

## Resources on Running for Office

Are you interested in running for elected office but not sure where to start? Victory Institute has compiled a list of resources that can help you learn the skills necessary to run a campaign. Below is a list of organizations that host candidate training programs or manage other resources that help candidates run for office. Some of these programs are targeted toward certain demographics and political parties. LGBTQ Victory Institute does not endorse any of the programs below, and this information is for educational purposes only.

### Programs and Organizations:

**American Majority**: Conservative organization created to train conservative activists to run for office. Holds low-cost online training programs to train on running for office and improve skills to help you on the campaign trail. Also holds in-person training workshops for candidates and activists.

**Analyst Institute**: The Analyst Institute collaborates with progressive organizations and Democratic campaigns around the country to measure and increase the impact of their programs.

**Arena**: Progressive organization dedicated to training and supporting candidates and campaign staff through its training program, Arena Academy and conference, Arena Summit; a comprehensive and free toolkit of guides on campaign skills; and financial support for candidates.

**Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS)**: national non-partisan, nonprofit 501c3 organization dedicated to promoting Asian Pacific American participation and representation at all levels of the political process.

**The BLUE Institute**: trains Millennials of color in the South and Southwestern United States to become leaders, strategists, and key staff members of progressive electoral campaigns.

**Collective PAC**: organization working to solve the issue of underrepresentation of African Americans in elected office. Runs the Black Campaign School, a multi-day training course.

**Dare to Run**: 501c3 organization offering female college graduates the opportunity to participate in a two-year certificate program in pursuit of a career path in public service.

**Democracy for America**: Grassroots-driven progressive PAC run by Howard Dean that recruits and trains progressive candidates.

**Emerge America**: in-depth, seven-month, 70-hour training program to train Democratic women interested in running for office. The state-level courses meet one weekend a month and cover topics including public speaking and communication, fundraising, media and messaging, networking, and campaign strategy. Trainers are campaign staff from across the country.

**EMILY's List**: Provides training and resources for local and state-level progressive women candidates. For federal and gubernatorial candidates, EMILY's list puts staff and funding to work to assist with these campaigns. Runs a new online training center to help women learn how to run for office.

**GOPAC**: Provides training and funding to conservative leaders. Includes the Emerging Leaders program, which identifies and trains state-level conservative leaders for a year to lead the party.

**Higher Heights**: Organization devoted to supporting Black women in politics. Hosts the webinar series #BlackWomenLead, a political training series for Black women.

**Leadership Institute**: provides training to conservatives of all ages in campaigns, fundraising, grassroots organizing, youth politics, and communications.

**Ignite**: movement to build political power of young women by training young women in high school and college. Runs programs and training models in California, Texas, and Colorado.

**Latino Victory**: organization committed to growing Latino political power in elected office.

**National Council on Independent Living**: campaign training program that specifically helps candidates with disabilities navigate access barriers to run a campaign.

**National Democratic Training Committee**: "Free campaign training for every Democratic candidate, everywhere" in four different areas: building field plans, fundraising, message and media, and management. Free and online campaign training.

**National Federation of Republican Women**: provides workshops, manuals, and trainings to Republican women interested in running for office.

**New American Leaders (NAL)**: Training programs for first- and second-generation Americans who want to use their civic power. Programs include Ready to Lead, which teaches candidates how to use their heritage as a political asset; New American Fellows, a two-year fellowship selected from the Ready to Lead program that offers mentorship, political guidance, networking, and additional skill building; Ready to Win, which is advanced, boot camp-style training for New American Fellows and campaign staff; New American Leadership Academy, for newly-elected immigrant officials; and Power & Policy: New Americans in Elected Office, a conference which showcases legislative initiatives, offers networking opportunities, and enhances leadership skills.

**New Leaders Council**: organization dedicated to training progressive Millennials and anchored by its NLC Institute, a six-month intensive training experience carried out by chapters in around 50 cities and states across the country.

**New Politics Leadership Academy**: Nonpartisan organization focused on military veterans and national service alumni. Holds low-cost training including a political path discernment series for five weeks twice per year and a staffing school.

**Progressive Change Campaign Committee**: provides endorsements, small-dollar donations, and personalized trainings to PCCC-vetted candidates.

**Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN)**: national organization with the sole focus of preparing college women for leadership in the public policy arena.

**Ready to Run**: Run by Center for American Women and Politics by Rutgers University, this program holds programs in different states using local experts on the political climate in those states.

**ReflectUS Coalition**: nonpartisan coalition of seven leading women's organizations working to increase representation of women in politics.

**Re:Power**: (formerly Wellstone Action) organization dedicated to working with individuals and organization across the country to build inclusive politics, including through skills training and coalition building. Conducts a variety of training programs around campaign management, digital organizing, running for office, and governance.

**RightNOW Women PAC**: volunteer organization helping to elect qualified women to federal office.

**Run for Something**: program to support people under age 35 who want to run for office. Connects qualified people to training organizations and provides staff and funding to worthy candidates. They have a database of campaign training programs at local, state, and national levels available on their [candidate resources](#) page.

**Running Start**: Non-partisan movement to train young women to run for elected office.

**She Should Run**: 501(c)3 to encourage women from all backgrounds to run for office. This website offers free, online courses for women to gain leadership skills necessary for running for office.

**Truman National Security Project**: Offers a free online course on how to run for office.

**Veterans Campaign**: hosts training workshops to train veterans to run for public office. Also offers a MA in Public Leadership through the University of San Francisco.

**VOICES of Conservative Women**: holds run-for-office training for conservative women interested in public office.

**Vote Run Lead**: offers online resources and in-person trainings to women interested in running for office.

**WeLead**: Run by American University, WeLead is a four-day intensive training that addresses campaigns and elections, communication and message development, fundraising, public policy and government relations, and professional development.

**Winning for Women**: 501c4 dedicated to identifying and creating paths forward for women leaders who share core values of economic freedom and strong national security.

**Women's Public Leadership Network**: nonpartisan organization providing “knowledge and resources to make running for elected office and engaging in the political process more accessible” for women, including webinar series on civic engagement topics.

**Women's Campaign School at Yale University**: non-partisan, issue neutral program that runs multi-day campaign training programs for women interested in running for office or managing campaigns.

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