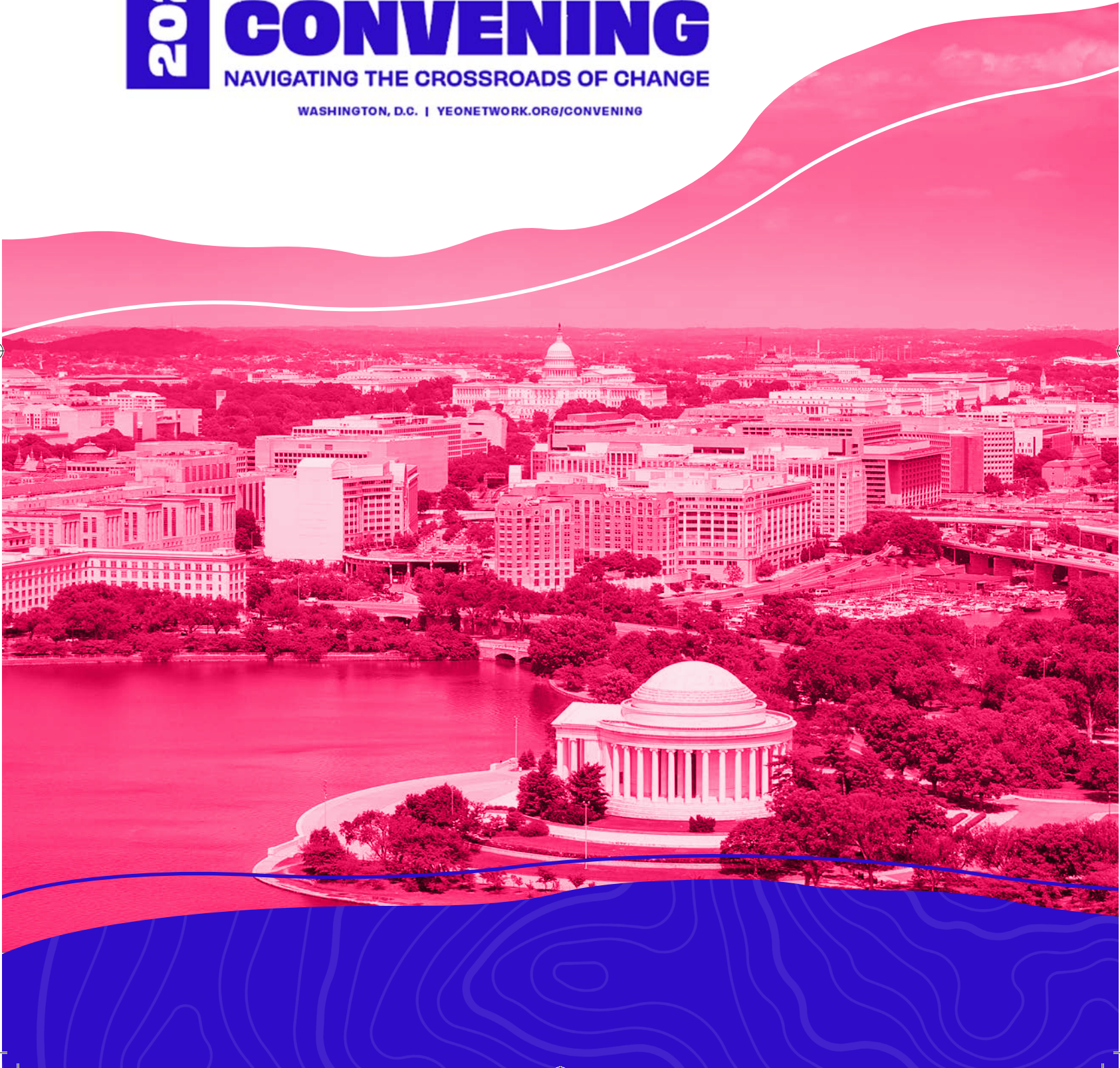




2024 **NATIONAL CONVENING**

NAVIGATING THE CROSSROADS OF CHANGE

WASHINGTON, D.C. | YEONETWORK.ORG/CONVENING





Navigating the Crossroads of Change

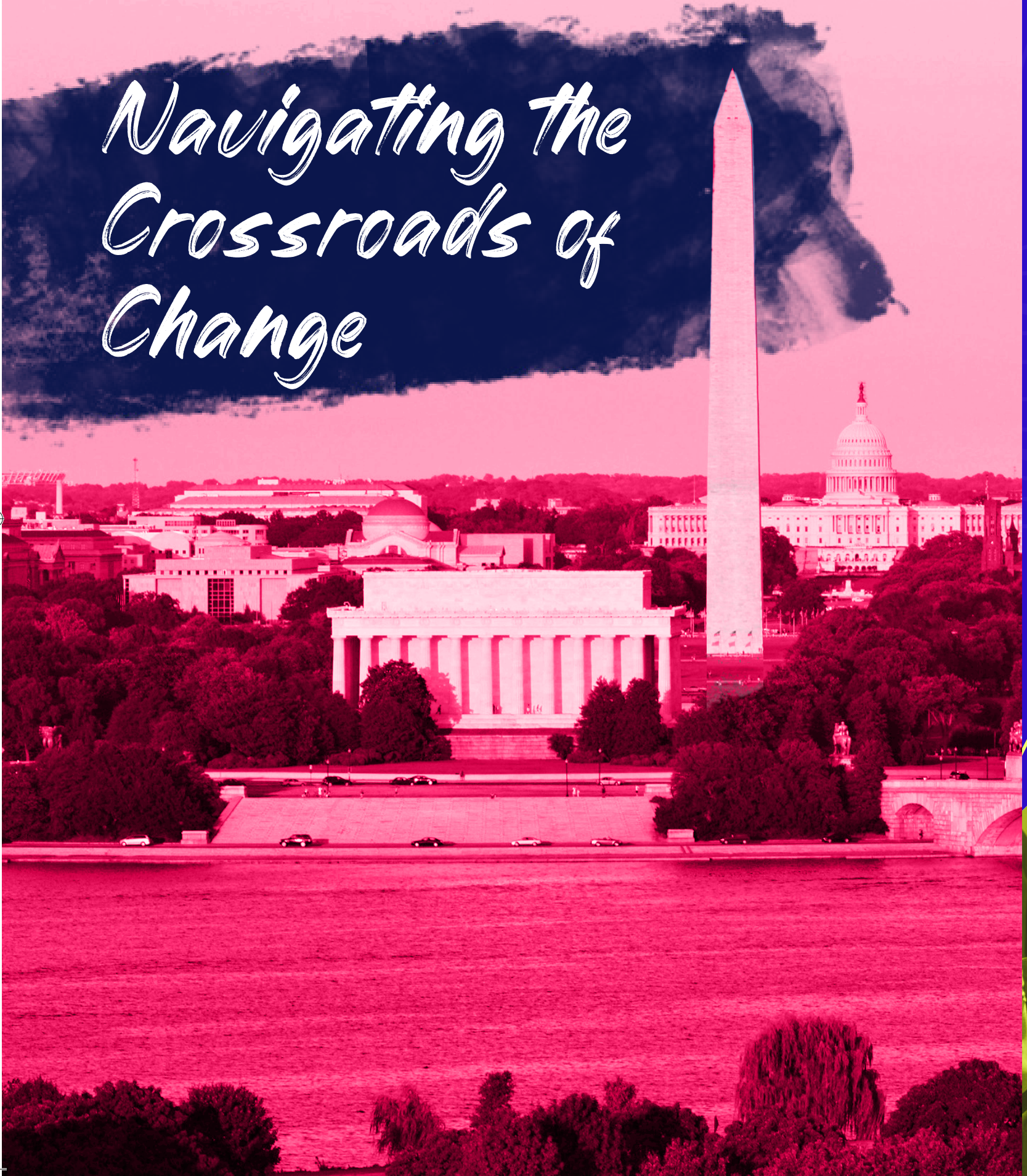




TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summit Agenda At-A-Glance.....	2
Sponsors.....	3
Welcome Letters.....	4
About People for the American Way.....	8
About YEO.....	9
Detail Agenda.....	10
Bios.....	21



Schedule at a Glance

Young Elected Officials Network | 2024 National Convening
June 27 – 30, 2024

Thursday, June 27th

12:00 PM – 5:30 PM Convening Registration Open
12:30 PM – 4:00 PM Service Project
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM First-Time Attendee Pre-Reception
6:30 PM – 9:00 PM Opening Reception (Leadership Awards+ Women's closing)

Friday, June 28th

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Breakfast Available
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM Welcome
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM Opening Keynote
10:45 AM – 12:00 PM Panel Discussion: The Power We Hold and The Fight for Democracy
12:10 PM – 1:15 PM Policy Breakout Sessions

- Fair Courts and Protecting Justice for All
- Defending the Freedom to Learn
- The Power We Hold - Protecting the Right to Vote at the State and Local Levels

1:20 PM – 1:30 PM Group Photo
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM LUNCH + Briefings

- Project 2025 and the Threat to Democracy (30 mins)
- Organizing and Winning with Faith Leaders (30 mins)

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM Skills Breakout Sessions

- Ethical Leadership in an Age of Conflict
- Digital Fundraising that Works
- Strategic Communications and Constituent Engagement

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Fireside Chat: American Poverty and the Economics of Dignity
5:15 PM – 5:45 PM Closing Keynote
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM 51st State Sunset Tour

Saturday, June 29th

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM Breakfast
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM Morning Fireside Chat: Progressive Leadership in Difficult Times
10:45AM – 11:45 PM Panel Discussion: Opposing Extremism and Achieving Progress in Divided Government
11:55 am - 12:55 pm Policy Breakout Sessions

- Digital Engagement for Elected Leaders in the Age of AI
- Now that Roe is Gone - Here's What You Need to Know
- Building a Living-Wage, Pro-Union Economy
- Fighting for a Gun-Safe America

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM LUNCH + Panel Discussion: Art and Digital to Engage and Empower
2:35 PM – 3:35 PM Skills Breakout Sessions

- AI Tools for Civics
- Authentic Storytelling and Connecting with Constituents
- Creating Lasting Change from the Grassroots
- Equitable Tech Policy

3:35 PM – 3:45 PM BREAK
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM General Skills Session: Democracy Solutions Roundtable
5:00 PM – 5:30 PM Closing Fireside Chat: Delivering on our Progressive Values
5:30 PM Caucus Meetings

Sunday, June 30th

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM Breakfast Available
10:45 AM – 11:30 AM Closing Fireside Chat: Forward Together
11:35 AM – 12:35 PM Closing Reflections/ Takeaways

2 NAVIGATING THE CROSSROADS OF CHANGE

Thanks to our 2024 Sponsors



DIAGEO



From Eleanor Holmes Norton

Delegate to United States House of Representatives



GREETINGS!

I am pleased to extend greetings to all those in attendance at the 2024 Young Elected Officials Network National Convening hosted by the People For the American Way.

I applaud the People For the American Way for your dedication to supporting younger elected officials. Your commitment to mentoring them to pursue progressive policies is an inspiration. Your theme of "Navigating the Crossroads of Change" highlights the importance of managing and overcoming new obstacles.

My best wishes for a remarkable occasion

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eleanor H. Norton".

Eleanor Holmes Norton

4 NAVIGATING THE CROSSROADS OF CHANGE

From Muriel Bowser

Mayor, Washington, DC



Greetings Young Elected Officials Network National Convening 2024,

As Mayor of Washington, DC, I am pleased to extend greetings to the organizers and attendees of the Young Elected Officials (YEOs) Network National Convening 2024.

Your 2024 event will present workshops, trainings, networking events, and more to facilitate YEOs' advancement as strong leaders and as committed and accomplished public servants.

Under the theme, "Navigating the Crossroads of Change," this convening strengthens American democracy by empowering YEOs to successfully navigate an increasingly complex world.

I am delighted that you have chosen the District of Columbia for gathering and trust that you will have an opportunity to experience the extraordinary art museums, restaurants, cultural institutions, and performance venues that make DC great.

On behalf of the nearly 700,000 residents of Washington, DC, please accept my gratitude for your dedication to empowering young leaders and my best wishes for a productive and memorable event.

Muriel Bowser
Mayor, Washington, DC

From Svante Myrick

President and CEO



Dear Friends,

It's a pleasure and honor to welcome you to Washington, DC for our YEO National Convening.

This is a joyful reunion for many of us. Our last national convening was held in 2019, and so much has happened since then. We've lived through a worldwide pandemic and seismic shifts in our economy and the state of our democracy. We've progressed in our personal lives and our careers.

Speaking for myself, the last two years have marked my transition out of elected office, and I am thrilled to be hosting this convening for the first time in my role as President and CEO of People For the American Way Foundation. I grew up within the YEO Network as many of you know, and it's the honor of a lifetime to lead People For. As president, I hope I can serve you as well as the organization has always served me.

We're calling this year's convening "Navigating the Crossroads of Change" for a reason. The dramatic events of the last few years have left their mark on our society and ourselves. Now we face new challenges, including real uncertainties about the future of our democracy in this election year. Millions of people in our country have lost basic reproductive rights and freedoms that we've relied on all our lives. We're facing economic inequality, attacks on education, and a mixture of awe and anxiety about new technologies like AI that are transforming our world forever.

In this critical moment, I believe that you, the young, innovative leaders who are with us this weekend, are uniquely positioned to shine. And this convening will be all about giving you tools, building community, and nourishing your soul in a way that will help you do that.

We have a very rich agenda of programming to offer you. There will be opportunities to learn in our in-depth policy and skills workshops and our plenary sessions on urgent issues, including how to lead progressive values in a polarized and dangerous time. Many of us are under attack from extremist factions, and we'll help you build skills to navigate those attacks. We know how important it is to support personal health and wellness, and we'll address that too. And we'll have plenty of opportunities to network, strengthen professional relationships, give and receive mentoring, and nurture friendships that will last a lifetime.

Finally, we'll lay the groundwork for next year when we'll celebrate YEO's 20th anniversary. I am so proud of how YEO has grown since its inception, from a handful of young leaders to the nearly 1300 members we represent today. YEOs have served at almost every level of government, from local city councils to state leadership, Congress, and the President's Cabinet. I'm confident that a future President of the United States is among our members today or soon will be; who knows, they might be with us this weekend.

Again, welcome, and thank you for everything you do to serve your communities and our country. I look forward to sharing this special convening experience with all of you.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Svante Myrick".

Svante Myrick
President, People For the American Way Foundation

6 NAVIGATING THE CROSSROADS OF CHANGE

From Raquel Jones

Vice President of Campaigns and Programs



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Washington, DC, and our YEO National Convening, "Navigating the Crossroads of Change." We are so excited to have you back in DC and to offer you this program of training, enrichment, and fellowship.

Special thanks go out this year to our Host Committee, the Jordan-Huerta YEO Women's Program fellows, and to Martha's Table, for organizing our service project. We also want to thank our wonderful sponsors, whose names you will see in this program book.

Creating this event for you has truly been a labor of love. Every workshop and panel you see in this book was designed with you in mind, with the goal of making you as successful and fulfilled as possible in your public service career.

I hope you will take advantage of as many offerings as you can, from our trainings, to our social events, to the free head shot photography sessions we're making available this year! This is all an investment in you, so that you can be better prepared to go home and invest in your communities.

We're going to hear a lot this weekend about the challenges ahead, especially when it comes to protecting our democracy. If you're here, you already know how high the stakes are.

And I hope you also know that you, that we as a YEO community, hold the power to create the future we want to see. That's a theme we'll come back to more than once in the days ahead: the power we hold. It's real and we can never forget that. I want you to leave here feeling refreshed, reinvigorated, but most of all, empowered.

We also want your ideas about how we can continue to make YEO better. The pandemic years forced us to curtail some programming, and we are working hard to build back. In the days ahead, please make note of what works for you, what you'd like to see more of, and how we can meet your needs. Please feel free to chat with me directly. We'll also ask for your feedback after the event.

We want YEO to be the most effective network in the country for building strength among young leaders of today and tomorrow. Your honest feedback will help us do that.

That's especially true as we get ready to celebrate our 20th anniversary next year. It's hard to believe that YEO is crossing the two-decade mark! This is really exciting for us, and we can't wait to celebrate with you all next year.

As always, thank you for joining us and for all the work you do. I am proud of each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Raquel Jones
Vice President of Campaigns and Programs
People For the American Way Foundation

NAVIGATING THE CROSSROADS OF CHANGE 7



About People For the American Way

People For the American Way is a national progressive advocacy organization, working to inspire and mobilize community and cultural leaders to advance Truth, Justice and the American Way. We're convening courageous Americans, producing compelling media and organizing campaigns to defend our democracy from authoritarian threats and advance America's promise that everyone will enjoy freedom, safety and a vote that counts.

Visit our new site at www.PeopleFor.org

And follow us on social media:  @peoplefor  @peoplefor_





About the YEO Network

The YEO Network, a nonpartisan program of People For the American Way Foundation, is the first and only national initiative to provide a network of support to the newest generation of progressive leaders at every level of elected office.

The Network was founded in 2005 with the mission to unite and support elected leaders ages 35 and under who share a passion for building communities that reflect values of freedom, fairness, and opportunity for all. Since then, the Network has grown to include more than 1,000 elected officials across the country in offices ranging from local school boards to the United States Congress.

We provide cutting edge programming, investing in the full pipeline of progressive leadership and building sustained relationships with our members. We provide the resources young elected officials need to effectively impact policy, foster their own development and professional growth, and elevate their leadership in the broader progressive movement.

Nationwide Networking

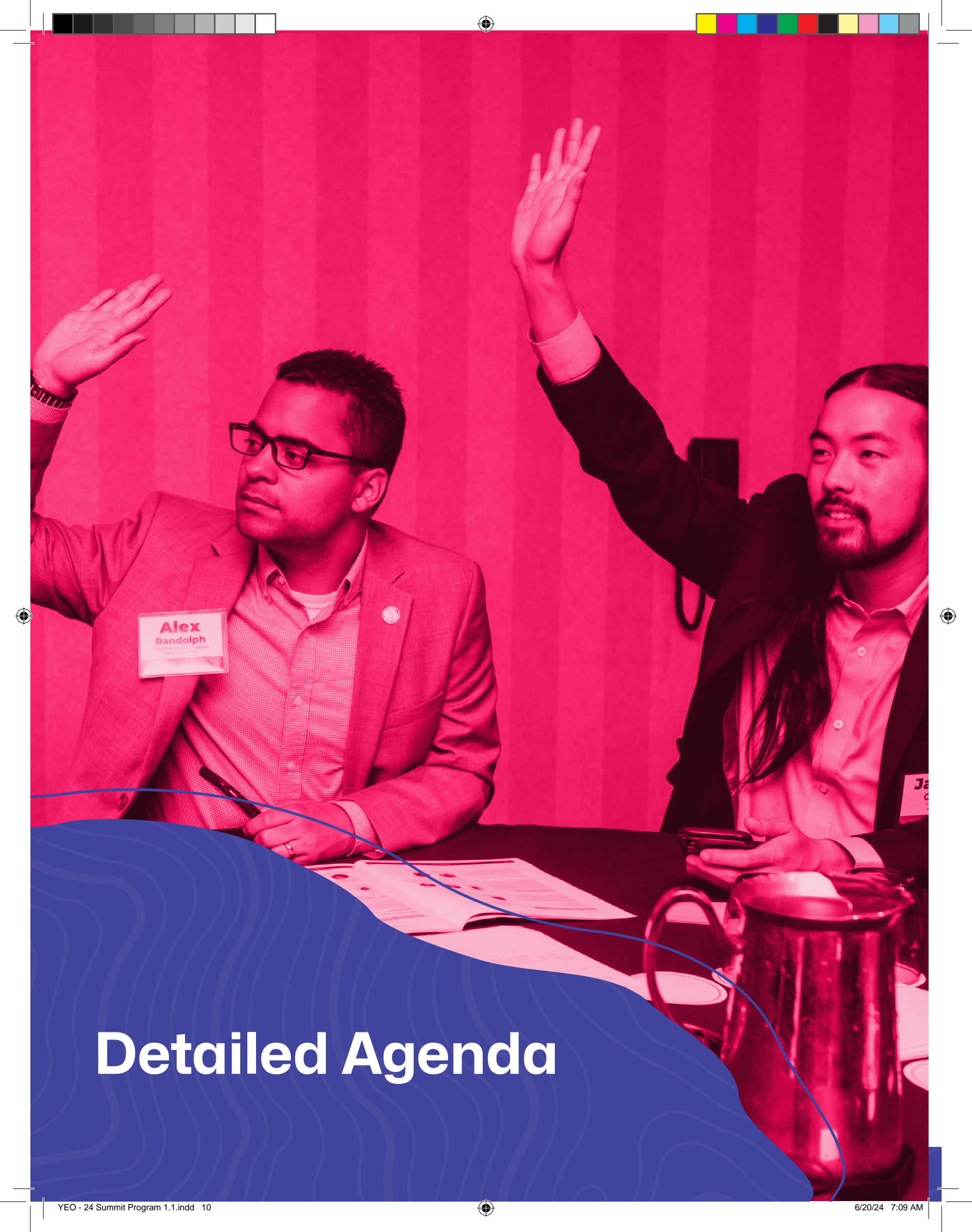
The YEO Network is a genuine community and support network for our members – who value the peer exchange, mentorship and energy of being brought together with other young progressive leaders, leaders, advisors, and policy experts.

Policy Support

The YEO Network collaborates with our strategic partners to provide policy training and resources to our members year-round. In addition to policy summits and academies, we provide training at our annual National Convening, a yearly policy book, an online legislative exchange, teleconferences, regular policy bulletins, and individual research support.

Leadership Development

The YEO Network offers ongoing professional development in all of our programming. We provide access to high-level training – always informed by the needs of our membership – on executive leadership, good governance, and advancing to higher office. We hold workshops and webinars on everything from effective messaging to technology in constituent engagement.



Detailed Agenda



Wednesday, June 26

Women's Pre-Conference

YEO's Barbara Jordan-Dolores Huerta Women's Leadership Program 2024 Fellows will gather for a day-long pre-conference ahead of National Convening. Fellows can refer to their pre-conference agenda for details on programming. To learn more about the Jordan-Huerta Program and People For's years of work with young elected women, visit YEOnetwork.org/women.

Thursday, June 27

Pre-Convening Program

For the first time in nearly a decade, the Young Elected Officials Network National Convening returns to our nation's capital, Washington, D.C.!

12:00 pm - 5:30 pm

National Convening Registration Open

Attendees must receive conference credentials and welcome packages before going to pre-conference events.
Potomac Hall

12:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Host City Service Project

Service comes first. Each year, we take the time to tackle critical issues through service to local communities in our host city. Check your early logistics email for details.

Meet in Potomac Hall at 12:15 pm

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

First-Time Attendee Pre-Reception

YEO staff and members welcome first-time convening attendees to a networking pre-reception before our opening event.

Harbor

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Opening Reception

Join members and friends of People For as we welcome convening attendees to Washington, D.C. for YEO's 15th National Convening.

Waterside

Guest

Rep. Steven Horsford (NV),
Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus

Friday, June 28

Navigating the Crossroads of Change

Since we last gathered in 2019, the challenges we face as a nation are more dire and the work of young, progressive leaders is more important than ever. On the first full day of programming, we will analyze and tackle issues ranging from massive economic transformation to the unprecedented threat to our democracy.

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Breakfast Available Waterside

9:30 am - 10:30 am

Welcome and Opening Keynote

Join us on the first morning of Convening programming for a special guest keynote address to YEO Network members.
Waterside

Keynote Speaker | to be announced.

10:35 am - 10:45 am

From Stress to Strength: The Power of Mental Wellness for Elected Leaders

This YEO-led discussion will explore the unique challenges of managing mental health as an elected official. We'll also share helpful resources you can use.
Waterside

Speakers | Councilmember Skippy Mesirow (CO) Councilmember Brianne Nadeau (DC)

10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Panel: The Power We Hold and the Fight for Democracy

The fundamentals of our democracy have never been under greater threat and are on the line in 2024. We'll explore the landscape of the right to vote and ways to fight against voter suppression.
Waterside

Moderator

Del. Jheanelle Wilkins (MD),
The Leadership Conference on
Civil Rights

Panel

Megan Bellamy,
Voting Rights Lab
Rebekah Caruthers,
Vice President, Fair
Election Center

Beth Linsk,
When We All Vote

12 NAVIGATING THE CROSSROADS OF CHANGE

12:10 pm - 1:15 pm

Policy Workshops

Fair Courts and Protecting Justice for All

Through the lens of protecting reproductive freedom, we will focus on the importance of federal and state courts in our daily lives and how you can influence who sits on these essential courts.

Seaport 1

Moderator

Marge Baker,
Senior Vice President, People For

Panel

Erinn Martin,
Former Director, National
Women's Law Center

Beth Brinkmann,
Center for
Reproductive Rights

Mike Milov-Cordoba,
Brennan Center

Meg Simons,
Digital Content Manager,
People For

Defending the Freedom to Learn

We will explore the various ways public education is under attack today in the United States, and what we can do as elected officials to protect the freedom to learn for all students. You will hear from electeds at all levels of government - school board, city council, and statehouse - about challenges like censorship, COVID-19, and school violence, and solutions for moving forward in this age of threats to education.

Seaport 2

Moderator

**Board Member Armando
Rodriguez (TX)**

Panel

**Board Member
Elizabeth Romero (CA)**

**City Rep.
Josh Acevedo (TX)**

**State Rep.
Kristian Grant (MI)**

The Power We Hold Part 2: Protecting the Right to Vote at the State and Local Levels

In a follow-up to our main-stage discussion, we'll delve deeper into policy solutions elected leaders can use to defend the right to vote in 2024 and our democracy in the years to come.

Harbor

Trainer

Fmr State Sen. Dwight Bullard (FL),
Senior Political Advisor, *Florida Rising*, YEO Alum

1:20 pm - 1:30 pm

Group Photo

YEO Network members are invited to join us for our Convening photo!

Potomac Hall

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Lunch + Briefings

Project 2025 and the Threat to Democracy

Project 2025 is a detailed plan by the Heritage Foundation to “take the reins of government,” eliminate checks and balances, replace civil servants with ideological warriors, and impose harmful policies across a wide range of issues. We’ll talk about the threat and what YEOs can do about it.

Waterside

Speaker

Peter Montgomery,
People For’s Right Wing Watch

Organizing and Winning with Faith Leaders

During Convening, Black Equity Strategies Trust is leading an intersectional training focused on engaging, activating, and mobilizing People For’s African American Religious Affairs program. The leaders of that effort will give an overview of their work and discuss the importance of intersectional organizing in 2024 and beyond.

Waterside

Speakers

DeJuana Thompson,
Black Equity Strategies Trust

Emile Washington,
Black Equity Strategies Trust

2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

Skills Workshops

Ethical Leadership in an Age of Conflict

In a period when trust in our institutions is at an all-time low, faith in those we elect is key to a thriving democracy. An educator and school leader training the next generation of ethical global leaders hosts a session exploring what it means to be ethical when politics often seems like a race to the bottom.

Seaport 1

Speaker

Noah Bopp,
Founder and Head of School, The
School for Ethics and Global Leadership

Digital Fundraising that Works

“Why is digital fundraising essential? How can we reframe the way we think about asking for money? Why are small-dollar donors important? Intro to Digital Fundraising tackles these questions and outlines steps you can take to dive into digital fundraising.”

Seaport 2

Trainers

Ash Sharma,
PACs Associate, ActBlue

Stephany Triska,
ActBlue

14 NAVIGATING THE CROSSROADS OF CHANGE

Strategic Communications and Constituent Engagement

Elected officials often use media to communicate with their constituents, so it's important to be prepared for these interactions. LINK Strategic Partners will share best practices for working with the media and looking and sounding your best during interviews while providing a framework for developing talking points.

Harbor

Trainers

Sheena Pagarido,
LINK Strategic Partners

Joseph "Jae" Early,
LINK Strategic Partners

Zamiya Sabour,
LINK Strategic Partners

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Panel: American Poverty and the Economics of Dignity

Today's elected leaders lead communities grappling with the impact of a second economic downturn in a decade; unchecked corporate greed; and massive transformation in the world of work. We'll talk with experts and leaders tackling these issues head-on and fighting for the dignity that poor and working people deserve.

Waterside

Moderator

State Rep. Matthew Haney (CA)

Panel

Mayor Michael Tubbs (CA),
Special Advisor for Economic Mobility,
Governor Gavin Newsom; Founder,
Mayors for a Guaranteed Income

9:30 am - 10:30 am

Evening Keynote

Waterside

Keynote Speaker

to be announced.

7:00 pm- 9:30 pm

51st State Sunset Tour

Enjoy a night out on the town and discover our capital city on a sunset bus tour! Guided by cultural curator and DC-based music artist Jus Paul.

Meet in Potomac Hall at 6:45 pm

Saturday, June 29

Delivering on our Progressive Values

When we work together, we win. Even in difficult times, we've seen firsthand the power of our organizing to defend freedom and expand opportunity to all. We'll share our stories, incubate our best ideas, and set the stage for bold action in 2024 and beyond.

9:00 am - 9:30 am

Breakfast Available Waterside

9:30 am - 10:30 am

Morning Fireside: Progressive Leadership in Difficult Times

The years since our last convening have presented leaders at every level with unprecedented challenges and prompted them to act boldly to deliver on decades of failed promises. In this session, we will hear the stories of some of those leaders to inform our place in the fight.

Waterside

Moderator

Svante Myrick,
President, People For the
American Way

Guests

**State Rep. Anna
Eskamani (FL)**

**County Executive
David Crowley (WI)**

10:45 am - 11:45 am

Panel: Opposing Extremism and Achieving Progress in Divided Government

With polarization and extremism on the rise, progress is more difficult and gridlock has become more likely in state capitals across the nation. We will talk with young elected leaders breaking through the noise, beating back attacks on our rights, and getting things done in state government.

Waterside

Moderator

Gerren Keith Gaynor,
The Grio

Panel

**Lt. Gov. Austin
Davis (PA)**

Del. Joshua Cole (VA)

11:55 am - 12:55 pm

Policy Workshops

Digital Engagement for Elected Leaders in the Age of AI

Generative Artificial Intelligence has revolutionized not only our workforce but also how leaders and elected officials communicate and engage online. While many young leaders possess various degrees of social media proficiency, AI expands the possibilities for comprehensive digital engagement with citizens and voters. The former White House Digital Engagement Director, Cameron Trimble, will provide tips and tools on maximizing digital resources—from social media to cross-platform content creation. Learn how to responsibly utilize AI tools to effectively reach and engage with the citizens you represent and the voters you aim to win over in your next election.

Seaport 1

Trainer

Cameron C. Trimble,
Founder Hip-Politics

Now that Roe Is Gone – Here’s What You Need to Know

Now that Roe is gone, we’ll cover what every educated person needs to know about birth control (from implants to condoms and common myths); emergency contraception (BMI limitations, know all your options); and safe websites, plus #periodsOptional and other non-contraceptive benefits of “birth control” and telemedicine; and increasing access to birth control. Learn from a doctor, a person with a uterus, a mother, an academic, and a 20-plus-year activist.

Seaport 2

Trainer

Dr. Sophia Yen,
Founder and CEO, Pandia Health

Building a Living-Wage, Pro-Union Economy

Our economy is built on workers. In recent years, however, we’ve seen the rights of workers to organize and earn a fair wage come under attack – while working families struggle to get by. We’ll discuss ways to protect the rights of workers and promote a growing middle class.

Marina

Trainers

Ashley Dwire,
SEIU

**State Rep. Donovan
McKinney (FL),**
SEIU

Fighting for a Gun-Safe America Harbor

Trainer

Rosa Trinidad Florian,
Government Affairs Coordinator,
EveryTown for Gun Safety

1:00 pm

Lunch Available

1:20 pm - 2:30 pm

Lunch Panel: Art and Digital to Engage and Empower

Art has the power to transform the world that we live in and can be a force unlike any other in influencing public perception. This panel explores the unique challenges and opportunities that exist at the intersection of art and politics.

Waterside

Moderator

Markus Batchelor,
Director of Voter Engagement,
People For

Panel

U.S. Rep. Maxwell Frost
(FL) (Virtual)

Tracie Ching,
Artist for the
American Way

Beverly McIver,
Artist for the American Way

Victoria Cassinova,
Artist for the
American Way

2:35 pm - 3:35 pm

Skills Workshops

AI Tools for Civics

This session will focus on Google's AI efforts, how you can use Google tools to boost your creativity and productivity at work, as well as a short update on Google policies ahead of the election this November.

Seaport 1

Trainer

Natalie Austin,
Civics Outreach Manager, Google

Authentic Storytelling and Connecting with Constituents

Stories are the connective tissue between human beings. As old as the campfire and as young as a TikTok video, storytelling is not just an art; it's the single most powerful tool in your communication toolkit. In this interactive session, Brian will introduce a S.T.I.C.K.Y. storytelling framework, equip you with practical tools for everyday storytelling, and engage you in exercises that will forever change how you use stories, both personally and professionally. Delivered with infectious enthusiasm, STORYSELLING is jam-packed with inspiring examples and exercises. Prepare for a storytelling boost that will propel you to new heights.

Seaport 2

Trainer

Brian Williamson,
CEO and Coach, *StorySelling LLC*

18 NAVIGATING THE CROSSROADS OF CHANGE



Creating Lasting Change from the Grassroots

Join The Davis System LLC for a breakout session designed for young elected leaders eager to drive lasting change from the grassroots. This session will equip you with practical strategies to forge strong partnerships with constituents and community stakeholders. Through interactive discussions and practical examples, you'll learn how to harness local resources, build trust, and collaborate effectively to achieve common goals. Whether you're looking to mobilize support for a new initiative or strengthen existing networks, this session will provide the tools and insights you need to make a tangible impact.

Marina

Trainers

Anthony Davis
The Davis System

Errin Davis,
The Davis System

Briefing: Equitable Tech Policy

Join Kapor Foundation, Kapor Center, and guest expert on strategies towards ensuring the participation and protection of Black, Latinx, & Native communities in the technology economy. This is an interactive session on key policy issue areas, and an overview of the current landscape of policy wins, losses, and learnings. Gain practical insights on how to help move policy forward in your community.

Harbor

Trainers

Lili Gangas,
Chief Technology Community
Officer, Kapor Foundation

Allison Scott,
Kapor Center

3:45 pm - 4:45 pm

Democracy Solutions Roundtable

The threats to our democracy in 2024 are present and clear and the right to vote could not be more important. YEO members will join voting rights organizers and experts in an interactive discussion on solutions that not only protect our democracy but strengthen it for the next generation.

Waterside

Partners

Facilitator:
Renaldo Pearson,
Project Director,
Redeem Democracy

National Popular Vote:
Matthew Schweich,
National Popular Vote

Lowering the Voting Age:
Mussab Ali,
Vote 16

SCOTUS Reform / Term Limits:
Tishan Weerasooriya,
National Popular Vote

Automatic Voter Registration:
Raaheela Ahmed,
100% Democracy

Money out of Politics:
Anastasia Khoo,
American Promise





5:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Fireside Chat: Delivering on Our Progressive Values

Restoring faith in our democracy means delivering for those who believe their vote can change things. Our guests – organizers who have run for office to uplift forgotten and suppressed communities in the Deep South – join us to talk about the work it will take to ensure power and opportunity belong to all of us.

Waterside

Guests

Gary Chambers (LA),
Civics for the People

State Rep. Park Cannon (GA)

Fmr State Rep. Charles Booker (KY),
Hood to the Holler

Sunday, June 30

Delivering on our Progressive Values

As we leave Convening 2024, we will come together to reflect on our weekend and celebrate our shared journey toward a bright future.

10:00 am - 10:30 am

Brunch Available

On weekends in DC, we brunch.

Waterside

10:45 am - 11:30 am

Closing Fireside

Waterside

Guests

Vince Evans,
Executive Director,
Congressional Black Caucus

Svante Myrick,
President, People For

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Closing Plenary

In an annual tradition, we'll gather one final time to celebrate our progress and look forward to the work ahead. Stay for announcements about the YEO Network's 20th Anniversary in 2025!

Waterside

20 NAVIGATING THE CROSSROADS OF CHANGE





Bios





Raaheela Ahmed

Raaheela Ahmed is a national nonprofit executive, grassroots community advocate and servant leader. She served 5 years as the elected representative for the Prince George's County Board of Education, District 5, representing over 80,000 Maryland residents. Currently, she works as National Legislative and Organizing Director at 100% Democracy: An Initiative for Universal Voting, where she is leading efforts to advance 100% voting participation conversation and legislation in localities, states and nationally. Previously, Raaheela worked as Deputy Director of Fair Elections Center's Campus Vote Project, a nonprofit that focuses on institutionalizing voting and civic engagement at 300+ college campuses across the country, and Manager of Leadership Programs at New American Leaders, where she cultivated and supported a national network of 500+ first- and second-generation immigrant elected officials. As a young, first-generation American Muslim woman of Indian and Pakistani descent, Raaheela understands and passionately strives for equity and justice for marginalized people and communities.



Natalie Austin

Natalie Austin is a Civics Outreach Manager at Google, where she focuses on teaching best practices across Google products and tools. A Miami native, Natalie now lives in Washington, DC. Her past roles include stints on the Biden-Harris campaign, the White House, and TikTok.



Megan Bellamy

Megan Bellamy serves as Vice President of Law and Policy at Voting Rights Lab - a nonpartisan organization accelerating the movement for free and fair elections through expert analysis, research and innovations. She is a political strategist, attorney, and voting rights advocate with a passion for protecting and expanding the right to vote. Megan has served in various leadership roles with municipal, state, and federal campaigns, and as the Director of National Programs for Verified Voting where she supported the work of computer scientists, election officials, and local advocates to protect voting rights by promoting the responsible use of technology in elections. Megan earned a BA in English from the University of Florida and a JD from Howard University School of Law. She lives in North Carolina with her husband and three children.



Dwight Bullard

State Senator Dwight M. Bullard hails from an esteemed educator, community activist and legislator family. In 1981, Dwight moved to Miami. After graduating high school, he continued his education at Florida A&M University where he received his B.S. in History Education. From 2000 to 2017, Sen. Bullard was a teacher at Coral Reef Senior High School and in 2008 he was sworn into office as representative of District 118. In 2012 Senator Bullard was elected to the Florida Senate. In his time in the Senate, Bullard worked to stop online bullying, bring tuition equity to aspiring citizens and raise the minimum wage. Bullard served in the Florida Senate until 2016. In 2017, Bullard was hired as Political Director of the New Florida Majority and recently became Senior Political Advisor of the newly formed Florida Rising. In 2019, he became President of the South Dade NAACP.



Tracie Ching

Tracie Ching is an artist working in D.C., best known for her cross-hatching style. Ching first found her niche in pop-culture creating alternative movie posters. She has since grown her portfolio to include art for Hasbro and Penguin Randomhouse, covers for TIME, and key art for Disney and Marvel Studios. Ching is also known for her political work including the 2021 inauguration poster for President Joe Biden, viral KavaNope poster and voting initiatives like Michelle Obama's When We All Vote. She is often engaged on social justice campaigns including Smokey the Bear, the Equal Rights Amendment, and National Geographic's Campaign for Nature. Ching's work has been shown in the Getty and Design Museum and is in the permanent collection of The Library of Congress and Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. She is founder and principal mentor of the biennial We Create mentorship program which empowers emerging visual artists of minoritized identities.



Quantá Crews

Rev. Quantá Crews is a community advocate and an associate minister at the Historic Tanner Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Phoenix, AZ. She serves as coordinator of the No Limits Special Needs Ministry and the regional Richard Allen Young Adult Council. As a real and personal property appraiser, she is passionate about the property tax profession and advocates for equitable tax policy. Quantá is sounding the alarm on the need for an intimate understanding of government agencies. On June 5, 2023 the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors appointed Rev. Crews to the Arizona State Legislature, as the State Representative for Legislative District 26. She serves on the Ways and Means Committee and was recently elevated to Ranking Democrat on the Regulatory Affairs Committee. Apart from serving humanity and appraising real estate, Quantá enjoys hanging out with her amazing sons, and is an aspiring lyricist, writing poetry in her spare time.



David Crowley

In May of 2020, David Crowley became the youngest county executive in the history of Milwaukee County and the first Black leader elected to serve in the role. On April 2, 2024, County Executive Crowley was reelected to a second term with 85% of the vote. David is focusing Milwaukee County on a vision of achieving racial equity, and by doing so, becoming the healthiest county in Wisconsin. Under his leadership, Milwaukee County has diversified positions, streamlined government services, addressed legacy fiscal challenges, and delivered investments that are moving the community forward. The fundamental tenet of Executive Crowley's administration is to build bridges that bring people together, deliver prosperity for working families, and foster a safer, stronger, and healthier Milwaukee County. David attended Bay View High School and is currently finishing up his degree at UW-Milwaukee. He lives in Milwaukee with his wife, Ericka, and their three young daughters.



Joseph "Jae" Early

Joseph "Jae" Early is a project manager at LINK Strategic Partners, specializing in enhancing client communications, public relations, and advertising strategies. Passionate about societal change, Jae brings dedication and expertise to his role. When he is not working, you can find him traveling or reading. He is a graduate of the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism.



Erinn Martin

Erinn D. Martin is the Director of Nominations & Cross-Cutting Policies at the National Women's Law Center, where she leads the Law Center's advocacy on judicial nominations, the Supreme Court, and democracy. She also serves as co-chair for the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' Fair Courts Task Force. Prior to joining the Law Center, she served as Senior Policy Counsel for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and as a Staff Attorney at the Center for Reproductive Rights. She has also served at the U.S. Department of Justice, where her work focused on consumer protection and appellate civil rights matters. Erinn received her J.D. from New York University School of Law and holds a B.A. from the University of Maryland and a M.S. Ed. from the University of Pennsylvania. She previously served as President of the Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association (GWAC). She is licensed to practice in New York and Washington, D.C. She was awarded the National Bar Association's Top 40 Under 40 Award in 2024.



Donavan McKinney

State Rep. Donovan McKinney is serving his first term representing the 14th House District, which comprises northeast Detroit, part of Warren and Center Line. McKinney serves on the House Appropriations Committee. His priorities are increasing access to health care, ensuring every child in Michigan receives a quality education, improving the criminal justice system, and securing the rights of unions and workers. Previously he served as the national political director for Climate Power. In 2020, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appointed McKinney to serve on the state's first Environment Justice Council, where he was instrumental in securing \$2 million for the Water Restart Grant Program. Rep. McKinney is a lifelong Detroit. He is a proud product of Detroit Public Schools and a graduate of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. He is also a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated. #BluPhi



Skippy Mesirow

Skippy Mesirow is a certified master coach and founder of the Elected Leaders Collective (ELC) P.B.C + Foundation, dedicated to Healing Our Politics. ELC leads the US in mental health and well-being training for public servants. Skippy's extensive public service spans federal, state, and local levels as a campaign manager, staffer, activist, organizer, and Aspen City Councilperson. Drawing from his own mental health journey, he founded ELC to emphasize that healing politics begins with the human in the mirror. Skippy hosts the Healing Our Politics podcast, is a sought-after speaker and facilitator, serves on Gov. Polis's Natural Medicine Advisory Board, co-created Mobilize the Movement, and is a board member of the Aspen Psychedelic Resource Center. Residing in Aspen, CO, with his partner Jamie, Skippy enjoys running ultra-marathons, road biking, motorcycling, international travel, culinary arts, Burning Man, and lifelong learning.



Michael Milov-Cordoba

Michael Milov-Cordoba is a counsel in the Brennan Center's Judiciary Program, where he works on state and federal court reform to ensure that courts uphold democratic values and the rule of law. Prior to joining the Brennan Center, Michael served as a law clerk to the Hon. Alvin W. Thompson of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. Michael received his JD from NYU School of Law, a master's degree in Political Science from Columbia University, and a bachelor's degree in Law, Jurisprudence, and Social Thought from Amherst College.





Sheena Pegarido

Armando “Mando” Rodriguez, a dynamic leader from the border region, is dedicated to advancing education in his community and beyond. Serving his fifth term on the Canutillo ISD School Board, Rodriguez has been elected to key positions such as Board President, Vice President, and Secretary, demonstrating his peers’ confidence in his leadership. As one of the youngest individuals ever elected in El Paso County, Rodriguez is passionate about improving education, especially for underserved students. He co-founded the Canutillo Alumni Foundation for Education, providing scholarships to local graduates. In addition to his local efforts, Rodriguez serves as President of the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) and holds positions on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, among others. His extensive leadership experience reflects his unwavering commitment to educational equity and excellence.



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Matthew Schweich

Matthew Schweich is a senior advisor to National Popular Vote, a non-profit organization working to establish a national popular vote for President of the United States. He is also the interim executive director of the Marijuana Policy Project, the country’s leading cannabis reform organization. Schweich started his political career in Rhode Island, where he served as a legislative aide in the state treasurer’s office and worked on political campaigns including a state-level constitutional convention ballot question. Between 2015 and 2020, Schweich was the campaign director for six successful cannabis reform ballot initiatives in Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, South Dakota, and Utah, while also overseeing several legislative operations. In 2021, he played an instrumental role in defeating Governor Kristi Noem’s proposed bill to severely delay implementation of South Dakota’s voter-approved medical cannabis law. In 2020, Schweich was a general consultant to the Alaska ranked-choice voting ballot initiative campaign.



Tishan Weerasooriya

Tishan works as a Senior Associate for Policy and Political Affairs at Stand Up America. This organization works to reform our Supreme Court as well as expand voting rights and our democracy in states and localities as well as federally.





Brian Williamson

Brian Williamson is marketing + sales leader with 20 years experience at companies like Google, YouTube, Foursquare, and Yahoo! who has worked across industries w/ some of the world's most prominent brands. A life in sports and screenwriting combined with a career in marketing + sales have transformed Brian into a 'Storyseller.' A dynamic and distinguished speaker, Brian has a unique ability to build + deliver powerful stories that shift mindsets, challenge bias, and drive brands forward. He is a passionate coach who loves leading inspiring speaking + communications workshops around the country (in-person and virtually). He 'edu-tains' teams on the power of 'sticky' stories, helps them extract the storyteller within, and creates lasting hype that will change the way they approach presentations and stories from now on (personally + professionally). His workshops are energizing, memorable, and fun -- delivered w/ infectious enthusiasm by someone who is more Peloton instructor than college professor, committed to getting you into 'story' shape.



Sophia Yen

Sophia Yen, MD, MPH is the Co-Founder & Chief Medical Officer of Pandia Health, the only women-founded and led, the only doctor founded and led, birth control prescription and delivery company. She has a passion for making women's lives easier, preventing unplanned pregnancies, and educating people about #PeriodsOptional and menopause. With 20+ years in medicine, she is board-certified in Adolescent Medicine. She graduated from MIT, UCSF Medical School, and UC Berkeley with an MPH in Maternal Child Health. She also works as a Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Adolescent Medicine at a major university. She co-founded 3 non-profit organizations/projects: The Silver Ribbon Campaign to Trust Women, SheHeroes.org, and the "full" campaign = fffl.co = Female Founded, Female Led. Mother of 2 future SheHeroes, wife of a feminist. She would like to be the first Surgeon General to say masturbation without being asked to resign.



Mana Abdi

Rep. Mana Abdi is serving her first term in the Maine House of Representatives. She serves on the State and Local Government Committee. Rep. Abdi is ethnically Somali, but was born in Kenya and came to the United States when she was 11. She has been living in Lewiston for the past 15 years. She attended the University of Maine at Farmington and earned her bachelor's degree in political science and international and global studies. Her professional goals and personal vision are one and the same - to create a just, safe, sustainable, and collaborative community and world. She is particularly passionate about social justice, equitable housing and education, and supporting young entrepreneurs.



Josh Acevedo

Josh Acevedo has served on the El Paso City Council since January 2024. As a lifelong El Pasoan, he has dedicated his career to being a public servant. He is a four-time graduate of The University of Texas at El Paso, where he has earned a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology, a Master of Arts in Political Science, a Master of Public Administration in Public Policy and Management, and a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Administration. His dissertation was a case study of school closures that occurred at EPISD in 2019. Before being elected to the El Paso City Council, Josh served on the El Paso Independent School District Board of Trustees from 2019 to 2024. He hired the first female and Latina superintendent in the district's 140-year history, championed one of the highest teacher raises in El Paso's history, and passed an unprecedented parental leave policy.

26 NAVIGATING THE CROSSROADS OF CHANGE





Canek Aguirre

Canek Aguirre was first elected to the Alexandria City Council in November 2018. Born and raised in Los Angeles to Mexican immigrants, Canek is the first Latino to serve on the City Council. Canek has focused on increasing housing opportunities, investing in public schools and transportation infrastructure, eliminating health inequities, and making government more accessible and accountable.



Elizabeth Alcantar

In November of 2018, Elizabeth was elected to the Cudahy City Council and consequently named Vice Mayor, making her the city's youngest vice mayor. The following year she served as Mayor in an unprecedented year where Elizabeth led her city through the Delta fuel dump and the global coronavirus pandemic. She's honored to serve the community that raised her and is focused on housing, increasing civic engagement, access to quality green space and environmental justice, and supporting Cudahy's women and girls. Elizabeth works for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) where she strives to educate and organize the community on the issue of immigration and ensures immigrant community members from Northeast L.A. to Southeast L.A. know their rights and feel confident in their fight for achieving a just society for all, regardless of status.



Dan Arriola

Councilmember Dan Arriola was first elected to the Tracy City Council in 2018 and then re-elected in 2022. At 29-years-old, he became the first Millennial Councilmember, as well as the first openly LGBTQ elected official, in the history of the City of Tracy. Arriola was first elected to office as a Tracy School Board Trustee in 2016. He also works as a Deputy District Attorney for San Joaquin County. As a councilmember, Arriola has championed various policy initiatives including: opening the city's first public homeless shelter; raising the Pride Flag for the first-time ever; legalizing commercial cannabis; approving the first affordable housing development in over 20 years; and passing an equity business license tax. Arriola has also been recognized on the Young Elected Officials "35 Under 35" List by the YEO Network and on the "40 Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40" List by the National LGBT Bar Association.



Ethan Ashley

Ethan Ashley, co-Founder and co-CEO of School Board Partners, is dedicated to fostering anti-racist leadership in education. His impact spans over 250 elected school board members across 70 districts in 25 states, representing over 5 million students. Through SBP, Ethan has facilitated the passage of 100+ policies, surpassing national averages in representation and reelection rates. With two terms on the Orleans Parish School Board, including as President during tumultuous times marked by racial reckoning, natural disasters, and the pandemic, Ethan demonstrates commitment to community resilience. Beyond board service, he contributes to organizations like the National Juvenile Justice Network and the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute. His legal background and civil rights advocacy, evidenced by roles at esteemed organizations like the Urban League and Anti-Defamation League, underscore his dedication to equity and justice. A Howard University graduate with a bachelor's degree in political science and a Juris Doctor, Ethan finds joy in family life with his wife and their three children.



Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

Elizabeth Bennett-Parker is the Delegate for the 5th Virginia House District, located in Alexandria. Elizabeth is the fifth member of the House of Delegates to give birth while in office (in 405 years), and she is committed to supporting children and families. She has championed early childhood education, school meals for all, and measures to help families remain housed. She has also carried and passed bills to enhance voting rights and disability rights, improve access to participation in government through virtual meetings and remote participation, and strengthen protections for survivors of domestic violence and stalking. Elizabeth serves on the House Finance, General Laws, and Counties, Cities & Towns Committees. She previously served as the Vice Mayor of Alexandria and as a co-leader of Together We Bake, a non-profit job training and personal development program for underserved women. She lives in Alexandria with her husband, daughter, and their rescue cat and dog.



Ethan Bertrand

Ethan Bertrand is an elected official and public policy professional. He currently serves as a School Board Member for the Goleta Union School District and as a District Director for the California State Assembly. Previously, Ethan was elected to serve as Director of the Isla Vista Community Services District (2017-2022) and Director of the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District (2015-2016). He also worked for the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, focusing on criminal justice, mental wellness, racial equity, and homelessness. Ethan is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara. Beginning in 2025, he will attend the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. He enjoys practicing yoga, distance running, playing music, and watching sunsets from the beaches of Isla Vista and beyond. Ethan is a proud member of the LGBTQ community.



Jasmine Bowles

Jasmine Bowles is an elected board member representing District 1 of Clayton County Public Schools. Jasmine began her career as a teacher, but has also worked as an administrator, policy analyst, realtor, non-profit executive and founder. In addition to her local organizing efforts to end educational inequity, Jasmine has coached hundreds of teachers, policy fellows, non-profit leaders, and school board members across the country. Currently, Jasmine serves as the Georgia State Director for Care in Action, where she fights for women of color & care workers through advocacy, lobbying and legislation.



Spencer Brandt

Spencer Brandt was elected to the Isla Vista Community Services District Board of Directors in 2016, and re-elected in 2022. Spencer moved to the college community of Isla Vista to attend UC Santa Barbara, and quickly began organizing to register voters ahead of the 2016 election. He was first elected while a second year undergraduate student, and served as Board President from 2019-2022. During his time in office he has worked to support survivors of sexual violence with trauma-informed services, enhance safety through lighting infrastructure and enhanced unarmed safety personnel, and opening the first Isla Vista Community Center. In addition to his elected role, Spencer works as legislative staff for Santa Barbara County Supervisor Das Williams, handling housing, homelessness, behavioral health, and emergency preparedness.





Winsvey Campos

Winsvey (wins-vay) Campos, represents Oregon Senate District 18. She was raised in a low-income household in a rural community by a single, immigrant father. This upbringing fueled her passion for addressing societal disparities. Making history, she became the youngest woman elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 2020, and in 2022 was elected as the youngest person to ever serve in the Oregon State Senate. Alongside her legislative role, Campos has previously worked as a housing case manager and currently works to support school-based health systems. She has ardently championed progressive policies to support vulnerable Oregonians including expanding healthcare access, combating food insecurity, and tackling housing instability. As the former Vice Chair of the House Housing Committee, she helped allocate substantial funds into communities to help combat the housing crisis. As the current co-chair of the Ways and Means Human Services subcommittee, she prioritizes investments in behavioral health, community-based care, and early childhood resources.



Park Cannon

State Rep. Park Cannon serves the citizens of Georgia's House District 58, which encompasses a diverse cross-section of 20 neighborhoods within intown Atlanta. She was awarded the 2021 Legislator of the Year by the National Black Caucus of State Legislators. Her legislative efforts focus on reproductive justice issues, access to quality healthcare, housing, and education. She also devotes her legislative work to protecting Georgia's most vulnerable: women and children, the elderly and the LGBTQIA+ community. Rep. Cannon attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Hispanic Linguistics and a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics, and minored in Women's and Gender Studies. Her Executive Education was completed at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government on the subject of police accountability and voting rights. She was unlawfully arrested in March of 2021 upon knocking on the Governor's door to protect voting rights.



Kevin Carter

Kevin L. Carter is a distinguished leader in the field of education, having recently served as a Director and First Vice President of Pittsburgh Public Schools. With a passion for empowering students and improving academic outcomes, he has dedicated his career to creating positive change in the education system. In addition to his role in public education, Kevin is also the First Vice President and Founder of the Adonai Center, a non-profit organization that provides resources and support to underprivileged communities. Through his work at the Adonai Center, Kevin has made a significant impact on the lives of countless individuals, helping them access the tools and opportunities they need to thrive. Kevin's commitment to education and community service is evident in everything he does. He is a tireless advocate for educational equity and social justice, and he continues to work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society for all.



Andres Castillo-Quintana

Andres Castillo-Quintana, a Peruvian American elected official, made history at age of 25 when he became the first Latino and openly gay council member in the Town of Bedford, NY. He holds a bachelor's in psychology and certificate in global health and health policy from Princeton University, currently pursuing a master's in public administration at Columbia SIPA. Before entering the political arena, he worked at one of the largest federally qualified health centers in the Hudson Valley, enabling him to address systemic barriers to care through program management, community outreach and patient advocacy. He was ultimately inspired to run for office because of the broken systems and growing inequities that his patients were facing. This, coupled with the lack of diverse representation in politics, ignited his grassroots campaign to ensure that local government is both rooted in public service and fully attuned to the needs and values of all communities.



Savion Castro

Savion Castro is the youngest person ever to serve on the Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education. He is the operations workgroup chair, overseeing an over \$500 million budget process, district policies, operations, and building services. During his time on the board, MMSD passed a historic \$317 million referendum, expanded early childhood education, arts programming, and worked to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline. In addition to serving on the Board of Education, Savion is a teacher and student mentor for First Wave hip-hop and urban arts scholarship program in UW-Madison's office of multicultural arts and initiatives. Savion is a doctoral candidate at UW-Madison's education leadership and policy analysis, as well as an education fellow with the Interdisciplinary Training Program in Education Sciences program at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research.



Alan Cavagnaro

Alan Cavagnaro, a first-generation student from the University of Connecticut, is a dedicated public servant and elected commissioner on the Planning & Zoning Commission in South Windsor, CT. Elected at 19 years of age in 2021, he became Connecticut's youngest zoning commissioner. Alan focuses on expanding affordable housing, preserving open spaces, increasing EV charging stations, updating outdated regulations, and holding developers accountable. He interned for YEO Network alum, the late State Rep. Q Williams in 2022, helping pass the Fair Rent Commission bill during his time interning in the state house. Currently, Alan is the Campaign Coordinator for DesegregateCT, which advocates for Pro-Homes reforms in one of the most segregated states in America. He also serves as the 2nd Vice-Chair of the South Windsor Democratic Town Committee, making him one of the youngest EBoard officers in the state for local DTCs.



Mark Chambers

Mark Chambers, Jr. was elected Alderman on November 8, 2022 and reelected in April 2024. Early on in his life, Mark learned firsthand the importance of being a leader and in mentoring others by participating in youth programs. Mark attended Milwaukee Area Technical College & served as Vice President of the Black Student Union & then moved on to a business degree from Concordia University. Mark excelled in the finance industry as Market President. Professionally, Mark is a member of the Greater Milwaukee African American Business Resource Group (GMAABRG) and an advisor for Wisconsin Governor's Financial Literacy Council where he continues to teach financial literacy courses.





Chelsea Cook

Chelsea Cook currently serves as a Ward representative on the Durham, North Carolina City Council. Concurrently, Cook practices as an attorney with Legal Aid of North Carolina's Eviction Diversion Program, representing low-income tenants facing eviction in court. Cook has a J.D. from Stanford University School of Law and a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Originally from Memphis, Cook has long been interested in civil justice and grassroots advocacy. In what little spare time Cook has outside of their jobs working with their beloved Durham community, Cook enjoys outdoor rock climbing, gardening, and baking, along with spending time with their partner and friends (and Sparrowhawk the dog).



Jessica Davis

Commissioner Jessica Davis was elected to Seat 3 on the DeLand City Commission on August 26, 2014, making her the first African American female to be elected to The DeLand City Commission. Commissioner Davis is now serving in her 3rd term on the DeLand City Commission. Davis understands the sense of urgency needed in serving the citizens of DeLand and has a vested interest in her community. Understanding how economic development is directly related to communities and schools is vital to short and long-term success. Davis understands such interrelationships and has ensured to the best of her ability that the citizens of DeLand are provided the best quality of life for themselves and their family. Commissioner Davis is a graduate of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University where she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Broadcast Journalism and minor in education. She received her Master's Degree in Education from Stetson University.



Natasha Dupee

Natasha Dupee is completing her second term as DC Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC) for Single-Member District 7E04 where she also serves as the Commission's Chair and previously led their Education Committee. As ANC, she has spent the past three years building shared knowledge to steward the vision for the redevelopment of the 4th largest parcel of redevelopment in the city. A fifth-generation native Washingtonian, she is committed to creating and defending policies that increase access to a quality life. Professionally, Mayor Muriel Bowser appointed Commissioner Dupee to the Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives in 2022 where she now leads as the Executive Director. Commissioner Dupee is a double alumna of the George Washington University with a bachelor's in women's studies and a master's in public health policy. She additionally holds a master's in secondary education from the University of Missouri-St Louis.



Michalyn Easter-Thomas

Michalyn Easter-Thomas is an educator, community advocate, and currently serves as the Memphis City Councilwoman for District 7. As the youngest African American to ever be elected to the Memphis City Council in 2019, Michalyn is proud to work alongside her colleagues to make Memphis a more equitable place to live. Her current push for equity focuses on economic access for all, community development in our historically underserved neighborhoods, and the support of youth initiatives across the city.





Cobi Frongillo

At 23, Cobi Frongillo was the youngest-ever Town Councilor to be elected in the Town of Franklin, Massachusetts. Now 26, Cobi serves as Chair of the Town's Arts & Culture Committee, Vice Chair of the Economic Development Subcommittee, and Vice Chair of the Master Plan Committee. In Town, Cobi also serves in leadership roles for Greater Attleboro & Taunton Regional Transit Authority, Building Equitable Neighborhoods for Franklin, Franklin & Bellingham Rail Trail Committee, Franklin Freedom Team, and SAFE Coalition. Cobi is a member of Elected Officials to Protect America's National Leadership Council and Progressive Mass' Progressive Municipal Leaders Network. During the day, Cobi serves as the Deputy Director of Renewable & Alternative Energy for the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. He earned his Master of Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a Graduate Certificate of Public Leadership from the University of San Francisco.



Dominic Frongillo

Internationally-recognized advocate and public servant Dominic Frongillo is the youngest person ever elected to the Town Council in Caroline, New York, elected at age 22. An award-winning changemaker, Dominic co-founded Elected Officials to Protect America, a nonpartisan network of more than 2,000 state and local lawmakers in all 50 states to solve the climate crisis and ensure environmental justice. In 2012, when fracking threatened his hometown, Dominic organized more than 1,000 lawmakers that helped win New York's statewide ban on fracking, fossil fuel divestment, and nation-leading climate law, inspiring governments worldwide to act. An 11-time United Nations delegate, Frongillo and his work have appeared in more than a thousand media stories in major international news media including CNN, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Forbes, and BBC News.



Gary Hardie, Jr.

Dr. Gary Hardie, Jr., born and raised in Lynwood and elected to the school board at age 26, is a passionate advocate for educational equity. As a 10-year board member, he has driven change through initiatives like the Ready to Learn program, addressing students' needs outside the classroom. He created the award-winning Safe Schools Taskforce and advocated for the Department of Equity Access and Instruction. During the pandemic, Dr. Hardie started a weekly food pantry that continues to serve the community. His work with the California Association of Black School Educators (CABSE) helped remove SAT and ACT requirements for college admissions, and his advocacy at Lynwood Unified expanded access to AP courses, resulting in national recognition. At the Social Justice Learning Institute, Dr. Hardie leads community engagement and crafts policy for systemic change. Additionally, his work at Veregy focuses on sustainability and energy efficiency in schools.



Torrey Harris

Representative Torrey C. Harris is a proud community leader and advocate for Education, Children & Families and Foster and Adopted Youth in Tennessee. Representative Harris believes that everyone should be given the same opportunities to be the best they can be. Representative Harris serves in the State of Tennessee House of Representatives as the Representative for the 91st House District. Representative Harris is the first and currently only openly LGBTQ+ State Elected Official in Tennessee. Over the last decade, Representative Harris has been an outspoken voice for progressive and immediate equality, calling for discussions around what matters to those affected by the policies and laws. He is a business owner, consultant and Human Resource leader who lives by the motto that "Our prime purpose in this life is to help others, and if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them."



Shelley Jackson

Shelley Jackson is a young South Phoenix organizer, facilitator, artist, and graduate of Arizona State University with a BA in Community Advocacy and Social Policy with a minor in Dance. Her work is centered at the intersection of issue and electoral organizing with a strong focus on racial justice and a passion for empowering others to step into their power. Shelley is a Governing Board President of the Roosevelt School District, where she grew up. She ran and won at 24 years old in 2020 as a write-in candidate and has focused her service on making systemic changes for long-term impact. She is also the Executive Director of Instituto, an Arizona organization dedicated to building political power with low-income and communities of color through acceleration and incubation programs. When not organizing or tending to board duties, Shelley likes to spend time outdoors traveling, hiking, reading, dancing, and spending time with her loved ones.



Dontavius Jarrells

State Representative and Assistant Minority Leader Dontavius Jarrells is serving his second term in the Ohio General Assembly, representing House District 1, which includes portions of Columbus. Growing up in Cleveland's Hough neighborhood, Dontavius witnessed the struggles disadvantaged communities face daily, such as lack of affordable housing and limited access to education and essential services. These challenges shaped his worldview and ignited his passion for advocacy and public service. After nearly a decade of fighting for disadvantaged communities across Ohio, Rep. Jarrells is dedicated to advancing common sense legislation to improve life in Ohio. During his time in office, he passed legislation to eliminate discriminatory covenants, remove derogatory language from state code, designate January 11th as Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and secured millions for his district and Franklin County. Rep. Jarrells is committed to building the Ohio we all deserve.



Brandon Johnson

Brandon Johnson was elected to serve as Wichita's District 1 Council Member in 2017. Since taking office, he has worked tirelessly to advocate for community members while seeking economical progress for the city's northeast neighborhoods. In 2011, Johnson created the nonprofit organization, Community Operations Recovery Empowerment (CORE). Through CORE, Johnson has helped foster dialogue between law enforcement and residents through a series of "Know Your Rights" forums; as well as hosted several community conversations focused on how to end gang violence and involvement and champions health and wellness through the development of community gardens. He served on the advisory board of the Heartland Wichita Black Chamber of Commerce and currently participates as a liaison through Wichita Urban Professionals to the Entrepreneurship Task Force. Johnson is married to Danielle, who is the Executive Director for Wichita Habitat for Humanity and he has three children, Khairi, Aria and Arin.



Shevrin Jones

Florida State Senator Shevrin “Shev” Jones is an educator, public servant, and consensus builder who gets results on the issues facing Florida families. After teaching A.P. Chemistry in Broward County at Florida Atlantic University High, Jones’ firsthand look at the inequities in education and society at large propelled him to enter public service. In 2012, he was elected to the Florida House, championing meaningful bipartisan legislation, including two consecutive bills to secure dignity for incarcerated women; statewide expansion of a clean syringe exchange program; safety and oversight for athletic coaches for youth athletic teams; and ensuring transparency and accountability via police body cameras. Today, Jones proudly serves Florida’s 34th Senate District, which includes Northeast Miami-Dade County. Senator Jones served on President Barack Obama’s College Promise Task Force and is an active member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Today, Senator Shevrin Jones is completing his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership at Florida Atlantic University and serves on President Biden’s Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).



Vanessa Joseph

Vanessa Joseph is a dedicated immigration attorney based in Miami, Florida. Her journey in immigration and human rights advocacy began during her time as a law student when she engaged in legal clinics, advocating on behalf of the Haitian community in South Florida. In 2013, Vanessa contributed to an amicus curiae brief filed in the case of Benito Tide Méndez et al. v. Dominican Republic before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, addressing human rights violations during mass deportations. At the grassroots level, she organized rallies in support of the Haitian community’s rights. She currently serves as a Supervising Attorney at Catholic Legal Services, where she provides legal services to vulnerable populations. She serves as the Chair of the State Issues Committee for the South Florida Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). Her marketing and public relations company, The Creative Esquire, produces weekly radio shows on Haitian radio outlets to educate and inform the Haitian community. In 2019, Vanessa Joseph was elected as the City of North Miami’s Elected City Clerk, making history as both the city’s youngest and first Black female City Clerk.



Cleo King

Councilor Cleophus King, 7th District of Bessemer, Alabama. Cleo, a lifelong resident of Bessemer, educated in Bessemer, Cleo served his community in numerous capacities as a community activist and as a member of the Bessemer City Council. Councilor King is a fighter, He has always fought for what is right for his community. He is a leader. Just like the late Congressman John Lewis, he has gotten into trouble that was good and necessary for his community. Cleo holds a B.S. Degree in Political Science. Proud owner and C.E.O of King Enterprises, LLC. Cleo is a member and former chairman of the Bessemer Public Library Board and a member of the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Commission. Cleo is also a former 2nd Vice President of the National League of Cities National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO). Cleo is a member of (YEO) Young Elected Officials Network.



Korin Kirk

Korin L. Kirk has served as a school board member since 2014 and is the youngest elected official in her district's history. Korin's commitment to public education stems from her own experiences as a proud product of the public school system, culminating in her college education at Buffalo State. In addition to her board duties, Korin is an advocate for community empowerment, earning her accolades such as the prestigious HYPE Award from the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce and the esteemed Political Powerhouse Award at the Binghamton Black Excellence Awards in 2023. She actively participates in the New York State School Board Association's DEI committee, serves as Area 4 Director for the New York State Caucus for Black School Board Members. Korin champions equitable access to resources and power, particularly for marginalized communities, embodying the guiding principle inspired by Mary Church Terrell: "Lifting as we climb, onward and upward we go."



Christy Lam-Julian

Christy Lam-Julian is 1st generation Vietnamese- American and has dedicated her life to advocating for marginalized communities. Christy's mantra is when communities are seen and heard, we all thrive. She was one of the youngest shop stewards for UNITE HERE Local 19. Teamster President James P. Hoffa made her an honorary Teamster for her work with UNITE HERE 483. She brought the Mafanikio, an afterschool tutoring and enrichment program to Shannon Elementary. She started the Pinole area chapter of Not In Our Town, Shannon Village, a people-powered movement united against hate. The City of Pinole recognized Shannon Village for organizing various multicultural representation celebrations. Christy was appointed Community Service Commissioner, the 1st Vietnamese commissioner. She was then appointed Planning Commissioner. She had served on the Kaiser Postnatal Advisory Board. Christy currently serves as Pinole Rotary Club Board member, Interact advisor, and Pinole Community Engagement Committee member.



London Lamar

Sen. London Lamar has made history as the youngest female and African American legislator in Tennessee Senate history. Representing the vibrant 33rd Senate District, she champions strong schools, healthy families, and safe communities. Her legislative portfolio boasts notable advancements in economic equity for working families, maternal health, combating human trafficking, criminal justice reform, and safeguarding voting rights. She sits on several prestigious boards and has garnered recognition from national & local publications, including MSNBC, ProPublica, Washington Post, and New York Times, for her contributions. A proud alumna of Central "The" High School and Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN, Senator Lamar holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with double minors in Sociology and Intercultural Studies. She formerly served as State Representative for District 91. She is also a devoted mother to one son. As the Founder & CEO of The L2 Company, she continues to support the community through culturally appropriate business leadership and growth strategies.



David LeBoeuf

David LeBoeuf is serving his third term as State Representative for the 17th Worcester District. During his tenure, Representative LeBoeuf has successfully implemented changes to improve educational resources for foster children, forced a for-profit hospital to re-open mental health beds that were voluntarily closed during a nurses' strike, and modified high interest loans that were crippling small water systems. This session David passed legislation that eliminated a waiting period for new state hires to access health insurance. His legislative session agenda is focused on removing barriers for returning citizens to access professional licensures, early education expansion, and housing policies that protect against price gauging and resident displacement. Prior to taking office in 2019, Rep. LeBoeuf worked as a small business resource advisor at the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City. A lifelong Worcester resident David attended Clark University before transferring to Harvard College.



Andrew Lewis

Andrew Lewis is a Public Service professional who was born & raised in Westwood Village, where he currently serves as a Neighborhood Councilmember. Andrew has served in various positions on the Council, and currently serves as the Chair of the 'Community Health & Homelessness' Committee. The Neighborhood Council includes the UCLA University in its boundaries, as well as the UCLA Medical Center, and Westwood Village. Andrew has about 70,000 constituents which include UCLA Students, small businesses, & long-time community members. Andrew has been a long-time YEO supporter and member.



Magali Limeta

Magali Limeta is a proud first generation Mexican-American from Novato, California. She was the first in her family to graduate university and received a degree in Anthropology from the University of California, Los Angeles. She's the Senior Revenue Cycle Analyst for UCSF, an advocate for social change, and an active member of the Democratic Central Committee of Marin. She was selected for 3 fellowships including New American Leaders, Emerge California, and New Leaders Council. As the former President of the Marin County Young Democrats and current AD-10 Delegate to the California Democratic Party she has dedicated time and been recognized for her contributions to Marin County. Her passion is rooted in her struggles navigating the education system, on her own, as a first generation Mexican-American. She believes that together we can reform systems to break down the barriers to access housing, healthcare and education.



Jessie Lopez

Jessie Lopez, a Santa Ana native, was raised by parents who immigrated from El Salvador in the early 1980s. Jessie's upbringing saw her attending Santa Ana's public schools, working at the Boys and Girls Club, and engaging with her community through the YMCA, the local library, and more. A graduate of Santa Ana College, she pursued a BA in Sociology at California State University, Long Beach, balancing two jobs to finance her education. During her undergraduate years, she organized campaigns addressing sexual assault on campus and advocated for higher education accessibility. Jessie's diverse professional background includes roles in law firms and nonprofits, and she bravely served as a community health worker during the COVID-19 pandemic, prioritizing the well-being of underserved individuals. In November 2020, she became the representative of Ward 3, committed to civic engagement and equal opportunities, and continues to be a strong advocate for Santa Ana families.



Marcus Madison

Councilman Marcus Madison served as a City Councilmember for five terms in Elyria, Ohio. He is the Community Relations Program Manager at the Cleveland Clinic, leading community-driven initiatives to promote healthier communities. He has over 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, philanthropy, local government, and healthcare, where he has demonstrated his passion and skills for community-driven initiatives, transformative leadership, and capacity building. He holds a certificate in Team Effectiveness and a Master of Science in Positive Organization Development and Change from Case Western Reserve University, Weatherhead School of Management, and a dual Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Regional Studies and Nonprofit Administration from Cleveland State University. The Young Elected Officials Network has recognized Madison as one of the best and brightest progressive leaders in their inaugural list of elected officials.



Shireka McCarthy

Shireka McCarthy was first elected on September 12, 2016, as Councilmember-At-Large, becoming the youngest person elected to serve the City of Seat Pleasant. McCarthy is a proud native of Prince George's County, Maryland, and a graduate of the public school system. McCarthy attended Coppin State University, where she received her Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) in 2012, and Howard University, where she received her Master of Social Work (MSW) in 2015. McCarthy is a licensed graduate social worker (LGSW) in the District of Columbia and a licensed master social worker (LMSW) in Maryland. McCarthy is proud to be a first-generation college student. As a councilmember, McCarthy has been an advocate for her residents and has promoted overall positive well-being. She has hosted an Annual Vision Board Party which provides guided goal setting, a financial literacy workshop, and a mental health series to help acclimate people to the new normal post-COVID.



Michael Menjivar

Michael was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles to immigrant parents from El Salvador. He is currently Vice President of Government Relations, Southern California, for Strategies 360, a national public affairs firm. Previously, he was the Director of Strategic Relations for the Central City Association of Los Angeles, the premier advocacy organization for Downtown LA, and also served as Deputy Director of Community Engagement for the LAUSD Board President. A UCLA graduate and alum of the 2018 Front Line Leaders Academy, Michael has extensive experience supporting progressive campaigns in Los Angeles. He is President Emeritus of the San Fernando Valley Young Democrats, VP of Operations for the Los Angeles County Young Democrats, Controller for the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley, and serves on the boards of Abundant Housing LA and the LA chapter of New Leaders Council.



Zaynab Mohamed

When she was just nine years old, Zaynab and her family immigrated to Minnesota from Somalia. She grew up in a working-class household with nine brothers and sisters and two parents who worked union jobs. She attended public schools, helped raise her younger sister, and began working at a young age in order to support her family. Zaynab is a community organizer who has worked at the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations, where she collaborated with community members, faith leaders, and elected officials to defend Minnesotans' civil rights. She later went on to work at Minneapolis City Hall before eventually declaring her candidacy for the Minnesota Senate. In November, Zaynab was elected to represent South Minneapolis in the State Senate at age 25 - the youngest woman to do so. She was the first-ever Muslim woman and among the first three Black women to serve in Minnesota's upper chamber. As a senator, Mohamed has focused on expanding access to affordable housing, creating economic opportunity in Minneapolis, and improving services for immigrants and communities of color.



Stephanie Morales

Stephanie Morales was the first woman to be elected Commonwealth's Attorney in her city in 2015. A month after taking office, she created programming aimed at transforming the criminal justice system. She has engaged over 200 youth who she calls "Junior Commonwealth's Attorneys" under her "Future Leaders Initiative." Under her "Ctrl+Alt+Del Program" she has taught effective re-entry strategies in seminars held in the community and inside state prisons. Three months into Morales' first term an officer in her city killed an unarmed teen. Morales secured an indictment and led the prosecution at jury trial, leading to a voluntary manslaughter conviction of the officer. Morales is a 2021 Forbes: Forbes The Culture Champion Rising Star and is the 2018 Barbara Jordan Leadership Awardee. She is a fierce advocate for justice and a wife and mother of four children.



Tram Nguyen

Tram T. Nguyen is a Massachusetts State Representative, currently serving in her third 2-year term. She is a first-generation Vietnamese-American immigrant, the first person in her family to graduate from college and law school, and the first Vietnamese-American woman elected into public office in the Commonwealth. Rep. Nguyen is the highest-ranking Asian American woman in the Legislature and champions legislation that addresses gender, racial, social, criminal, economic, and environmental justice.



Deli Okafor

Deli Okafor is a first-generation Nigerian American and a lifelong resident of Baltimore, known for her commitment to public service. She holds a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Baltimore and recently completed the Emerge program. Deli serves as the Vice President of Programming for the Young Democrats of Maryland, and holds other positions in different organizations. Professionally, she has been the inaugural civilian Public Relations Officer for a Baltimore City agency and the lead field organizer for the Wes Moore for Maryland Campaign, helping elect Maryland's first Black governor. Her notable achievements include introducing Gov. Wes Moore and Vice President Kamala Harris at a Baltimore GOTV rally and leading digital efforts that successfully unseated a 35-year incumbent in a separate campaign. With a proven track record of leadership, Deli is dedicated to making a lasting impact on her community and motivating others to do the same.





Monique Owens

Monique Owens is a trailblazer in Eastpointe, Michigan. In 2017, she achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first black councilwoman. Monique's dedication to her community and unwavering commitment to public service propelled her to become the first and youngest black mayor of Eastpointe. Monique's passion for civic engagement and education is exemplified by her children's book, "Mom, What's A Mayor?" This book reflects her commitment to teaching the next generation about leadership and the importance of active citizenship. Her public speaking engagements reach out to women from all backgrounds and cultures, motivating them to use their voices and leadership skills to shape a better future.



Matt Plourd

Matt Plourd is a lifelong resident of Newington, CT, home to the smallest naturally flowing waterfall in all of North America, and where he has long been a local organizer and advocate for youth empowerment and civic engagement. This past November, at 22, Matt was elected the youngest ever, first Latine, and first LGBTQ member of the Newington Town Council. Before being elected, Matt served as Executive Director of Sunrise Movement Connecticut, where he helped lead grassroots youth environmental justice work, including pushing passage of legislation making CT only the 2nd state in the nation to require that climate education be taught in all public schools. When not working on the Council, Matt works in the Connecticut General Assembly as a Senate Legislative Aide. He's a proud UConn Husky, music lover, and radical optimist, and is in awe of the privilege he has to give back to his hometown.



Channel Powe

Channel Powe (she/her) is the Arizona State Organizing Associate for Supermajority Ed Fund. She's a prominent political activist and former school board member based in Arizona. She is known for her tireless advocacy for social justice, women's rights and educational equity and has been a leading voice in the fight for more inclusive, accountable systems. Channel looks forward to being a part of Supermajority's unyielding surge dedicated to identifying and bolstering courageous women, particularly women of color by mobilizing them to the ballot box.



Jasmin Ramirez

In November 2019, Jasmin was elected to the Board of Education for the Roaring Fork School District. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Jasmin, alongside other Latino community leaders, created Voces Unidas de Las Montanas. It was the first organization of its kind in the Roaring Fork Valley, spanning three counties and more than ten cities. Jasmin was appointed by the Colorado Governor in 2021 to serve on the Early Childhood Leadership Commission, a federally authorized state advisory council for early childhood, which recently passed free universal preschool for all Colorado kids. Presently, she serves as the Vice President of the Roaring Fork Schools Board of Education, a Commissioner on the Parks and Recreation Committee for Glenwood Springs, a member of the Defiende Nuestra Tierra Advisory Board, and the Vice-Chair for the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition. She lives in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, with her husband and two children.





Antonio Rodriguez

Toni Rodriguez is a rising 3L at Stetson University College of Law in Tampa, FL. A second-generation Cuban American and former legislative staffer, Toni is passionate about making Florida a more affordable and progressive state to live in.



Amanda Sandoval-Lopez

Amanda Sandoval, an Oklahoma native with Mexican heritage, is a trailblazer in her community. With an Associate's degree from OSU-OKC and a Bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University. In 2019, Amanda made history as Bethany City Council's youngest and first person of color to hold the position. Notably, she received the NextGen Under 30 award and the Women Lead Award. In 2021, Amanda obtained her Master's from the University of Central Oklahoma, focusing on enhancing Latino/a/x/e voter turnout. She's also a part of LOYAL Class 16 from Leadership Oklahoma. Currently, as the Communications Coordinator for Think Again Training & Consulting and the Executive Director for La 29 / SW 29th District Association, Amanda actively promotes diversity, inclusivity, intersectionality, and equity. Moreover, Amanda serves on her sorority's National Board (Sigma Lambda Alpha Sorority, Incorporated) and the boards of La Luz Organization and the ACLU of Oklahoma. Her commitment to community engagement and social justice is unwavering.



Elaissia Sears

Elaissia Sears took office in January 2019 as Justice of the Peace for the West Mesa Justice Court. At 24 years old, she became one of just three African American women in Arizona's history to hold the position. As a judge, she focuses on implementing restorative justice techniques to reduce youth incarceration rates. Outside of her elected role, Judge Sears engages with schools and organizations to bring awareness about the court system and social issues to the community. Passionate about racial equity and access to education, Judge Sears has a multidisciplinary professional background. She has worked for the Obama Foundation, Phoenix Sister Cities, Teach For America, and the Arizona House of Representatives. Judge Sears earned a bachelor's degree in global studies from Arizona State University with a minor in German in addition to certificates in women and gender studies, international relations, and political entrepreneurship.



Balvir Singh

Balvir Singh, husband, father, and public school educator resides in Burlington, New Jersey. He taught high school math for eleven years and now serves as a public school administrator. In 2014, Balvir won a seat on the local school board and served as the Chair of the Finance Committee, serving nearly 4,000 students with a budget of \$70 million. Elected as Burlington County Commissioner in 2017 and subsequently re-elected in 2020 and 2023, Balvir Singh has been instrumental in breaking the Republican stronghold in the county. In January 2019, the county board organized under a Democratic majority for the first time since 1974 and selected Singh as the Deputy Director. Notably, Singh also made history as the first Sikh American elected to a countywide position in the State of New Jersey.





Mary-Katherine Stone

Mary-Katherine Stone was born and raised in north central Alabama, the daughter of an Egyptian immigrant father and a native Alabamian mother. She received her BA in interdisciplinary studies with an in-depth study in human services and special populations through the New College program at the University of Alabama. She completed her MS in occupational therapy at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and did postgraduate coursework in integrative medicine at George Washington University in Washington D.C. In 2016, she moved to Vermont, drawn by the state's natural beauty and the sense of genuine community. She currently works as an occupational therapist at the University of Vermont Medical Center and serves as a co-leader of the Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Employee Resource Group (ERG). She sat on the boards of the Pride Center of Vermont, the Junior League of Champlain Valley, Inclusive Arts Vermont, and Isham Farm's First: Earth. Mary-Katherine has served the City of Burlington as an elected justice of the peace since 2020.



Caroline Torosis

Caroline Torosis is serving in her first term on the Santa Monica City Council where she is working to enact stronger tenant protections, cleaner and safer streets, and economic opportunities for the City's small businesses. She also serves as the Senior Deputy of Economic and Workforce Development to Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell where she is leading the County's economic and jobs recovery by directing millions in financial relief to our small businesses, implementing the nation's most innovative Guaranteed Income program, increasing access to high-road jobs, and standing up for our vulnerable front-line workers by establishing the most expansive fair chance hiring program and one of the strongest minimum wage ordinances in the nation. Caroline and her husband Dan enjoy cooking and hiking with their dogs Olive and Luna in their spare time.



Awet Tsegai

Tsegai is a lifelong resident of the Town of East Hartford and has been a member of the Town Council since 2019. On the council, he sits on various subcommittees such as Real Estate Acquisition and Disposition, Personal and Pension, Investigation and Audit, Fees, and Town-Owned Property Other than Real Estate. He currently works at the Connecticut General Assembly as the Senior Advisor to House Majority Leader Representative Jason Rojas, representing the towns of East Hartford and Manchester, CT. When not working, he volunteers his time on different boards and commissions, such as the East Hartford YMCA, the East Hartford Alumni Association and Education Foundation, the East Hartford Democratic Town Committee, the Urban League of Greater Hartford, Suburban Professionals Achieving Real Change (SPARC), the Metropolitan District Commission (a regional water company serving Greater Hartford), and the Greater Hartford Young Democrats. His hobbies include biking, running, hiking, basketball, soccer, and golf.



Igor Tregub

On May 28, 2024, Igor Tregub was elected to the Berkeley City Council following a 20+ year career of public service at all levels of government, including eight years on the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board, twelve local commission appointments, and oversight of a multimillion-dollar federal budget. He also chairs or has chaired the Alameda County Democratic Party, California Democratic Party Environmental Caucus, and Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter. Professionally, he serves as the Strategic Partnerships Director and Senior Policy Advisor at Reimagine Power, a women-owned boutique consultancy providing legislative and regulatory advocacy for renewable energy solutions benefitting renters and all who've been historically left out of the clean energy transition. Outside of his local and state advocacy, he is organizing to bring distributed solar and storage and energy democracy through the deployment of an Energy Security Marshall Plan to his homeland of Ukraine. He holds an MS from Duke University and a BS/BA from UC Berkeley (GO BEARS!).



Mayra Valadez

Mayra Valadez is a community organizer and communications professional at Actum LLC, supporting various leading nonprofit and business clients. Appointed by LA Mayor Karen Bass, Mayra is one of five Commissioners for the LA Public Library, which serves the largest and most diverse urban population of any library system in the nation. She also serves as the President of the San Fernando Valley Young Democrats and is passionate about minority political representation and empowerment. Mayra studied at the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations and is an alum of the California State Legislature, DCCC, and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.



Tania Valencia

Tania Valencia (she/her/hers) is the proud daughter of Salvadoran immigrants and a mother to a brave and beautiful toddler. She has dedicated her career to advancing educational equity for all students through her work at the Leadership Conference at Civil and Human Rights, National Education Association (NEA), UnidosUS, and NALEO Educational Fund. Tania is experienced in the intersection of policy and programs, partnership development, and education policy advocacy. She was formerly a Fourth grade English Language Arts educator in Washington, D.C. and now resides in Anchorage, Alaska with her family. Her favorite experience in Alaska has been to catch the Northern lights from right outside her front steps.



Stephanie Virgen

Stephanie is a first-generation Latina who serves her community as a council member for the City of Coachella. Previously, she served three years as Chairwoman of the City of Coachella Planning Commission. In addition, she works as a Legislative Assistant for the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. She most recently earned her master's degree in Public Administration from California State University San Bernardino. Stephanie is also part of a newly started Young Professionals Network, serving on the planning committee she works collectively to ensure they provide an inclusive community that educates, connects, and empowers young professionals in the Coachella Valley.





Kym Wallace-Maye

A native of Jacksonville, FL, Kym Wallace-Maye's mission is to Feed, Lead, Build and Educate. She is currently the President of Duval Soil and Water Conservation. With a background in project management, agriculture, food sustainability and advocacy, her goal is to provide sustainability and resources to the community and surrounding areas. Kym has been an advocate for her community for over 20 years, servicing those in need.



Sophie Warren

Rep. Sophie Warren is serving her second term in the Maine House of Representatives. She sits on the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. Rep. Warren is proud to represent part of Scarborough, her hometown. She is a 2019 graduate of Brandeis University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in international relations, and has previously worked in U.S. Sen. Angus King's Washington office.



Kesha Washington

Kesha Hodge Washington is the first African-American woman to be elected to the Phoenix City Council. Her priorities are homelessness, affordable and attainable housing, and economic development. Councilwoman Hodge Washington is the daughter of a mechanic and a bookkeeper, she is a first-generation college graduate who earned her bachelor's degree from the University of the Virgin Islands and her law degree from Arizona State University College of Law. After graduating from law school, she clerked at the Arizona Court of Appeals and served as Assistant Attorney General, working to protect children in abusive environments, before moving into private practice. Her experience in law firms, government practice, and in-house settings gives her valuable insight on how to achieve results. In her community, she helps to raise scholarship money for students, mentors young women, and provides pro-bono legal services. She is also active with several organizations including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Jessica Weaver

Jessica Weaver is a public servant and young elected official. In November 2019, Jessica was elected to the Board of Education in her hometown of Newington, CT at the age of 21- making her the youngest elected official ever in her town. She was re-elected in November 2021 and is currently seeking a third term. Jessica works for the CT Office of the State Treasurer leading their corporate governance efforts. Her background lies at the crux of public policy and ESG investing with a storied history in a variety of governmental offices including Congressman John Larson's Office, the CT Commission on Women, Children and Seniors, and the CT 2Gen Anti-Poverty Program. Jessica's passion is ensuring female representation in both the political and economic spheres by encouraging other young women to run for office and working on financial literacy initiatives. Jessica holds a B.A. and MPP from the University of Connecticut.



Kevin Windham

Representative Kevin Windham represents 22 municipalities in St. Louis County (District 74) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first term in November 2018 at 25 years old. Prior to his legislative duties, Rep. Windham served as a staffer in the Missouri Senate and the United States Senate. In addition to his legislative duties, Rep. Windham has served as a state committeeman with the Missouri Democratic Party, interim executive director with the St. Louis County Democratic Central Committee and has served in many organizations including the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, U.S. Senate Black Legislative Staff Caucus, and Congressional Black Associates. Rep. Windham earned a bachelor's degree from Southeast Missouri State University and is currently pursuing a master's degree at University of Missouri - Saint Louis. Rep. Windham plays basketball for leisure and attributes his passion for politics in part to his great-grandmother, Rose Simon.



Kathryn Winsley

Kathryn Winsley is a native Mississippian. She is a 2014 graduate of The University of Southern Mississippi, with a degree in Psychology, and a double minor in Sociology/Criminal Justice. She completed a Masters in Psychology in 2017 from the University of Memphis. She currently works with the Shelby County Government in Tennessee. She volunteers in her spare time with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and the Junior League of Memphis.



Gregory Young

Born and raised in Gloversville, NY, Dr. Gregory Young is passionate about creating a more engaged, sustainable community. He is currently serving his sixth term on the Fulton County Board of Supervisors. He also serves as the director of the Science & Technology Entry Program and Title III Director for Fulton Montgomery Community College and teaches courses in history and political science at the State University of New York. Young volunteers as executive director of Gloversville Neighborhood Improvement. He leads a variety of community groups as board member and volunteer, including the Fulton County Historical Society and Museum, Fulton-Montgomery Cornell Cooperative Extension and Fulmont Community Action Agency. Young holds summa cum laude bachelor's and master's degrees at the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY in History and Political Science and a PhD from the University at Buffalo. He also has a passion for excellent pizza.

44 NAVIGATING THE CROSSROADS OF CHANGE



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