



2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT





Where do women stand today?

Despite gains for women elsewhere across the U.S., the 2022 election saw the total number of women in the S.C. State Legislature decrease, reversing a decade-long trend of gains.

Across the state, 276 women filed to run for elected office and 119 women won their races. When women run for political office, they are just as likely as men to be elected. There are more than 2000 elected offices in S.C., presenting opportunities for women to run at the local, county, state, and federal levels. In addition, there are thousands of open seats on public boards and commissions across the state.

The problem for women isn't winning, it's deciding to run. Women are less likely to be asked to run, and even when women are recruited, they often believe they aren't qualified enough.

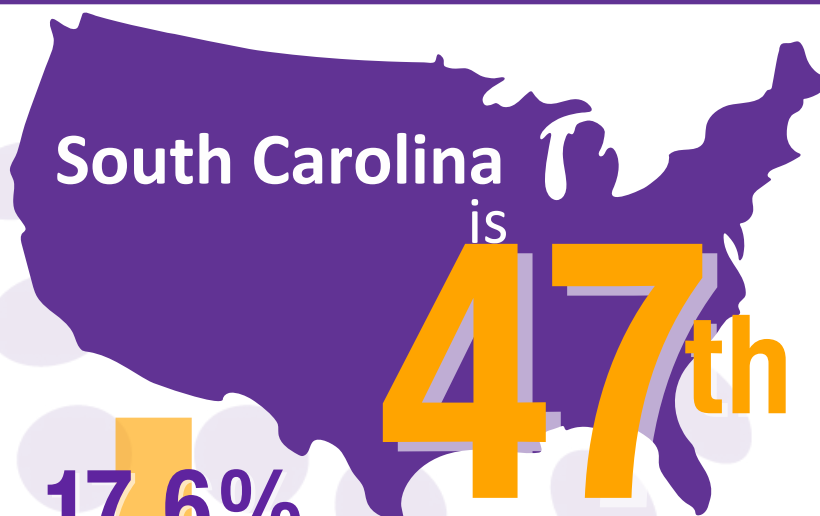


Why do we need more women in leadership?

While we have different political beliefs and live in an era of unprecedented polarization, women in office have demonstrated the ability to identify common goals, collaborate, and work together on key issues to improve communities.

Having more women in leadership leads to more women-friendly policies, such as increasing paid family leave and prosecuting violence against women. On average, women bring more funding back to their home districts than their male colleagues. They focus more on family, children, and healthcare. They run households and understand budgets. They take a rehabilitative approach to crime and punishment.

Experience shapes how legislators govern, and women's experiences undoubtedly are different from men's. Women need their experiences and their viewpoints to be heard – and incorporated into policy decisions.



The number of seats in the state legislature held by women dropped to 14.7% in 2022, reversing a decade-long trend of gains.

51%

of South Carolina's population is female

Inform. Inspire. Involve.

OUR MISSION

Founded in 2018, SC Women in Leadership is a multi-partisan, multi-racial alliance of women with a mission to move South Carolina forward socially, economically, educationally, and environmentally by sharing information, making connections, and encouraging engagement in local and state leadership opportunities.

We believe that as more talented women with diverse and inclusive backgrounds step up to lead and to govern, gender and racial equality, as well as community equity, will, at last, become a reality.



FAIR VOTING

We believe every vote counts, and the voting process must be transparent, fair, and equitable with equal representation.



FILL THE PIPELINE

We work to increase the number of women serving in elected office and appointed positions on public boards and commissions.



REDUCE POLARIZATION

We believe more women in elected and appointed office will increase cooperation and respect and decrease partisan tension.

OUR SERVICES

- **Timely, reliable resources** about local and statewide opportunities to run for office and/or support those who do
- **Accurate and accessible information about opportunities** to apply for positions on local and statewide boards and commissions
- **Active geographic and professional networks** that encourage women to gain leadership skills and identify more women to join them
- **Carefully managed partnerships with allied organizations** to extend our reach and develop women's skills, confidence, and know-how

OUR IMPACT

850

WOMEN TRAINED AND CONNECTED

through campaign, appointed office,
and community leadership trainings

Signature Trainings

SC WIL hosts various events and leadership trainings throughout the year. Last year, we trained and supported 850 women across South Carolina interested in serving in elected or public appointed office.



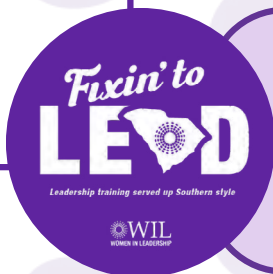
SPRING TRAINING SERIES

A multi-partisan campaign training series curated to inspire and equip women candidates and volunteers with the knowledge to seek elected office. The series concluded with an exclusive interactive panel discussion with current and former female candidates.



SPRINGBOARD CONFERENCE

An initiative preparing women seeking positions on public appointed boards and commissions with the knowledge and confidence they need to succeed while helping those already serving to become more effective.



FIXIN' TO LEAD

An introductory workshop on leadership opportunities to help women pinpoint their source of inspiration while exploring the impact it may have on family, finances, and career.

What did SC WIL accomplish in 2022-23?

Five years ago, a dozen women with the shared belief that women's voices must be included in our government came together to form SC Women in Leadership. Their goal was to move South Carolina forward educationally, economically, and environmentally. That original commitment to increase women's influence and help them find ways to overcome barriers to leadership continues to drive SC WIL's mission today.

- Trained and connected 850 women through SC WIL events. Sixty-five percent (65%) of participants indicated an increased willingness to lead
- Launched MatchBoardSM with 10 counties and municipalities adopting the software in the first 12 months
- Built and maintain a multi-partisan registry of female candidates
- Manage and update a statewide list of women currently holding elective office
- Developed “Opportunity Seats” database to assist women in targeting the most winnable seats
- Actively recruited women to apply for open seats on local boards and commissions
- Hosted Leading Women Dinner to recognize accomplished women in the public eye
- Offer recurring Office Hours on selected topics allowing women to gain a deeper knowledge of specific skills

a reach of **WILWEEKLY**
50,000

WIL Weekly reaches more than 50,000 citizens across the state. It's a weekly round-up of curated news, events, and resources on women in leadership.



SUBSCRIBE



SC WIL worked with the S.C. Association of Counties to address the lack of consistent information and application processes for citizens interested in serving on public boards and commissions. MatchBoardSM is a digital platform through which local governments can more effectively administer their boards and commissions and connect with citizens.

Matching counties and municipalities with qualified citizens who want to serve



"SC WIL has been instrumental in our state and certainly for me. They helped me attain a position on the H-Tax Committee here in Richland County."
- Tanya Rodriguez-Hodges, SC WIL supporter and 51% Club Member

app.MatchBoard.tech



"Boards and commissions are the backbone...We want to make sure folks are engaged. We see this great opportunity, because so many people in our community have reached out and said, 'How can I help?' Well, number one, apply for a board. And we're going to make it easier for them."
- City of Columbia Mayor, Daniel Rickenmann

MatchBoard.tech

IN MATCHBOARD'S FIRST YEAR

- 147 Boards and Commissions
- 10 Registered Entities
- 604 Registered Citizens
- 300 Citizens Submitted Applications
- 60 Applicants were Appointed to Boards or Commissions

Reducing Polarization

Leading Women Dinner

Leading Women Dinner is a celebration of all the brave South Carolina women who have stepped forward to seek elective (win or lose) and appointive office. This signature event honors women who have blazed trails in civic leadership so that others may follow.

The event includes a V.I.P. reception for sponsors and special guests followed by a seated dinner and awards presentation. Honorees include women in local, statewide, and appointive office that have devoted themselves to community service, demonstrated a commitment to working across party lines, and whose civic work has improved the quality of life for all South Carolinians.

2022 HONOREES

Congratulations to our
2022 Leading Women
award honorees!

Leading Woman Award
S.C. State Superintendent
of Education
Molly Spearman

Leadership Legacy Award
S.C. State Senator
Mia McLeod

Leadership Legacy Award
S.C. State Representative
Rita Allison

Up & Coming Award
Nocola Hemphill



Thank you

OUR SPONSORS



OUR FOUNDERS

SC Women in Leadership would not exist but for the commitment of our 100 Founders, women and men who believe that through consensus and involvement, we can build a better South Carolina.

Valerie Aiken
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Anne Walker
Jenna Wallace
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Michele Wheeler
Carrington Wingard

NATIONAL PARTNERS

SC Women in Leadership serves the citizens of South Carolina exclusively. In building our expertise and the breadth of service offerings, we are engaged in partnerships with multiple national organizations whose resources we share with our participants. We are proud to work in alliance with:

All in Together
Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP)
LeanIn
She Should Run
Vote, Run, Lead

51% CLUB MEMBERS

As a member of The 51% Club, your recurring monthly donation supports WIL's mission of increasing women's representation on appointed public boards and commissions and in elective office in South Carolina.

Teresa Arnold
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South Carolina Women's Leadership Network | Post Office Box 11974, Columbia, SC 29211
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