

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019



BECAUSE WE CAN DO BETTER.

Republican Women for Progress (RWFP) is a grassroots policy organization created to: ensure the full spectrum of Republican women's voices are represented in the media, develop and support the pipeline of Republican women who want to lead and run for office, and refocus the GOP on proper governance and policy. We are a 501(c)(4) nonprofit headquartered in Washington, D.C. with a network of women all over the world. RWFP grew out of Republican Women for Hillary which was founded in May 2016.

OUR MISSION

We believe that Republican women deserve to speak up, not stand aside. That we need to connect better, smarter. That being engaged in American politics is mission critical.

MEET THE TEAM

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Co-founders & Executive Directors: Jennifer Lim and Meghan Milloy

Policy Director: Ariel Hill-Davis

Political Director: Kodiak Hill-Davis

Outreach Director: Alanna Fridfertig

Communications Director: Gregory Lemon

Editor in Chief: Cate Minichino

State Engagement Director: Emily Ellsworth

College Outreach Directors: Lizzie Bond and Dr. Jennifer Kohn

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Veronica Brown (President)

Camden Stuebe (Secretary)

Nathan Rutledge (Treasurer)

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Meghan Milloy

Ariel Hill-Davis

Kodiak Hill-Davis

Alanna Fridfertig

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Ashley Pratte

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Christina Goodlander

Rachael Stephens

Heather Wolf



CO-FOUNDERS JENNIFER LIM AND
MEGHAN MILLOY

ELEVATING WOMEN'S VOICES

As part of our mission to support Republican women as thought leaders, we:

- Highlight Republican women running for office as part of our Women to Watch List;
- Serve as commentators on domestic and international programs including CNN, MSNBC, PBS, BBC, Al Jazeera, and Deutsche Welle;
- Contribute editorials and policy pieces to a number of outlets including *The New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, and *The Hill*;
- Create space for Republican women to share their voices and stories, such as through our upcoming *Today Show* segment featuring our candidate training program;
- Speak at events and conferences around the world on the state of Republican women like the Unrig Summit, The Riveter Summit, Harvard's Women in Power Conference, Roanoke's 2018 Women's March, NAACP Equal Rights Equal Protections Panel, PPMW's Developing Young Leaders, AmCham Germany Annual Meeting, College Republican roundtables, Institut Montaigne 2018 Election Summit, and more.



WOMEN TO WATCH LIST

In 2018, our Women to Watch List highlighted 23 Republican women running for office, at the state and federal level, across the U.S. who were committed to working through the legislative process in a bipartisan way in order to create effective policy.

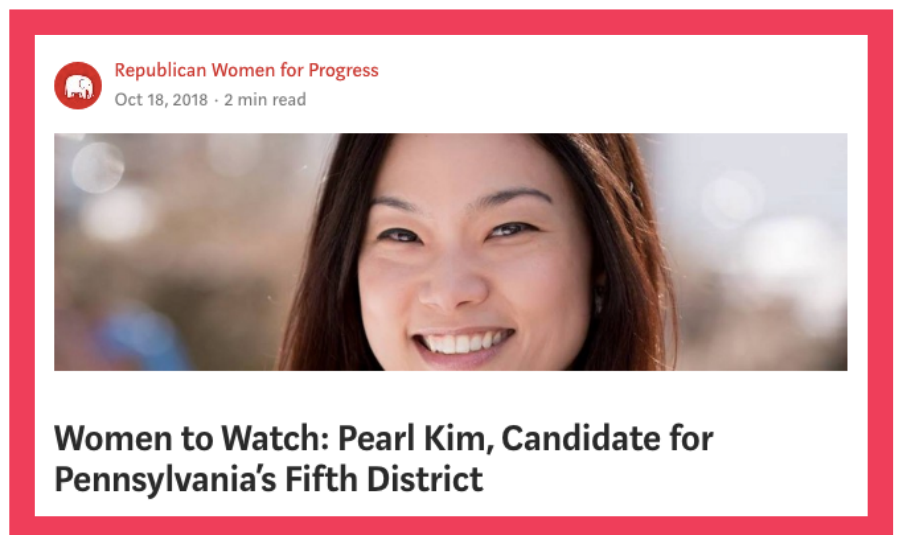
From this list, we were able to secure national earned media for a number of women running in 2018, ensure the press was covering Republican women running in critical races, and profile many of them on our Medium page. Below are the Republican women RWFP highlighted in 2018:

Primary:

Gina Collias (NC-10)
Vennia Francois (FL-7)
Corrie Meyer (IN State Senate)
Jenifer Sarver (TX-21)
Jennifer Hoppe Vipond (WI-5)

General:

Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA-3)
Susan Brooks (IN-5)
Deb Fischer (NE Senate)
Elizabeth Heng (CA-16)
Amie Hoeber (MD-6)
Pearl Kim (PA-5)
Young Kim (CA-39)
Mia Love (UT-4)
Morgan Murtaugh (CA-53)



Cristina Osmena (CA-14)
Lea Marquez Peterson (AZ-2)
Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-5)
Maria Elvira Salazar (FL-27)
Elise Stefanik (NY-21)
Andria Tupola (HI Gov.)
Ann Wagner (MO-2)
Jackie Walorski (IN-2)
Mimi Walters (CA-45)

50% OF RWFP WOMEN TO WATCH IN GENERAL ELECTIONS
WERE WOMEN WHO IDENTIFY AS MINORITIES

SELECTED PRESS

Over the past two years, RWFP has been featured and quoted in hundreds of articles, podcasts, and television programs including:

- *Huffington Post*: "Eyeing the Midterms, Some Republican Women Are Taking On The 'Aging, White' GOP" (2/12/18)
- *U.S. News & World Report*: "For GOP, the Year of the Woman Has Not Yet Arrived" (5/7/18)
- *MSNBC Voice of the People*: "What Challenges do Republican Women Running for Office Face in 2018?" (8/15/18)
- *InStyle* (featured in 'Badass Women' series): "How Republican Women Are Pushing for Change Within Their Party" (10/2/18)
- *PBS' To the Contrary*: "Trump's Insults Towards Women; Women of Color & Midterms" (10/19/18)
- *Salon*: "Republican Fed Up With Trump: GOP Women's PAC Backs Democrats in the Midterms" (10/19/18)
- *The Femsplainers Podcast*: "Think You're Angry & Have Problems?" (11/6/18)
- *Forbes*: "Why Republican Women Get No Love" (11/26/18)
- *IJR*: "GOP Voters Show They Don't Care if Women Run for Office" (12/18/18)
- *The Hill* (Opinion): "Time to build the Republican Party back into what Americans deserve" (1/11/19)
- *The Economist*: "What group of people is most hostile to #MeToo?" (1/12/19)
- *Refinery29*: "What It's Like To Run For Office As A Republican Woman Of Color" (5/17/19)
- *The New York Times*: "It Can't Be Worse: How Republican Women Are Trying to Rebuild" (7/9/19)



**What It's Like To Run For Office As A
Republican Woman of Color**

Cristina Osmeña

(former candidate CA-14)



"Then a fairly new group of Republican women found me, Republican Women for Progress. They connected me with other women's groups like VoteRunLead, got me press coverage at the national level, and helped turn my campaign into a viable starter campaign for a novice female politician."

GROWING THE PIPELINE

As part of our mission to develop and support the pipeline of Republican women who want to lead and run for office, we:

- Maintain a nationwide network of solution-oriented Republican women through networking events, monthly happy hours, weekly emails, one on one correspondence, and daily social media content;
- Provide policy and media support to women running for office like our "Politics & Policy: Climate Change, Energy and the Environment" panel, one-on-one media trainings, and one-on-one policy discussions;
- Act as mentors to high school and college age women to demystify the process of campaigning and encourage them to run;
- Coordinate campaign trainings and opportunities across the country including our one-day training for Republican women with the Women's Campaign School at Yale; and,
- Provide scholarships for women who attend the Women's Campaign School at Yale.



PARTNERSHIP WITH WCSYALE

In 2018, we began a partnership with the Women's Campaign School at Yale (WCSYale) to help more Republican women learn about and apply to their 5-day intensive campaign training program. As a member of the WCSYale Republican Women's Outreach Task Force, we started by co-hosting a one-day training in Washington, D.C. specifically for Republican women in March 2019. The training was attended by 65 women and many of these women went on to apply to the WCSYale 2019 summer session.

This year, the WCSYale welcomed its largest class of Republican women ever in its 25 year history. Applications from Republican women increased by 230% and nearly 60% of the Republican women who attended came directly from our one-day training. Additionally, RWFP provided eight \$250 scholarships for women attending the 2019 summer session. Co-founder Jennifer Lim was invited to speak at the school this year on "The Future of Women in the GOP" panel.



ARE YOU A REPUBLICAN WOMAN WHO WANTS TO RUN FOR OFFICE?

WCSYale: The Basics Workshop

Join Republican Women for Progress and the Women's Campaign School at Yale (WCSYale) for a workshop on political campaigning with Patricia Russo, the Executive Director of WCSYale. Hosted by The George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management, this training for Republican women will cover topics including making the decision to run, finding your voice, and effective networking. What are you waiting for?



COST IS \$50 - LUNCH IS PROVIDED

**MARCH 16TH | 9:30AM TO 2:00PM
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING HALL
800 22ND ST. NW
WASHINGTON, DC**

**SPACE IS LIMITED. PLEASE REGISTER AT:
[HTTPS://RWFPWCSYALE.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://rwfpwcsyale.eventbrite.com)**



PHOTOS BY: MARA LAVITT

**RWFP HELPED INCREASE REPUBLICAN
WOMEN'S APPLICATIONS TO WCSYALE BY**

230%

REFORMING THE GOP

As part of our mission to refocus the Republican Party on proper governance and policy, we:

- Launched Republican Women for Progress PAC in September 2018 to support Republican women speaking out against their Republican representatives and candidates who would provide a check on President Trump. RWFP PAC ran ads and endorsed Democrats in 11 districts;
- Released our RWFP Guiding Policy Principles in January 2019 which reflect our vision for a modern “Big Tent” Republican party which upholds the values of small government and fiscal conservatism while being socially inclusive;
- Conducted a study with Bellwether Research & Consulting in December 2018 of Republican primary voters on opinion surrounding the necessity of electing women;
- Collaborate with other organizations and groups focused on political reform, good governance, and developing bipartisan solutions; and,
- Ensure we sign on to comment letters, amicus briefs, and other such documents that oppose party-led corruption and support our RWFP Guiding Policy Principles.



REPUBLICAN WOMEN FOR PROGRESS PAC

In September 2018, we launched our super PAC - Republican Women for Progress PAC - ahead of the midterms to highlight Republican women speaking out against their Republican representatives and supporting candidates who would provide a check on President Trump and the ineffective Republicans in Congress. RWFP PAC raised a total of \$1 million in the 2018 elections.

RWFP PAC ran digital ads featuring local Republican women voters and endorsing Democrats in 11 districts - nine of these candidates were women, and nine of these candidates won their elections in November 2018. The ads received state and national press attention. Below are the Democratic candidates RWFP PAC endorsed in 2018 (candidates in bold won their election):

- Ammar Campa-Najjar (CA-50)*
- Angie Craig (MN-2)**
- Abby Finkenauer (IA-1)**
- Katie Hill (CA-25)**
- Amy McGrath (KY-6)*
- Harley Rouda (CA-48)**
- Mikie Sherrill (NJ-11)**
- Elissa Slotkin (MI-8)**
- Xochitl Torres Small (NM-2)**
- Abigail Spanberger (VA-7)**
- Haley Stevens (MI-11)**



Republican Woman on Why She's Supporting Mikie Sherrill

I like this

82%

OF RWFP PAC'S DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES WON THEIR ELECTIONS IN 2018

GUIDING POLICY PRINCIPLES

Released in January 2019, the following nine policy principles reflect Republican Women for Progress' vision for a modern "Big Tent" Republican party which upholds the values of small government and fiscal conservatism while being socially inclusive. RWFP feels these principles can pave the way to both good governance and thoughtful policy.

GENERAL GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:

1. We believe in the sanctity of our democratic institutions and the rule of law. The check and balance system between the three branches of government is critical to the maintenance of a healthy and functional government.
2. We believe Congress needs to return to the business of legislating. Bipartisanship is necessary when working on the complex issues facing our country. Obstructionists have disrupted the functionality of Congress, setting our country on a dangerous path and causing our mechanisms of governance to atrophy.
3. We believe in the restoration of a "Big Tent" Republican Party. Party purity tests are poisonous to governance, inflame tribalism, and contribute to the erosion of public trust in the government.
4. We believe government can, and should, be part of the solution to the problems facing not only our country but also the world. However, government is not the first, only, nor often, the best solution.

POLICY PRINCIPLES:

1. We believe our country needs to follow a sustainable fiscal path by reducing the national debt from its dangerous and unsustainable level. We believe discussions about the national debt require reasonable consideration and must balance both government revenues and expenditures.
2. We believe in reasonable regulation that balances environmental, worker, and citizen benefits against realistic costs. Regulation should not be treated as a zero-sum game.
3. We believe the GOP and our country are strengthened by all diversity. We categorically reject racism, antisemitism, sexism, ethnocentrism, and other forms of exclusionary language, ideas and policy.
4. We believe the United States has a leadership role to play in fostering a world order that supports the economic and social progress of civilization through security, stability, and the values of human rights and freedom. We believe we are stronger when we work with our like-minded allies and in conjunction with international institutions. In a changing world, we believe the United States should protect freedom at home and abroad through policies grounded in pragmatism.
5. We believe in policies focused on our national future, which includes prioritizing investment in infrastructure and education, establishing a reasonable approach to immigration, continuing to work on being good stewards of the environment and recognizing the important role global trade and international relationships play in our modern world.

In conjunction with the release of our nine principles, we wrote a piece for *The Hill* titled "Time to build the Republican Party back into what Americans deserve," further explaining the principles and urgency for steps to be taken to change the direction of the GOP.

LOOKING TOWARD 2020

As we prepare for 2020, our board has approved a number of priorities and goals to support our mission and the Republican women we represent:

- Recruit, support, and promote center-right Republican women running for state, local, and federal offices through our Women to Watch List. Work with candidates specifically interested in attempting to primary morally reprehensible or corrupt incumbents;
- Revitalize and grow Republican Women for Progress state affiliates. We'll be focusing specifically on battleground states to empower center-right women to use their voices during the election cycle. Provide opportunities for our target demographic to get involved in the process, both in the primaries and general election;
- Expand partnership with Women's Campaign School at Yale to host several more one-day trainings for Republican women and increase scholarship opportunities for Republican women accepted into the five-day intensive program;
- Work with our partners to begin interacting with college-age women to provide an alternative vision of the Republican Party;
- Maximize our media contacts to increase public awareness and comfort with the existence of a center-right voting bloc within the demographic of Republican women;
- Use RWFP PAC to run ads highlighting the voices and views of Republican women to endorse good candidates or urge opposition to members, senators, and the President who are harming the country and our democratic institutions;
- Continue to partner with other organizations interested in supporting Republican women and reforming the Republican party to create a modern platform that recognizes the shifting demographics, attitudes, and ideas of our country.
- Use the RWFP platform to call for reform within the party, both naming and shaming bad actors in the party as well as applauding the good actors.

