



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

The world has never seen a Top Five economy governed by women. With a Senate majority and 48 percent of all legislators, California has effectively reached gender parity!



In fierce contrast to 2024's national results, diverse women who share our values are writing a different story down ballot. Your support for targeted recruiting through one of the most challenging electoral environments imaginable has propelled progress and history forward in defiance of the odds – thank you!

Photo Caption - From left: CTG Class of 2024 members Asm. Sade Elhawary and Sen. Sasha Renée Pérez

CELEBRATING HISTORY MADE: A "TOAST TO PARITY" IN THE STATE SENATE

Thank you to our partners in the movement, generous sponsors and foremothers, who made December's Swearing-In Day reception sizzle!



Thank you to our sponsors:



Thank you to our partners:



"California women leaders authored vital legislation to protect freedoms and communities under attack during the first Trump presidency. **The difference between then and now is that we have twice as many women in the Legislature in 2025**, and I have no doubt you will see California women rise to the challenges ahead."

- **Susannah Delano, CTG Executive Director, to NBC Bay Area 12/1/24**



THE WORLD WAS WATCHING CALIFORNIA

December coverage of Close the Gap's achievements:



124

press hits from San Diego to New Zealand



\$4,347,651

publicity value



396,106,676

people reached in 3 languages

WHY IT MATTERS

Women now hold a record **51% of all standing committee chairships, up from just 23% a decade ago!** Chairs serve as the chief agenda-setting authority for critical policy committees in the world's 5th largest economy. Congratulations to the 22 CTG Legislators who today wield an astonishing 31 leadership posts and chairships between them!



Left: Senate Committee Chairs and CTG Class of 2022 members Caroline Menjivar, Catherine Blakespear, and Lola Smallwood-Cuevas in 2024. Middle: Assembly Majority Leader and Women's Caucus Chair Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (CTG Class of 2016) and Senate Education Committee Chair Sasha Renée Pérez (CTG Class of 2024) at 2023 recruitment event. Right: Assistant Majority Leader and Senate Housing Committee Chair Aisha Wahab (CTG Class of 2022) in 2023.

CTG works with women committed to three core progressive priorities:



Reproductive freedom

New Law Aims to Reduce Maternal Health Disparities for Black Women

Monday, September 30, 2024
SACRAMENTO, CA - Assemblywoman Lori O. Wilson proudly announced that Governor Gavin Newsom has signed AB 2319, a landmark piece of legislation aimed at reducing racial and ethnic disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes by expanding and strengthening critical postpartum home-visitation programs in California.



Public education funding

Senator Pérez Named Chair Of Senate Education Committee; Vows To Promote Greater Access For California Students

January 8, 2025



Combating poverty

Assemblymember Jessica Calzoa Introduces Critical Legislation to Provide Assistance to Families and Small Businesses Affected by Wildfires

Friday, January 17, 2025
(Los Angeles, CA) - Today, Assemblymember Jessica Calzoa introduced critical legislation to provide relief to individuals, families, small businesses, and nonprofits so they can rebuild and recover from L.A. County's devastating wildfires.

THERE IS POWER IN PARITY

"On this historic day, we **stop counting the number of women** and **start making the numbers count.**"

- CTG Founder Mary V. Hughes at "Toast to Parity" Reception



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024 WINNERS!

25 total Close the Gap Legislators - 18 of whom are women of color - now serve.



That means that 43 percent of all women in the Legislature today were recruited by Close the Gap!

2026 Recruitment Roll-Up

56

potential recruits in contact with CTG

15

target districts for 2026

10+

recruits anticipated to launch campaigns in Q1 2025

“[Women legislators] have an opportunity to exert power in a way that hasn’t been done before. There’s a difference between lip service and good policy that is really vetted by the people who are going to be impacted, and women have a track record of powerful listening and inclusive, responsive solutions.”
- **Susannah Delano, CTG Executive Director, to LA Times 11/22/24**



HOW DO WE FIND ALL THESE GREAT WOMEN, ANYWAY?

SEARCH PARTIES are one key element of Close the Gap’s unique recruitment strategy: convening local allies from across the progressive and women’s group spectrums years ahead of elections generates community-informed insight that often leads us to the right woman, in the right place at the right time!

SEARCHING FOR QUEENS AT YE OLDE KING’S HEAD: Close the Gap allies identified promising potential 2026 and 2028 candidates at a January 2024 recruitment “High Tea” search party - this Los Angeles event generated several leads in our target districts, one of whom has already completed an Exploration and launched her campaign!



“Despite devastating loss at the national level, we see that women - particularly women of color and progressive women - are making huge strides, even in purple districts here in California, demonstrating that voters understand the importance of electing leaders who reflect the communities that they represent.”

- **Karriann Farrell Hinds, CTG Executive Board Member and National Women’s Political Caucus California Regional Director, South**

THE PATH AHEAD: Looking to the future next generations deserve

We can't wait for the world to get to know the bold and talented women who will be launching campaigns throughout the year as part of our **Class of 2026!** Our recruiting team has worked for over a year with these rising stars, providing individualized coaching, workshops and two Sacramento Symposium events in 2024. A third and final Symposium will take place March 3rd, hosted generously by the California Faculty Association.

Thank you to our sponsors, phenomenal faculty and volunteers for making each flagship event a launch pad for future greatness!

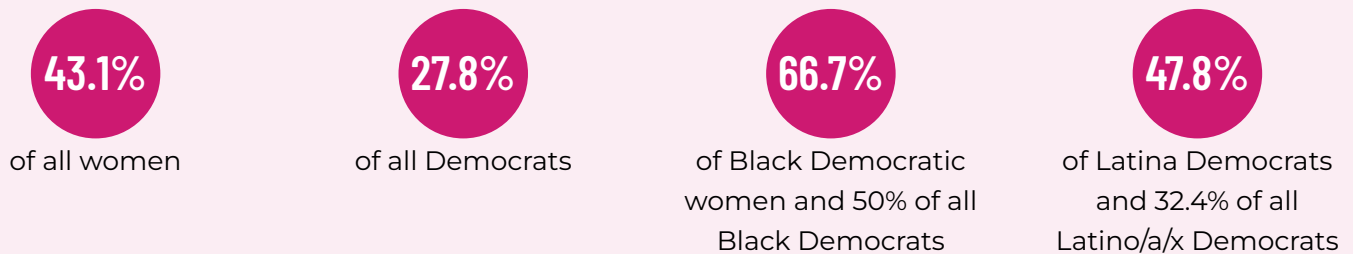


THE DIFFERENCE TARGETED RECRUITING MAKES

Top findings from forthcoming research in partnership with the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers University:

Since CTG's launch in 2013, the number of Democratic women elected to the 120-member California Legislature has increased by **104.3%**.

Today, CTG Legislators represent:



CTG Legislators hold 30% of the majority leadership positions in the Assembly and 25% of the majority leadership positions in the Senate.



**LIGHT THE FLAME
KEEP IT BURNING
PASS THE TORCH**

As Close the Gap closes in on our founding mission— **lighting the flame** of gender parity in the Legislature by 2028— we are fully committed to protect the ground we've gained in California and beyond. Look out for an exciting new initiative to be announced in Fall 2025— with your support, we will be able to deploy our successful recruiting model to accelerate progress even further, in and beyond the California State Legislature.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 SUPPORTERS

\$50,000+

Quinn Delaney
Michelle Mercer & Bruce Golden

\$10,000-\$49,999

California Faculty Association
California Nurses Association
Mary Powell
National Union of Healthcare Workers PAC
SEIU United Healthcare Workers
State Building & Construction Trades Council of California
Suzanne & Lawrence Hess
Teresa Lyon
United Domestic Workers of America

\$2,500-\$9,999

AFSCME California
Betsy Cotton
California Credit Union League PAC
Consumer Attorneys of CA
David A. Friedman & Paulette J. Meyer
Assemblymember Gail Pellerin
Judy H. Kramer
Karen Grove
Karen Humphrey
Linda Kamran
Melody Howe Weintraub
Nancy Gogan
Nielsen Merksamer Parrinello Gorss & Leoni, LLP
The Doctors Company PAC (DOCPAC)
UFCW Region 8 Western States Council

\$200-\$2,499

Andrea Slater
Anne Gulliver
Anu Menon
Barbara Rieder
Becky Phillipott
Black Women Organized for Political Action/TILE
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
California Federation of Teachers
California Medical Association PAC (CALPAC)
California Professional Firefighters
Californians Allied for Patient Protection PAC
Carol Kuiper
Carol Orton

\$200-\$2,499, continued

Carolyn M. Hoff
Assemblymember Catherine Stefani
Cindy Ellsmore
Constance Beutel
Danielle Cendejas
Elaine Andersen
Eleanor Moses
Emerge California
Ennette Morton
Felipa Penalosa
four waters media, inc.
GrassrootsLab
Health Net
Hims & Hers
Janet B. Cook
Joan M Karlin
Karen Weinstein
Katie Ricklefs
Kristen Schreder
Lauren Babb
Laurie Poston
Laurie T. Jarrett
Linda C. Joplin
Linda Seifert
Lucas Public Affairs
Marjorie Randolph
Mary V. Hughes
Meenal Kelkar
Michele Barry
Molly Anderson
Nancie Voegel
Nicole Wrubel
Nolice Edwards
Pamela Duffy
Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of CA
Stephanie Dominguez Walton
Sue Wollack
Susan Sheu
Theodosia Ferguson
Senator Timothy Grayson
Tj Glauthier
Virginia Wolfe
Women in Power PAC



“Close the Gap’s work has contributed to representational gains for Democratic women that have quite literally closed the gap with men both among their party’s officeholders and across the legislature.”

- Kelly Dittmar, PhD, Director of Research at the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CLOSE THE GAP!

Early, targeted recruiting has been the missing link in the ecosystem of organizations working to elect more women.

Together we can ensure that voters everywhere have the option to elect an outstanding woman who will serve as the front line of protection for our most vulnerable communities in the months and years to come.

SUPPORT TODAY

www.closethegapca.org

