The Get Out the Vote committee has intensified its efforts as the election nears.

What are we doing?
We’re doing our Winning Wednesday virtual events weekly, sometimes with 50+ activists involved. Together we’ve written over 6,000 letters to voters in key states and called hundreds more, encouraging them to register and vote.

We’ve raised over $6,000 so far through raffles and donations, which are used to support the invaluable work of our GOTV intern as well as to buy supplies such as postcards and stamps. We are currently considering a program to support people who wish to travel to battleground states to be poll observers or canvassers.

Who are we supporting, and how can I give to their campaigns?
We have chosen a Senate-focused GOTV strategy. Even if Biden/Harris win in November, they can achieve little if we do not also have the Senate. For this reason, we’re working in eight states that have strong possibilities of helping us take back the Senate: Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Maine, Montana, North Carolina, and Texas. Six of these states are also key to taking back the White House. We’ve also chosen House races with strong women candidates in many of these states. Please use our ActBlue donation link for these candidates so that WNDC gets “credit.”

US SENATE CANDIDATES

Barbara Bollier—Kansas

Dr. Barbara Bollier is a champion of abortion rights, gun control, Medicaid expansion, LGBTQ rights, and public schools. A Republican for decades, she was upset by GOP shifts to the right under Trump. In 2018 she threw her support behind Democrat Laura Kelly's successful run for governor, then became a Democrat herself. As she explained it to Bustle magazine, “I have always said, 'I'm trying to change things from within, on the Republican side.' But at some point, obviously, I realized it was failing. People need leadership and things to actually happen in government for the good of the people. It was time to move on.” She believes in principled leadership and is eager to represent the moderate voices in Kansas.

Dr. Bollier is running against physician and current anti-choice Congressman Roger Marshall, who promises “there will be no space between the president and ourselves.” He’s a strong Trump supporter with votes that regularly align with Trump’s priorities. As of the end of August, Cook Political Report rated the race lean-Republican, but some polls show Bollier in a dead heat with Marshall. Her message of moderation and independence resonates with Kansans. Bollier currently has the fundraising advantage, having broken all Kansas Senate fundraising records earlier this year. Join WNDC in supporting Dr. Bollier as she strives to flip a reliably Red Senate seat... and in doing so, put an end to Mitch McConnell's reign! You can support her campaign by donating through ActBlue: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/wndcbollier#.
Air Force combat veteran MJ Hegar easily won her July 14th runoff race to challenge Republican incumbent Jon Cornyn for the US Senate seat. She narrowly lost the House race two years ago against incumbent Republican John Carter. We all remember the ad she ran then, entitled “Doors.” It went viral almost overnight, with good reason. View video here.

Cornyn spent money on ads encouraging voters to go all out for her Democratic primary challenger state Senator Royce West, so Cornyn clearly considers Hegar a formidable candidate that he didn’t want to face in November. Cook Political Report still rates this race as “Likely Republican,” and Inside Elections as “Leans Republican,” but Cornyn’s tight hold on Trump’s coat tails could soon prove to be a liability.

Her campaign war chest received a healthy injection after her primary win, much-needed resources in an expensive media market. Though Hegar is a rescue helicopter pilot and Purple Heart and Distinguished Flying Cross recipient, Cornyn is labeling her “Hollywood Hegar,” or scary “Elizabeth Warren on a motorcycle.” Support her campaign by donating through ActBlue: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/wndchegar#.

The race is on in Maine for the Senate, where Sara Gideon is challenging GOP incumbent Susan Collins, along with a host of Independent candidates. Collins has been in the Senate since 1997 and had a reputation as a moderate, until she voted to confirm Justice Kavanaugh. With this vote, she disappointed many and turned herself into a Democratic target in 2020. She’s seen as increasingly out of touch with Maine, and her disapproval ratings have skyrocketed.

Gideon, in contrast, is a well-regarded Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives and handily won her primary. She has a large fundraising advantage over Collins and has been playing up Collins’ Supreme Court vote, casting it in light of all the important cases that have and will come to the Court. As of mid-September, this was rated as leaning Democratic by almost all pollsters. Support her campaign by donating through ActBlue: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/wndcgideon#.

Hiral Tipirneni, MD (Arizona–06)

Dr. Hiral Tipirneni is an emergency room physician who also became a cancer research advocate when her mother and nephew died of the disease. She takes her role in the community seriously, having served on several NGO boards and led a TEDx on positive solutions for development of Arizona’s Northwest Valley. She champions an evidence-based approach to issues, which has led her to positions on the need for universal healthcare, against building a wall with Mexico, and for common sense gun safety laws. As a physician, she listens carefully, and she knows she can represent her district well.

Dr. Tipirneni is running against Republican Congressman David Schweikert, who recently was reprimanded by the House for ethics violations including using campaign funds for a trip to the Super Bowl. This race as of mid-September still leans Republican, but the race is clearly tightening.

If she wins, she’ll be the first woman of color to represent this district. She’s doing well in fundraising, but this race still needs our help to move from toss-up to Lean Dem. We can help put this strong, intelligent woman in the House! You can support her campaign through ActBlue: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/wndctiperneni#.
Lucy McBath (Georgia–06)

Lucy McBath’s road to Congress began when her son was shot in a racially-charged incident—killed by a man who complained that the young man’s music was too loud. Grieving her son, McBath became a national spokesperson for organizations focused on gun control. She took that determination to the campaign trail, flipping a red seat in 2018. McBath is cited as one of the most effective lawmakers in her first term, both in terms of measures introduced as well as passed. Five of her measures are included in the Higher Education Act (including improving education, lowering college costs, and expanding opportunity). She introduced the Haven Act to protect military veterans in need. Congresswoman McBath also initiated and won measures to provide millions for the CDC COVID relief package as well as $25 million for CDC and NIH gun violence protection work.

McBath is facing the challenger she narrowly defeated in 2018, GOP businesswoman Karen Handel. According to the Cook Political Report, Georgia’s 6th district is leaning (but not certain) Democratic. Congresswoman McBath is a voice we depend on. Join WNDC in helping her keep her seat! You can support her campaign through ActBlue: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/wndcmcbath#.

Kathy Manning (North Carolina–06)

Kathy Manning has received many awards for her public service and has led the United Way and the Community Foundation for Greater Greensboro. She was practicing attorney and entrepreneur and is supported by the Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood, United Auto Workers, and National Education Association.

This is an open seat with good chances for Manning. Her GOP opponent is Joseph Haywood, a staunch conservative who opposes the Affordable Care Act and wants to get rid of the Department of Education and turn education entirely over to states. Happily, this district was redrawn for this election, and now includes more urban, Democratic areas. Help WNDC support Manning in ensuring this new NC seat is a blue one! You can support her campaign through ActBlue: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/wndcmanning#.

Pat Timmons-Goodson (North Carolina–08)

In what is being seen as the most competitive House race in North Carolina, a state Supreme Court justice is giving the incumbent Republican a run for his money. Timmons-Goodson became the first African American woman on the state Supreme Court in 2006 and went on to be nominated by President Obama for the federal bench. She’s been fundraising extremely well lately, with most donations from individuals and half of those from low-dollar donors. This indicates enthusiasm for her candidacy, born out in reports of her deep ties to the district.

Timmons-Goodson is challenging five-term GOP incumbent Richard Hudson, who is married to Kellyanne Conway’s chief of staff. As of mid-August, her race was moved from “likely Republican” to “lean Republican”—a positive trend reflecting her reach and her fundraising. Let’s bring this honorable woman into Congress! Support her campaign through ActBlue: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/wndctimmonsgoodson#.

Wendy Davis (Texas–21)

The current representative of the 21st Congressional District is one-term Republican Chip Roy. Currently this race is moving into a very competitive area. Roy’s predecessor Republican Lamar Smith held this seat for over 30 years, but in 2018 Roy won by less than 3 percent!

Harvard Law School graduate and former Democratic state senator and indefatigable marathon filibuster queen Wendy Davis won the Democratic primary earlier and is closing in on Roy. She is also outperforming him when it comes to fundraising. Roy is running scared, using the usual tactic of labeling her an “extreme liberal,” “right there with AOC, Ilhan Omar, Pelosi and the rest of the Socialist Democrats!”

Wendy Davis belongs in this seat, and high-profile political ratings groups likewise have upgraded their ratings. Cook Political Report switched this seat from Leans Republican to Toss-Up. Inside Elections upgraded from Likely Republican to Tilt Republican. Davis has been endorsed by the Brady Campaign, Emily’s List, Everytown for Gun Safety, Human Rights Campaign, J Street PAC, NARAL Pro-Choice America, NEA, Sierra Club, and many others. After running for governor in 2014, not only has she managed to remain a political commentator, but also founded a non-profit for engaging young women in politics—“Deeds Not Words.” Well, we need her deeds and words in Washington! You can support her campaign through ActBlue: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/wndcdavis#.
Gina Ortiz-Jones (Texas–23)
This is an open seat created by the retirement of Republican Will Hurd. Air Force veteran Democrat Gina Ortiz-Jones won the March primary and is thought to be in a strong position to pick up this House seat in the western portion of the state. Her professional experience includes serving as director for investment at the Office of the US Trade Representative and as the senior advisor for trade enforcement. Ortiz-Jones earned her BA in East Asian Studies and an MA in Economics from Boston University before earning a graduate degree in military arts and sciences from the US Army School of Advanced Military Studies.

Ortiz-Jones has been endorsed by the Brady Campaign to *prevent* Gun Violence, Emily’s List, Human Rights Campaign, National Education Association, and many other major organizations. The *Cook Political Report* and *Inside Elections* both rate this race as Lean Democratic, two more good reasons to get behind this candidate for another seat pick-up. You can support her campaign through ActBlue: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/wndcortizjones#.

Candace Valenzuela (Texas–24)
The current representative of the 24th Congressional District in the northern portion of the state is Republican Kenny Marchant, who is retiring. After a bruising primary battle in July, Valenzuela proved victorious, claiming 60% of the vote. She highlights her experiences as a homeless child and believes that the people closest to pain should be the ones in power. The Republican challenger is Beth Ann Duyne, the mayor of Irving, Texas, and HUD official under the Trump administration. As predicted, the “extremists” and “socialism” attacks from her campaign and the right have already begun.

Valenzuela has been endorsed by the DCCC Red to Blue Program, Emily’s List, LCV Action Fund, Equality PAC, and Giffords PAC. She says she’s running to “make sure that people have access to food to eat, have access to a roof over their heads, have access to clean air and clean water.” Both the *Cook Political Report* and *Inside Elections* now rate this race as a toss-up. Support her campaign through ActBlue: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/wndcvalenzuela#.

Elaine Luria (Virgina–02)
Since flipping a red seat in 2018, Elaine Luria has been working on the House Oversight and Reform Committee and on the Armed Services Committee. Luria is co-sponsor of the PPP Flexibility Act, which supports business owners. She also co-sponsored a bipartisan bill to ban assault weapons and works on other legislation regarding gun control.

Her legislative work reflects her life prior to Congress. Luria joined the Navy at age 17, retiring 20 years later with the rank of Commander. She was the first woman to attend the US Naval Nuclear Power School. From 2014 to 2017 she was the commanding officer of a combat-ready unit of 400 sailors. She didn’t stop there, as she also started a family business which created a large number of jobs in Virginia and gave $50,000 to charities before she retired in 2018 to run for office.

She’s in a rematch this year with Scott Taylor, who was the incumbent Republican representative in 2016 when she won her seat. Taylor is looking to take back the seat, and the *Cook Political Report* rated the race as a toss-up as of early August. Support her campaign through ActBlue at: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/wndcluria#.

Abigail Spanberger (Virgina–07)
A moderate Democrat who flipped a red seat in 2018, Abigail Spanberger initially was against pursuing impeachment. However, when the whistleblower came forward in 2019, she and five other centrist Democrats wrote an op-ed in the *Washington Post* urging impeachment, a decisive move that really gave the process steam. She knew the action could cost her seat, but said it was not worth having a seat if one did not use it to stand for principles.

Spanberger worked in federal law enforcement, then at the CIA before becoming a congresswoman. Her special issues are health care/prescription drugs and gun violence control. She has co-sponsored bipartisan legislation around background checks and support for CDC gun control research. Spanberger has co-sponsored successful legislation allowing Medicare to negotiate prices and has joined a bipartisan effort to ensure that Social Security remains solvent. Her opponent is Nick Freitas, a strong libertarian in the Virginia General Assembly who is backed by the anti-tax Club for Growth. His fundraising is strong, and as of early August the race is rated as a toss-up by the *Cook Political Report*. Support her campaign through ActBlue: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/wndcspanberger#.

How can I get involved with WNDC’s Get Out the Vote work?
It’s easy to join Winning Wednesdays and to invite friends and family, too. For details on these events, which are held online 6-8 pm every Wednesday through the election, and for additional ways to get involved see the handy guide on p. 7 of the October newsletter or visit democraticwoman.org/2020-elections. Every volunteer hour counts!