



About Emerge Vermont

[Emerge Vermont](#) is the state's premier organization that recruits, trains, and provides a powerful network to Democratic women who want to run for office. Our mission is to increase the number of Democratic women leaders from diverse backgrounds in public office at every level of government.

Emerge Vermont was founded in 2013 by [former Governor Madeleine M. Kunin](#). Its leadership is comprised of a [Cabinet of 19 amazing Vermont women](#) and [Executive Director Elaine Haney](#).

Our recent successes:

- Emerge Vermont alums and trainees now hold a total of 123 elected and appointed offices
 - 18 of 24 women who have trained with us won their elections to local office during the Town Meeting Day 2023 election cycle.
- 59 Emerge Vermont trained women were on the November 2022 general election ballot and 81% won their races.
 - Vermonters elected Becca Balint (Class of 2014) as our first woman and openly LGBTQIA+ person to Congress.
 - Charity Clark (Class of 2022) became Vermont's first elected woman Attorney General.
 - Sarah Copeland Hanzas (Class of 2022) became Vermont's third woman Secretary of State.
 - The Vermont Legislature is now 45% women, the highest it's ever been.
 - There are now 42 Emerge Vermont trained women in the Legislature; of the 80 women now in the Legislature, 52.5% are affiliated with Emerge Vermont.
 - There are 5 women of color in the Legislature in 2023-24 biennium, the same number as have ever served in all of Vermont history. Four of these five women are Emerge Vermont trained.
- 92% of Emerge Vermont alums on the August 2022 primary ballot won their races.
 - 43% of our alums on the primary ballot were members of the New American Majority: Black, Brown and Indigenous women and women of color, as well as LGBTQ+, young, and unmarried women.

About our alums and trainees:

- 186 alums of our Signature Training program; 217 trainees overall
- 98 (45%) of all alums and trainees are in office right now.
 - 1 Congresswoman

- 2 statewide (Attorney General & Secretary of State)
- 42 state legislators, including Speaker of the House
- 1 state's attorney
- 1 agency secretary
- 3 in judicial positions
- 64 in local office—selectboard, school board, justice of the peace
- 54% of all alums and trainees have been elected or appointed and 67% have run for office at some point since their graduation.

About the Class of 2023:

- 14 women and 1 non-binary person from 6 Vermont counties
- Range in age from 21-48
- 25% identify as LGBTQ+
- 19% identify as people of color
- 38% New American Majority (BIPOC, LGBTQ+, young, unmarried)
- 19% first generation American
- 3 won local election on Town Meeting Day

Impact and future plans:

With a Democratic supermajority in the House and Senate made possible by Emerge Vermont's 42 elected legislator alums and trainees, in 2023 the Vermont Legislature passed landmark legislation including the Affordable Heat Act and a groundbreaking universal childcare package. These, along with 2022's constitutional amendment protecting reproductive liberty, are making Vermont a place where the rights of women, families, and children are protected and significant efforts to mitigate climate change are implemented.

Going forward, Emerge Vermont is focused on increasing the number of women serving on local municipal governing boards and school boards, building a strong pipeline of future Democratic women legislators while also holding the line locally on policies that impact and protect women, children, LGBTQ+ people, and people of color from the politics of hate.

About Emerge America:

Emerge Vermont is a state affiliate of [Emerge](#). Nationally, Emerge has trained more than 5,000 alums since 2002 and currently has more than 1,000 alums in elected office across the country. The organization is committed to reaching 100,000 women of the New American Majority over the next 15 years, fostering a lift as you climb culture for women in politics, and repowering political structures. There are currently 27 state affiliates, and the organization has impacted a total of 45 states, Washington, D.C. and territories. Emerge is committed to reaching 100,000 women of the New American Majority, repowering political structures, and fostering a lift as you climb culture for women in politics during the next 15 years.