



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR 2026 WIN PLAN TO ACHIEVE AND EXPAND PARITY

We're just *one seat* away from our founding goal of gender parity in the California Legislature. But with a volatile national and state political context and 8 women incumbents exiting, it's an uphill battle to win - and keep! - that final seat in 2026.

Through our new **Power in Parity Initiative**, Close the Gap is recruiting progressive women legislative candidates AND expanding our winning strategy down ballot and nationwide to build reflective leadership for generations to come.

THE CLASS OF 2026: CA LEGISLATURE, HERE THEY COME!



Dr. Amy Slavensky
AD 7



Annalisa Perea
AD 31



Ana Palacio
AD 35



Dr. Ida Obeso-Martinez
AD 36



Deborah Klein Lopez
AD 42



Leila Namvar
AD 47



Clarissa Cervantes
AD 58



Fatima Iqbal-Zubair
AD 65



Dr. Sara Deen
AD 66



Ada Briceño
AD 67



Jessie Lopez
AD 68



Dr. Paula Swift
AD 70



Anne Kepner
SD 10



Mara Elliot
SD 40

Last year, we worked past our usual deadline to recruit courageous women to run as political shifts opened up unexpected opportunities. These 14 outstanding women are ensuring that California has the best odds possible to close the legislative gender gap once and for all.

THE POWER IN PARITY INITIATIVE: NATIONAL & DOWN-BALLOT EXPANSION

After a decade of focused impact in California, we're using Close the Gap's proven recruiting playbook to take on some of our nation's most entrenched challenges!

In November, we announced at our Power in Parity Gala in San Francisco that **Close the Gap is expanding our unique, nationally-recognized recruitment model with new partnerships in Ohio, Florida, and 14 California counties.** Alongside new 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 organizations, we're working to advance advocacy programming and research. *Together, we can propel more women who reflect our values into public leadership where their voices are needed most and strengthen the political pipeline for years to come!*





“Real change comes when we build with the type of long-term investments that Close the Gap specializes in and we could not be more excited to add their expertise to execute on our shared vision for a better Florida.”

– Jordan Pride, Program Manager, Florida Alliance



“If we can flip seats with the help of Close the Gap, this could result in breaking the Republican supermajority in the house and usher in a majority-women house Democratic caucus.”

– Louise Valentine, Past Executive Director, LEAD Ohio



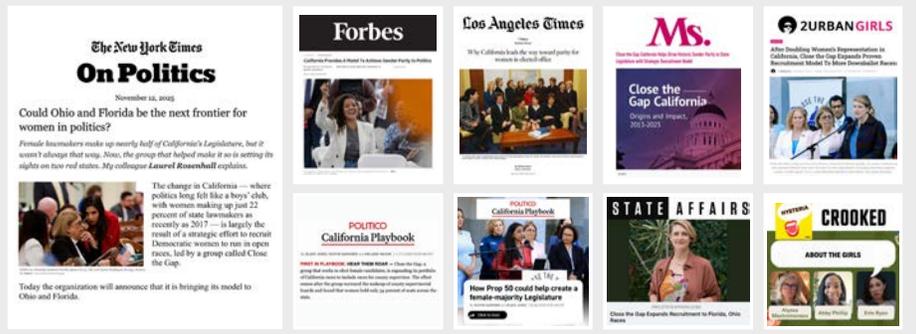
“We need leaders at the County level who are ready to co-govern with courage. Close the Gap has been a powerful partner in ensuring those leaders are in position at the state level. Now, by going down ballot, they’re strengthening the pipeline of County Supervisors to meet this moment and to serve generations to come.”

– Holly J. Mitchell, Los Angeles County Supervisor

CTG IN THE HEADLINES

The *New York Times* broke the news of our exciting next chapter of strategic growth and impact, and we made headlines across the state and nation in 2025!

Read more at CloseTheGapCA.org/Press



POWERFUL CONVENINGS FUELED OUR SUCCESS IN 2025

Our hearts are full and our spirits are fired up after connecting with friends old and new in 2025. From brunch with longtime supporters in Palo Alto, to lunch with allies in Sacramento, our community came together. Susannah and CTG took center stage at the CA Democratic Party Convention, and we held our final Class of 2026 Symposium. A press conference to release the groundbreaking report on CTG’s impact from the Center for American Women and Politics inspired us, along with many more events from Palm Springs to the Bay. *The CTG community wields POWER in PARITY!*



“I have witnessed firsthand what we all know to be true: when women lead, they get things done. In 2018, I was elected, and when I arrived here at the State Capitol, the number of women legislators was less than half of what it is today. Less than half... **that isn’t progress; that’s a revolution.**”

– Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas at CTG Press Conference, March 2025



PRO TEM MONIQUE LIMÓN: FIRST CTG RECRUIT TO LEAD A CHAMBER

New Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón (CTG Class of 2016) has made history as the first woman of color, first Latina and first mom to serve - and she presides over California's first *majority-woman State Senate!*

"Limón's leadership has been and will continue to be a shining illustration of what communities get when we invest in women down ballot: a new generation of leaders who bring common sense solutions and resolute commitment to our core democratic freedoms."

– Executive Director Susannah Delano

ENORMOUS THANKS TO OUR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

As CTG enters our next chapter of national impact with an expanded, multi-entity organizational model, some of our stalwart Close the Gap California Board of Directors members are terming out. Thank you so much to these incredible women for their longtime service and dedication! We have effectively achieved our founding mission because of your tireless efforts and support.



Karriann Farrell-Hinds
BOARD MEMBER



Jane Kim
BOARD MEMBER

HOW YOU CAN HELP CTG ACHIEVE & PROTECT GENDER PARITY

1. SHARE THE GOOD NEWS ON OUR PROGRESS

We are currently inviting conversations with major institutions and individuals who want to make high-impact investments in CA, OH, or FL. If you can refer us to someone in your network who may be interested in hearing more or can make a sustaining gift, please reach out to Director of Development Diane Le at diane@closethegapca.org.

2. MAKE A GIFT

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, Close the Gap is transforming the face of leadership in California and beyond. **Help us grow the Power in Parity Initiative to achieve legislative parity AND expand to new arenas by renewing your contribution today! You can give online here.**

3. CONTACT DIANE@CLOSETHEGAPCA.ORG TO:

- Learn more about our plans to expand down ballot in CA and nationwide
- Understand the impact you can make with a major gift
- Explore options to give charitable dollars to the Power in Parity Institute 501(c)3 or Close the Gap Catalyst 501(c)4
- Make a gift of stock or initiate a gift from a Donor Advised Fund
- Direct your gift toward a particular Close the Gap initiative

If you prefer to donate by check, please mail it to:

Close the Gap California
1700 Tribute Road, Suite 201
Sacramento, CA 95815

Your investment helps us recruit and prepare high-caliber women who go on to shape policy, mentor others, and strengthen the pipeline. This ensures the future is shaped by leaders who reflect and champion the communities they serve - *thank you!*

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SUPPORTERS

\$50,000+

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The Pipeline Fund
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\$10,000-\$49,999

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California Faculty Association
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SEIU United Health Care Workers West
Susie Richardson
Suzanne & Lawrence Hess
Teresa Lyon
Theresa McDonald

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