



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## Class of 2022 (and still growing!)



Lori Wilson  
AD 11



Sara Aminzadeh  
AD 12



Jennifer Esteen  
AD 20



Giselle Hale  
AD 21



Diane Papan  
AD 21



Dawn Addis  
AD 30



Andrea Rosenthal  
AD 39



Pilar Schiavo  
AD 40



Annie Cho  
AD 40



Christy Holstege  
AD 47



Elizabeth Alcantar  
AD 64



Diedre Thu-Ha Nguyen  
AD 70



Georgette Gomez  
AD 80



Paula Villescaz  
SD 6



Aisha Wahab  
SD 10



Caroline Menjivar  
SD 20



Lola Smallwood Cuevas  
SD 28



Catherine Blakespear  
SD 38

## THE MOTHERLODE HAS ARRIVED.

*Our 15-year campaign to achieve parity is winnable because it is designed to leverage the unprecedented Motherlode of open seat opportunity 2022-2028. Our time is here!*

## SPEEDING UP THE PACE OF PROGRESS IN 2021

In 2021, the political soundtrack sped up triple time– and growing financial support for Close the Gap ensured that progressive women kept on pace to make history in the Motherlode ahead.

Between 4 special legislative elections in the first half of the year and the Great Resignation- California Legislature Edition in the second, **our preparation met the opportunity of a generation in 2021.**

## CLOSE THE GAP WOMEN SUPERCHARGE 2022

In 2021, **we recruited more than double the number of accomplished women than ever before in our history**, and it's no accident.

The number of legislative seats open in 2022 tripled over the course of the year as double digits of incumbents set to term out in 2024 announced early exits.

Because you helped us ensure so many outstanding Recruits were ready when opportunity came knocking, women have a fighting chance to make another historic leap forward in 2022 and beyond.

## WE'RE DOING WHAT THEY SAID COULD NOT BE DONE- THANKS TO YOU!

Even with the loss of some of our most powerful female incumbents in the wake of term limits and redistricting, the volume and caliber of the women coming up next is proof that parity is not only worth fighting for, but also achievable by 2028. You make it possible, even in a pandemic! Keep reading for all that we accomplished in 2021.

## HOW WE'RE RECRUITING TO MAKE HISTORY

In 2021, we pushed our recruiting to new heights in order to leverage the moment:



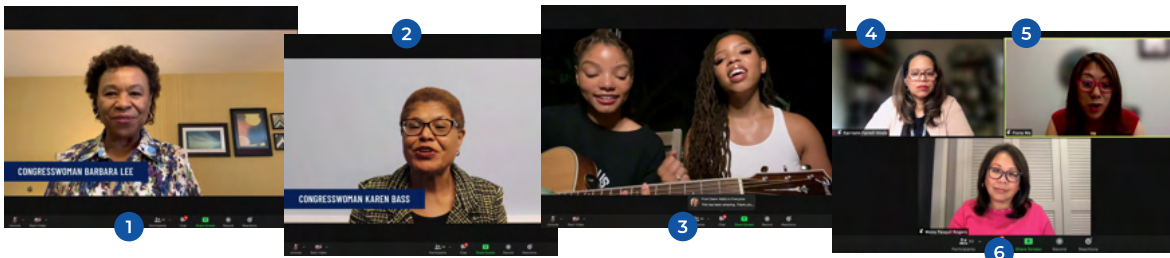
Close the Gap Recruiting works because of our outstanding team! Pictured from left to right: Lead Recruiter, Dr. Diandra "Dee" Bremond, ED Susannah Delano, and volunteer Scout Lauren Babb

► **Added top notch in-house expertise** to boost our volunteer team with Rose Kapolczynski as Senior Political Consultant and regionally based Lead Recruiters Dr. Diandra "Dee" Bremond, Emily Getoff, Julia Leitner, Liz Tulasi & Emily Zahn on a part-time basis.

► Convened **our statewide network of allies through 6 virtual search parties**, building **robust regional lists of values-driven women** who could win in 14 priority target districts set to come open in 2022 or 2024.

► Expanded the scope of our all-virtual 2021 Sacramento Symposium to include a **record number of candidate prospects for 2024 as well as 2022**, which allowed us to triple the number of diverse women in active exploration.

► *Fun fact: More than 80% of our Class of 2022 attended our 2021 Symposium before launching campaigns. Read more about our all-star Symposium, including faculty and prospective candidates, [here](#).*



Supporters joined U.S. Reps Barbara Lee (1) and Karen Bass (2), R&B duo Chloe x Halle (3), CTGCA Board Member Karriann Farrell Hinds (4), CA State Treasurer Fiona Ma (5), & former Lt. Governor and current President of CA Women Lead Mona Pasquil (6) for our Symposium reception to "Let Equality Bloom."

► **Recruited aggressively for the 2024 cycle early**, building a list of **1,000 progressive women who could win target Motherlode seats** around the state—and beginning to vet and prepare the most promising prospects.

► Won and implemented a **Tech2Empower WAKE grant** to scale up internal recruiting systems and offer more resources to prospective candidates in 2022.

► **Supercharged the 2022 cycle** by analyzing the redistricting process in real time, adapting an **expedited version of our proven recruiting process** to conduct outreach and provide guidance to a dozen additional progressive women who launched 2022 campaigns on short runways

► Surpassed our year-end goal in the **most successful appeal in Close the Gap's history**, raising \$58,000 to keep recruiting women who can win the more than 60 legislative seats yet to come open or swing blue 2024-2028.



CTGCA Recruit Asm. Mia Bonta (AD 18) was sworn in on Sept. 7, 2021, tipping the scales to an all-time high of 32.5% women in our Legislature.

## THANK YOU!

Your continued support sets our campaign up for success ahead of the momentous benchmarks we've set for the 2024 cycle, when the political soundtrack will speed up even faster. In 2022, we'll keep growing and focusing one all-important step ahead, targeting the best opportunities in time to make sure the right women are in the right place at the right time to compete.