



What's at Stake in 2010?

Reproductive Rights

Abortion rights and birth control are under attack in this country. Last summer, an anti-abortion extremist murdered Dr. George Tiller, an OB/GYN and abortion provider, in his Wichita church. Anti-choice extremists continue to vandalize and harass clinics around the country, and are working to add fetal personhood initiatives to the ballot in Alaska, Colorado, and North Dakota. Abortion, IUDs and emergency contraceptives are all threatened by these dangerous measures.

Global Women's Rights

Lawmakers elected in 2010 will decide whether we'll aid the women and girls of Afghanistan, how much funding we'll devote to ending violence against women, and if the U.S. Senate will ratify the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) treaty.

Women's Economic Equality

Even today, a woman with a college degree will make less money on average than a man without a high school diploma. Decision-makers elected in 2010 will make decisions about pay equity, education, minimum and livable wage laws, family and sick leave policies, welfare, and economic policies that will create or lose jobs.

Civil Rights and Human Rights

Federal lawmakers will decide whether to weaken or strengthen Title IX, the historic U.S. law that prohibits discrimination in federally funded educational programs. In Arizona, voters will confront an anti-affirmative action ballot initiative. While the courts decide the constitutionality of California's Proposition 8 banning same-sex marriage, state and federal lawmakers continue to debate same-sex marriage bans.

Environment and Oil

The next Congress will shape environmental laws regulating corporate polluters, and how strictly these laws are enforced. Congress determines our energy policies, whether we are will reduce our dependence on oil, and whether we invest in renewable energy sources.

Globalization and Trade Policies

The next Congress and President will shape the U.S. role in globalization, our global trade policies, whether we crack down on sweatshops and protect workers' rights internationally from Mexico to the Marianas Islands, and what we do to stop human trafficking.

Vote on Tuesday, November 2nd!



Why HER Vote Counts

As we saw in the historic 2008 general election, the mobilization of students – especially young feminist women – has the potential to change the political landscape in many states and the country as a whole. And remember, the 2000 presidential election was decided by only 537 votes.

Only 64% of the eligible voters in the United States voted in 2008. Worse yet, only 49% of 18-24 year olds voted, compared to 70% of seniors 65 years and older. No wonder Social Security is the third rail of politics while young women's issues like reproductive rights, peace, affirmative action, and the environment take a back seat.

Young people, especially young women, have enormous rights at stake in this election. But among women, 18- to 24-years old vote less than any other age group. It's time to change these numbers!

Women Are Under-Represented

Even though women are 51% of the population, women hold 17% of the seats in the U.S. Congress. Only 5% of U.S. House seats are held by women of color, and there are no women of color in the U.S. Senate.

The picture in our state legislatures is better, but still dismal: women today hold only 24% of state legislative seats nationwide. At the current rate of gain for women in elective office, it will take over 200 years to achieve parity with men in Congress.

The Gender Gap

Increasing voter participation among young women has the power to transform politics. Women vote differently than men; this measurable difference in the way women and men vote and view issues is called the gender gap. This gap can be significant, and frequently (since 1980) has determined the outcome of elections.

Your Vote Counts!

Young women need to register, vote, and run for government in record numbers. Under-representation begins in student governments, so run for office on your campus and Get Out HER Vote this fall!

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Sources:

Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University

Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, Tufts University

US Census

National Conference of State Legislatures

Feminist Majority Foundation

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