

PRO-CHOICE WASHINGTON

# 2023 Candidate Toolkit

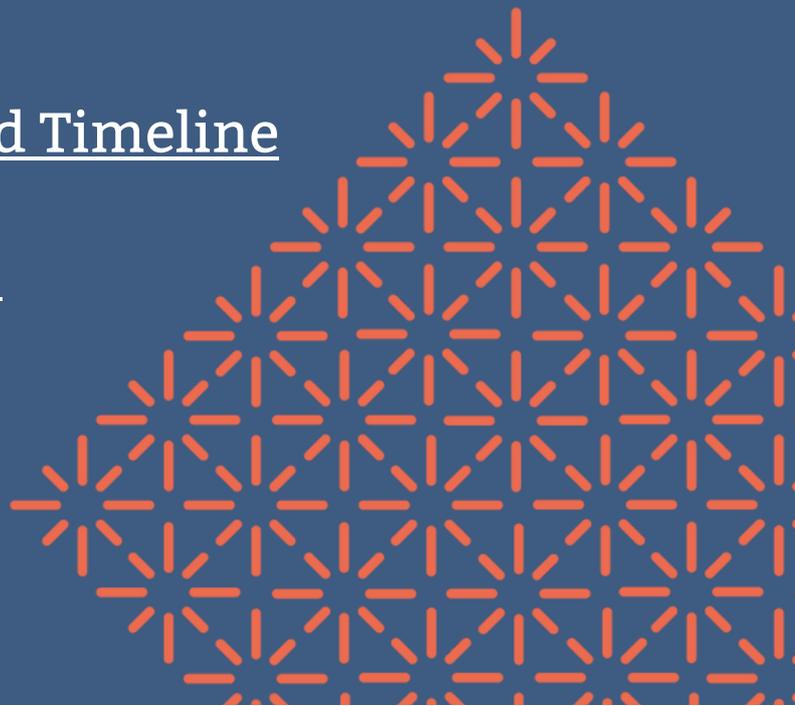
[ProChoiceWashington.org](https://ProChoiceWashington.org)



Above: Rep. Sharlett Mena (29th legislative district) gathers with canvassers during a campaign event in Oct. 2022.

# Table of Contents

- 01** [The State of Abortion in the Northwest](#)
- 02** [Reproductive Freedom Candidates Win Elections](#)
- 03** [Pro-Choice Washington's Endorsement](#)
- 04** [What support does Pro-Choice Washington offer endorsed candidates?](#)
- 05** [The Endorsement Process](#)
- 06** [Key Dates and Timeline](#)
- 07** [Apply Now & Learn More](#)





# The State of Abortion

## IN THE NORTHWEST

//////////

Though lawmakers and advocates have worked hard over the last five decades to ensure that our state's abortion laws are among the most protective in the nation, access to abortion and gender-affirming care throughout the Pacific Northwest remains at risk.

Major gaps in access persist for communities across the state, particularly for Black, Indigenous, people of color, LGBTQIA+, rural, and low-income patients. Over 25% of US transgender youth live in states that have enacted bans on gender-affirming care, with another 25% living in states where restrictive laws have been introduced. These laws have created an increased demand for care in Washington state.

Policymakers at every level of government must take action to ensure that Washington remains a sanctuary state for all who need care. Pro-Choice Washington invests in reproductive freedom champions to ensure that communities across the state are ready to meet this challenge.

*Since the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in June 2022, 24 U.S. states have passed bans on abortion care.*

# Reproductive Freedom Candidates

## WIN ELECTIONS

Despite the ongoing erosion of abortion rights across the nation, public support for abortion is at an all-time high. In the first election cycle following the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, Washington voters turned out for reproductive freedom champions and rejected anti-abortion and anti-democratic candidates.

More than 65% of Washington voters support abortion access according to the *Seattle Times*. [A post-election poll](#) found that 65% of Democrats and 32% of Republican voters reported that abortion rights had a major impact on the candidate for whom they voted.

Pro-Choice Washington activists knocked on 1,491 doors and made 910 phone calls to voters for our top-priority candidates. Our Political Action Committee (PAC) invested over \$22,500 in campaign contributions, made possible by contributions from our grassroots supporters.

Pro-Choice Washington believes in elevating community leaders. In 2022, 50% of Pro-Choice Washington PAC campaign contributions supported Black, Indigenous, people of color, and LGBTQIA+ candidates.

The remaining 50% supported candidates in rural and swing districts with the highest barriers to abortion in Washington state, including Kitsap, Spokane, Whatcom, Snohomish, Clark, and Skamania Counties.



*In the November 2022 election, 85% of Pro-Choice Washington endorsed candidates won their elections.*

# Pro-Choice Washington's Endorsement



Pro-Choice Washington works to elect pro-abortion access and reproductive freedom champions who will protect and promote access to abortion and the full range of reproductive options in Washington state.

We prioritize candidates from Black, Indigenous, people of color, LGBTQIA+, low-income, and rural communities, and those whose campaigns include a robust equity lens.

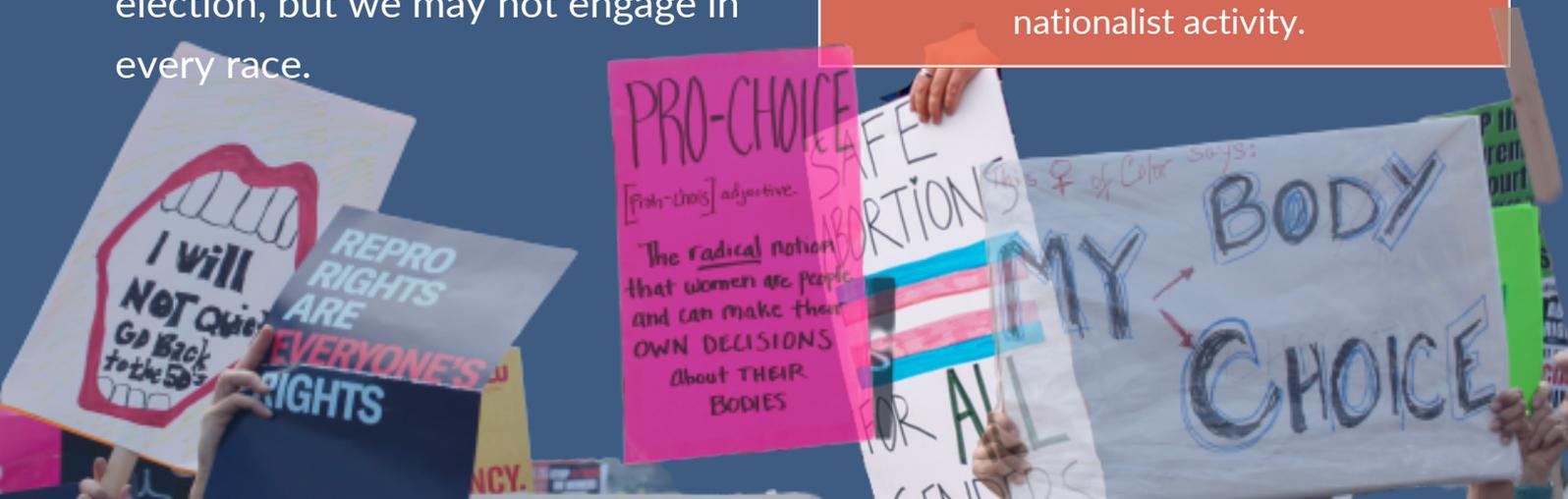
We endorse as many candidates as we can on a rolling basis between the primaries and the general election, but we may not engage in every race.

## PRIORITY RACES WITH BIGGEST IMPACTS

**Competitive swing districts** where pro-abortion rights champions face tough races against anti-abortion opponents.

**Representative and inclusive districts** that help build the movement for reproductive freedom by investing in candidates of color and LGBTQIA+ candidates, who have lived experience with barriers to health care.

**Districts where constituents face the biggest barriers** to abortion access, like long travel times to an abortion provider, a high prevalence of crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs), and an increase in anti-abortion and white nationalist activity.



We prioritize races where the most gains can be made on abortion access in Washington state.



# What support does Pro-Choice Washington offer endorsed candidates?

## Voter Guide

Candidates will be featured in our **2023 Voter Guide** which will be published on our website and social media and sent via e-mail to our 32,000 subscribers.

## Candidate Briefings

Briefed on the landscape of abortion access and reproductive rights in Washington and on our [\*How to Talk About Abortion Guide\*](#).

## Partnerships

Included in Pro-Choice Washington's partnership with the Fuse Washington Progressive Voter Guide.

## Financial Support

Priority races receive direct financial support from Pro-Choice Washington's Political Action Committee.

## Field Support

On the ground support during electoral season with door-knocking, phone banks, and text banks with Pro-Choice Washington organizers and volunteers.

# The Endorsement Process

The Pro-Choice Washington Political Action Committee (PAC) oversees our candidate endorsement process.

Our endorsement process begins by inviting candidates from districts where we can make the biggest strategic impact, as well as previously endorsed reproductive freedom champions, to apply using [our questionnaire](#).

Candidates whose responses align with our values are invited to interview. PAC members then evaluate and endorse reproductive freedom candidates at all levels of state and local government. This includes the state legislative office, state executive office, and county and city offices.



Above: PAC Board members

Once the PAC board recommends their candidates to endorse, the recommendations are voted on by our 501(c)4 board.



Above: Canvassers get out the vote for Senator Sharon Shewmake, Rep. Joe Timmons, and Rep. Alicia Rule (42nd legislative district).

# Key Dates and Timeline

**April 14 - May 20**

The Candidate Questionnaire sent to candidates in races where Pro-Choice Washington is considering an endorsement.

**May 15 - June 9**

Pro-Choice Washington PAC will interview candidates in top-priority races.

**June 19**

Pro-Choice Washington's first round of candidate endorsements announced.



**By July 10**

Additional candidates being considered for endorsement in the Primary Election will be interviewed.



**July 17**

Pro-Choice Washington's Primary Election Voter Guide released.

**By September 8**

Any additional candidate interviews for endorsement in the General Election.

**September 18**

Pro-Choice Washington 2023 General Election endorsements will be announced.

**October 2**

Pro-Choice Washington General Election Voter Guide will be released.

# Apply Now & Learn More



To apply, fill out Pro-Choice Washington's 2023 Candidate Questionnaire. Click [HERE](#) to begin.



For more information on our endorsement process, contact [pac@prochoicewashington.org](mailto:pac@prochoicewashington.org)



[How To Talk About Abortion Guide](#)



[2023 Legislative Agenda](#)



[2022 Voter Guide](#)



[Map: US Abortion Policies and Access After Roe](#)



[Legal Voice: Crisis Pregnancy Centers](#)



*Right: Members of the Pro-Choice Washington PAC Board*