



**EMERGE**

# ANNUAL REPORT

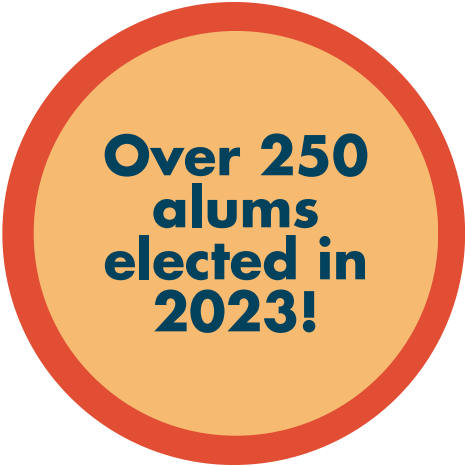
**2023**

**empowering Democratic women to run — and win**

# EMERGE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

---

Welcome Letter	3
2023 Election Results	4
Virginia Case Study	7
Emerge Program Wins	8
Alums in Office: Our Impact	11
Events	14
Emerge on the Road	15
Partnerships	17
Emerge in the Media	18
New Staff	20
Looking Ahead to 2024	20
How You Make a Difference	21



**Over 250  
alums  
elected in  
2023!**

# WELCOME LETTER

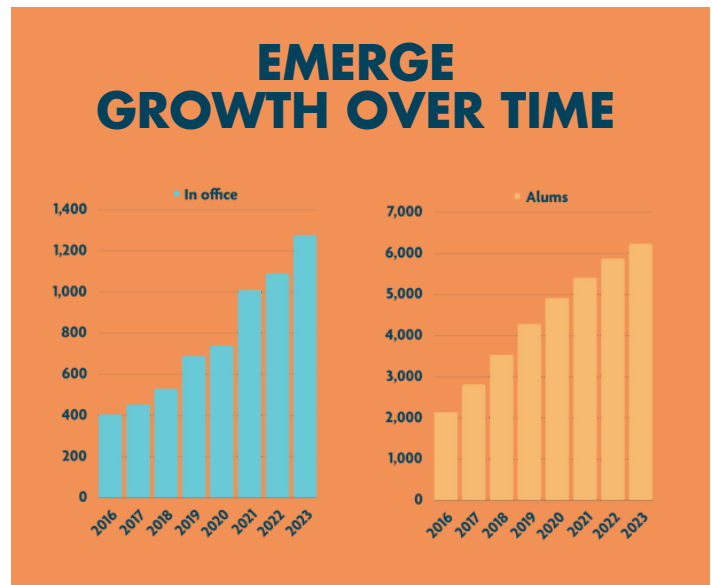
Thank you for your continued support of Emerge and our mission to recruit, train, develop, and elect women leaders to finally build a reflective democracy in America, at every level of government. You may think of Emerge as a training organization, but we are so much more.

We have built a network of more than 6,000 women nationwide, including alums like Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, Congresswoman Lucy McBath, (GA-07), and Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs. We have 1,200+ Emerge women serving in elected office and counting. This year, we trained more than 500 women on how to run for office and win through our state-based affiliates and national training infrastructure.

We have expanded our impact by centering the women of the New American Majority: Black, Brown, and Indigenous women, women of color, LGBTQ+ women, and young and unmarried women, who are a growing political force for winning elections in this country and deserve majority representation in office.

In 2023, Emerge alums were pivotal on the ballot—winning in key races, breaking barriers, blazing new trails, and demonstrating the power that women have. With more than 350 alums on the November ballot, Emerge alums have a 74% win rate, including 57% for first-time candidates and a 93% reelection rate for our incumbents, from school board to lieutenant governor.

I'm incredibly proud of this organization, our amazing team, and our powerful network of alums, and I'm excited to share this report with you. These results would not be possible without you.



With a prolonged drought of women leaders across the globe and so many pressing issues hurting women and families at home and abroad, issues that can only be solved when leaders of experience are at the table, our work has never been more urgent. Thank you for supporting us as we continue to invest in building a women-led future with community-centered candidates, until we finally have the reflective government we all deserve.

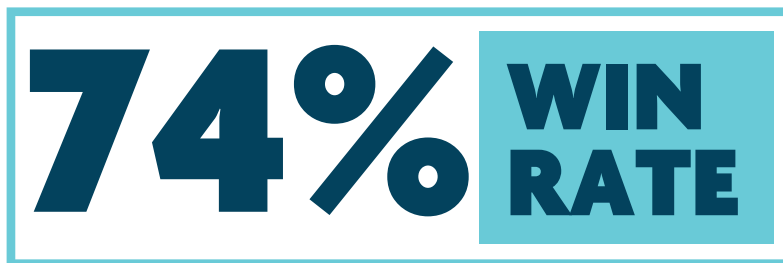
Onward,



A'shanti F. Gholar  
**President of Emerge**

# 2023 ELECTION RESULTS

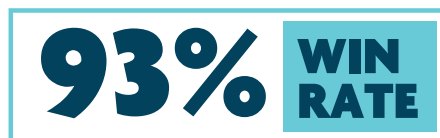
Emerge had 351 alums on the ballot across the country this year. And we are happy to report that our alums had a 74% win rate! Those wins include 72% for New American Majority alums and 57% for first-time candidates (compared to a normal 10-15% rate for candidates not trained by Emerge.) That means that in 2023, at least 258 Emerge alums were elected to office. We had the most wins of any organization in the country in 2023.



All alums



**THE MOST WINS OF ANY ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTRY IN 2023.**



Incumbents



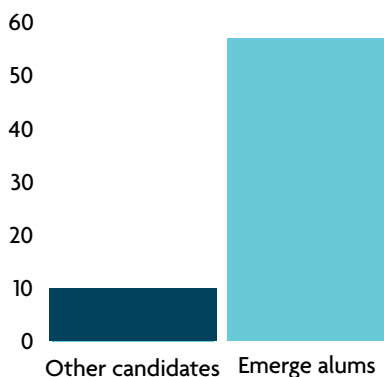
New American Majority alums



First-time candidates

**New American Majority:** Black, Brown, and Indigenous women, women of color, LGBTQ+ women, and young and unmarried women

FIRST-TIME CANDIDATE WIN RATE



**EMERGE ALUMS ARE NEARLY SIX TIMES MORE LIKELY TO WIN!**



## What We Learned

### Candidate quality matters.

We said it in 2021. We said it in 2022. And we're going to say it again this year. Candidate quality matters.

Democrats recruited the right candidates, in the right districts, at the right time. People who know and live in their communities, who won because they ran on the policies that will serve their communities. And this motivated voters to get to the polls.

In places like Kentucky, where Emerge alum and Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman and Governor Andy Beshear were re-elected, Republicans kept trying to nationalize the race. But Democrats stuck to the real-world policies that they had delivered on for constituents and the issues that matter to everyday people, and they were re-elected handily.

If we want to hold onto the power we've gained and prevent Republicans from taking power, Democrats need to continue to inspire voters to get to the ballot box by recruiting and promoting inspiring community-based candidates.

## ABORTION RIGHTS ARE 7-0.

**“The Issue One\* election was about freedom.”**

— Emerge alum Congresswoman Emilia Sykes, (OH-13)

\*Issue One was the Ohio reproductive freedom ballot initiative.



### Reproductive justice matters.

Statewide abortion rights ballot initiatives are now undefeated: 7-0. And in states like Virginia and Ohio, you saw high voter turnout driven by people voting to protect their rights.

In Ohio, women led the way to seeing the passage of Ballot Initiative 1, which enshrined the right to abortion into the Ohio Constitution. Fifty-three percent of voters were women, and 60% of women voters voted yes. The results speak for themselves and put to bed the narrative that reproductive freedom is just an issue for younger women. Older women care deeply about how stripping rights away from the younger generations will affect them.

In Virginia, where control of the state legislature would determine if the state would remain the last Southern state to protect reproductive freedom, abortion was on the ballot in every race. Republicans threatened a 15-week ban that they tried to rebrand as a “limit” at the last minute, but voters weren’t buying it. They delivered Democrats control of both state legislative chambers, sending a message that if Republicans continue to go after our rights, there will be consequences.

## The rising generations are critical for Democratic wins.

This election, we also continued to see the rise of the post-Roe generations, who feel a disconnect between the policies they have to live under and their own politics.

Just because the New American Majority will reign supreme in the U.S. population doesn't automatically make them voters. Even if they are politically active as activists, that does not automatically translate to their seeing the Democratic Party as their home.

And while Black Americans — one of the most consistent voting blocs for the Democratic Party — continue to show strong support for the Democratic Party and turn out to vote in great numbers overall, the opinions of younger Black Americans are very different, according to research.

Democrats must ensure that we engage this generation and secure them as reliable Democratic voters by making them believe in the future we are building and how voting enables changing systems and institutions from the inside — or risk them turning away from elections altogether.

### EMERGE BY THE NUMBERS



### 2023 Trailblazers

- Adele McClure became the first out Black LGBTQ+ woman to represent Northern Virginia in the House of Delegates.
- Gerina Whethers was elected Commonwealth's Attorney for Jefferson County in Kentucky, the first Black woman elected to the role.
- Alixon Collazos-Gill became the first Latina to represent District 27 in the New Jersey General Assembly.
- Atoosa Reaser became the first Iranian American elected to the Virginia General Assembly.
- Nacole Moore became the first Black woman and woman of color elected to the Penbrook Borough Council in Pennsylvania.
- Jacqueline Coleman was re-elected Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky, the first woman to ever be re-elected to this position.
- Danica Roem was elected to the State Senate in Virginia and became the first out transgender State Senator in Virginia. She is also the first transgender person elected to serve in both chambers of a state legislature.
- Natasha Megie-Maddrey became the first woman of color to hold a Ward seat on the Lynn City Council in Massachusetts.

**Natasha Megie-Maddrey**  
Lynn City Council, MA  
Ward 4

**Jacqueline Coleman**  
KY Lieutenant Governor

**Atoosa Reaser**  
VA State House  
(HD-27)

**Alixon Collazos-Gill**  
NJ State House  
(HD-27)



# VIRGINIA CASE STUDY

Founded in 2014, Emerge Virginia is showing us what we can achieve in under a decade. Just three years later in 2017, we saw incredible wins for women and for Democrats in Virginia, with 11 of the 15 seats that were flipped in the Virginia House of Delegates being flipped by women, nine of whom were Emerge women.



**Danica Roem**  
Emerge alum, Emerge Virginia  
Executive Director,  
Virginia State Senator (SD-30)

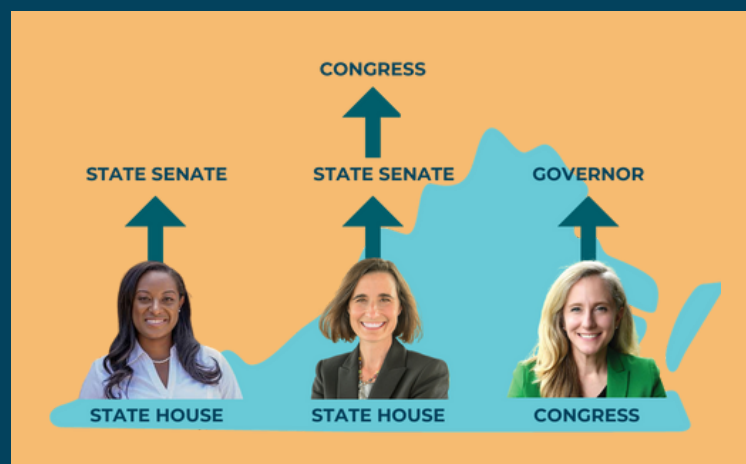
And in 2019, led by the Emerge alums who had laid the groundwork two years before and additional alums who won that year, Democrats flipped both chambers of the state legislature. After losing control of the legislature in 2021, 35 Emerge alums running for state legislature advanced to the general election in 2023. That means a quarter of all Virginia state legislative contests had an Emerge woman running in them this year. Seventeen House of Delegates candidates and five Senate candidates won, giving Virginia General Assembly candidates a 62% win rate.

## EMERGE ALUMS HELD THE VIRGINIA SENATE AND FLIPPED THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

That means Virginians will retain abortion rights, trans rights, healthcare access, voting rights, and so much more. Emerge played the long game, and it was that long-term investment and work on the ground at the local level that made it possible to flip the legislature back to Democratic control. This is the power of Emerge.

### Emerge Alums Climbing Higher

Emerge not only trains women on how to run for office and win, we show women how to advance up the ticket. This cycle, we look to Jennifer Carroll Foy, who won her seat in the Virginia state Senate after serving in the House of Delegates. Rep. Jennifer Wexton announced her retirement from Congress at the end of this term. This is a must-win seat to pick up the House in 2024. And Emerge alum Jennifer Boysko is ready to serve, after her work in the House of Delegates and State Senate. Powerhouse Emerge alum Rep. Abigail Spanberger has announced her run for governor of Virginia in 2025.



# EMERGE PROGRAM WINS

Emerge is the only organization that offers wraparound services through our national and state-based programs.

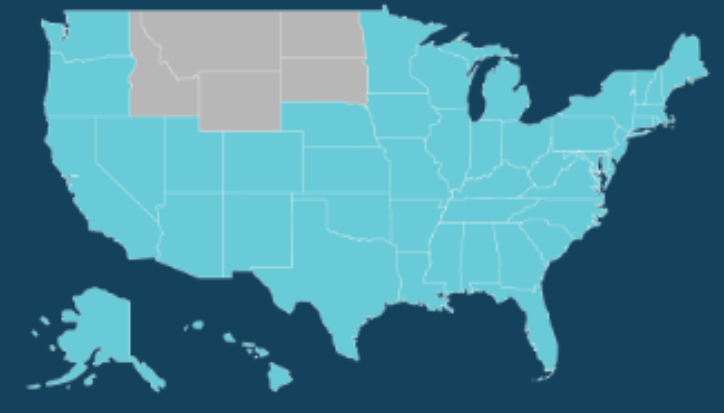
**500+**

**NUMBER OF  
WOMEN  
TRAINED IN 2023**

## The Model

Emerge supported our state affiliates with a range of trainings and assistance to meet their needs in a changing political landscape. We are proud to offer the only comprehensive state-based training program for Democratic women who want to run for office. Our affiliate structure ensures that the women we train get on-the-ground support and a network of other politically active women both locally and nationally.

## OUR IMPACT



Emerge programs reach women in 45 states.

## STATE-BASED TRAININGS

### Class of 2023

Our affiliates graduated their classes of 2023! The states trained 316 women in Signature Training programs and 51 women in Boot Camps. With start dates ranging from January to March, we were excited to see a focus on recruiting women from the New American Majority and classes that truly represent our states. Emerge affiliates are ending 2023 by collecting applications for the class of 2024.

**316**

**2023 STATE  
SIGNATURE  
TRAINING  
ALUMS**

**51**

**2023 STATE  
BOOT CAMP  
ALUMS**

### Candidate Coaching

Emerge affiliates hold candidate calls for active candidates who can coach one another and get helpful, timely advice for their campaigns. These calls also provide necessary support to keep going when the days on the campaign trail are tough.

### Partnership Development

State executive directors are focused on ongoing relationship and partner development for our alums. Emerge alums are able to ask our state executive directors, their fellow alums, and our trainers for introductions to key partner organizations and individuals.

To date, Emerge has trained  
**6,000+ women to run for office.**

## Program Development

Emerge Vermont is piloting a legislative toolkit for candidates running for and returning to the state legislature. This training focuses on running to win and serving in elected office within the legislature. Trainings like this could expand to other states and help prepare newly elected officials to position themselves for leadership positions within their body.

## Ongoing Support

Emerge national staff continues to provide training and support around recruitment, applications, communications, alum support, training, Equity and Justice curriculum, board management, and data management to the state affiliates. In 2023, the national team also trained state Affiliate Executive Directors on major gifts in 2023.

Affiliate department leadership also worked with new facilitators to facilitate the new Equity and Justice training for our state affiliates. We were able to combine cohorts from two to three states in each session. It was incredible to watch cohorts connect across state lines. The participants have responded positively to expanding their network and hearing new and different perspectives from other parts of the country. We will continue to offer this training in 2024.

## NATIONAL TRAININGS

### National Boot Camp

Emerge's 2023 National Boot Camp received 79 applications. The training graduated 27 participants from 11 states: Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Eighty-six percent of the cohort identifies as NAM, and 71% are BIPOC.

**42**

**2023  
NATIONAL  
BOOT CAMP  
ALUMS**

### Southern Regional Boot Camp

In the summer, EmERGE hosted a Boot Camp centering women in the South, especially in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and North Carolina. We had 65 women apply, and the training graduated 18 participants from California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. Seventy-eight percent of the cohort identified as NAM, and 61% are BIPOC. This national program builds on EmERGE's commitment to focus on the South, in addition to the ongoing efforts of EmERGE state-based trainings in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

### Seated Together

In 2023, we hosted our second cohort of Seated Together, our 30-hour, national advanced candidate leadership development program for Black women elected officials who want to advance to higher office, bringing the total number of Seated Together alumns to 18. Several are already on the 2024 ballot. Applications for our next cohort open very soon, and we can't wait to share who is in it. EmERGE continues to make plans to expand this program's focus to Latinas, AANHPI women, and Indigenous women in the coming years.

**12**

**2023 SEATED  
TOGETHER  
ALUMS**

**Tameika Isaac Devine**  
SC State Senate  
(SD-19)

**OR State Rep.  
Janelle Bynum**  
Candidate for Congress,  
(OR-05)

**Michigan State Board  
of Education President  
Pamela Pugh**  
Candidate for Congress,  
(MI-08)

Seated Together on the 2024 ballot:





## Seated Together Comes to D.C.

The Seated Together cohort met in person during Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Week in September for a two-day training around the topics of Scaling Up Your Campaign and Advanced Messaging, Media, and Press with elite subject matter expert trainers like Karen Finney, Alencia Johnson, and Tamia Booker, as well as our partners EMILYs List and Reproductive Freedom for All. The convening offered an in-person networking opportunity for cohort members, as well as high-level meetings with Jessica Knight Henry of the DSCC, Tasha Cole of the DCCC, Phyllis Dickerson of the African American Mayors Association, and Chris Sloan of DGA.



## Gavel In

We hosted our first cohort of Gavel In, our award-winning national judicial candidate training program that tailors Emerge's proven training to the unique needs of judicial candidates. We cannot change the criminal justice system without changing the face of criminal justice reform. This year, we had our first Gavel In win — with first-time candidate Rachel Ezzell Berry, who won her race for Delaware County Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania.

**20**

**2023 GAVEL  
IN ALUMS**

## WLE Gathers

Winning Leaders Emerge (WLE) Gathers is our leadership development program for emerging, self-identifying NAM women and nonbinary people. WLE strives to meet community leaders where they are and help them discover and grow into their power through training, mentorship, and continual growth opportunities. We hosted our third Gathers program, again in partnership with Emerge Nevada in Las Vegas. We are seeing how this growing community is funneling people into Emerge training programs. Find out more at [wle.us](https://wle.us).

**20**

**2023 WLE  
FELLOWS**



## It's Recruitment Season Campaign

Emerge launched its first ever "It's Recruitment Season" campaign this year with the following brand education goals:

- Emerge's state-based approach to programming
- The benefits of the state-based model
- The different programs offered by the brand at the national and state levels
- The seasonality of recruitment
- The long-term planning required to run for office

We supported state recruitment across all social media platforms, sharing information on the types of programs Emerge is actively recruiting for and the application deadlines.



## CONTINUING EDUCATION

In 2023, our continuing education programs for all alums in our network nationwide focused on key issues our candidates are facing.

### Ranked-Choice Voting Webinar

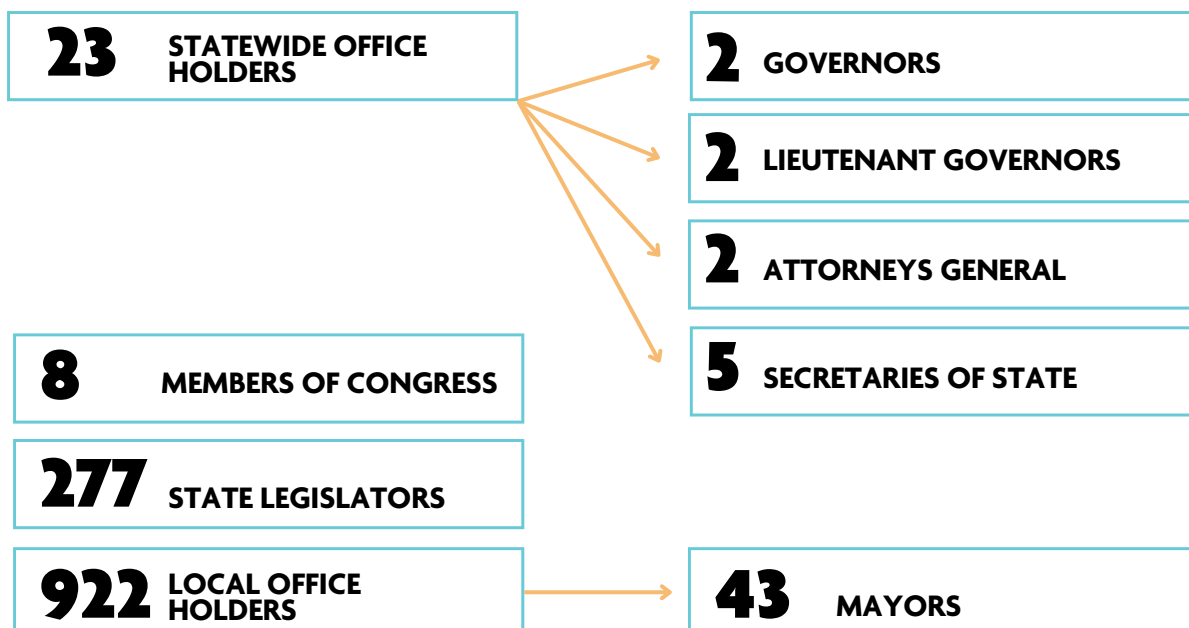
This summer, Emerge partnered with Represent Women to offer a webinar to our network about ranked choice voting, which Ms. Magazine calls the “fastest-growing election reform in America in 2023.” During the event, participants learned about the importance of eliminating systemic barriers for women candidates and why ranked choice voting is a critical step toward increasing women's representation in politics. The presentation also shared strategies and tactics to help alums run — and win — in ranked choice voting elections.

### Google and Defending Digital Campaigns Cybersecurity Webinars

We hosted five training programs with Google and Defending Digital Campaigns, including two Cybersecurity 102 sessions for advanced-level candidates like our alums running for Congress and State Senate. These programs ensure Emerge candidates and their teams not only learn cybersecurity fundamentals, but also that they know how to create a culture of cybersecurity. Registrants received access to the recorded training, as well as follow-up materials and future learning opportunities.

## ALUMS IN OFFICE: OUR IMPACT

### EMERGE ALUMS CURRENTLY SERVING IN OFFICE



## Statewide Office Highlights

Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs is Emerge's first alum to be elected governor of a state, and the first Emerge Arizona Executive Director.

In her first year in office with a Republican legislature, Hobbs passed a popular bipartisan budget that included a tax rebate for families of \$250 per child for up to three children reaching nearly 750,000 families, ensured historic investments in Arizona's housing trust fund, and improved access to reproductive healthcare. She also vetoed a record 143 bills, including legislation designed to target drag shows and performers, keep teachers from using a student's preferred pronouns, and tell transgender students which restroom they must use, force banks to do business with gun dealers and manufacturers, set up new hurdles for solar and wind farms, and allow weapons on school campuses.



**Katie Hobbs**  
AZ Governor

## Rule of Law

Emerge Colorado alum and Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold ensured another free and fair election in the state of Colorado in 2023. Voters overwhelmingly chose voting by mail. Ninety-eight percent of voters used mail ballots, and just over 1% of voters chose to vote in person. Emerge Maine alum and Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows joins Secretary Griswold in having the distinction of removing former president Donald J. Trump from the 2024 presidential primary ballot in their respective states, upholding the rule of law.



**Jena Griswold**  
CO Sec. of State

## State Legislatures Highlights

### Maine

The most inspiring example of our alums advancing pro-LGBTQ+ policies this past year was in Maine, where LGBTQ+ alums Reps. Laurie Osher, Ambureen Rana, and Lois Reckett partnered with other legislators to introduce a series of bills that protect and strengthen LGBTQ+ rights, including:

- Protecting LGBTQ+ students from discrimination in Maine schools
- Protecting LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination from healthcare providers
- Creating an opportunity for LGBTQ+ teens to seek gender-affirming care
- Adding a third gender option on state forms

**Shenna Bellows**  
ME Sec. of State



**Rep. Ambureen Rana**  
ME HD-21



**Rep. Laurie Osher**  
ME HD-25



**Rep. Lois Reckett**  
ME HD-122

## Pennsylvania

Emerge Pennsylvania alums were critical not only to flipping the state's House of Representatives from red to blue, but also to electing the first Black woman Speaker of the House, **Emerge Seated Together Graduate Joanna McClinton**.

Having a blue House meant that the legislature passed a budget with a historic \$1B investment in K-12 public education, \$23.5 million investment in workforce training and vo-tech programs, \$66.7 million increase for Child Care Services allowing up to 75,000 low-income families to continue to be enrolled in subsidized child care through the Child Care Works Program, and \$7.5 million for public defenders — the first time in Pennsylvania history the state has funded indigent defense.



**Joanna McClinton**  
PA Speaker of the House

## Nevada

In 2023, **Emerge Nevada** alum and Nevada Assemblywoman **Claire Thomas** ensured that Juneteenth is a state holiday for Nevadans. Thomas sponsored AB140 in the 2023 legislative session to make Juneteenth a paid holiday for state, county, and city workers. The bill passed and was signed into law by Republican Gov. Joe Lombardo.



**Claire Thomas**  
NV State Rep.,  
(HD-17)

# EMERGE HAS MORE THAN 109 ALUMS SERVING IN JUDGESHIPS.

## Criminal Justice

Emerge has elected 96 judges serving in office to date. This work ties in to **Emerge's** focus on the criminal justice system at large. **Emerge** has recruited, trained, and elected 128 women nationwide to serve in the criminal justice system and deliver the types of changes the community demands.

**Emerge** worked with **Avalanche Insights** to launch a nationwide poll to 4,000 registered voters to learn more about their internalized narratives around women judicial candidates. We used this information to inform the curriculum for **Gavel In**, our award-winning judicial training program, teaching them how to best message their campaign and acknowledge their role as arbiters of justice and integrity. Read highlights about the findings [here](#).



# EVENTS

## Annual San Francisco Luncheon

We were thrilled to return to our first in-person annual event since 2019! We had 320 guests seated at the Fairmont in San Francisco and almost 100 guests watch via livestream across the country. We could feel the energy and passion from our alum speakers: WI Secretary of State Sarah Godlewski, CA Controller Malia Cohen, GA State Rep. Ruwa Romman, KY State Rep. Col. Pam Stevenson, and Las Vegas City Councilwoman Nancy Brune.



## Trailblazing Women of Labor

Emerge held our second annual Trailblazing Women of Labor reception at the AFL-CIO building in D.C. Honorees include IBEW International Representative and Emerge National Board member Ann Miller and AFL-CIO Chief of Staff Julie Greene Collier. Special congressional guests included House Democratic Whip Katherine Clark and Emerge Alums Reps. Melanie Stansbury and Emilia Sykes.

## Level Up x BLC x Seated Together

To kick off Congressional Black Caucus week, the Emerge Black Leadership Circle (BLC) and Seated Together hosted our first ever Level Up celebration in Washington, D.C.! We had a wonderful time celebrating with everyone at this sold-out event. Thank you to our sponsors, Value Partnerships and Comcast, and to our host and BLC Co-Chair Nicholas Wiggins for making this event a success.



## Emerge Congressional Caucus Reception

This spring, we had our first ever Congressional Reception in Washington, D.C. to celebrate and honor our Emerge Congressional Caucus. We were joined by six of our eight Emerge Congressional Caucus members: Rep. Kim Schrier, Rep. Abigail Spanberger, Rep. Melanie Stansbury, Rep. Becca Balint, Rep. Val Hoyle, and Rep. Emilia Sykes.



## #LeadersMatter Virtual Event Series

Back by popular demand, the #LeadersMatter digital event series highlights our Emerge alums and other notable leaders to demonstrate why women are the strong and resilient leaders we need now. This year's featured speakers have included Congresswomen Becca Balint, Val Hoyle, Andrea Salinas, and Emilia Sykes; CT Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas; and VA State Senator-Elect Danica Roem, among other incredible alums. We even had a special appearance from Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff!



## YLC Virtual Event Series

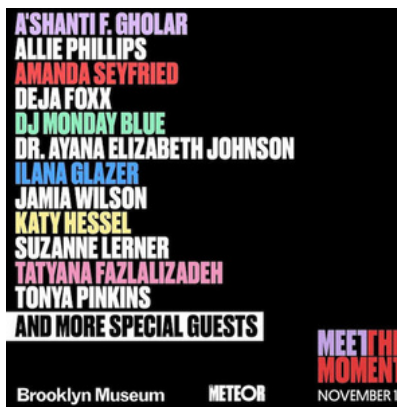
Our Young Leaders Cabinet (YLC) hosted two digital events this year with special young Emerge alums featured. In February, the YLC hosted their annual Galentine's Day virtual event celebrating our young Emerge alums, featuring special guest speakers GA State Rep. Ruwa Romman and Eastvale, CA Councilmember Jocelyn Yow. In June, the YLC hosted an event on protecting choice for a chance to look at abortion access in different states on the one-year anniversary of the fall of Roe. Moderated by our YLC members, this event also featured SC State Rep. Heather Bauer and MD Del. Jheanelle Wilkins.

# EMERGE ON THE ROAD

We continued to work in 2023 to raise Emerge's profile nationally. Our goal is to broaden our reach, identify new resources to help expand our work, and reach more women leaders we can train to run for office and WIN. We were excited to hit the road for events in California, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Washington, D.C., and Washington state. Here's a taste of where we were:

## New York

### Emerge at The Meteor's Meet The Moment



Emerge President A'shanti Gholar was a featured guest at The Meteor's Meet the Moment post-election event at the Brooklyn Museum. Suzanne Lerner of Michael Stars moderated the panel with A'shanti and activist Deja Foxx, who spoke about the 2023 election results and what we can expect in 2024.



## Texas

### Emerge at SXSW

A'shanti joined EmERGE board member Shannon Watts and Olivia Julianna for a panel at SXSW, where they spoke about what it takes to run for office as a woman.



## Washington, D.C.

### GAIN Powerful IDEA Awards

At this year's GAIN Power Powerful IDEA Awards, A'shanti received the Nonprofit or Political Organization Manager/Leader award, and our groundbreaking judicial candidate program, Gavel In, won the Training award.



At the close of the day, The Meteor had EmERGE do what we do best: train women on how to run for office and win. We were also excited to see Suzanne Lerner sponsor the training that we hosted at the event conducted by EmERGE Political Director Brianna Carmen and EmERGE New Jersey Executive Director Geri Jannarone.

## Nevada

### Emerge at Young Democrats of America

Political Director Brianna Carmen, Development Director Diane Le, and EmERGE Nevada Executive Director Danna Lovell attended the Young Democrats of America National Convention in Las Vegas, where EmERGE Nevada alums presented a workshop on how to run for office.



### Emerge at the Vice President's Residence

Political Director Brianna Carmen was invited to attend a celebration for Dia de Las Madres in partnership with the administration and Telemundo. Guests were asked to bring a woman who inspires them — Brianna invited EmERGE Chief Operating Officer Alisha Woodward Burleson.





# PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are at the core of the work that Emerge does to get our women elected across the country. We have over 900 partners across the country, large and small. Here is a taste of what we accomplished together:

## Election Day Lives

On Election Day, Emerge partnered with three Democratic Gen-Z and Millennial Instagram Influencers — Katie Grossbard, Deja Foxx, and Averie Bishop — to talk about the issues affecting their generation, what candidates on the ballot were discussing leading into the election, and what the key issues are for 2024.



Katie Grossbard is an attorney, content creator, and activist based in Los Angeles. In 2018, Katie helped cofound I am a voter, a nonpartisan civic engagement organization whose work has reached millions of current and future voters. Watch the Live here.

Deja Foxx is the founder of GenZ Girl Gang. While in high school, she confronted former Sen. Jeff Flake, (R-AZ) at a town hall on his views on abortion and lack of support for Planned Parenthood Title X funding. Watch the Live here.

A former Miss Texas and a member of the 2023 Emerge Texas cohort, Averie Bishop is running for Texas House District 112. Watch the Live here.

## DNC Winter Meeting Presentation

The DNC asked A'shanti to present at their winter meeting for the Women's Caucus, where she addressed the urgent need for more women leaders and how Emerge has been successful pipelining women into leadership. It was well received by DNC members, women elected officials, and donors alike.

## State Courts Organizing Network Convening

Brianna represented Emerge at the State Courts Organizing Network Convening in New York City to share more about Emerge's judicial work and the launch of Gavel In. The event was organized by People's Parity Project, Center for Community Alternatives, and NYU School of Law's Center on Race, Inequality & the Law. Participants included organizations from AZ, CA, CT, GA, IL, LA, MI, NC, and TN. The convening shared best practices and discussed national strategies with the goal of breaking down silos in judicial work across the country.

## DNC WLF Fall Meeting

A'shanti represented Emerge as a featured panelist at the annual DNC's Women's Leadership Forum conference, alongside Planned Parenthood Senior Vice President of Policy, Organizing, and Campaigns Jacqueline Ayers and Reproductive Freedom for All President and CEO Mini Timmaraju, who spoke about the power of abortion rights in elections.



## LGBTQ Victory Institute's 2023 International LGBTQ+ Leaders Conference

The LGBTQ Victory Institute's 2023 International LGBTQ+ Leaders Conference hosted A'shanti, alongside Delaware State Senator Sarah McBride, Pennsylvania State Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta, and Oath cofounder and CEO Brian Derrick on a panel about the 2023 and 2024 elections moderated by The Hill's Brooke Migdon.

### Training Partnerships

Emerge has continued to invest in our partnerships at the local, state, and national levels. We've joined organizations in the space for continuing education sessions, recruitment and strategic outreach, hosting trainings, and participating in trainings. We are grateful for our partners sharing their knowledge with our Boot Camp, Seated Together, and Gavel In cohorts.



### Additional Partnerships



## EMERGE IN THE MEDIA

### Women Have the Power

Leading into Election Day, Emerge was excited to launch our 2023 pre-election video — Women Have the Power. The campaign led with vertical individual videos submitted by alums and culminated with the release of our main video. The campaign celebrated the remarkable stories and impact of our alums, including many exceptional leaders who have played an integral role in changing the face of politics and advancing our mission.



Women Have the Power

## Media coverage highlights

### Emerge national



#### Opinion: 'The Dobbs effect' isn't just galvanizing voters, it's creating candidates

Opinion by Danielle Campoamor

🕒 6 minute read · Published 6:46 AM EDT, Thu October 26, 2023

The Emerge brand was featured on CNN.com in a piece talking about women running for office in response to the Dobbs decision.

#### The New York Times

##### *Sheila Oliver, New Jersey's Trailblazing Lieutenant Governor, Has Died*

Ms. Oliver, 71, was the first Black woman to hold statewide elected office there, after a long tenure in the General Assembly.

The New York Times covered Emerge regarding the late New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver.

### State Affiliates



Emerge Kentucky Executive Director Blair Haydon's appearance on PBS's Kentucky Edition politics show

### Alums



Emerge Alum Adele McClure was interviewed by Kerry Washington for Betches News.



NATIONAL, POLITICS, VIOLENCE & HARASSMENT

#### Political Violence Threatens Our Democracy. How Do We Keep Candidates Safe?

A'SHANTI GHOLAR

The threats women candidates face on the campaign trail are intentional, especially towards women of color and those serving at the state and local level who rarely receive media attention.

A'shanti published three op-eds in Ms. Magazine throughout the year.

She was also profiled by Jill Filipovic and quoted in The New York Times and the San Francisco Chronicle.



#### Opinion: In work for gun reforms, it is women who are leading

Becca DeFelice

Published 6:55 a.m. CT Feb. 12, 2023



Incoming bullets don't care about your politics. They don't discriminate whether you're at church, the movies or a community event. Mass shootings are now so common, we are anxious to leave our homes. Our children are afraid to go to school. Gun violence is a public health crisis for *everyone*. Gun violence is a justice-for-all issue.

The Austin-American Statesman published Emerge Texas Executive Director Becca DeFelice's op-ed on gun violence.



2023 Seated Together cohort member Michigan State Board of Education President Pamela Pugh's interview by Symone Sanders-Townsend on MSNBC's Symone



# NEW STAFF

Emerge is very excited to have continued to expand our team in 2023.



**Andrea Gonzalez,**  
Deputy Major Gifts Director



**Felicia Oriowo,**  
Scheduler and Assistant  
to the President



**Cecilia Yoon,**  
Development Coordinator

You can learn more about our whole team around the country [here](#).

**1000+**

**NO. OF WOMEN  
ANTICIPATED  
ON THE 2024  
BALLOT**

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

Emerge alums are bringing the energy and the community to the ballot to help Democrats win in 2024 from the top of the ticket all the way down. The path to defeating Donald Trump again, holding the Senate, and flipping the House means Democrats need Democratic voters to get out and vote.

That's where EmERGE alums come in. EmERGE alums are candidates of the community, and **the data shows that candidates of the community drive turnout**. They have the relationships, and more importantly, the trust of the community to deliver. That's why EmERGE alums excite Democrats on the ground and get them to the polls.

Emerge has affiliates in 17 of the 33 states voting for Senate next year, and our programming reaches alums in 45 states. To put it bluntly, our work on the ground recruiting, training, and developing leaders who excite Democrats day in, day out is going to make the difference for Democrats in 2024.

Emerge already has alums on the ballot in 12 states running for Congress, including the crucial swing states of Arizona, Georgia, and Michigan. EmERGE alums will be critical in expanding the number of Democratic seats required to flip the chamber to Democratic control.

To say democracy is on the ballot is not hyperbole. To say that everything will change if Trump is re-elected is not hyperbole. To say it is all on the line in 2024 is not hyperbole.

**Will you be our partner in sending Democratic women into government to defend democracy in 2024?**