

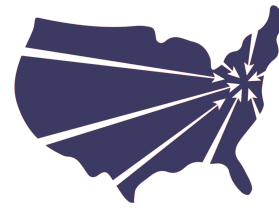
America Votes State Summit 2023

April 10-13, 2023

Walter E. Washington Convention Center

801 Mt. Vernon Place NW

Washington, DC



AMERICA VOTES
**STATE
SUMMIT**

America Votes State Summit 2023 Agenda

Times and sessions are subject to change

Monday, April 10

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM **Welcome Reception [Crimson Whiskey Bar, 627 H St NW]**
Registered attendees are invited to join us for the official Welcome Reception of the State Summit 2023, co-hosted by the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation. This event is a brief walk from the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

Tuesday, April 11

10:30 AM – 4:30 PM **Registration Opens**

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM **Lunch Served**

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM **Welcome & Opening Session [146ABC]**
The America Votes State Summit 2023 will kick off with an overview of the conference agenda, key themes, and goals of the conference - including a celebration of America Votes' 20th anniversary!

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM **What to Make of the Hopeful, Terrifying, Very Weird Moment We're In [146ABC]**
The battle between progressives and reactionary MAGA extremists is ongoing and unresolved. The midterm and 2023 elections have demonstrated the power of the anti-MAGA majority. Still, our extreme opponents abuse every level of power they control - from courts to the U.S. House to 22 Red Trifecta states. This panel of truly outstanding progressive leaders and strategists will provide important perspectives on the profound threats to our fundamental rights and values - from attacks on democracy to *Dobbs* to debt default - as well as the promise and progress being demonstrated in the growing ranks of Blue states and a new generation of progressive leaders and organizers.

Moderator: Sara Schreiber, America Votes
Secretary of State Cisco Aguilar, Nevada
Addisu Demissie, Future Forward
Jasmine Nears, America Votes-Wisconsin
Michelle Ringuette, American Federation of Teachers

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

50 Years After Roe, ~1 Year After Dobbs: The Profound Importance & Powerful Politics of Abortion Rights [146ABC]

The Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* and the subsequent attack on abortion access and reproductive rights shed a renewed spotlight on the fight for reproductive justice and the enormous impact of abortion rights on women, their families, and communities. Since *Dobbs*, abortion has deeply impacted every major election. Abortion rights were critical to many history-defying victories in 2022, including the landslide initiative victory for abortion rights in Kansas, and will profoundly impact the race for the White House and other critical offices in 2024. Where do things stand with abortion access now, and how do we ensure access to reproductive health care and keep voters focused on the imperative of protecting and expanding abortion rights across the country?

Moderator: Leticia Martinez, Mission Control
Laphonza Butler, EMILY's List
Alexis McGill Johnson, Planned Parenthood Action Fund
Attorney General Josh Stein, North Carolina

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM

Break

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM

Breakout Sessions: Protecting Our Democracy & Advancing Progress

Winning the Economic Argument With Voters [149AB]

The economy and personal financial security will be at the top of voters' minds in 2024. How did effective economic messaging on lowering costs for families and workers help candidates to win in 2022 and what lessons were learned? How and why must organizations leverage their membership, field, and the impact of the Biden administration's massive federal investments to mobilize and persuade voters in battleground states for 2024? These are just some of the pressing questions we will address in this critical conversation.

Moderator: Sondra Goldschein, Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy
CJ Grimes, WorkMoney
Hillary Holley, Care in Action
Lily Roberts, Center for American Progress
Mario Yedidia, UNITE HERE Action Fund

Holding the MAGA House Majority Accountable [144C]

The MAGA majority in the U.S. House has proven that they are not serious about governing or delivering for the American people. Frivolous investigations, extremist policies, and defending former President Donald Trump have defined their first few months leading Congress. How are we responding to their investigations and holding them accountable for their extreme policies? This panel brings together leaders of organizations on the frontlines of confronting this radical right-wing MAGA majority.

Moderator: LaNiesha Dawson, America Votes-Nevada
Kyle Herrig, Congressional Integrity Project
Abby Curran Horrell, House Majority PAC
Gabriela Parra, The Hub Project and Navigator
Zac Petkanas, House Accountability War Room

Exposing the Radical Right: How Progressives Used Republican Extremism Against Them [144B]

The extreme agenda of the radical right on free and fair elections, abortion rights, LGBTQ rights, access to public education and other critical issues are out of step with voters and a majority of Americans from all across the political spectrum. Throughout the 2022 midterms in states across the country groups organized with messaging that exposed extremists and defined radical right-wing candidates early in the cycle. Join this session to learn more about the lessons learned from these effective campaigns in 2022.

Moderator: Patrick Schuh, America Votes
Sam Gehler, Project Keystone
Carlos Sanchez, Every Eligible American
Nicole Wells Stallworth, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan

Election Administration in the Age of the Big Lie [144A]

In an atmosphere of election denialism and voter suppression, what do we do now to prepare our election infrastructure for 2024? This session will explore the funding, policy, and advocacy efforts to strengthen election administration. Our panelists will discuss the successful pro-voter policies that modernize elections, make them stronger, and more secure, and opportunities for democracy advocates to support the election officials implementing them.

Moderator: McKenzie St. Germain, America Votes-New Hampshire
Katharine Clark, County Clerk, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Keara Fenzel, Center for Tech and Civic Life
Carolina Lopez, America Votes
Neal Ubriani, Institute for Responsible Government

Organizing to Win: From Elections to Historic Climate Action [143C]

How do we mobilize voters to protect our Earth? This panel will explore the opportunities of last year's historic Inflation Reduction Act, including an overview of the campaign to pass the landmark legislation, as well as how advocates fought to "win the win," post-passage, and are continuing the work around implementation heading into 2024.

Moderator: Navin Nayak, Center for American Progress Action Fund
Jennessa Agnew, League of Conservation Voters
John Axelrod, Climate Power
Eva Estrada, League of Conservation Voters
Vianey Olivarria, Chispa AZ

A User's Guide to Your State's New Trifecta [143B]

The 2022 midterm saw Democrats win new governing trifectas in states like Michigan and Minnesota. This session will explore how progressives are using this power to advance meaningful policy change and deliver on campaign promises, as well as what lessons can be learned from other states where progressives have recently won full control of state government.

Moderator: Autumn Butler, Oakland Forward
Dusti Gurule, COLOR Action Fund
Jon Hoadley, Michigan Donor Alliance
Ryan Perez, COPAL

4:00 PM – 4:15 PM **Break**

4:15 PM – 5:30 PM

America Votes at 20: A Growing Community & Impactful Coalition [146ABC]

This year, America Votes marks 20 years of serving as the coordination hub of the progressive community, and our collective work is larger and more impactful than ever. As an organization created by partner groups to serve as a permanent campaign infrastructure, America Votes' mission is truly unique. Since 2016, the collective work of our coalition has grown by every measure, contributing heavily toward progressive victories in 2018, 2020, and 2022 and delivering on our potential as an organization and a coalition. This session will review the incredible collective work of the last two decades, with a focus on the massive growth of the past six years, and highlight America Votes' vision and priorities heading toward 2024 and beyond.

Moderator: Daria Dawson, America Votes
Seth Johnson, AFSCME
J.B. Poersch, Senate Majority PAC
Cecile Richards, American Bridge (& America Votes' Founding President)
Leslie Small, America Votes-Georgia

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

2023 Cecile Richards Progressive Leader Award Celebration [147AB]

America Votes is thrilled to recognize Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer with the 2023 Cecile Richards Progressive Leader Award, named for America Votes' founding president. Throughout her career, Governor Whitmer has embodied the spirit of this award, working tirelessly to defend Michiganders' freedoms— from voting rights to abortion rights and more. Governor Whitmer's steadfast progressive leadership in Michigan serves as a model for the rest of the country.

Award Recipient: Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Michigan
Evan Kost, America Votes
Greg Speed, America Votes
Nicole Wells Stallworth, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan

8:30 PM – 10:30 PM

America Votes Partner Diversity Coalition Reception [Bar Deco, 717 6th Street NW]

State Summit attendees who self-identify as members of the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities are invited to join the America Votes Partner Diversity Coalition for an evening of fun, music, and fellowship. [*Registration required](#)

Wednesday, April 12

- 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM** **Registration Open**
- 8:00 AM-9:30 AM** **Breakfast Served**
- 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM** **A Call to Action with Kim A. Anderson, Executive Director of the National Education Association [146ABC]**
Join Kim A. Anderson, Executive Director of the National Education Association (NEA), a national leader in the fight to transform America's public schools and longtime leader within the progressive community for a powerful session to kick off the day.
- 9:30 AM – 9:45 AM** **Break**
- 9:45 AM – 11:00 AM** **What Just Happened: What the Trends of 2022 Tell Us About 2024 [146ABC]**
The surprising results of the 2022 midterm humbled “Red Wave” prognosticators, launched many bad takes, and revealed some very complex trends - both very encouraging and concerning - in the American electorate. There is strong resilience in our paths to victory after winning many critical battleground states for the third consecutive cycle. However, even our current winning margins against a deeply unpopular MAGA movement are very thin and deliver only very narrow majorities in the Electoral College and U.S. Senate. What can we say with confidence about what really happened in 2022 and why? How does the data and the experiences of those who led critical campaigns in 2022 inform our strategies heading toward 2024?

Moderator: Olivia Robinson, America Votes
Tom Bonier, TargetSmart
Terrance Woodbury, HIT Strategies
Angie Kuefler, Global Strategy Group
- 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM** **Conversation with Kelley Robinson, President of the Human Rights Campaign [146ABC]**
Join us for this exciting conversation with Kelley Robinson, the first Black, queer woman to lead the Human Rights Campaign, America’s largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality and liberation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. An experienced campaign practitioner, community organizer, and national leader, Robinson will address how we fight and win together to protect and expand the rights of the LGBTQ+ community across the country.

Moderator: Deirdre Schifeling, American Civil Liberties Union
Kelley Robinson, Human Rights Campaign
- 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM** **Lunch Served**
- 12:00 PM – 12:45 PM** **Lunch Plenary: Building Resilient Organizations with Maurice Mitchell, National Director of the Working Families Party [146ABC]**
In a time where the stakes are high, the strains are real and the work is more crucial than ever, how are we ensuring we’re building resilient and effective organizations? Join us for a conversation with Working Families Party National Director, Maurice Mitchell about the challenges and imperatives of building strong progressive organizations for a more impactful movement.

Moderator: Kellie Dupree, America Votes
Maurice Mitchell, Working Families Party

12:45 PM - 1:45 PM

Reaching Every Last Voter for Every Last Vote: Program Learnings from 2022 [146ABC]

In 2022, the America Votes coalition deployed tens of millions of voter contact attempts in the field in our largest-ever collective mobilization program. Overall, our coalition partners attempted almost half of all registered voters in AV states during the 2022 election cycle, with a majority of the work focused on communities of color. Join us for a spirited panel conversation with experienced campaign practitioners as we explore key questions, including who did we talk to in 2022 and who didn't we reach?? And what did we learn from our programs in 2022 in order to reach more of our voters and have better conversations with them in 2024?

Moderator: Shabab Siddiqui, America Votes
Nadia Belkin, Asian American Power Network
Daniel Gonzales, America Votes
Melissa Morales, Somos Votantes
Mondale Robinson, Black Male Voter Project

1:45 PM – 2:00 PM

Break

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Afternoon Breakouts: Growing & Mobilizing a Winning Coalition

Digital Mobilization: Converting Online Targets Into Offline Voters [144C]

This panel will explore how leading practitioners are effectively using digital ads to target and turn out key constituencies. How can progressives talk with voters before the final weeks of elections and what are the best ways to find hard-to-reach voters?

Moderator: Nick Ahamed, Priorities USA
Amanda Ach, Senate Majority PAC
Shwetika Bajjal, Planned Parenthood Action Fund
Ashley Robinson, Progress GA

Voter Registration: Growing the Electorate With New Registrants (& New Voters) [144B]

Voter registration is critical to expanding the electorate and increasing participation in our democracy. What are the best policies to improve access to registration? What are the best tactics to register voters, especially BIPOC and young voters? Once voters are in the pipeline, how do we ensure participation and retention?

Moderator: Ashley Session, America Votes-Pennsylvania
Kadida Kenner, New Pennsylvania Project and the New PA Project Education Fund
Liz Lebron, Voto Latino
Ashish Sinha, Institute for Responsible Governance
Joanne Wright, Forward Majority

Native Organizing: Building Indigenous Power [144A]

Join organizers and power builders from across "Turtle Island" to learn more about building Indigenous political power in the 2024 election cycle. Panelists will discuss the unique opportunities and challenges of organizing Native people in and outside reservation communities.

Moderator: Sophie Schwartz, Indigenous Peoples Initiative
Nicole Donaghy, North Dakota Native Vote in
Jordan James Harvill, Advance Native Political Leadership
Ronnie Jo Horse, Western Native Voice
Taylor Patterson, Native Voters Alliance Nevada

Powerful New Programs: Innovations in Organizing & Contacting Voters [143C]

The 2022 midterm saw many organizations trying new ways to connect with voters. This panel will highlight some of the new ways organizations attempted to connect with voters last cycle. Panelists will cover what we've learned about these tactics, such as HTOTS and relational organizing, who they aim to connect with, how they're set up, and the opportunities and challenges for practitioners considering implementing these new tactics for the cycle ahead and beyond.

Moderator: Marissa McBride, Mind the Gap
Eric Jeng, One APIA NV
Ani Kelemdjian, VoteRev
Luis Zaldivar, CASA in Action

Canvassing Now: Scaling & Strengthening Program [143B]

In the post-pandemic era, canvassing remains one of our most important tools for persuading and mobilizing voters. While contact rates remain very high in many states, as more organizations returned to canvassing 2022 also revealed new challenges that need to be considered like canvasser safety, competitive compensation, and community health. Effective field canvassing will undoubtedly be critical to continued progressive victories in 2024 and we will discuss what is needed for canvassing at scale for success in this next presidential cycle.

Moderator: Ashlei Blue, America Votes-North Carolina
Ashley McBride, For Our Future
Kevin Pape, Working America
Andy Reynolds, Civix Strategy Group

Not Waiting For Permission: Young People Building Political Power In The States [149AB]

Climate change, COVID-19, racial injustice, the gun violence epidemic are just a few of the seismic events that have profoundly impacted the lives of young people in their formative years. However, young people are fighting back to forge their future and build a country and a democracy that reflects the diversity of their voices and experiences. From running innovative voter engagement programs to recruiting peers to run for office – young people worked to defy expectations in the 2022 midterm and deliver key victories for progressives up and down the ballot. As we look to the 2024 presidential cycle, this breakout session will bring together young leaders who are running robust campus, community, canvass, and digital programs that are increasing the participation and political power of young people.

Moderator: Amit Mistry, Alliance for Youth Action
Antonio Arellano, NextGen America
Adriana Batista, 603 Forward
Mary-Pat Hector, RISE
Teddy Landis, Project 72 WI

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Solutions, Not Scare Tactics: Building a Strong Crime and Safety Message & Winning [146ABC]

Last Tuesday, Brandon Johnson won the Chicago Mayor's race, and the “tough on crime” candidate lost. In the nation's third-largest city, this was the latest election where crime dominated the narrative. Yet for many candidates, electeds, and their teams, when it comes to issues surrounding crime, they often grab for recycled "tough on crime" language or don't know what to say at all. Hear from experts about the effective messaging that cuts through the fear-mongering to win, from key midterm elections to the latest proof point in Chicago. Voters have spoken loud and clear. They know the system is broken, and they want an affirmative vision for how their elected leadership will bring solutions.

Moderator: Brandon Boswell, American Federation of Teachers
Brandon Davis, Technicolor Political
State's Attorney Kim Foxx, Cook County, Illinois
Insha Rahman, Vera Institute of Justice and Vera Action

4:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Conversation with Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Senior Advisor and Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs [146ABC]

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Evening Reception and Networking [Unconventional Diner, 1207 9th St NW]

Co-hosted with the Voter Turnout Fund, we invite all State Summit attendees to toast to the year ahead at the official Evening Reception of the State Summit 2023. This event is located directly outside of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

Thursday, April 13

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Breakfast Served**

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM **How on Earth Did 2024 Already Begin? [146ABC]**

The 2024 cycle is already here – whether we asked for it or not. This morning's panel will walk us through the maps and the issues that will shape the electoral landscape at every level of the ballot - from the White House and U.S. Senate to the U.S. House to state legislatures.

Moderator: Josiette White, America Votes
Phaedra Jackson, NAACP
Brad Komar, House Majority PAC
Kate Moore, Giffords PAC
Cory Warfield, DLCC

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM **Breakout Sessions: Paths to Power in the States**

In these breakout sessions, you'll get an inside look at what happened in these states in the 2022 elections and what it means for 2024 planning and strategic imperatives. America Votes staff, in-state leaders, and national partners will discuss what needs to happen in 2023 to best position us for success in each state next year, including initial thoughts on the strategies, programs, and scale of work necessary to win.

Breakout 1: Pennsylvania and Minnesota [144C]

Breakout 2: Ohio and Montana [144B]

Breakout 3: Maine and New Hampshire [144A]

Breakout 4: North Carolina and Florida [143C]

Breakout 5: Wisconsin and Michigan [143B]

Breakout 6: Office Hours: Colorado, Georgia, Arizona, Ohio, Nevada, New Mexico, Virginia, Missouri, Texas, Alaska, Kentucky [146ABC]

Office Hours will provide an opportunity for interested attendees to meet with and get to know state table staff and leaders. Learn how each state is thinking about its plans to win power in 2024 and beyond.

12:00 PM – 12:45 PM **Lunch**

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM **Breakout Sessions: Paths to Power in the States**

In these breakout sessions, you'll get an inside look at what happened in these states in the 2022 elections and what it means for 2024 planning and strategic imperatives. America Votes staff, in-state leaders, and national partners will discuss what needs to happen in 2023 to best position us for success in each state next year, including initial thoughts on the strategies, programs, and scale of work necessary to win.

Breakout 1: Georgia and Nevada [144C]

Breakout 2: Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico [144B]

Breakout 3: Kentucky, Missouri, and Virginia [144A]

Breakout 4: Office Hours: Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Montana, Maine, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Florida, Wisconsin, Michigan, Tennessee, Texas [146ABC]

Office Hours will provide an opportunity for interested attendees to meet with and get to know state table staff and leaders. Learn how each state is thinking about its plans to win power in 2024 and beyond.

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Closing Session: *Started at AV, Now We're Here...* [146ABC]

After three days together, the State Summit 2023 will close with a lively conversation led by just a few of the America Votes alumni in attendance at the Summit. These former America Votes staff and current leaders within the progressive community will look back on how things have changed since their time with the organization and share what they are carrying forward from their Summit experience.

Moderator: Georgie Aguirre-Sacasa, Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation
Karen Gasper, United Food and Commercial Workers
Liz Kazal, Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy
Ashley Robinson, Progress Georgia