

2018

FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT

RECRUITING TALENTED WOMEN



RECRUITING

Bookending 2018's first quarter were two gratifying outcomes of the work close the gap CA has undertaken to achieve gender parity in the CA State Legislature. On January 3rd, we watched from the Assembly balcony as our recruit Wendy Carrillo (AD 51) took her oath of office. And on April 3rd, days after the quarter's close, we celebrated the Special Election Primary wins of our recruit Luz Rivas (AD 39) and our longtime ally Sydney Kamlager (AD 54).

close the gap CA

Original 2018 targets:
4 open seats

SD 12 SD 22 SD 24 AD 30

Resignations:
5 additional targets

AD 15 AD 39 AD 45 AD 54 SD 32

Blue Wave Pick-Ups:
3 additional targets

AD 16 AD 76 SD 14

12 total target seats for 2018

All three are progressive women of color, and together they represent the **first decisive uptick in the percentage of women serving in the CA State Legislature, in over a decade.**

Open seats put into play by the #MeToo movement, and a surge of Resistance-fueled activism deep enough to turn purple districts blue, led us to triple our targeting for 2018 races—from **4 to 12 winnable districts.** These two massive cultural waves—set in motion largely by women's voices—have rocked California's political landscape.

Our recruiters and the prospective candidates we worked with demonstrated the agility necessary to capture the opportunity. **In 11 of our 12 targeted districts for 2018, viable, progressive women filed papers to run.**

Nine of 11 are women of color, and two have already prevailed: with 69% of the vote on April 3rd, Kamlager advances straight to the Legislature to fulfill the 2018 term. Rivas will run-off for the 2018 term on June 5th, and both will also run this year to win a 2019-2020 term.

OPERATIONS

Tripling our recruiting for 2018 seats proved successful, but stretched our lean operation to its limit. To meet the avalanche of open seat opportunity beginning in 2024, **we need to add four more recruiters** and partner with a denser network of allies statewide over the next two major election cycles.

With Executive Director Susannah Delano on board as of January 17th, we are engaged in intensive planning to do just that. Along with our intrepid volunteer team, Executive Board, Finance Director Cynthia Brantly Pierce, and volunteer Controller Teresa Lyon, close the gap CA is hard at work developing the protocols, benchmarks and resources needed to **replicate our successful recruitment model on a larger scale.**

FUNDRAISING

We have made a strong start towards our ambitious goal of raising \$360K total this year. March 23rd's **Literature, Leadership and Lunch event in Silicon Valley** exceeded every expectation. The event brought together over 200 supporters and netted \$50K, the bulk of \$73K total netted this quarter. Smaller events in the Central Valley and Southern California, as well as weekly alerts and generous gifts from our supporters, have continued to fuel our day to day work. Thank you!

VISIBILITY & NETWORK

We were received with open arms throughout our **Central Valley tour** in January, making hundreds of new connections with an eye toward future open seats in this mostly purple area of our state. Over three days in Fresno, Merced and Stockton, we convened 18 receptions, roundtables, and one-on-one meetings with women on the rise.

Close the gap CA connected with hundreds of new supporters at the **California Democratic Convention in San Diego** in February. In between tabling throughout the weekend, working caucuses, and meeting with dozens of future candidates behind the scenes, we hosted a drop-in reception with **Hon. Wendy Carrillo** and co-hosted a fundraiser with local PAC **Run Women Run** and **Hon. Laura Friedman**, who reported out on her chairmanship of the Assembly's Subcommittee on Sexual Harassment.



In addition to speaking about close the gap CA's important work to groups including Progressive Women of Napa Valley, El Dorado County Dems, Santa Cruz Glass Ceiling Conference, and Century Club of San Jose, we are at work producing a **promotional video** starring a multitude of elected friends. Preview here of our work in progress: goo.gl/gnFWRZ

WHAT'S NEXT

We are in the field now identifying prospective candidates for seats that could come open in 2019, and for 2020 seats where term limits will force incumbents out. Look out for our **\$20 for 2020 campaign** coming soon. Your continued support allows us to work with prospects well before the cycle in which they could run, which results in better prepared, better positioned candidates with broader networks.

Stay tuned for our **webinar on Independent Expenditure campaigns** on April 26th and an **East Bay Literature, Leadership & Lunch** event in late May!

2018 marks the start of a new chapter for California and gender parity. **When more progressive women serve in the Assembly and Senate, our policies become more comprehensive and just.** And our Legislature itself is challenged to do better, for every Californian. We are proud to partner with you in this remarkable year of challenge—and opportunity.

close the gap
CA

California history is being written at a furious pace in 2018—thanks to your support, ctgCA is making sure that diverse, progressive women are lead authors.