

ACTIVIST MATERIALS | POSTCARD PARTY TOOLKIT

PRO-CHOICE WASHINGTON



Tell your state lawmakers to make pro-choice policies a priority in 2022.

CURRENT LANDSCAPE

Although we live in a progressive state, access to reproductive healthcare is not guaranteed for every person in Washington. This is due to uneven distribution of resources and services across the state, and a historic lack of representation and omission of intersectional issues within the reproductive freedom movement. All of which are critical for communities to gain equitable access to reproductive healthcare.

Our work at state and local levels is now more important than ever. Reproductive rights across the country have slowly been rolled back - including for our neighbors in Idaho - resulting in challenges to *Roe v. Wade*, such as the passage of the Texas Senate Bill 8 ([hyperlink to Texas statement on News page](#)) and the forthcoming *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* in Mississippi.

This situation is a rallying cry for people all across Washington state and the region. Join hands with us to advocate for key issues and protect our reproductive freedom.

WHY A POSTCARD PARTY?

Advocating for priority legislation this last session is one step to advancing reproductive freedom for all in Washington. However, we have to let our lawmakers know that we are still paying attention post-session. We cannot afford to rest on our laurels in Washington State. As lawmakers are reflecting on the past session, we are gearing up for the next one and we need to make sure that they know reproductive freedom is a priority for their constituents.

Sending your lawmakers postcards will bolster pro-choice champions in office by letting them know we have their backs, encourage those less outspoken to speak up, and show anti-choice lawmakers that the majority of Washingtonians support comprehensive reproductive healthcare for all.



Pro-Choice Washington | 811 1st Ave,
Ste 675, Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 624-1990 |
info@prochoicewashington.org

READY TO HOST? LET US KNOW!

Let us know - When you are ready to host a postcard party in your community by emailing us at info@prochoicewashington.org with your desire to host a party and we will send you materials to make the party both fun and easy.

Pick a date - Try to host your party in the summer or in the fall to let them know reproductive freedom is still a priority for their constituents while they are getting ready for the next legislative session.

Create a guest list - Make a list of friends, family, and neighbors. Consider inviting acquaintances from work, gym, and school. Let us know if you want to invite other Pro-Choice Washington members that live in your area.

Decide on a location - Here are a few ideas! You can host a party at your home, a friend's home, a local library, or coffee shop.

Tip! Once you have an idea of how many people you're inviting, you'll have a better idea of where to host your party.

Invite people - Here are some ways you can invite folks to attend your party.

- Create a Facebook event and/or email an invitation out.
- Call, text, or email your friends to follow up on your Facebook invitation or email.
- Ask your friends to invite their personal network.
- Invite those in your community by posting a flyer or dropping off an invite at local shops.

Tip! See the sample invitation for messaging.

PREPARE FOR YOUR PARTY

Make an agenda ahead of time - Plan when people will arrive; when people will fill out postcards; when people will share their stories; and when you will take pictures of your event.

Social media - If you are going to post on social media (and we hope you do), ask attendees ahead of time if they are okay with you posting photos of them.

Sharing Stories - Ask a guest to share a story about what access to abortion means to them, and/or plan to share one yourself.

Get materials ready - Here are some things you may need:

- Set up a sign-in sheet
- Put postcards out
- Hang up signage or other decorations
- Provide light snacks (if you want!)
- Consider printing the factsheet in the appendix

Write - Write and address postcards to your elected officials with a clear message and ask for them. It's easy and there are just three parts:

1. Tell them you're pro-choice and that protecting access to safe and legal abortion is a priority for you.
2. Acknowledge their Reproductive Freedom Score - and thank them for their leadership or let them know you expect them to do better.
3. Ask them to make this their priority in 2020.



Look up your state legislators - You should send postcards to your two state legislators:

- Your State Senator
- Both of your State Representatives

REMINDER! Your representatives depend on where you live, so you will need to look them up to confirm who you are sending your postcards to and where to mail them.

Tip! Visit <https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/> to find their address.

Sample Message To Your Legislator

I am your constituent. I am writing to you today to urge you to make access to abortion for every Washingtonian a priority in 2022. I want to thank you for being an outspoken leader on reproductive freedom and appreciate you representing my values in the legislature. (Or -- I want to recognize that you have shied away from speaking up about your support for reproductive freedom and I am asking you to be a bolder, stronger champion on this issue. Silence is not sufficient at a time when our fundamental freedoms are being threatened.) Please continue to advocate for reproductive freedom and support policies that expand these services to everyone. I care about reproductive freedom [INSERT YOUR REASON].

Thank you,

[NAME]

Sending your postcards

Mail - if your legislators are newly elected, they may not have an official mailing address yet. Send their cards to the state capitol address with their name and title: "Rep." for representative or "Sen." for senator. Look up the state capitol address by Googling: "Washington capitol building address."

BONUS! If you have time send two additional postcards to the Governor and the State Attorney General.

You can use the same link to find their names and addresses. **DON'T FORGET!** Make sure you have stamps in order to mail the postcards for people at your party.

You can buy stamps at places such as your post office, some drug stores and local businesses or even order them online.

A note about timing - Being in contact with your state lawmakers is critical at every point of the year, whether it is the middle of the legislative session, or in the months when lawmakers are planning for the upcoming session. Your voice matters and is critical to making this issue a priority - so be sure to put a party on the calendar soon!



SOCIAL MEDIA

We know not everyone is a social media user, so if you're not, think about asking a friend who is to help spread the word about your action online! If you are on social media, great! Here's how to inspire folks around the country with your action:

- TAKE PHOTOS and share on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
- Include the HASHTAG #prochoiceparty.
- TAG us by using the handle @prochoicewa.

Tip! Tag your legislators by looking up their handles and including them in your post.

We are tracking how many postcard parties happen across the state and want to make sure we include yours. We're asking you to do a quick and easy report back answering the questions listed the appendix.



APPENDIX

SAMPLE INVITATION TO GUESTS

Dear Friends,

I am hosting an event on [DATE, TIME], and I'm hoping you can come! As you might, or might not know, reproductive freedom is something I care deeply about.

With the most recent Texas abortion ban and the abortion rights case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* to be heard by the Supreme Court, the threat to abortion access across the nation is more dire than ever.

I'm motivated by our incredible pro-choice legislature and I want to remind them to continue advancing reproductive freedom in Washington. Before they return to the statehouse, we have to let them know their constituents are staunchly pro-choice and we are expecting them to double down on their commitment to progress reproductive freedom.

That's why I'm hosting a Pro-Choice Washington Postcard Party where we will write handwritten postcards to our state lawmakers before they head back to the capitol for the upcoming legislative session — and I hope you'll come!

RSVP to let me know if you can make it by sending me a text, email or giving me a call!

There's a Facebook event set up as well with all the details as well, so you can invite others if you like: [FACEBOOK EVENT LINK].

I hope you can come, and looking forward to hearing from you soon!

[YOUR NAME]

REPORT BACK - HOW DID IT GO?

Answer the following questions and email our Political and Organizing Director at lillian@prochoicewashington.org.

- What day and time was your party?
- Where was your party? (Your home, a friend's home, a library, coffee shop, etc.)
- How many people did you invite?
- How many people showed up?
- How many postcards in total were written and sent?
- Did people have fun?
- How difficult was this party to organize for you?
- What worked well?
- What was challenging?
- Would you do this again?
- What advice do you have for us for future events like this?
- What other types of actions are you and/or your friends interested in?



PRO-CHOICE
WASHINGTON