

PURPLE DISTRICT NETWORK

Legislators serving in purple districts face challenges and experiences that are unique: their constituents are often deeply divided on key issues, in areas of the state that are in demographic transition.

THE PURPLE DISTRICT NETWORK IS THE ONLY STATE LEGISLATOR NETWORK EXCLUSIVELY FOCUSED ON PROVIDING SUPPORT TO PROGRESSIVE STATE LEGISLATORS, IN PURPLE DISTRICTS.

Purple district legislators need strategies and tactics that allow them to strengthen relationships with their constituents and build bridges across the wide range of perspectives that often exist in their communities in order to be effective legislators. These legislators can benefit from learning from colleagues facing similar opportunities and challenges in similar districts across states.

Lawmakers who participate in our network share best practices, governance techniques, education and strategies for being effective legislators. The program offers opportunities for members to engage with each other on a broad range of issues: strengthening and protecting reproductive rights, protecting the environment and mitigating climate change, census and redistricting issues, democracy protection, how to run effective constituent services programs, developing a policy agenda, and tools for accomplishing policy goals.

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION

The Purple District Network's cohorts remain intentionally small to allow for deeper relationship building and skills transfer.

Criteria for inclusion:

Legislators who serve in frontline districts (defined as districts with win margins of about 10% or less)

Have a background and lived experience that builds toward a reflective democracy.

Invested in working collaboratively across states to build sustaining progressive power and governance

Agree with and support the statement of values.



- We are committed to safeguarding and strengthening our social safety net, rejecting any efforts to dismantle it. We recognize its crucial role in ensuring the well-being and security of our communities.
- Our advocacy for common-sense gun safety policies is rooted in respecting the Second Amendment and aligning with local community standards. We strive to strike a balance between protecting public safety and upholding the rights of responsible gun owners.
- Climate change is a reality that demands our attention. We prioritize the protection of our environment, seeking measures that mitigate its impact and ensure the sustainability of our planet for future generations.
- We need to protect all members of our diverse community, and ensure that everyone, including the most vulnerable, is treated with fairness, justice, and equality.
- We need to ensure that districts are drawn fairly and protect the right to vote, so that everyone can have a voice in politics.

PROCESS FOR INCLUSION

Legislators who meet the above criteria, will be invited to participate in a short screening call to determine programmatic fit. If invited to participate after screening, legislators will be added to the appropriate cohort. Legislators who reach out to Sister District requesting participation in the program will be screened to determine whether they meet inclusion criteria. All new members are required to complete an onboarding form to gather information about the legislator's goals for participating in the network and experiences/expertise.

COHORTS

The Purple District Network Program uses a cohort model, allowing legislators to build community, foster creativity, and share leadership skills. Cohorts are determined based on state control, allowing for legislators to learn from peers in similar circumstances. Legislators will also have the opportunity to form identity caucuses. In addition, members may choose to form identity caucuses, such as Black legislators, AAPI legislators, or working moms. Each identity caucus will be led by two member co-chairs and Sister District will provide administrative and programmatic support to all identity caucuses.

PROGRAMMING

Annual programming for the Network is designed to empower individuals seeking positive social change and foster a sense of community among legislators. It begins with a kickoff for each cohort, setting the stage for collaboration and learning. The programming encompasses various components to support legislators' development and engagement. Values-based training and leadership development sessions equip individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to drive meaningful change. Additionally, Purple District Network members will have access to the PDN Resource Library that provides a wealth of policy and governance resources, including educational materials on key issues like reproductive freedom, combating climate change, and creating representative districts.

The Network also offers a database that facilitates connections between legislators, enabling them to collaborate and share insights. To stay informed and connected, a regular newsletter is circulated. It features resources and upcoming events from Sister District and other progressive state legislative organizations, relevant news, and spotlights on legislative accomplishments.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PURPLE DISTRICT NETWORK, PLEASE CONTACT RAVEN DOUGLAS, HEAD OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS:
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**SISTER DISTRICT
ACTION NETWORK**