

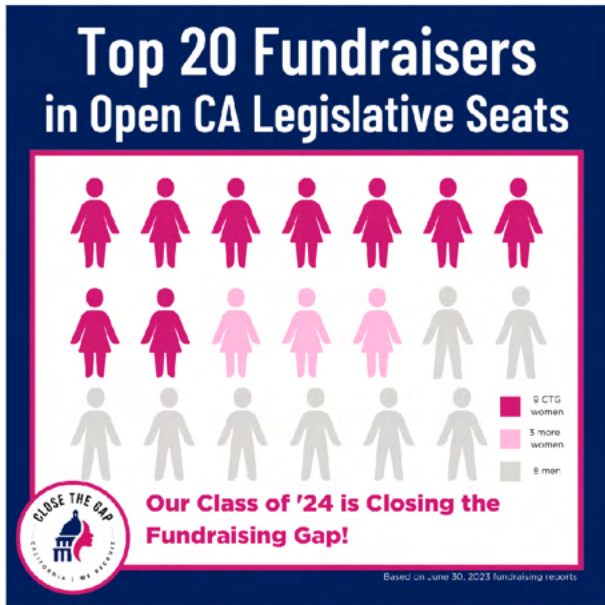


# 2023 MIDYEAR REPORT

## THIS HISTORIC MOMENT

Close the Gap designed the first half of 2023 to serve as a powerful springboard for our Class of 2024 to launch California into a new chapter of historic gains for progressive women. And did they ever launch!

## CLASS OF 2024: RUNNING HARD TO ADD TO RECORD 50 WOMEN



Our team has put more than two full years of hard recruiting work into shaping the CTG Class of 2024, targeting 25 open or flippable seats.

At 23 members and counting, this is our largest class to date, and diverse as ever: 85% are women of color, and 33% are LGBTQ+ (including 2 who are transgender).

These accomplished women mean business: already they are outpacing men in fundraising, thanks to their networking hustle and timely launches.

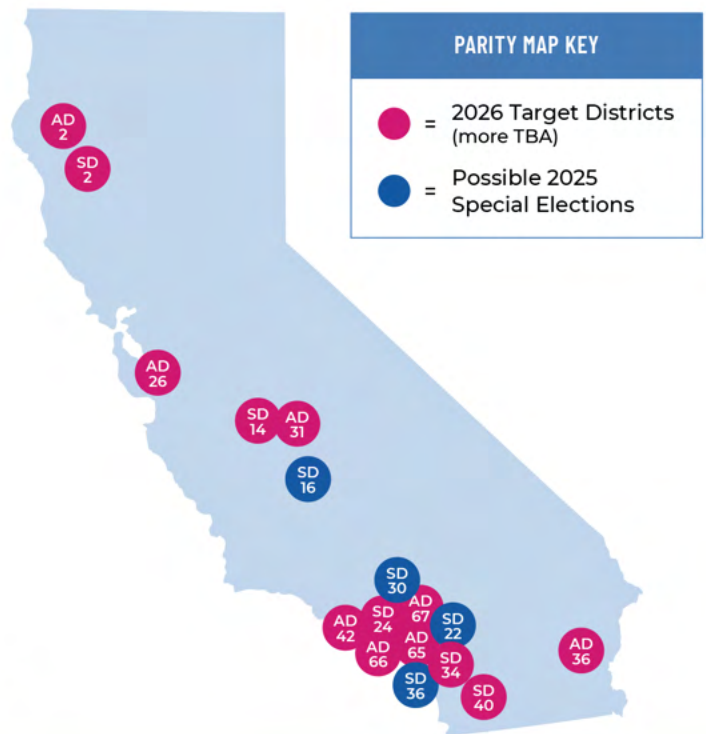
The size and competitive caliber of our Class of '24 is testament to what we can deliver when Close the Gap is funded to offer crucial early encouragement and coaching at this unprecedented Motherlode scale. Thank you for powering our 2024 work!

## 2026: 20 MORE OPEN SEAT SHOTS AT PARITY

With 2022's historic leap to 50 women barely in the rearview and our work for 2024 largely complete, team Close the Gap has turned our focus to the *third Motherlode cycle: 2026!*



Look out this Fall for incoming calls and search parties, and [tell us if you know a woman who should run!](#)



## UNIQUE EVENTS GET PROGRESSIVE WOMEN OUT AHEAD

**Thank you** to our phenomenal supporters, allies and sponsors for powering Close the Gap to do what we do best: get **inspirational women** to the starting block! The **unique value** you made it possible for us to deliver through our events in the first half of the year not only **raised \$100K** for our recruiting programs but also inspired the **unprecedented strength** our Class of 2024 is demonstrating today.

### FEBRUARY 6TH: SACRAMENTO SYMPOSIUM



Our second full Symposium event for 2024 **prospective candidates** was a smash success. Generously hosted by lead sponsor the **California Faculty Association**, this intensive gathering provided prospective candidates with a full day of powerful connections, workshops, speed dating, and advice from all-star allies including **Senator Monique Limón** (Class of 2016) and **Assemblymembers Dawn Addis** (CTG Class of 2022), **Wendy Carrillo** (Class of 2017) and **Liz Ortega**.

Given that 100% of survey respondents said they felt more prepared and more likely to run after the Symposium, is it any wonder that **18 of 21 attendees** have launched 2024 campaigns since then?

### MAY 26TH: PARTY 4 PARITY



We thought it was about time the CA Democratic Party turned up and turned out for gender parity, and HUNDREDS of Convention-goers agreed! We partnered with some of our closest allies to co-host the first-ever "Party for Parity" in Los Angeles. The energy was *palpable*, and the house was *sold out* as we celebrated the gains made in 2022. Remarks from headliners **State Controller Malia Cohen** and **CTG Recruit/Alhambra City Councilmember Sasha Renee Pérez** got us fired up to make more in '24!

Browse more photos from the [CADEM LA Convention photo album](#) and the [event recap](#) for a look at who was in the crowd.

## — Special thanks to our epic event sponsors, without whom we could not do this work! —



## PLOTTING THE #PATHTOPARITY FROM THE NORTH BAY

Thanks to a generous supporter who offered their home, Close the Gap held its **first-ever staff retreat** this July in Inverness and developed the 20-month recruiting timeline that will lead us to the most promising women in 2026 districts, in time to spend a full year guiding them before filing opens. Our proven strategy starts early!

We were thrilled to be joined at the retreat by our newest team member, **Melanie Ramil**, Founder and Principal at Authentic Consulting. Melanie is boosting our capacity in the role of Chief Development Officer!



## CTG MAKES ITS MARK ON THE CAPITOL



Illustration by Chris Shary,  
for Capitol Weekly

We've been sending outstanding women few saw coming to the Capitol since 2016, so is it any wonder that Sacramento is really starting to pay attention?

Our incomparable ED Susannah Delano was named to [Capitol Weekly's 2023 "Top 100" list](#) of the most influential people in California politics! 🎉 It's

not just a first for Close the Gap or any of the organizations advancing women in elected office— it's also the first "Top 100" list to reach gender parity! Coincidence? We think not!

Earlier this year, Susannah also spoke with Capitol Weekly Editor Rich Ehsen for the [third installment in his "WeToo" series](#), and [Susannah joined the Capitol Weekly Podcast](#) to discuss Close the Gap's work to reach parity.

**We are transforming politics inside and outside the Capitol- thanks to your support!**

## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS AND LAUNCHING OUR NEXT CHAPTER

As we approach a big campaign milestone, we are thrilled to be on pace to reach parity in our state by- or before!- our target of 2028. We stand in awe at the 20 Close the Gap women serving in the Legislature today, and we are not missing a beat recruiting the next wave who will join them.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us with **SPECIAL GUEST HEATHER COX RICHARDSON** (!!!) virtually on November 9th for our official 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION! Keep your eyes peeled for additional details - and get EXCITED - we've got a lot to celebrate, thanks to you.

