

Annie's List in the News

"Best PAC Campaign of 2006 - Annie's List"
Capitol Inside, November 16th 2006

"Annie's List, a three-year-old statewide organization that supports Democratic female candidates, had three major victories in the state House on Tuesday night...of the 181 Texas legislators, 19 will be Democratic women compared to 14 when Annie's List started."
Austin American-Statesman, November 9th 2006

"The organization that may have been most instrumental in these victories is the little known 'Annie's List' which is focused on electing Democratic women and developing grass-roots leadership among women."
DallasBlog.com, November 14th 2006

"[O]ne of the more successful Democratic organizations in Texas...their election year's success has shown politicians, pundits, and people across the state that Democrats can effectively run female candidates that will win"
Burnt Orange Report, November 14th 2006

"Considering the red landscape of the state, the addition of three Democratic women to the House next year is a pretty remarkable achievement."
The Austin Chronicle, December 7th 2006

2nd Annual Dallas Luncheon a Hit!

On Wednesday, September 20, more than 540 Annie's List supporters gathered at Dallas' Belo Mansion for an inspiring luncheon featuring guest speaker Karenna Gore Schiff. Attendees were enthralled by her stories of women who dedicated their lives and their voices to making a difference in the world. The crowd was also introduced to each of the Annie's List endorsed candidates, and a whopping \$206,000 was raised in support of our candidates and the Annie's List mission to change the face of power in Texas!



Introducing the AL Candidates



Honorary Co-Chair Ginny Whitesell and Karenna Gore Schiff



Luncheon Co-Chairs Muffin Lemak, Diane McQuarie, Tricia Miller and Pat Rosenthal

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to the luncheon co-chairs, Muffin Lemak, Diane McQuarie, Tricia Miller, and Pat Rosenthal and to the luncheon Host Committee for making this event such a huge success. Planning is already underway for the 2007 luncheon, stay tuned for more details!



Marc and Wendy Stanley with Lisa Kraus



Tricia Miller and Karenna Gore Schiff



Cecilia Boone, Julie Bleicher and Rabbi Nancy Kasten

Annie's List -- named for Annie Webb Blanton, the first woman elected statewide in Texas -- is a statewide political network that recruits, trains and supports Democratic women candidates so they are viable contenders.

www.annieslist.com

Political adv. paid for by Annie's List

ANNIE'S LIST

Changing the Face of Power

Winter 2006

Issue 7

Election Night Success - A Look at How Annie's List Helped Elect Three Great Women!

What an exciting year! We have just come off of our most successful election season yet and are now planning for 2008, 2010 and beyond. Read below for a detailed look at the results this year as well as some insight into our long-term strategic plan to break down political barriers, level the playing field for women candidates and fundamentally change Texas politics.

THE 2005-2006 RESULTS

To say that this was an unusual election cycle would be an understatement. Due to the death of one Democrat and the resignation of two scandal-plagued Republicans, there were three special elections for seats in the Texas House of Representatives in the last year alone. Due to skillful recruiting and a little luck, we were able to get pro-choice Democratic women candidates on the ballot in all three and win two (Ana Hernandez in Houston and Donna Howard in Austin). In the third special election, Katy Hubener made a valiant second attempt at the district in Grand Prairie after running as an Annie's List candidate in 2004.



A triumphant Ellen Cohen on Election Night
(Photo courtesy of Dalton Dehart, Copyright 2006)

Though all of these races occurred many months before Annie's List expected to be making large candidate expenditures, we were able to respond quickly to the needs of the campaigns and served as the single largest donor in two of the three and one of the largest in the third. And now, eight months in advance of November 7th, we had already achieved our modest goal for the cycle of electing two more Democratic women!

Annie's List then turned our attention to the playing field for the 2006 general-election where an unprecedented number of women had filed to run for the Legislature. We closely evaluated dozens of races looking for viable candidates in districts that could be won with well financed and professional campaigns. By examining past voting statistics, census data, vulnerabilities of Republican incumbents and more - we narrowed our focus down to an additional five women candidates for the general-election.

- Valinda Bolton in House District 47 (Open Seat, Austin)
- Ellen Cohen in House District 134 (Challenger, Houston)
- Harriet Miller in House District 102 (Challenger, Dallas)
- Paula Hightower Pierson in House District 93 (Challenger, Arlington)
- Kristi Thibaut in House District 133 (Open Seat, Houston)

Given the finite resources that would be available to impact campaigns in the fall, we made the strategic decision to play a larger financial role in a limited number of races. And we believed these five women represented our best opportunities to pick up seats on November 7th.



Valinda Bolton celebrates her victory in the March primary
(photo first run in the Austin Chronicle; Jana Birchum, photog.)

Except for Valinda Bolton, they were unopposed in the March Democratic primary and able to focus early resources on infrastructure for the general-election. Valinda however faced three male opponents in the primary, one being the son of the nationally known and well-liked District Attorney. Because of this dynamic, a large number of opinion leaders and donors in the Democratic community aligned themselves with the opponent or stayed out of it all together.

Given the Annie's List mission of taking on the establishment (whether it be on the political right or the left) and leveling the playing field for women - this was exactly the type of situation for which this organization was created. We stepped in and helped Valinda professionalize her campaign with training, strategic guidance and financial resources.

With the backing of Annie's List, Valinda was able to tap into our statewide network of supporters and raise over 85% of her budget for the run-off from the women donors of Annie's List. As a result, she won a resounding 67% of the vote in the run-off and now fondly refers to herself as the "poster child for Annie's List."

From March through November, in every single one of these campaigns, we made early and regular financial investments, trained the candidates, helped hire and train staff, provided regular strategic consultation and more. The end-result however was that we were able to help build top-notch, professional campaigns.

These candidates were outspent handily but ran smarter and more efficient races. A major portion of that efficiency was made possible by the Annie's List infrastructure and support. Whether they needed assistance in correctly filing campaign finance reports, developing voter contact strategy, writing press releases, prepping for debates, writing fundraising plans, working with consultants and more - we were there for them at all hours.

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ANNIE'S LIST

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Annie's List Calendar

Jan 8: Post-Election Celebration at Scholz Garten
(join Annie's List in Austin for an evening with good friends, great BBQ, and music by the fabulous Asylum Street Spankers!)

Jan 9: Swearing-In of 80th Legislature at the Texas Capitol

Jan 26-27: El Paso Candidate Training

April: Austin Luncheon (date/location TBA)

For details on these and other upcoming calendar events, please visit www.annieslist.com

Annie's List is proud to receive contributions in honor or in loving memory of the women and men who serve as inspirations to our supporters.

IN HONOR OF:

Naomi Aberly & Cecilia Boone
- by Ruthie Shor
Pam Beckert
- by Diane Buchanan
- by Adrienne Drapkin
Aimee Boone
- by Nancy Kasten
Cecilia Boone
- by Jami Hradecky
- by Cynthia Schneider, MD
- by Nancy Solana
Helen Chandler
- by Lesly Bosch Annen
Serena Connelly & Lisa Simmons
- by Rebel Calhoun
Amanda Dalton
- by Jeff Dalton
Kim Elting
- by Carmen Gross
Kim Elting & Sherri Cook
- by Nichole & Chris Cula
Minnie Flores
- by Hon. Veronica Gonzales
Sarah Harkinson
- by Donna Aldred
Donna Howard
- by Ann Edwards
Lisa Kraus
- by Jay W. Oppenheimer
- by JoAnne Teichman
Lisa Kraus & Naomi Aberly
- by Debbie Andres
Mitzi Levine
- by Ina M. Ayliffe
Julie Lowenberg
- by Pat Sabin
Ann Mahowald & Amy Ware
- by Staci Mankoff
Joy Mankoff
- by Cynthia Young
Dr. Gregory Marchand
- by Bruce Kruger, PhD
Harriet Miller
- by Nancy Knipp
Elaine Pearlman & Carol Levy
- by Gilian Baron
Avery Pickard
- by Bonnie New
Grier & Lorraine Raggio
- by Elisa Reiter
Sue Roman
- by Nikki & Claire Gibson
Pat Rosenthal
- by Arlene Dayton
- by Marilyn Halla
Emily Sentilles
- by Nikki & Claire Gibson
Kayla Silvers
- by Iris Silvers
Debby Spradley
- by Vera Baker
- by Barbara Glazer Rosenblatt
Anne Wright Williams
- by Oleta Salyards

IN MEMORY OF:

Mary Jane Brogan
- by Sue Roman
(continued on next page)

Election Night Success (continued from Page 1)

And even though in the 2001 redistricting process each seat had been specifically drawn for a Republican and held by a Republican for a range of 4 to 14 years – we were able to win three out of the five Annie's List races on November 7th.

- Representative-elect Valinda Bolton
- Representative-elect Ellen Cohen
- Representative-elect Paula Hightower Pierson

To make election day even sweeter, the two women victorious in the special elections had such resounding wins then (Rep. Ana Hernandez and Rep. Donna Howard) that they faced no serious opposition in the fall and were easily re-elected.

To be clear, that means when the 80th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature convenes on January 9th 2007 – there will be an additional FIVE pro-choice Democratic women to be our voice at the decision making table!

The partisan balance has now shifted in the Texas House to a 69-D to 81-R split and Democrats are within striking distance of winning the 76 votes it takes to control the House before the 2011 redistricting process. There is no doubt that we are on the verge of turning the tide in Texas and Annie's List is critical to that effort.

FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

Annie's List spent the last year building a robust and comprehensive political program to provide much more than just money to women candidates. Our goal is to provide a full range of services for candidates from start-to-finish to help them build effective, efficient and professional campaigns. The first step in that process is to map out opportunities several election cycles in advance and recruit candidates in those targeted, winnable areas.

We will conduct over a dozen candidate trainings this election cycle (30-60 women per training) to make sure women have the skill set and information necessary to build the early stages of a top-notch campaign. Then the Annie's List Campaign School will also train campaign staffers to work on targeted races. This unique program trains the next generation of Democratic campaigners while also helping our women candidates run professional campaigns and win.

Of course a critical component of our success has been the ability to distribute substantial financial resources to the right candidates at the right time. For example, we invested over \$250,000 in targeted races this election cycle with early and consistent financial contributions. Our candidates were considered viable from the outset and repeatedly exceeded financial goals, thereby earning the attention of even more financial allies.

Finally, research has shown that women voters tend to support women candidates disproportionately. In some elections we engage and activate women voters independently of the campaigns. These extra layers of

communications can play a large role in getting an infrequent woman voter to the polls. In 2006 we produced over 10,000 live Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) phone calls to women who do not normally vote in non-presidential elections and there is no doubt it made a positive impact in at least Paula Hightower Pierson's and Valinda Bolton's races.

In 2008 and 2010 we have to protect our incumbents and continue to gain ground in the Texas legislature. We are digesting the results of the 2006 election and combing through county and precinct data from across the state to identify areas where a winnable campaign could be mounted in the next 2-4 years (maybe both as it sometimes takes two tries to win a seat).

In addition, we are already planning our first campaign training for the 2007-2008 election cycle to be held in El Paso in January. It will be the first of many to come in the next 25 months. These trainings will serve as a critical organizing tool in communities where we are growing the Annie's List grassroots, building relationships and recruiting women to run in the future.

In short, we are energized about our prospects, have a strategic plan and formula for success in place and hit the ground running on November 8th in the effort to build on the successes just 24 hours earlier.

ANNIE'S LIST SUPPORTERS MADE THE DIFFERENCE

None of the things mentioned here (electoral successes, political programs or plans for the future) would be possible without the generous support of our donors. *Thank you* for sharing Annie's List's long-term vision and for sticking with us every step of the way in achieving our goals.

We would also like to extend a very special thank you to all of the women candidates who ran this year – especially Harriet, Katy and Kristi, who each gracefully endured a loss. They stepped out of their comfort zones, put their personal reputations on the line and stood up for the principles for which we all believe. There is no doubt that their communities will be a better place for it.

By all of us working together we have helped elect eight progressive, pro-choice women to the Texas Legislature since 2003. Just as important though is the lasting infrastructure that we have been able to build to recruit, train & support women candidates for years to come.

With this systemic change comes our ability to truly change the face of power and stop the right-wing assault on the health, safety and financial security of women and their families. And a return to a progressive agenda will not be far behind. For that we should all be proud, hopeful and energized to tackle our next challenges.



Kelly White with Paula Hightower Pierson and Betty Richie at a Dallas reception

Farewell Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

YES – as an Annie's List supporter, you are, I am guessing, as excited as I am about the strides women made in the 2006 elections. Here in Texas we elected seven new Democratic legislators this election cycle and five of the seven were Annie's List candidates. We vowed to change the face of power and we are well on our way - of the 181 Texas legislators, 20 will be Democratic women, up from 14 when Annie's List started in 2003.

While we have accomplished much, we still have much to do. But for the moment – my work as the executive director of Annie's List is completed.

I stepped in as executive director in early 2006, at a somewhat tumultuous time in the organization's history, committing to stay through the November elections and helping to see some of my long time good friends elected.

The elections are now past, my good friends did indeed win their hard fought elections, I made many new good friends in the process, and now I am stepping away from the helm of Annie's List with my personal mission as executive director truly accomplished.

I am proud of the fact that in the past year we recruited a committed team of women leaders from across the state to serve on our Board of Directors, opened our first professional office, hired qualified full-time staff and instituted governance policies and financial procedures.

In addition, we created a sophisticated database to track donors and allies, implemented the Campaign School program to provide trained staff to our endorsed candidates, made over \$250,000 in direct financial contributions and engaged thousands of targeted women voters in the final days of the election.

Most importantly, we have played a critical role in helping to take back four seats in the Texas House of Representatives and build the infrastructure to help Democratic women win for years to come.

With the organization now on solid footing, the search is underway for a permanent executive director to continue building on these successes and take this organization into the next election cycle and beyond.

While I am leaving my position at Annie's List, that doesn't mean that I am stepping away from the organization and its mission. You know, as I do, that social change doesn't just happen. It takes people with passion to make it happen. Changing the face of power is my passion and I will continue to work at every level to achieve this goal.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Kelly White



Tribute to a Trailblazer: Thank You Governor Richards



Gov. Richards at the 2005 Dallas Luncheon

Like so many of our supporters, we were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Governor Ann Richards this past September. Governor Richards was one of the earliest supporters in creating Annie's List; she headlined our very first public event and served as a constant guide and inspiration in our effort to change the face of power in Texas politics by changing the playing field for Democratic women candidates.

Time and again she raised the bar for what Democratic women can and must do to keep Texas moving forward. She never hesitated to speak truth to power and stand up for what she believed to be right. And, in the spirit for which this organization was formed, Ann Richards was a tireless advocate in shaping public dialogue and public policy to protect the health, safety and financial security of women and their families.

She will forever serve as an inspiration and reminder for the Democratic women candidates who walk the halls of Annie's List in the years to come that women MUST have a seat at the table when decisions are made and that government works better for everyone when they do.

So to you, Governor Richards, we say thank you for blazing the trail to show us it can be done and thank you for being a founding member and guide for Annie's List in these first years. In return we promise to stay true to our mission and build on what you have helped to start.

IN MEMORY OF (continued):

Linda Hankinson
- by Cathy Doyle
Robert Hoffman
- by Regan Fearon
- by Marguerite Hoffman
Judge Sarah T. Hughes
- by Joann Peters
Dr. Mae Jackson
- by Molly Beth Malcolm
A.E. Meador
- by Gloria Gray
Governor Ann Richards
- by Nancy Berry
- by Billye Brown
- by Janet Elkin
- by Amy Fikes
- by Susan Gore
- by Gloria Gray
- by Lynn Grimes
- by Janice Henderson
- by Cecily Horton
- by Grace K. Jameson, MD
- by Anne Knight
- by Elizabeth Lippincott
- by Madeline McClure
- by Bettye Nowlin
- by Tegwin Pulley
- by Jane Saginaw
- by Jane Sandlin
- by Cindy Schuartz
- by Dale Sonnenberg
- by Mary Ross Taylor & Ginny Galtney
- by Pam Wetzels
- by Carol Wilson
- by Paula Wilson
Sue Sellers
- by Karen Briscoe
Harlene Shreve
- by Michael Smith
Ruth Webb
- by Frances Franklin
Jerry Wheeler
- by Deborah Dobbs
Ruthe Winegarten
- by Jackie McElhaney

If you are interested in making a contribution to Annie's List in honor or memory of someone special in your life, please contact Mel Abel at (512) 481-8100 or by email at mel@annieslist.com. Personalized cards acknowledging your gift can be sent to the person of your choice.

Do We Have Your Info?

We want to make sure you are receiving our frequent updates on Annie's List events, endorsed candidates, and related news of interest to our supporters. To ensure that we have your up-to-date info, send an email with your name, address, and contact info to info@annieslist.com.

THANK YOU!