



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



We've said it since the start— 2022 is the year California will really start to see the gap close, *if a* committed community of support invests in recruiting for the Motherlode. You did, and is that gap ever closing fast!

IT'S WORKING— *Thank you.*

CLASS OF 2022 AT THE FOREFRONT OF RECORD-BREAKING TRANSFORMATION

Finally, women have broken through the one-third representation ceiling! Just 5 years ago, only 26 of 120 California legislators were female. Today, after California's first Motherlode election cycle, 50 women serve - a new all-time high of 42%.

Cheers to the Newly Elected Class of 2022!



Lori Wilson
AD 11



Diane Papan
AD 21



Gail Pellerin
AD 28



Dawn Addis
AD 30



Pilar Schiavo
AD 40



Tina McKinnor
AD 61



Aisha Wahab
SD 10



Caroline Menjivar
SD 20



Lola Smallwood Cuevas
SD 28



Catherine Blakespear
SD 38

2022

50 women: All-time high

Close the Gap's Class of 2022 led the charge. Of our 16 Recruits who advanced to the November runoffs, 10 won (62.5%) and were sworn into the State Legislature on December 5, 2022. Hats off to the history they made!



REALIZING OUR DREAM TEAM

Close the Gap has been laser-focused since launch on scaling up our capacity in time to leverage the high-volume Motherlode election cycles beginning in 2022. Our supporters answered the call, lifting us to hit two major milestones this year that were key to our successes:



Our new Deputy Director Tisa Rodriguez

From 1 full-time staffer to a full team

Executive Director **Susannah Delano** served as CTG's sole full-time staffer since 2018, but in 2022 she was joined in the day-to-day by **Michelle Behar** (a valued part-time contractor since 2020) as Director of Programs, and **Tisa Rodriguez** as our first-ever Deputy Director! **Diandra "Dee" Bremond, Emily Getoff** and **Julia Leitner** round out our staff as part-time Lead Recruiters, along with our **all-star volunteer corps** and Senior Political Consultant **Rose Kapolyzinski**.

Board of Directors grows to keep up the momentum

We expanded our Executive Board to 7 members for the first time with the exciting additions of Mary Powell of Trucker Huss and Felipa Penalzo of GrassrootsLab.



Alexandra Lindsay
Chair



Dr. Pratima Gupta
Vice Chair



Teresa Lyon
Treasurer



Felipa Penalzo



Jane Kim



Kariann Farrell Hinds



Mary Powell

This is the Dream Team we've been building for— thank you for investing in Close the Gap's capacity to recruit at a Motherlode scale for the 50+ open seats ahead!

U.S. SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN CAPTIVATED US



"...The work you're doing at Close the Gap is so important. **You are my kind of people.** A group of women who have found a problem, who have identified a solution, and who aren't gonna let up until it's fixed. We need more women in the California Legislature, and we've got to help make that happen...you know, **you don't get what you don't fight for.**"

-Sen. Elizabeth Warren to Close the Gap supporters, March 18th, 2022

On March 18th, Close the Gap ED Susannah Delano (6) & CTG Scout and community leader Molly Watson (4), U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (2), and California State Senator (CTG Class of 2016!) Monique Limón (3) energized us with powerful testimonials to the need for more women in the state legislature and at every level. We raised more than \$60,000 to power our year-round recruiting campaign! Shout out to our fabulous interpreters, Rorri (5) & Sarika (1) of Pro Bono ASL!

The 2022 election cycle offered three times the open seat opportunity many anticipated, but our recruiting team was able to ensure women were ready to meet the moment because of your support.

WOMEN'S "GREAT OPPORTUNITY": ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S TOP POLITICAL HEADLINES

We've prepared together for the start of the Motherlode since launch, so it's only fitting that Close the Gap's impact drove so many headlines in 2022. Two editorials by ED Susannah Delano bookended the year's record-setting press coverage, effectively framing California's "Great Opportunity" for women and positioning the push for parity as one of the top stories in California politics this year.



Photo by Rich Pedroncelli/Associated Press



Photo by Eduardo Contreras/San Diego Union-Tribune

[The Mercury News: Opinion: Recruiting a Legislature that looks like California \(finally\)](#)

[The New York Times: More Women Are Expected to Win Seats in the CA Legislature Than Ever Before](#)

[CalMatters Op-Ed: Legislature's 'Great Resignation' provides great opportunity for women](#)



[CalMatters: Machine politics on display in race for State Senate seat](#)



[Associated Press: California legislature upended by new political maps](#)



[Executive Director Susannah Delano on KQED election night radio broadcast](#)



[CalMatters: Will this be the most diverse California Legislature ever?](#)



[Capitol Public Radio: 'I'm meant to be here: California's Legislature will have a record number of women, LGBTQ lawmakers](#)



[The Sacramento Bee: LGBTQ, women candidates ready to make history with record numbers](#)



[CalMatters: Will women rule in the 2022 election?](#)



[CBS News Bay Area: California trails other states in women elected to public office](#)



[Associated Press: Census, term limit change means big turnover for lawmakers](#)



[Los Angeles Times: California Politics: Huge gains for women in the Legislature](#)

Our outstanding candidates, stellar recruiting team, and steadfast allies generated the wins that make Close the Gap's work newsworthy, and we are thrilled that new audiences were able to hear all about it!

WE DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME - HERE COMES 2024!

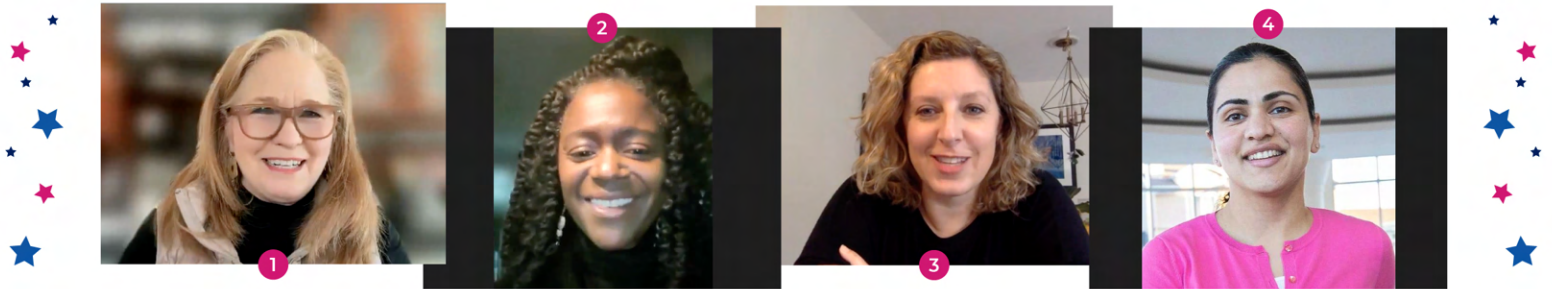
Increased support for Close the Gap's operations in 2022 allowed us to invest the majority of our time in guiding the women who will run in 2024. With 20+ open and winnable districts headed for the March 2024 primary ballot, an early start is once again critical to leveraging the Motherlode's promise as we build out the path to parity.

Thank you to our Sponsors!



On May 24th, 2022, we were thrilled to convene 17 of the most talented and driven 2024 prospects for our fifth biannual Sacramento Symposium. More than 50 political experts and influencers joined us to encourage and guide these talented women at the Citizen Hotel. Prospective candidates praised this integral component of Close the Gap's proven recruiting strategy - but don't take our word for it, read [our Medium post](#). Look for 2024 candidates to launch campaigns throughout 2023!

2022 POST-ELECTION WRAP PARTY



We wrapped a game-changing year of success at our December 15th virtual celebration. *It takes a village to close the gap, and our village knows how to close it!* Alongside elected speakers - Asm. Gail Pellerin (1), Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (2), Asm. Pilar Schiavo (3), and Sen. Aisha Wahab (4), our new Deputy Director Tisa Rodriguez moderated a star-studded panel, offering a unique set of insights on the historic impact women made in the 2022 election cycle. Each donation from this event powered our program to recruit the women of 2024. [Read the Medium recap for more!](#)

We made magic happen in 2022.

*Without the wider community of support for women and our campaign, the pace of progress would not be speeding up— thousands of you have played a role: as donors, as part of the statewide network pointing our team to recruiting opportunities, as strategists, visionaries and boosters. Together we are closing in on **parity by 2028**.*

Thank you for your continued support!