

Political Report

To: NOW National Board

From: Linda Berg

Date: June 25, 2018

It is not an exaggeration to say that what is at stake in this coming election is the future of all that we have been working for since the founding of NOW. The consequences of failure are too immense to contemplate. In this totally unpredictable political climate, nothing can be taken for granted. The energy and enthusiasm on our side is encouraging, but we still need to take back at least one house of Congress in order to throw a monkey wrench into the plans of the radical right.

As of June 25 there are 40 women still in the running for the Senate, 25 Democrats and 15 Republicans. And there are 341 women still in the race for the House, 258 Democrats and 83 Republicans. Unfortunately we have many incumbent women and feminist men Senators at risk and very few places to pick up the 2 more seats to give us a majority in the Senate. In the Senate we need to protect incumbents who have been NOW PAC endorsed such as Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Jon Tester, Sherrod Brown and Bill Nelson. Our two best pick up seats for the Senate are in Arizona with Kyrsten Sinema and in Nevada with Jacky Rosen. There are many more opportunities in the House to pick up the 22 seats needed to retake the majority. Some notable opportunities to flip a seat from red to blue with NOW PAC endorsed candidates are Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ), Gil Cisneros (CA), Katie Hill (CA), Betsy Dirksen Londrigan (IL), Lauren Underwood (IL), Susie Lee (NV), Susan Wild (PA), Chrissy Houlahan (PA), and Lisa Brown (WA). We also expect to be continually adding to our list of endorsements which now totals 118.

We are excited about opportunities to highlight our candidates at the conference. Feminist hero Representative Barbara Lee will kick off the conference session on Saturday morning promptly at 9:00am. On Saturday at noon we will have our annual PAC lunch with spirited speeches by Representatives Zoe Lofgren (CA) and Anna Eshoo (CA), State Representatives Lois Reckitt (ME), Hala Ayala (VA) and Pat Spearman (NV) and former Lieutenant Governor candidate and Philadelphia NOW president Nina Ahmad. After the speeches, the PAC will gather to hear from the membership about the candidates that they are most excited about and what NOW activists are doing politically. This will help inform our fall election plans.

On Friday morning the PAC is presenting a workshop about the need to recruit women to run the behind the scenes operations for campaigns and how NOW members and chapters can play an integral role in the campaign organization. After voting on Saturday, please come to the PAC

party and silent auction. There will be music, a cash bar and lots of fun items to bid on. All proceeds will go directly to supporting our endorsed candidates.