

The Public Affairs Pulse

Keeping You on Top of Legislative & Advocacy Issues 2012 Election Round-Up

Planned Parenthood Action Fund Cautiously Optimistic About 113th Congress

Election night 2012 was a decisive victory for women, Planned Parenthood Action Fund (PPAF), and local Planned Parenthood advocacy organizations across the country. Planned Parenthood advocacy organizations made strategic investments that made the difference in Obama's re-election, as well as the reelection of key U.S. Senators, Representatives, Governors, and state legislators. The Election of 2012 also marked an *18-point gender gap*, clearly demonstrating the power of women voters and women's interests.

Every single PPAF-endorsed Senate Incumbent — 14 total — won re-election. Of eight PPAF-endorsed Senate Challengers, five won. Of 130 endorsed House incumbents, 127 won re-election. And of 71 endorsed House challengers and candidates in open seats, 37 won their races.

Nationwide, PPAF, Planned Parenthood Votes (PPV), and local Planned Parenthood advocacy organizations sent out over **4.6 million** pieces of mail, made over **3.9 million** phone calls, and knocked **270,000** doors!

The 2012 election brought modest but important gains for candidates who support women's health in the House and the Senate. Notably, the Democratic caucus in the Senate should swell by two members, assuming that Independent Senator-elect Angus King (ME) caucuses with the Democrats, bringing the total to 55 Senators. However, the overall number of Senators we expect to be reliable votes for Planned Parenthood and our priorities increased by only one: from 45 to 46.

The House saw modest gains of new Members supportive of women's health in the Democratic Party, but four of the Republicans who crossed party lines and voted against the Pence amendment last year to defund Planned Parenthood lost: Bass (NH), Biggert (IL), Bono Mack (CA), Dold (IL). As a result, with the reelection of President Obama and only marginal shifts in the House and Senate, we expect contentiousness in the congressional process to continue most immediately with the lame duck session task of averting the so-called "fiscal cliff."

While the margins for our issues remain very close, the results of this election further expose the dangers of taking on reproductive justice issues. Planned Parenthood will continue to be vigilant and to educate Members and staff about the importance of women's health.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan Celebrates Statewide Victories

All across the country, Planned Parenthood supporters and everyone who fought so hard to protect women's health in this election are cheering President Obama's reelection. And here in Michigan we have even more to be happy about: **69 pro-women, Planned Parenthood-endorsed candidates were elected on November 6.** With the recent attacks on the 90,000 Michigan men, women, and teens that count on Planned Parenthood for basic health care, these victories could not have come at a better time.

Pro-choice champion U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) decisively defeated her anti-choice opponent, and longtime women's

advocate Bridget Mary McCormack will be serving in the Michigan Supreme Court.

Volunteer commitment is what made this possible! Our deepest gratitude goes out to those who volunteered, made phone calls, knocked on doors, donated generously, and made uncountable contributions to this victory.

PPAM staff and volunteers communicated with nearly 110,000 voters, made over 80,000 phone calls, and knocked on nearly 15,000 doors to get out the pro-choice vote.

Thanks to the incredible dedication and active, vocal, generous support of volunteers, we were able to elect more pro-women candidates to the Michigan House of Representatives, as well as many local offices! **We are proud to welcome the five new pro-choice champions to the Michigan House that knocked off incumbents who voted to close women's health centers.** Two of those new pro-choice champions represent areas with PPWNM health centers: Winnie Brinks, the first woman Michigan House representative from Grand Rapids, and Collene Lamonte in Muskegon/Norton Shores. This is a tremendous victory for women's health in Michigan!

We saw the worst our opponents had to offer this election season. They were well-funded and dead set on gaining power over women's private medical decisions, and we beat them — including the backwards agendas of the most extreme candidates, and one of the sponsors of the anti-women's health mega-bill that was rushed through the House over the summer!