



2022 MIDYEAR REPORT

JULY 2022

OUR RECORD-BREAKING CLASS OF 2022

Close the Gap's larger than life Class of 2022 ran ahead of the crowd in the June Primary. Of our 20 Recruits who ran, **16 have advanced to the November runoffs** (80%). We are so proud of ALL the women who ran - thank you for your courage and tenacity!

With Roe v Wade officially overturned, it has never been more important to raise the bar in California by recruiting and electing progressive women who champion reproductive freedom. To that end, our 100% pro-choice Class of 2022 is at the heart of a measurable and encouraging shift in the candidate field. **More women ran for legislature in California than ever before this year** (112). And for the first time in our tracking, a majority (60%) were women of color, skewing heavily pro-choice and coming from key communities whose voices are underrepresented today.

Just as important, **61% of women who ran for an open seat are advancing**. This is an explosive increase over 2018 (48%) and 2020 (33%), evidence that **women are picking their fights wisely and overperforming**, exactly the way our Motherlode call to action around open seats envisioned.

Advancing Class of 2022



The State Legislature is back to its all-time high of 32.5% women, thanks to CA's newest Assemblymembers: Close the Gap Recruits Lori Wilson (2, pictured with members of our Recruiting team on April 6th) & Tina McKinnor (1, on June 20th)!

WHAT 2022 WILL ADD UP TO FOR WOMEN

Odds are excellent for women to set a new all-time record for representation in the legislature this year. We are on track to add *more new women* than we'll lose to 2022's "Great Resignation:" a result that would not happen without a year-round recruiting strategy!

The exodus from Sacramento was a jolt: presented with 30 unanticipated vacancies, **our recruiters guided nine of our top 2024 prospects** to join our Class of 2022 and compete for sudden opportunities, including now- **Assemblymembers Lori Wilson** and **Tina McKinnor**, who won their special elections and brought the number of Close the Gap Recruits serving to 12.

TOGETHER AGAIN IN SACRAMENTO TO ACTIVATE THE WOMEN OF 2024

The 2024 cycle is the next consequential stop on California's path to parity, with 20+ open and winnable seats. Your support today fuels our team to finish recruiting the women who will launch campaigns over the next 18 months. As usual, we've got a head start!



Prospective 2024 candidates heard from stellar Symposium faculty including (from left to right): (1) Gabriel Castellanos, Pruitt Consulting; Molly Watson, CA Donor Table/Black Women's Democratic Club/CTG; Ada Briceño, OC Democrats; (2) Asm. Wendy Carrillo (CTG Class of 2017); (3) Asms. Akilah Weber, MD; Sabrina Cervantes (Class of 2016); Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (Class of 2018); and (4) Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber. We thank all of our committed volunteers (5) pictured with staff and consultants who helped make this an unforgettable event!

We were thrilled to convene 17 of the most talented and driven 2024 prospects *in person* at the Citizen Hotel for our fifth biannual Sacramento Symposium on May 23rd and 24th, along with more than 50 political experts and influencers. Check out what our prospective candidates had to say about this integral component of Close the Gap's proven recruiting strategy [in our Medium post](#).

EXHILARATING, EMPOWERING AND INSPIRING

On March 18th, Close the Gap ED Susannah Delano (6) and CTG Scout and community leader Molly Watson (4) sat down with the incomparable U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (2) and California State Senator (CTG Class of 2016!) Monique Limón (3) for an *exhilarating, empowering and inspiring* discussion on the critical fights before us. Thanks to all who joined and helped us raise over \$60,000 – giving our team the resources we needed to get the first wave of 2024 women candidates out ahead of the pack. We couldn't have achieved all we did without your continued commitment! And special thanks to our fabulous interpreters, Rorri (5) & Sarika (1) of Pro Bono ASL!



"...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





EXPANDING OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD WITH TRAILBLAZING WOMEN

CTGCA is thrilled to welcome **Mary Powell** (1) of Trucker Huss and **Felipa Penaloza** (2) of GrassrootsLab to our Board of Directors! As part of our expanded leadership team, they are already helping to ensure our recruiting capacity keeps pace with the growing volume of opportunity for women ahead.

CTG IN THE PRESS



Photo by Eduardo Contreras/San Diego Union-Tribune



Photo by Beth LaBerge/KQED



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

[Our "Great Opportunity" message amplified by ally Emerge California in KQED.](#)

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

Thank you for your continued partnership towards parity!

Our early preparation paid off resoundingly in 2022: increased investment allowed us to target more districts than ever before, and record numbers of diverse, values-driven women are poised to be sworn in at the end of the year as a result.

[Help us continue to turn up the volume](#) with Close the Gap's proven strategy. If we can target even more open seats 2024-2028, women can net the gains needed to achieve parity!