

POLITICAL REPORT

To: NOW National Board

From: Linda Berg

Date: September 24, 2018

What an exciting and consequential mid-term election season. The gender gap is increasing by the day. Every poll shows the percentage of women leaning toward the Republican Party and its anti-woman candidates to be decreasing – it's now at 32%. And Trump is making our case. His approval rating is 13% higher among men than women. Democrats now hold a 20 point advantage among women 50 and over. Women are running for all levels of political office, Emily's list has stated that they fielded more than 40,000 calls from women wanting campaign advice since Trump took office. Record numbers of women are running for the House. They constitute 43% of Democratic primary winners and 13% of Republican nominees. And finally many consultants have realized that when women tell their "Me too" stories and call out sexism on the campaign trail they lift their campaigns up.

NOW PAC has been very busy endorsing candidates. We have endorsed approximately 175 federal candidates. Because we work on a rolling endorsement calendar we add candidates weekly to our list. Go to www.nowpac.org to see the latest list. Please help us to make sure that we have endorsement requests for every strong feminist candidate. In Texas alone we have endorsed 23 House candidates who are proud to be called feminists out of their 36 districts in addition to Beto O'Rourke for the Senate.

Because our members understand how much is at stake, this has been a good year for fundraising. This week we are sending out \$100,000 to 36 candidates, 30 of whom are women. We have also held back funds so that we can jump into races in the final days as candidates surge. We are supporting as many candidates as possible who have a chance to win their campaigns.

We are working with our state organizations and chapters to get out the vote for feminist candidates. Toni has been to Nevada, New York, Indiana, and Florida. I have been to Montana and Nebraska and will be heading to Las Vegas on Sunday. Gilda has been to New Mexico and Colorado. We have given grants to West Virginia and Florida to help get out the vote to defeat oppressive ballot measures and to elect feminist candidates. We are determined to strengthen our grass roots activism which can only benefit feminist candidates for all levels of office. The PAC is also very mindful that as soon as this election passes, we must immediately turn our attention to 2020. Our chapters and states must be strong and prepared for the most consequential series of elections in our lifetime.

NOW PAC activities at the National Conference in San Jose were quite successful. Barbara Lee got us going with a spirited address about why it is so important to have women at the political table. The political brown bag luncheon featuring Representatives Anna Eshoo, Zoe Lofgren, State Senator Pat Spearman, State Representative Lois Reckitt and Congressional candidate Kendra Fershee was, by many accounts, one of the most inspiring sessions we have ever had at a NOW conference. After our fabulous

speakers, the PAC held an unprecedented listening session and found it extremely helpful to hear from our members about what races they are excited about and involved in. We used knowledge gained through that session to inform our determination of contribution levels for endorsed candidates. Inspired by that session our members were very generous with PAC contributions. On Saturday night, we held a fun and successful PAC Party and auction, complete with a cash bar and a Blue Grass Band.