helped build passed life-improving policies at a record pace. **These state lawmakers protected abortion access, expanded voting rights, lowered costs for working families,** and so much more. That all happened because of you.

You chose strategic action over apathy. You gathered your families and friends in cafes and backyards and Zoom rooms. And because of you, this community of activists and retirees and teachers and doctors and parents of young kids (we see you!) collectively became the largest national investor in Virginia elections this year — even larger than the DNC.

It proves what I've always known to be true: **members of this community are the most strategic political investors in America.** You understand that **building governing power in a chamber requires us to look beyond any one race or candidate to every potential tipping point seat.** You know that state legislatures aren't where the glamour is, but they are where the power is. And you invest accordingly.

I'm grateful to work alongside you in the states, and I can't wait to see the impact that our smart, strategic work will fuel in 2024.

Onward.

Melissa

Head of Giving Circles



2024 State Stories

Arizona, Kansas, Michigan,
Minnesota, Nevada,
New Hampshire, and
Pennsylvania

Our work together in Virginia this year was not a finish line, it was the start of an election cycle that will determine the future of our democracy and our personal freedoms.

In Virginia, we made our earliest contribution in December of 2022 — more than a year ahead of Election Day — to a special election to flip a Virginia Senate district and extend the majority margin. In the general election, that additional seat was a crucial buffer, helping us protect the majority by a single seat. Investing strategically and early may have made the difference in our ability to hold this chamber.

Starting early helps to build and power effective campaigns. Whether supporting special elections, fueling recruitment of strong candidates, or even maxing out contributions to our in-state spending partners, we're proud to share a preview of our 2024 states and the work TSP Giving Circles are *already* fueling.

THE STORY IN ARIZONA

THE 2024 OPPORTUNITY

Chamber: State Senate and House

Goal: Flip both chambers to build new majorities

Flipping two seats in each chamber would build a new trifecta in the state with the governing power to pass policies that improve the lives of all Arizonans. **After keeping both chambers within a one-seat margin in 2022, we see a path to flipping both the House and Senate in November.**

THE STAKES

Democratic Governor Katie Hobbs has vetoed the most harmful policies passed by Arizona’s narrow rightwing majorities, including:

Anti-voter policies that could curb voting in the next election, like purging Arizonans who miss voting in a single election from the state’s early voter list and requiring the names, addresses, years of birth, precincts, and unredacted ballot images for every voter to be publicly posted online.

Policies that endanger Arizonans’ lives by rolling

back gun safety, like forcing cities to host gun shows, allowing guns in schools, and preventing colleges from banning concealed firearms on campus even as school shootings continue to rise.

Rightwing state lawmakers also **found ways to shield the state legislature’s actions from the public record** — hiding their own activities from the voters who elected them. Under their radical interpretation of an Arizona Supreme Court ruling, rightwing lawmakers are arguing they do not have to make their proceedings public, they can destroy records of communications, and they can block requests for information about their proceedings.

Achieving our electoral goals in Arizona means lawmakers committed to defending democracy, safeguarding personal freedoms, and improving lives will have a trifecta for the first time in nearly 60 years. Our policy team has facilitated trainings with key lawmakers in both chambers focused on aligning them on an agenda that is popular,

economical, and improves lives — ensuring that if the chambers flip, lawmakers will be prepared to effectively wield governing power.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

In Arizona, where there are two House seats and one Senate seat in each district, early dollars help hire critical campaign staff, including district managers who oversee every facet of campaigns.

Strong candidates in majority-making districts will also be critical to achieving our electoral goals in Arizona. Relationships grown from our cycle-over-cycle work in the state give us insight into how we can best support our partners to recruit candidates who can win.

“I feel very strongly that we are at an inflection point. I am proud to be part of a group of patriots whose intention is to make our country more compassionate, safe, and just.”

— CATHY, ARIZONA PATHFINDERS GIVING CIRCLE LEADER

TSP’S TIMELINE IN ARIZONA

- 2018**
We helped win four new seats in the House to create the closest balance of power in Phoenix since 1966.
- 2020**
We helped net one additional seat in the Senate, but the balance of power in both chambers remained the same.
- 2022**
We held our ground, maintaining the one-seat margin in each chamber.
- 2024**
We’re aiming to build new majorities in both the House and Senate.

GIVING
CIRCLE
SPOTLIGHT

THE STORY IN KANSAS

THE 2024 OPPORTUNITY

Chamber: State House

Goal: Break the rightwing supermajority

Because of a rightwing supermajority — more than a two-thirds majority in each Kansas state chamber — the rightwing has the power to override Governor Laura Kelly’s vetoes. The rightwing used that power to override eight of Kelly’s 17 vetoes in the 2023 legislative session.

We see a path to breaking this supermajority by flipping two seats in the House. This would unlock more of Kelly’s ability to block the worst of the rightwing’s extremist agenda.

THE STAKES

In this past legislative session, **Kansas’ supermajority has bypassed the will of their voters to enact unpopular laws that strip Kansans of their freedoms.**

In August 2022, Kansas voters overwhelmingly defeated a constitutional amendment that would have stripped away abortion access. Despite this

clear message from their own voters, the rightwing-controlled legislature advanced a series of extreme anti-abortion policies through both chambers, overriding Kelly’s vetoes to pass these policies into law.

KANSAS REFLECTOR

**Church and state:
Kansas Republicans
ignore voters and
pass new anti-
abortion laws**

MAY 18, 2023

Breaking the House supermajority is the surest path to preventing even more extreme rightwing priorities from becoming law in future sessions.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

We’ve already identified the districts where we believe our work could make a difference in the Kansas House next November. In all of these districts, voters chose the Democratic gubernatorial candidate in 2022 and in most

of them, voters selected Biden over Trump in 2020.

Kansas won’t be a state that presidential campaigns target and there won’t be any partisan statewide race on the ballot next year. With no top-of-ticket races, it’s likely that voter turnout will be a challenge. Investing in tactics proven to get voters to the polls and to boost down-ballot voting creates a strong chance to win potential tipping point districts, and protect Kansans from an extremist rightwing agenda.

TSP’S TIMELINE IN KANSAS

- 2020**
While we helped flip two seats in the Senate and two in the House, incumbent losses meant that there was a net loss of two seats in the House.
- 2024**
We’re aiming to net two seats in the House to break the rightwing supermajority.



THE STORY IN MICHIGAN

THE 2024 OPPORTUNITY

Chamber: State House

Goal: Defend the majority

In 2024, the Michigan House is the only chamber in the state up for election. We’re returning to defend the one-seat House majority we helped secure by just 330 votes in 2022. Our work to protect this chamber now will determine whether majority lawmakers hold on to the trifecta we helped build in 2022 or the rightwing will gain governing power to block life-improving policies.

THE STAKES

We believe that winning elections is not enough — the point of our work is to defend democracy, protect personal freedoms, and improve lives. That’s why we didn’t **only** fuel new majorities in both Michigan chambers in 2022 through our electoral work. Our policy team was also a key policy partner to Michigan’s majority lawmakers, providing tools and training to equip them to achieve their policy goals.

With one-seat majorities in each chamber, every lawmaker in the

majority needed to support the policies introduced throughout the legislative session. Just as we have for years, The States Project’s policy work in Michigan focused on helping lawmakers find alignment around a shared agenda to advance the majority’s bold goals for improving lives.

The result? **Michigan’s majorities passed landmark policies that will impact millions, sending a resounding message to voters about why they should re-elect a Michigan trifecta in 2024.** Those policies include:

- **Protecting abortion access** by repealing Michigan’s unpopular 1931 statute criminalizing abortion care, removing red tape that forced some clinics in Michigan to close because they did not have enough patients to meet licensing requirements, and ending restrictions on telemedicine options related to reproductive healthcare.
- **Lowering costs for families** by expanding the earned income tax credit, helping 740,000 households pay for essentials like childcare and groceries.



Laurie Pohutsky
@lpohutsky19

Today @GovWhitmer signed my bill to repeal Michigan’s criminal abortion ban. This wouldn’t have been possible without the constant work of activists, policymakers, litigators, and abortion providers for decades. There is more work to be done, but I’m grateful for today’s victory.

- **Preventing the worst impacts of climate change** and creating new good-paying jobs by requiring that the state generate all of its electricity from wind, solar, and other carbon-free sources by 2040.
- **Cutting taxes** to save 1.3 million working families and retirees between \$600-\$1k each year.
- **Prioritizing workers** by restoring their power

to unionize and collectively demand better pay, benefits, and working conditions. By becoming the first state in 60 years to repeal a rightwing law that weakens unions, Michigan has strengthened the rights of nearly 600,000 workers.

- **Safeguarding LGBTQ+ rights** by ensuring that 400,000 LGBTQ+ Michiganders have equal protection from discrimination in housing, jobs, or public services under state law.
- **Investing in children** by providing free school meals to 1.4 million students, free pre-k to thousands of additional families, and individualized tutoring to help struggling students recover from pandemic learning loss.
- **Broadly popular gun safety policies** proven to make communities safer, including safe gun storage requirements, universal background checks, and a red flag policy that will keep guns out of the hands of those who are a danger to themselves or others.
- **Attracting and retaining healthcare** workers by increasing pay and other benefits to combat a healthcare worker shortage and improve care for all Michiganders.

TSP’S TIMELINE IN MICHIGAN

- **2018**
We helped flip six seats in the House. While the rightwing maintained a six-seat majority, we brought the balance of power to the closest it had been in a decade.
- **2020**
We helped flip two seats in the House, but two incumbent losses in seats that Trump carried meant that there was no change in the balance of power.
- **2022**
In 2022 we helped flip four seats in each chamber to fuel the first Democratic trifecta in Michigan since 1983! Ahead of November 2022, The States Project helped protect a House seat by investing early in a special election — a less costly strategy that’s much easier than trying to flip a rightwing seat in a general election. This victory meant only needing to flip three House seats in November instead of four.
- **2024**
We’re working to defend and expand the one-seat House majority that we fueled last cycle. There are no Senate elections this year.

THE STORY IN MICHIGAN

Defending Michigan’s House majority in 2024 will ensure lawmakers have the governing power they need to continue enacting popular, commonsense policies.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

Our electoral work in Michigan didn’t end after the election in 2022. As we head into a presidential election year, building out the campaign infrastructure early with talented and experienced staff is critical to ensuring the success of every tactic we fuel to defend the House majority. That’s why our Regional Political Director

has continued to serve as a trusted advisor to in-state staff and leaders, helping them land top talent to fill key campaign positions ahead of 2024.

Michigan lawmakers have a strong record of accomplishments they can run on in 2024. And right now, the rightwing is doing everything they can to take back the House majority next year.

They’ve launched recall campaigns against several Democratic House members who have supported policies meant to protect Michiganders

from hate crimes and keep guns out of the hands of people who are a threat to others or themselves.

These unjustified recalls are rightwing attempts to distract lawmakers heading into re-election campaigns. While it seems unlikely these campaigns will be successful, some of our earliest contributions will go to lawmakers targeted by recall efforts, ensuring they have the financial support they need to retain their seats through the recalls and in the general elections.

“2024 will be our third election cycle supporting Michigan with The States Project! We are passionate about protecting the hard-won governing majority that has safeguarded reproductive and LGBTQ+ rights, lowered taxes for workers and retirees, and enhanced gun safety.”

— JOSH, RESILIENCE INITIATIVE GIVING CIRCLE LEADER

GIVING CIRCLE SPOTLIGHT

THE STORY IN MINNESOTA

THE 2024 OPPORTUNITY

Chamber: State House

Goal: Defend the majority

The House is the only Minnesota chamber up for election in 2024 and we’re already working to defend the three-seat House majority. In 2022, just 738 votes across three seats preserved this majority.

In 2022, the Giving Circles community was instrumental in our successful push to build a new Minnesota trifecta. Lawmakers we helped elect went on to enact “an avalanche” of life-improving policies in their 2023 legislative session — dubbed “**The Minnesota Miracle**” by the press.

To preserve the trifecta’s governing power and continue improving lives for all Minnesotans, we must protect the House majority in November.

THE STAKES

In 2022, we helped flip the Minnesota Senate and defended the House majority that voters first elected in 2018. After four years of holding governing

power in a divided legislature, House lawmakers had already honed their agenda and built alignment with the Senate and the governor.

We helped prepare the new trifecta to hit the ground running when the legislative session began in January, and lawmakers enacted impactful policies at a record pace, quickly moving to:

- **Codify abortion rights into state law**, becoming the first state to do so in the post-Roe era.
- **Safeguard the freedom to make personal healthcare decisions** by protecting patients from other states who seek abortion care in Minnesota.

- **Cut taxes** to save 400,000 retirees an average of \$1,200 each year.
- **Enact universal background checks for all gun sales** and a **red flag policy** that will keep guns out of the hands of those who are a danger to themselves or others.
- **Fight childhood hunger** by providing all 800,000 Minnesota students free breakfast and lunch, regardless of their family’s income.
- **Provide almost 1 million workers with paid family and medical leave** to ensure no Minnesotan has to make the choice between a paycheck and taking time off to care for a new baby or a sick family member.



Melissa Hortman @melissahortman · Mar 20
Earlier this session, we enacted the PRO Act, codifying a fundamental right to reproductive freedom. Today, House DFLers took the next step & passed protections for doctors & patients who need access to the full range of reproductive health care options.



mpnews.org
Minnesota House passes bill that shields abortion pi
Minnesota abortion providers said the change could help protect them and patients who come to ...



Gov. Tim Walz celebrates with students after signing the Minnesota legislature’s free school meal policy into law.
Ben Hovland | MPR News



Melissa Hortman
@melissahortman

Post-Dobbs, we’ve seen states rush to ban or severely limit abortion access & reproductive freedom, including trying to reach beyond their borders to criminalize health care in states like ours. We are making it clear that patients and doctors will be protected in MN.

TSP’S TIMELINE IN MINNESOTA

- **2022**
In our first cycle in Minnesota, we won the Senate and defended the House to create a new trifecta!
- **2024**
We’re returning to Minnesota to defend the House majority.

THE STORY IN MINNESOTA

- **Invest in clean, safe energy** by enacting a climate action plan with a goal of requiring utilities to be powered by clean energy sources by 2040.
- **Ensure safe, clean drinking water in every tap** by moving to replace all lead pipes in the state.
- **Invest \$1 billion in affordable housing** to provide Minnesotans in need with rental assistance — there were 20,000 evictions in 2022 — and to ensure homeownership is an option for those who want to call Minnesota home.
- **Strengthen our democracy** by implementing automatic voter registration, allowing 16 and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote, creating a permanent absentee voting list, and restoring the right to vote for 55,000 people with felony convictions after they have served their sentences.

Our policy team provided tools and training that helped lawmakers achieve these policy goals, including cross-state conversations between lawmakers in Minnesota and

their colleagues who were working on similar policies in other states.

We also trained lawmakers to effectively communicate their policy wins to their constituents — honing messaging skills that will be key in 2024, as lawmakers make the case for their re-election to voters.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

Thanks to research we conducted in 2022, we have a deep understanding of which qualities and attributes indicate a candidate is likely to overperform. We’re working with caucus leadership to identify and recruit strong candidates in every potential tipping point district.

GIVING CIRCLE SPOTLIGHT

“We formed our Giving Circle in January of 2022 because of how impressed we were with The States Project’s team of smart people dedicated to preserving democracy. Their strategies and successes were impressive — and we asked a lot of questions! With TSP’s model, we helped build the ‘Minnesota Miracle’ by holding the Minnesota House and flipping the Senate to build a new trifecta. I am eager to continue this work in 2024. The States Project has resources, experience, and strategies without which this work would be impossible. We now know and fully understand what TSP has told us from the beginning: state governments are where our daily lives are most affected and enhanced.”

— SUSIE, SEED-MN GIVING CIRCLE LEADER



THE STORY IN NEVADA

THE 2024 OPPORTUNITY

Chamber: State Senate and Assembly

Goal: Build and defend pro-democracy supermajorities

Rightwing Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo vetoed a record number — more than 75 — of the bills sent to him by the legislature in 2023, including caps on prescription drug prices, free school meals for every child, and housing protections for renters. Despite the governor’s vetoes, lawmakers have an impactful record to share with voters, and a strong case for why lawmakers who voted against these popular policies should not be re-elected.

We’re returning to Nevada to expand the majorities to pro-democracy, veto-proof supermajorities in both chambers. Half of the Senate is up for election this year, so we will need to protect every vulnerable incumbent in that chamber, plus flip an additional seat.

Last cycle, eight Assembly seats were decided by fewer than 1,500 votes, two of those by fewer than

400 votes. To protect the current threshold in the Assembly, and have any chance at a veto-proof supermajority in the legislature, we will need to hold every Assembly seat we have now — no easy task as every single seat in the chamber is up for election in 2024.

If we’re successful, Lombardo will lose his veto power — and state lawmakers will have the governing power they need to improve lives.

THE STAKES

In 2020, as part of a plot to help Donald Trump steal the presidency, Nevada was one of the states with a fraudulent slate of “alternate” electors that did not represent the will of voters. Since then, the state has lost over half of its top election officials and much of its elections staff, partly due to an extreme level of harassment and threats by election deniers. Some of this turnover has resulted in election deniers themselves taking over these positions.

Lawmakers who hold the majority in both chambers

passed several policies to address these threats to democracy during the most recent legislative session, including a proposal that would have criminalized future attempts to appoint fake electors.

Lombardo vetoed this bill, along with several others designed to make it easier for every qualified voter to cast a ballot, including:

- Providing Nevadans who work during the day with expanded DMV hours so they can register to vote.
- Requirements for polling places to have two handicap

accessible voting machines instead of one that would make it easier for disabled and elderly voters to cast their ballot.

Voters’ ability to cast their ballots and trust that their votes will count when choosing their representatives are foundational to our democracy. That’s why **building veto-proof supermajorities for lawmakers invested in**

protecting Nevadans’ voices in elections is a crucial line of defense against election deniers seeking to subvert American democracy.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

Nevada is a rare state with a majority of female lawmakers in both chambers, representation we are hoping to preserve as we support our in-state partners to recruit strong female candidates

to replace the lawmakers who are leaving office.

Building on lessons learned from last cycle, we’re also beginning our electoral work in the state earlier than ever. This will help us ensure that every dollar we invest fuels effective, evidence-based tactics including highly-targeted digital ads and mail pieces.

TSP’S TIMELINE IN NEVADA

- 2022**
In our first election cycle in Nevada, we helped protect majorities in both chambers.
- 2024**
We’re working to build pro-democracy, veto-proof supermajorities in both chambers to give lawmakers the governing power they need to enact life-improving policies!

GIVING CIRCLE SPOTLIGHT

“As a Giving Circle Leader for six years, I can attest to the great work of The States Project and what an incredible feeling it is to be part of such great change.”

— REMY, DOWNTOWN NASTY WOMEN SOCIAL GROUP
GIVING CIRCLE LEADER

THE STORY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE 2024 OPPORTUNITY

Chamber: State Senate and House

Goal: Tie the Senate and flip the House

We’re working to flip the New Hampshire House and tie the Senate to end rightwing control in both chambers.

We’ve already made significant progress toward our goal in the House, where we helped gain 10 seats in 2022. After netting another seat in a September special by flipping a Republican-held seat, the balance of power in the House is now 197–199, with four vacant seats that will be filled in upcoming special elections. Three of these vacancies favor Democrats, the fourth favors Republicans.

With the margins this narrow in a chamber that almost never has full attendance in session, the minority can often block the rightwing’s agenda in the House, and even pass impactful policies. **Netting just one more seat in 2024 would mean a new majority in the House.**

In the Senate, we’re looking to break rightwing control by

tying the chamber. This would give lawmakers more leverage to block harmful policies, and negotiate around enacting effective policies that serve all New Hampshire residents.

THE STAKES

This legislative session proved what New Hampshire lawmakers committed to serving their constituents can accomplish — even while in the minority. One example? Senate Assistant Minority Leader Becky Whitley’s work to develop and enact two major policies that will help children, moms, and families across the state:

- A package for maternal health and working moms, also known as the MOMnibus, **expands quality, affordable healthcare for pregnant and postpartum women.** It includes health insurance coverage for new mothers, establishes a commission to study expanding **universal home visiting for new families**, and helps **keep young children in childcare when new parents are at work.**

- More **affordable childcare to help parents get back to and stay at work** — a critical policy priority in a state where more than 25% of babies live in a household with income levels well below the federal poverty rate and where more than 40 childcare centers have closed in the last few years.

Messaging resources and research from The States Project’s policy team helped Senator Whitley and her colleagues as they shaped, refined, and built support for these policies in New Hampshire’s 2023 budget. With majorities in both chambers, key lawmakers like Senator Whitley and her colleagues could enact even more impactful policies like these.

Abortion access is also on the line in New Hampshire.

Polling indicates that most Granite Staters support the current protections for abortion in their state, but this past March a wide range of abortion laws — including both protections and restrictions — were put to a vote in the House.

Because of the razor-thin margins in the House, lawmakers we helped elect last November were able to uphold New Hampshire’s existing personal freedom and block extreme abortion bans.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

The New Hampshire House is the largest state chamber

in the country, and with 400 seats to fill, candidate recruitment can be challenging. We’re working closely with our in-state partners as they identify quality candidates to run in both the House and the Senate.

Early dollars will help build out effective campaign infrastructure, including hiring staff to fill critical roles. Having key staff in place will be critical for the House special elections that are slated to take place in early 2024.

TSP’S TIMELINE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

- **2018**
We helped flip the Senate, fueling five candidates to victory, including four new seats.
- **2020**
The States Project was early to identify the Senate as the most endangered majority in the country in 2020, after helping to flip it in 2018 by only 300 votes. This time the margin was similar, but with the opposite outcome. Just 285 votes changing would have prevented a GOP majority.
- **2022**
Together, we helped gain 10 seats in the House, setting us on a path to shift the balance of power in the chamber by 2024.
- **2024**
We’re working to end rightwing control of both chambers!



Becky Whitley
@BeckyWhitleyNH

IT'S OFFICIAL!! Gov Sununu signed the state budget into law today, meaning The NH MOMnibus, WIC Farmer’s Market Program, and Childcare for NH Working Families Act are now law! I can’t even begin to express my gratitude to every single person who made this a reality.
[#NHPolitics](#)



THE STORY IN PENNSYLVANIA

THE 2024 OPPORTUNITY

Chamber: State Senate and House

Goal: End rightwing control in the Senate and defend the House majority

After making history by fueling a new majority in the Pennsylvania House in 2022, we have our sights set on flipping the Senate majority by 2026. To achieve our electoral goals this cycle, we need to maintain our House majority and flip three seats in the Senate to tie the chamber.

THE STAKES

In 2022, The States Project was by far the largest funder — 80 times the next largest supporter to candidates and caucuses — in the successful effort to shift the balance of power in the Pennsylvania House for the first time in 12 years. We helped flip 12 districts to build a new House majority. Chamber control came down to one seat decided by just 32 voters.

The new majority immediately made history by electing House Speaker Joanna McClinton to become the first woman to serve

as Speaker in the House’s more than 300-year history.



Rep. Joanna McClinton
@RepMcClinton

Being Speaker doesn't mean being the FIRST. It means opening the door for the second, third and fourth. It means more women and more people of color have representation in the oldest legislative body in the nation. It's a new day.

In February, the new House majority was in jeopardy with three vacancies in majority-held seats. TSP helped to hold these seats, successfully defending the balance of power in special elections. In May, this community rallied once again to help win yet another special election, and once again protecting the new House majority.

Even with a divided legislature, Speaker McClinton and the House majority worked to deliver impactful results, including these policies which were signed into law this year:

- **Free school breakfast** for all 1.7 million public school students in the state.
- **Expanded apprenticeships** so Pennsylvanians can earn-while-they-learn and secure a good job.
- **No-cost breast cancer screenings** for women at high risk of developing the disease. More than 13,000 Pennsylvania women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year; over 2,000 pass away.
- **New, statewide requirements to protect the health of moms**, including a requirement to publish maternal mortality data in order to learn more about the causes and protect women’s health. In Pennsylvania, 1 in 4

counties — nearly 200,000 women — do not have full access to maternity care.

Pennsylvania House lawmakers have also passed these policies but have not been able to get them through the rightwing Senate majority:

- An **increase in the state’s minimum wage** to help address the high cost of living.
- Twenty-two years after its first introduction in the House, the new majority has been able to advance **nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ+** Pennsylvanians in employment, housing, and other public services.
- A majority of Pennsylvanians want common sense gun violence prevention, and after a years-long standstill, **two gun safety policies have been passed by the Pennsylvania House** — expanded background checks and temporary removal of firearms from those who are a danger to themselves and others.

Ultimately, the rightwing-controlled Senate blocked these policies — and more — from becoming law. If we are able

to flip three additional seats to unlock new governing power in the chamber, these beneficial policies have a better chance of being enacted.

Holding the House and tying the Senate would set up the potential of a new trifecta in 2026.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

Some of our most crucial, early work in Pennsylvania was supporting the House Caucus to hire a Caucus Director. To ensure that our Core Electoral Program is fully implemented successfully for each tactic, this role needed to be filled quickly with someone who would excel in it. We supported our partners in their search by providing strategic advice and participating in interviews during the hiring process.

Some of our earliest dollars will also fuel specialized press support to increase local news coverage for candidates, helping them build name recognition and reach voters with their message early in the cycle.

TSP’S TIMELINE IN PENNSYLVANIA

- **2020**
We largely held ground in both chambers, mostly preserving the gains that had been made over the previous two cycles. Our work also helped flip a seat in each chamber, including a House district which had been held by the rightwing since 1969!
- **2022**
We helped flip the House, netting the 12 seats we needed for a new House majority for the first time since 2010.
- **2024**
We’re working to defend the House majority and flip three seats in the Senate to tie the chamber!

GIVING CIRCLE SPOTLIGHT

“Our Giving Circle has collectively raised more than \$100,000 since 2018 and has helped to change the balance of power in the Pennsylvania state legislature. We have learned so much and strengthened community connections as we worked together to help achieve and retain a thin majority in the State House. The States Project has taught us that achieving our ultimate goal, to improve people’s lives through our state legislature, is truly a long game. Onward!”

— JAN, JESSIE, SARA, AND DAVID, WAKE UP PA! GIVING CIRCLE LEADERS

Onward.

