

POST-ELECTION REVIEW

Pro-Choice Washington 2022 Update



WHY THIS MATTERS

As the first election cycle following the Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, there was a lot at stake for abortion rights on the ballot. Many local and federal races had tremendous potential to expand or restrict abortion access for communities across the US, including here in Washington.

To get out the vote, Pro-Choice Washington activists knocked on **1,491** doors and made **910** phone calls, and our Political Action Committee invested over **\$22,500** in campaign contributions, made possible by contributions from our grassroots supporters.

Our goals were to protect our reproductive freedom majority in the Washington State Legislature by:

- Re-electing key reproductive rights champions in competitive swing districts
- Flipping competitive seats occupied by anti-abortion opponents
- Expanding equity and representation by investing in grassroots candidates from historically-excluded communities
- Building power for our movements by supporting grassroots-powered candidates in communities with the highest barriers to abortion

KEY RESULTS

Despite big talk and fear-mongering from anti-democratic groups and anti-abortion opponents about a national "Red Wave", results across the country were more positive than expected. In many states, the reason was clear: voters showed up for abortion rights. Here in Washington, voters sent a strong repudiation to anti-abortion and anti-democratic candidates in several key districts.

We did it! **85%** of Pro-Choice Washington endorsed candidates won their elections, with a few races still too close to call. Because of your hard work and support, Washington will have the leadership needed to advance our ambitious legislative agenda and ensure our state remains an abortion sanctuary.

While abortion advocates can be proud of the way our movements turned out to protect abortion rights and prevent gains by anti-abortion candidates, this election showed that we have a lot of work ahead to build solidarity and organize to protect the fundamental rights and bodily autonomy for the LGBTQIA+ community and Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color.

FEDERAL RACE HIGHLIGHTS

Senator Patty Murray

Washingtonians showed up to re-elect abortion rights champion Senator Patty Murray to her sixth term over her anti-abortion opponent Tiffany Smiley. Senator Murray is a fierce champion of reproductive rights and is committed to defending federal protections for abortion rights.

Senator Murray will become the first woman to become the Senate President Pro-Tempore, putting her third in the presidential line of succession. She will also lead the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee.

Congresswoman Kim Schrier

Dr. Kim Schrier won a seven point lead over Matt Larking to be re-elected in Washington's 8th Congressional District.

Dr. Schrier recently introduced the Let Doctors Provide Reproductive Health Care Act, which, if passed, will protect abortion providers amid the efforts to criminalize them by anti-abortion state legislatures around the country.

Marie Gluesenkamp Perez

In an upset that national pundits said was all but impossible, Democrat Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez flipped the 3rd congressional district, winning by just 3,000 votes.

In this southern Washington district, voters rejected Joe Kent, a far-right conspiracy theorist with ties to white nationalist and anti-democratic movements. The tight result shows the critical importance of community organizing and getting ballots from every voter who believes that hate has no place in our communities.

STATE LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS:

26th Legislative District

Reproductive freedom champion State Senator Emily Randall has won re-election over anti-abortion challenger Representative Jesse Young! Senator Randall faced one of the toughest races in the state, and remained tireless throughout her campaign to have authentic, unapologetic conversations with community members about reproductive freedom.

Pro-Choice Washington supported Senator Randall with 11 voter contact events this cycle, and the results show that community organizing pays off. Four years ago, she won her election by 102 votes. This year, she's ahead by over 1,200 votes with ballots still being counted. Senator Randall will be a fierce champion for policies like the Keep Our Care Act that will protect abortion access in Washington!

While it's still too close to call, Pro-Choice Washington endorsed candidate Adison Richards trails Spencer Hutchins for State Representative Position 1, and Matt Macklin lost to anti-abortion incumbent Michelle Caldier.

In the coming years, Pro-Choice Washington will keep building community power on the Kitsap Peninsula!

42nd Legislative District

Abortion rights champion Representative Sharon Shewmake pulled off a hard-fought victory by winning her first state senate seat in Whatcom County. On the house side, incumbent Alicia Rule successfully defended her seat, and progressive champion Joe Timmons won his race against to Dan Johnson.

This trifecta of candidates turned all three seats blue for Whatcom County - the first time in 30 years! A big thanks to the activists like you who showed up to get out the vote!

STATE LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS: continued

30th Legislative District

This district saw another sweep of victories for the Pro-Choice Washington endorsed candidates, despite fears that redistricting would impact the final outcome.

Reproductive freedom champions Senator Claire Wilson and Representative Jamila Taylor each fended off challengers, and former Representative Kristine Reeves won the open seat that she previously occupied with a 13-point advantage over Ashlii Tagoai.

47th Legislative District

Former State Senator Claudia Kauffman won the seat vacated by Senator Mona Das. Senator-elect Kauffman formerly served in this seat when she became the first Native American to serve in the Washington Legislature in 2006. Sen. Kaufmann is a champion for children, health equity, and education.

State Representative Debra Entenman defended her seat in Position 1, but Pro-Choice Washington endorsed candidate Shukri Olow lost her bid to become the next state representative in Position 2. We look forward to supporting her leadership in other capacities.

Representative-elect Chris Stearns (D), who is also deeply committed to protecting reproductive rights and access, won his race!

Other Districts

In the 29th Legislative District, community activist Sharlett Mena was elected to her first term as a state representative. Sharlett has been a community activist around voting rights and access to democracy, and a champion for equity in her community. We can count on Sharlett to be a champion and partner in Olympia.



Disability rights advocate and civil rights activist Darya Farivar was elected to an open seat in the 46th legislative district in position 2. As a lifelong advocate for the rights of people with disabilities, immigrants, and communities of color, Darya deeply understands the intersections of bodily autonomy, reproductive health care, and civil rights and will work to dismantle barriers to reproductive health care for all.

In Southwest Washington, all four Pro-Choice Washington endorsed candidates in the 17th and 18 legislative districts were not elected. Terri Niles, Joe Kear, John Zingale, and Duncan Camacho all ran hard-fought races to flip seats in their districts.

Spokane County Races

Amber Waldref was elected to her first term as a Spokane County Commissioner in Spokane County's first ever districted County Commission elections. In her eight years as a Spokane City Councilor, Amber has been a champion for food, housing, and transit access.

Unfortunately, criminal justice reform champion Maggie Yates narrowly lost her bid to unseat conservative city councilor Al French. Human rights activist Deb Conklin was unable to unseat longtime incumbent prosecutor Larry Haskell, who has ties to white nationalism. However, Maggie won over 48% of the vote, and Deb won in tough precincts with their message of fairness and smart justice. Their efforts show that if we keep up the momentum, these seats are winnable!

Get Involved in 2023:

- [Join our 2023 Legislative Action Team](#) and stay in the loop on how you can get help us pressure lawmakers to pass pro-abortion legislation
- [Donate to support](#) our continued work in communities across Washington