



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## PROGRESSIVE WOMEN HELD THE LINE IN 2020

Our 2020 Recruits fought hard, and we ended a low-opportunity election cycle celebrating wins by Susan Eggman and Monique Limón (2016 CTGCA Recruit) in two of our target districts, SD 5 and SD 19.

**Women of color are now the majority of female Senators in California!**

While we ended 2020 holding to an all-time high of 38 women, 2021 brings an opportunity to set new records ahead of the Motherlode as a series of special elections begins in March to fill vacancies triggered by appointments, retirements, or other movement.

Our nation's reckoning with systemic racial injustice this year has been long overdue. [CTGCA is committed to continue recruiting progressive Black and other underrepresented women to run for State Legislature](#), as an essential component of our campaign to achieve gender parity.



## 2020 SUPPORT KEEPS PROGRESS ON TRACK AGAINST THE ODDS

Despite the need to pivot to virtual events due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are happy to report that we were able to continue meeting our growth benchmarks. In Q3, we launched our monthly giving program of \$20.28 and met our goal. **Thanks to your support throughout the year, we defied the odds and met our ambitious \$50,000 year-end fundraising goal.**

Because of your investment in our proven model, we are in a strong position to tap more progressive women than ever to run in 2021 and 2022 and are on track to triple our recruiting team's capacity in time for the *Motherlode*! In 2021, we will be able to add the in-house expertise and dedicated staffing our recruiting team will need to complete explorations with a record-setting number of prospective candidates for the 2022 cycle.

**"Close the Gap's targeted advance work ensures that a crucial piece of our leadership pipeline in California is ready.** Without critical partners like CTGCA, our movement would not have the promise it does to ensure pro-choice women flood the halls of power in equal numbers this decade. EMILY's List has been incredibly proud to partner with CTGCA as they lay the groundwork for the next generation of women leaders across the state."

– **Stephanie Schriock, President, EMILY's List**



Photo credit: EMILY's List

## 2020'S VIRTUAL REALITY EXPANDS OUR REACH

In 2020, we leveraged virtual event platforms and tools to expand our reach wider than ever before.

- ▶ Our only in-person event wrapped on February 28th with a reception at Lionsgate in Santa Monica. This event brought in new supporters and valued partners including Equality California, SEIU and Lionsgate, with California Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins as the headliner for our panel. [\(A\)](#)
- ▶ On May 28th, our first-ever virtual event kicked off with *Leadership Starts at Home*, where we heard from numerous special guests, including the incomparable Gloria Steinem. This star-studded evening went the extra mile and exceeded our fundraising goal! [\(B\)](#)
- ▶ We established our Speaker's Bureau program with *Forward Into Light* on October 1st. Alongside Central Coast sponsors and partner organizations, we heard inspiring calls to action from Congresswoman Julia Brownley, Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson, Asms. Monique Limon and Jacqui Irwin. [Apply to host an event in your area](#) in 2021! [\(C\)](#)
- ▶ On November 19th, nearly 200 participants tuned in to our [double-header panel event](#) for a deep dive on how women fared in the 2020 election cycle. Asm. Eloise Gomez-Reyes, Kimberly Peeler-Allen of Higher Heights, and Debbie Walsh of CAWP were among our eight experts. Plus, our "donor's choice" event raised over \$5400! [\(D\)](#)



## SALUTING MARY HUGHES

[As announced in November 2020](#), Close the Gap California's visionary Founder Mary Hughes is stepping away from her day-to-day role with our campaign in 2021. Mary has given us the tools to make history, and she will never be far from our efforts. We remain deeply grateful to Mary for the wisdom, inspiration, and dedication she has baked into Close the Gap's strategy to speed up the pace of progress in California. On to 2022 and more progressive women in the State Legislature!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ **SACRAMENTO SYMPOSIUM SPRING 2021:** Out of an abundance of caution, our Symposium will take place as scheduled on April 21st with a virtual format.
- ▶ **LOOK OUT FOR NEW EVENTS:** We're hard at work creating a lineup of new webinars and special events for 2021. [Take our brief survey and tell us what you want to see.](#)



In a challenging year, our donors, volunteers and Recruits sustained and kept our work on track. **Thank you for being a part of our movement for gender equality.** With your continued support, we will ensure transformative change to the face of our Legislature this decade.