



Building Women's Political Power

Founded in 2015 by Melinda French Gates, Pivotal Ventures works to advance social progress through high-impact investments, grants, partnerships, and advocacy. We work to expand women's power and influence in the U.S.—including women's political power.



If we want our democracy to live up to its promise, women must have equal power and influence in our political system. Pivotal Ventures supports organizations working to break down barriers so that more women—especially women from underrepresented backgrounds—can run for office, win elections, and lead at all levels of government.

To advance social progress, we need a government that reflects the people it represents. Pivotal Ventures funds organizations focused on improving the political system and lowering the barriers that keep women out of government. Our partners support women throughout their political careers: as they prepare to run for office, as they campaign, and, crucially, as they govern once elected. In these efforts, Pivotal Ventures works with national organizations that are driving progress at the state level, where a lot of important policymaking happens.

[Read more about our approach →](#)

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OUR APPROACH

Women Candidates

Through Pivotal Ventures, we support partners to help more women across political parties run for office and win, particularly at the state level. We invest in organizations that:

Recruit and train women to run for state legislature and win their campaigns

Address structural barriers that impact women candidates disproportionately, like restrictions against using campaign funds for childcare or security

Women Legislators

We support partners in their work to help women in state legislatures govern effectively and successfully set and advance legislative agendas that reflect their priorities and drive social progress. We invest in organizations that:

Train women officeholders on effective policymaking and coalition-building and connect them to networks and mentorship

Scale systemic reforms that make state capitols better workplaces for women—addressing issues like low legislative pay, in-person requirements, safety and security concerns, and lack of paid leave—since retaining women in office is just as important as recruiting them



Women Donors

We support partners to engage women at all giving levels, since women donors are an under-tapped source of political power. We invest in organizations that:

Expand donor infrastructure for women—including efforts to organize women through networks, like state-based giving circles, that can deepen their engagement with the political process and drive greater attention to their issues.

FEATURED PARTNERS DRIVING IMPACT

