

To: Interested parties
From: Jonathan Parker, Political Director
Re: **2008—A Historic Election for EMILY's List Candidates**

The 2008 cycle brought an historic election for EMILY's List candidates. **EMILY's List helped defeat Republicans and elect more pro-choice Democratic women than in any year since 1992.** EMILY's List candidates ousted two Republican senators in nasty, expensive races and won the two most competitive governors races in the country. We added 12 new pro-choice Democratic women to the U.S. House, the second largest increase for pro-choice Democratic women in American history. EMILY's List candidates won dozens of downballot victories, helping bring the number of chambers under Democratic control to 60 and putting women in positions of power across the country.

Here are key highlights from the incredible November 2008 elections:

EMILY's List Helped Elect Hagan and Shaheen – two of the eight Senate pick-ups.

- Jeanne Shaheen (NH) is the first woman to ever represent New Hampshire in the United States Senate, and Kay Hagan (NC) is the first Democratic women senator from North Carolina.
- They are also only the 4th and 5th women to ever beat Republican Senate incumbents in their elections. The other three were also EMILY's List candidates – McCaskill (MO), Cantwell (WA), and Stabenow (MI).

EMILY's List Helped Elect the Second Largest Group of New Democratic Women to the House in History

With four victories earlier in the cycle in MA-05, MD-04, CA-37 and CA-12 and the victories on election night, we helped elect the largest new group of Democratic women to the U.S. House since 1992 – “The Year of the Woman”. These Democratic women took out three Republican incumbents and picked up six GOP seats overall. Those victories include:

- In Florida, Suzanne Kosmas defeated ethically-challenged incumbent Rep. Tom Feeney.
- In Illinois, Debbie Halvorson prevailed against wealthy self-funder Marty Ozinga, switching a Republican seat to a Democratic seat.
- In Colorado, Betsy Markey fought back against nasty personal attacks to defeat right-wing incumbent Rep. Marilyn Musgrave.
- In Arizona, Ann Kirkpatrick won a strong race to defeat mining lobbyist Sydney Hay to take this seat over for Democrats.
- In Nevada, Dina Titus surged to a strong victory over Republican incumbent Rep. Jon Porter.
- In Maine, progressive champion Chellie Pingree won a tough primary and went on to defeat Republican Charlie Summers.
- In Ohio, Marcia Fudge confirmed her place in the House to continue the tremendous work of the late Stephanie Tubbs Jones.
- Also in Ohio, Mary Jo Kilroy capped off a successful year for Democratic women, winning her seat by an ample margin after all provisional ballots were counted.

Of the six EMILY's List incumbents endorsed last cycle, every one of them was re-elected. In fact, every EMILY's List incumbent who ran for re-election last cycle won. The EMILY's List endorsed incumbents from the 2007-2008 cycle were:

- Gabrielle Giffords (AZ-08)
- Melissa Bean (IL-08)
- Carol Shea-Porter (NH-01)
- Kirsten Gillibrand (NY-20)
- Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (MI-13)
- Christine Gregoire (WA-GOV)

North Carolina's Year of the Woman

Along with Sen. Kay Hagan's victory, North Carolina made history by electing Bev Perdue its first woman governor. The EMILY's List Political Opportunity Program also helped create victories for two other Democratic women running statewide in North Carolina: Janet Cowell, who is the first woman elected as the state's treasurer, and Beth Wood, the first woman elected as North Carolina's state auditor.

EMILY's List Political Opportunity Program (POP) Helped Take Back the New York Senate, Nevada Senate, Ohio House and Wisconsin Senate.

It has been 43 years since Democrats controlled the New York state Senate. The EMILY's List Political Opportunity Program has been working with the New York State Democratic Senate Campaign Committee for three election cycles to turn that around. Victories for EMILY's List POP candidates in the Nevada Senate, Ohio House and Wisconsin Assembly helped Democrats gain control in those bodies.

In the 2007-2008 cycle, POP helped 175 pro-choice Democratic women win their elections in 32 states including 10 statewide offices:

- Sandra Kennedy, Corporation Commission, AZ
- Robin Carnahan, Secretary of State, MO
- Denise Juneau, Superintendent of Public Education, MT
- Monica Lindeen, Auditor, MT
- Linda McCulloch, Secretary of State, MT
- Janet Cowell, Treasurer, NC
- Beth Wood, Auditor, NC
- Kate Brown, Secretary of State, OR
- Deborah Markowitz, Secretary of State, VT
- Natalie Tennant, Secretary of State, WV

Of the 175 wins, 64 were in open seats and 22 of our candidates were challengers. That makes **86 new women elected to state and local office last cycle!**