

LOCALPROGRESS

LOCALPROGRESS  
IMPACT LAB

A photograph of three people—two women and one man—standing on a wooden deck in front of a modern building with large glass windows. They are all smiling and holding up white sweatshirts. The woman on the left is holding a sweatshirt with a small 'LP' logo. The woman in the middle is wearing a white t-shirt with 'LOCALPROGRESS' printed three times. The man on the right is holding a sweatshirt with the 'LOCALPROGRESS' logo. The entire image has a purple and pink color overlay.

# 20 22

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# YEAR IN REVIEW

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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This year, Local Progress is 10 years old. And even though ten years is young in organizational time, we have lived through an extraordinary decade. We have existed under the Obama, Trump and Biden presidencies, through a global pandemic, in an era of ascension for un- and anti-democratic power, and in a moment that is both defined by the power and possibility of growing mass movements for racial and economic justice as well as by backlash against these possibilities - white nationalism, authoritarianism, and increasing political violence.

Over these ten years our network has grown from a small crew of committed folks to a network of nearly 1,400 local elected officials in 47 states and DC. After 9 years of being incubated inside of the incredible Center for Popular Democracy, we have officially established ourselves as an independent organization. Over the past year we have doubled the size of our amazing [staff](#), adding dedicated capacity to build out new work on [public safety](#), [housing](#), and [school board governance](#), while continuing robust areas of work focused on economic justice and immigrant rights. We have launched new bodies of work, including certifying [Minnesota](#) as our fourth state chapter – following chapters in [New York](#), [Texas](#) and [North Carolina](#). We officially launched LP's [Black Caucus](#) and

kicked off the process of building a [Women's Caucus](#). And this summer we rolled out our new look, including [public facing 501\(c\)3 and 501\(c\)4 organizations and a refined identity](#) that lives into the vibrancy of our growing network.

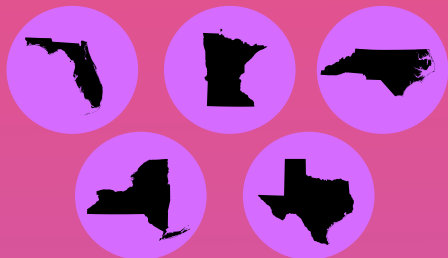
This year leaders in our network have experienced tremendous victories and also significant challenges in their work to advance equity and justice. Through all of it one word comes to mind when I think about Local Progress. Resolve. A sense that in a tumultuous and unpredictable time, our mission is clear. *We are the long game*. The fight to fully defeat right-wing extremism, to repair centuries of racial harm and exclusion at the core of our country's history and to build a truly inclusive, multi-racial democracy will not be won overnight. But the work we do at the local level makes ideas that seem impossible into reality, builds new models for how we can govern together and creates a roadmap towards our north star and a powerful network of leaders to travel together.

This year we are proud to be celebrating a decade of growth, innovation and impact building a powerful network. And we are just getting started.

In solidarity,  
Sarah Johnson

# AT A GLANCE

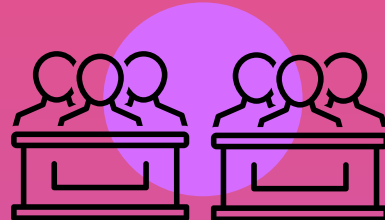
## 1,347 members in 47 states and DC



**5 state organizing committees:**  
FL, MN, NC, NY, TX



**2 identity caucuses:** the Black Caucus and the Women's Caucus



**2 member-led steering committees:** public safety and housing

# +120

More than 120 new members in 2022



**483** of state and local elected officials trained through the Progressive Governance Academy in the last two years.



More than **360** elected officials, partners, and allies attended this year's national convening in Denver, CO! Our first in-person convening in over two years.



**15** organizing calls, policy webinars, and strategy briefings in which members shared and learn about best practices in local policy and designed local strategies to advance our agenda



**10.2k** followers on Twitter and a freshly launched Facebook page!



More than **50** national and local press hits that lift the work of local leaders into the national narrative.

# OUR MISSION

Local Progress and the Local Progress Impact Lab work collectively to advance a racial and economic justice agenda through all levels of government.

## LOCAL PROGRESS

**Local Progress** is a movement of over 1,300 local elected officials advancing a racial and economic justice agenda through all levels of local government.

## LOCAL PROGRESS IMPACT LAB

The **Local Progress Impact Lab** brings together local leaders, partners, and experts to build the knowledge, skills, and leadership needed to advance racial and economic justice at the local level.

# OUR IMPACT

We advance a racial and economic justice agenda grounded in our four strategic pillars:

**RACIAL JUSTICE  
AS THE BEACON  
OF JUSTICE FOR  
ALL**

**ELECTED  
OFFICIALS AS AN  
ORGANIZED FORCE**

**COLLABORATIVE  
GOVERNING**

**ADAPTIVE CHANGE  
FROM THE  
GROUND UP**

This year, we had our greatest impact by:

★ **Building the capacity of local elected officials,** and in turn supporting collaborative governance that increases alignment, shared strategy, and trans-local collaboration.

★ **Organizing elected officials for collective impact.**

★ **Targeting structural problems** that impede progress and **shifting the public narrative** in a way that moves us closer to the consensus and shared understanding that fosters transformative change.

## BUILDING CAPACITY OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTING COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

We increased alignment, shared strategy, and collaboration across localities through policy assistance, leadership development, and programming that supports communities of learning. We helped

members develop the skills and practices to deepen trust and collaboration among values-aligned elected officials and between elected officials and movement groups.

## Bringing Leaders Together for Immersive Learning Trip on Community Responder Programs in Portland

In October, Local Progress and the Local Progress Impact Lab brought two dozen local elected officials, government staffers, and community partners together in Portland to learn about the citywide mobile community response program, Portland Street Response (PSR). Participants included LP members from Antioch, Austin, Chicago, Detroit, Durham, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York, Oak Park, Philadelphia, Phoenix, and Rochester to share best practices and learn about how PSR is expanding citywide.

Over the past two years, community responder programs have gone from theoretical ideas to robust programs with encouraging results. Dozens of LP members are working to introduce and scale a community responder unit in their localities. The two-day trip included sit down meetings to learn from PSR staff and supporting stakeholders, and



site visits that allowed LP members to go deep on the details of implementation. LP member and **Portland City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty** championed the PSR program from its inception, supporting it to become one of the first city-operated mobile response programs in the country that is operating citywide.

“I push this work because when I think about Irene Chavez - who was experiencing PTSD - being put in a police car and taking her own life after being left alone in a room instead of being connected with help, I know she could still be here if we had a different response.”

– Chicago Alderperson Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez

“Two weeks ago, five officers shot a man 38 times in three seconds responding to a mental health call. I will never forget those numbers. With the American Rescue Plan Act, we have \$7 million to invest in our communities and I’m excited to learn what we can do around community response.”

– Detroit City Councilmember Gabriela Santiago-Romero

To further support local elected officials in creating and scaling community responder programs, the

Impact Lab released the Reform/Transform: Creating a Community Responder Program tool this year.



## Launching the Housing Leadership Lab

Housing is an essential need that provides the foundation for people to build their lives, find work, raise the next generation, and age in place. As our country continues to face a growing housing crisis, it's more important than ever to ensure local electeds are equipped to pursue bold, transformative housing justice policies. That is why we launched our first **Housing Leadership Lab** - a 10-month program designed to support local elected officials who are new to housing policy in driving and sustaining housing justice work in their communities.

This year's 16-member cohort will focus on renters' issues. The pandemic shed a national spotlight on how precarious and vulnerable housing is for too many renters and also sparked new waves of collective tenant organizing to demand protections. The program – which kicked



off in July – will provide training around housing policies such as land-use and zoning, housing finance and funding, and equity; guidance and support in policy making; policy research and analysis; a network of fellow electeds and LP staff that will support and empower each participant in their work.

Participants met in-person in Chicago in November and will continue to meet regularly through next Spring.

## Progressive Governance Academy (PGA)

A joint project between State Innovation Exchange (SiX), Local Progress and re:power, the PGA supports progressive elected officials to build power in partnership with their peers and with local progressive movement actors, while strengthening their skills in governance for a lifelong career in public leadership. In the past two years, we trained nearly 500 state and local elected officials, including in New York, North Carolina, Milwaukee, WI, and Denver, CO. We also hired a new director who will help drive this cross-organizational project and implement the systems and processes that facilitate the PGA's governance trainings and workshops.



# ORGANIZING FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Working together across cities, towns, counties, and school boards, we drove and engaged in strategic campaigns that won pivotal legislative victories at the

local level, built state power, and elevated important issues to the national stage.

## Localities Move to Protect Abortion Access and Reproductive Rights in a Post-Dobbs Reality



After the draft Supreme Court decision leaked in April, [localities across the country](#) geared up to defend abortion access, reproductive rights, and bodily autonomy. Countless local leaders introduced and passed resolutions and ordinances recognizing abortion as a human right and declaring their locality a sanctuary for reproductive care. Many also designated and expanded funding for reproductive health, creating practical support funds to aid people who would need to travel for abortion care out-of-state. In states where abortion is no longer legal, local electeds used their local governing authority to pass nondiscriminational ordinances and deprioritize efforts to criminalize abortion care.

In the aftermath of the official *Dobbs* decision, **LPTX** members and community partners worked in deep collaboration to use local authority to protect residents from the state's trigger ban. Localities began to introduce and pass the *Guarding the Right to Abortion Care for Everyone* or *GRACE*

Act - a resolution first introduced by **Austin City Councilmember Chito Vela** in May. The policy makes investigating people seeking abortion, funds, and providers the lowest priority for law enforcement officers and ensures municipal funding is not used to enforce the state's abortion ban or in support of such investigations. **Denton** became the first locality to pass a resolution, followed by **Austin, San Antonio, El Paso County, and Dallas**. The work inspired similar resolutions to deprioritize abortion investigations in [South Fulton, GA](#), [Nashville, TN](#), and [Ithaca, NY](#). [Read more →](#)



Adam R. Bazaldua  
@AdamBazaldua

Thank you to our TX chapter of [@LocalProgress](#) for fighting for reproductive rights! 🙌💪



Local Progress · @LocalProgress · Aug 11

Big things happening in Texas! Just yesterday, Dallas became the 5th locality in TX to fight the criminalization of abortion.

We applaud these five localities for using their legislative powers to ensure ALL people have the freedom to control their own bodies. #LiberateAbortion

### LOCALITIES ACROSS TEXAS ARE FIGHTING THE CRIMINALIZATION OF ABORTIONS.

Punishing people for their healthcare decisions undermines our right to bodily autonomy. Local leaders across Texas are passing resolutions to ensure resources will not be used to criminalize abortion.

- ✓ DENTON
- ✓ AUSTIN
- ✓ SAN ANTONIO
- ✓ EL PASO COUNTY
- ✓ DALLAS





## **LP Members See Big Win Against Comcast for Internet Access**

In January, Comcast announced that they would not enact data caps in markets across the Northeast, meaning that customers can continue to use the internet they need without worrying about penalties. This comes a year after Local Progress members in **Baltimore** and coalition partners brought a

case to the Maryland Attorney General arguing that enacting data caps during a pandemic was predatory. Last year, over 100 LP members [wrote a letter](#) to the FCC calling on them to investigate these types of corporate tactics that lead to digital redlining. At a time when the internet is necessary for education, health care, and participating in the modern economy, access to the internet is a lifeline, not a luxury. [Read more →](#)

## **Good Cause Eviction Passes in Localities Across New York**

As the New York State eviction moratorium expired on January 15th, localities across New York moved to strengthen their own housing policies and tenant protections. **Beacon, Kingston, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, and Albany** each passed Good Cause eviction laws, protecting tenants from unjust evictions, including those from unconscionable rent increases and nonrenewal of leases. Several months after their passage, the laws are receiving

legal challenges by local landlords and developers. Nevertheless, the trans-local push for good cause is helping further seed the ground for state action, as progressive state legislators continue to try to pass it at the state level. [Read more →](#)

## The Fight Against Abusive State Preemption Continues in Florida

Local governments are those closest to communities. It is critical that they are able to make policy and budgetary decisions that are inclusive of and responsive to the most pressing needs. The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us how important it is for local governments to have the authority and flexibility to address the unique, ever-changing needs of their communities.

In November 2021, eight localities across **Florida** filed a lawsuit against [House Bill 1](#) with the support of the [Public Rights Project](#), [Community Justice Project](#), and the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#).

Known as Florida's anti-protest and anti-local control law, HB 1 is a far-reaching law that undermines both free speech and assembly, and the ability of local governments to pass budgets responsive to their communities' needs. The law violates Florida's constitution, as it aims to criminalize protest and punish local governments if they try to reduce law enforcement budgets. It also waives sovereign immunity for cities and makes them civilly liable for personal injury, wrongful death, or property damage that occurs during "unlawful" assembly.

**“As I sat in the courtroom, it was clear that cities can and should continue to fight to protect their ability to shape their budgets and respond to their communities' needs. If we don't stand up and defend local control, we lose power. And when we lose power, so does everyone.”**

**– Tallahassee Commissioner Jack Porter.**

Local Progress played a critical role in recruiting and supporting members to pass resolutions in their localities authorizing their participation in the lawsuit. The work has been deeply led by LP members in nearly every locality, particularly in Gainesville -- which was the first city to join the litigation thanks to the leadership of former



In July, Local Progress filed its first-ever [amicus brief](#) signed by 45 LP members, detailing how the law unlawfully takes away power from local governments to respond to their communities' needs and stand up for racial justice.

In September, following months of organizing in coalition with legal partners, plaintiff cities prepared for the lawsuit's [first judicial hearing](#). In a huge win for the coalition, the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida [ruled](#) that the lawsuit could continue forward with five of the eight original cities.

LP member Gail Johnson. Now that the lawsuit is poised to move forward, Local Progress will continue to provide coalition building and communications support to members as plaintiffs, helping to build public support and interest in the case and sharing a model for other electeds across the country battling preemption laws.

# TARGETING STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS & SHIFTING THE PUBLIC NARRATIVE

One of our core strategies is redefining the role of elected officials in the progressive movement. We worked with movement partners and elected officials at other levels of government to actualize mechanisms

for shared power and mutual accountability with communities historically marginalized by government and policy making.

## **Demonstrating the Impact of Sick and Safe Leave in Minnesota**

Hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans still do not have guaranteed sick and safe leave, an issue that disproportionately impacts women, people of color, and low-wage workers. In February, during the state's legislative session, **St. Paul Councilmember Mitra Jalali, Minneapolis Councilmember Jeremiah Ellison, and Duluth City Councilmember Azrin Awal** published [an op-ed](#) advocating for Minnesota to pass sick and safe time at the state level, building on the foundation laid by the laws passed

in their cities. The LP members, who have seen the benefits of sick and safe time in their localities, called on the state to pass the policy to provide all Minnesota families with the ability to accrue up to 48 hours of time to care for themselves or loved ones. While the earned sick and safe leave proposal saw little movement during the legislature's lame duck session, the call to action from local electeds reaffirmed workers' demands and helped push back against the scarcity-based messaging that opponents of the policy were using to justify not taking up the issue. [Read More →](#)



## Reimagining an Inclusive Immigration Policy & Stepping Up to Put Action Behind “Sanctuary”



After over a year with the Biden Administration in office, Mayors Jesse Arreguín of **Berkeley, CA** and Daniel Biss of **Evanston, IL** reflected on the progress that has been made and the significant work that still needs to be done to build an inclusive immigration policy in the US. In the piece, the authors discuss their commitment to maintaining their cities' sanctuary city status, as well as the specific policies their localities have introduced to protect and support immigrant communities. They share a vision to restore human rights at the border, economically invest in immigrant communities, and end the jail to deportation pipeline. [Read more →](#)

Ever since Texas Governor Greg Abbott began sending migrants and people seeking asylum on buses to Washington, D.C. and New York City in a

racist and cruel political stunt, local communities sprung into action to welcome new arrivals with dignity and care. This is what “sanctuary” truly means – welcoming people with the services and support they need to find stability and build a life. In the ensuing months, LP members and allies in the state legislature have [pushed](#) to bring the resources of local government to supplement the [tireless efforts](#) of local activists and community organizations. Abbott’s dehumanizing tactics have failed in their aim of exposing “sanctuary cities” as hypocritical. Our network will continue to organize, coordinating city to city from the border and beyond, to put policy and budget action behind the rhetoric of sanctuary.

# LET'S TALK REAL SAFETY

## MESSAGING GUIDE 2022

**LOCALPROGRESS**

### **Shifting the Narrative Around Public Safety**

In our ongoing and ever-forward work to transform safety in and with our communities, one thing remains clear: we are stronger when we collectively and consistently drive a shared vision of community safety.

One of our biggest priorities in this work has been around narrative – focusing on the need to shift public consciousness and opinion in order to move us closer to the consensus and shared understanding needed as the foundation for widespread policy change and implementation.

This year, we released [\*Let's Talk Real Safety: Messaging Guide\*](#). As the latest resource in our suite of [tools](#) to build real safety, this messaging guide provides Local Progress members with shared language around community safety; designed so that people in different local contexts and political

climates can use it. It is grounded in the latest research, polling, and nationally-tested messaging, which are referenced and cited throughout. LP's Public Safety Steering Committee drove the ideation and development of the tool, helping to identify the most pressing needs, opportunities, and challenges.

In the coming year, we look forward to using the tool as the foundation for new and creative narrative projects that engage more local leaders and reach a broader audience beyond the progressive movement.

# LABOR OF LOVE

This year, we dug deeper into one critical area of work and experimented with new ways of supporting and engaging local elected officials with economic justice and workers' rights.



“Labor is the basis of our democracy. That’s real. Our power remains with our labor.”

– Christian Smalls, president and founder of the Amazon Labor Union.

Local governments can and must continue to pass labor protections, show public solidarity with local workers, and help build worker power. Inspired by the wave of incredible worker power taking hold across the country – from the unionization fights led by workers at Amazon, Starbucks, and Congress – the Local Progress Impact Lab focused heavily on creating the tools local electeds need to push and implement transformative workers’ rights policies.

In June, we released a comprehensive workers’ rights report in partnership with [Terri Gerstein](#), the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), and the Harvard Law School Labor and Worklife Program. Titled [The role of local government in protecting workers’ rights](#),

the report gives a comprehensive overview of the ways that localities can and are taking action on behalf of working people.

Alongside the report, the Impact Lab also [presented the report at EARNCon 2022](#), co-hosted a [webinar](#) that had more than 300 attendees, and hosted a [digital town hall](#) with LP members and partners about how localities can strengthen their role in protecting workers.

These tools are not only helping localities take action - but also helping us collectively reframe a broader understanding of local government’s role and power.

“Ask most anyone, “What do local governments do?” and you’ll get similar answers: run schools, clean parks, collect garbage, clear snow, etc. Increasingly, though, that framework is changing: localities are also becoming champions of workers’ rights.

– [RouteFifty](#).



# GROWING AND COHERING THE LP NETWORK

As our network grows, we've been intentional in building more structured spaces for alignment and community.

## Identity Caucuses Grow: The Black Caucus and Women's Caucus



Last year, our work to build the Black Caucus helped us shape a framework for creating future identity caucuses. This year, we built on that foundation by launching the Women's Caucus.

The [Women's Caucus](#) is our second identity-based caucus, and part of our work to build spaces where electeds can come together over shared experiences and struggles. The Women's Caucus is a space for self-identifying members to gather and share their lived experiences in governing. We are building a collective vision that will create more avenues to support women in office, women who want to run for office, and the women and caretakers in our community.

The Women's Caucus is open to both current and former LP members who identify as a woman, who identify as a combination of genders, or who do not subscribe to a gender binary and feel that this space could serve them.

After our first in-person meeting in Denver, we announced our caucus leadership committee, which will play a critical role in shaping the vision and shared strategy of the caucus, and the caucus [elected](#) its first co-chairs: **Las Cruces City Councilor Johana Bencomo** and **Florence Unified School District Governing School Board Vice-President Sherri Jones**! As the caucus formalizes its structure, members look forward to diving into policy issues and exercising its organizing power.

This year, the [Black Caucus](#) focused on resilience and community building, supporting the unique needs, opportunities, and challenges that come with governing while Black. At the national convening, Black Caucus members held their first caucus healing session that focused trauma-informed somatic movement practices, sound baths, meditation visualizations and other healing arts modalities to remove energetic blocks in the body where trauma resides.

**“It is invaluable to have a space to be in community with my peers who share similar lived experiences and know exactly what I'm going through. Being an elected official is hard and we need safe spaces like this in order to share struggles, celebrate victories, recharge, and find joy – because that is how we build resilience in this work.”**

**– Nancy Metayer, Coral Springs Commissioner, Black Caucus Member**

## Establishing a LP Chapter in Minnesota

In August, Local Progress Minnesota (LPMN) was officially certified as our fourth state chapter - joining LPNY, LPTX, and LPNC!

A Local Progress state chapter is a statewide organization of Local Progress members with a formal leadership structure, a robust and representative membership, and typically a goal to raise money to hire staff capacity locally. State chapter development and certification is approved by Local Progress' national board.

With more than 60 local electeds across the state, we are focused on driving progressive change through collaborative governance with local partners & communities. In March, we held our first statewide meeting where we built alignment



with partners and developed strategies to inform our work in public safety, housing, and climate – creating the foundation for work in the year ahead.

## Reshaping School Board Governance Amidst a Rising Tide of Conservative Organizing

School boards have garnered significant attention over the past year as the targeted battleground for extremists who deny basic elements of our country's history and disregard public health imperatives. The current efforts to undermine faith in our public education system are a part of a broadly coordinated attack at all levels of government on the legitimacy of our democracy. Just as political violence is on the rise across our society, we are seeing [rising threats of violence against school board members](#). And the waves of reactionary school board level policy ranging from book bans to denying the rights of LGBTQ students to censoring the teaching of American history honestly and accurately are in many places being legitimized, encouraged, and accelerated by state legislatures and statewide officials.



With more than 200 school board members in the Local Progress network, we have begun digging deeper into our school board work and laying a foundation for a policy, organizing, and narrative strategy in 2023. This year, we started convening a cohort of school board members, solidified our partnerships with education justice allies, and hosted a number of governance and policy workshops. We look forward to organizing programs focused on improving governing processes and outcomes and changing the narrative, showing that it is possible to govern towards more just and equitable outcomes.



## Our 2022 National Convening: Resilience. Power. Transformation.

After three years apart, being together again was nothing short of incredible. More than 360 local elected officials, partners, and allies in community – sharing, healing, and learning together. Pushing each other. Empowering one another. There are so many incredible memories.

This convening was also our most ambitious national convening yet. Altogether, we had more than 44 different plenaries, receptions, meetings, site visits, and workshops, covering everything from workers' rights to housing to reproductive justice and transit equity.

One of the most exciting parts and a fan-favorite were the eight simultaneous site visits and tours run as part of the main program. There's so much exciting policy happening in Denver and participants got out to see it for themselves and learn about local resilience in food systems, climate action and strong unions, infrastructure, development, and planning.

Don't forget to check out [our photo album on Facebook](#) and [our favorite hot takes on Twitter](#).





# STORIES OF US



Kelly Leibold, Pine Island City Council

May 7 at 1:30 PM · 🌐

"When local leaders speak truth to power, it moves people."

On Friday I had the opportunity to meet with other elected officials at my first [Local Progress](#) event in Saint Paul. The public gets the services they need most from local levels of government, and our work is where the "rubber hits the road." Members of Local Progress share values and a collective voice.

After starting with a Dakota land acknowledgement and a grounding exercise, we focused on the public safety debate: not a fight we're winning or losing per se, but one we're contesting. What are the root causes of violence and trauma? Public safety is more comprehensive than policing alone: it involves access to affordable housing, jobs that pay a living wage, food security, after school programs... Local Progress encourages us to lead discussions with our values. After introducing the problem, offer a vision and solution(s). It's important to name the villain and call out fear mongering and division, as well. Folks shouldn't be able to get away with actively spouting disinformation.

During the afternoon, breakout sessions focused on four different issues. I chose the affordable housing track where we discussed the NIMBY mentality and need for a narrative shift. Policies like rent stabilization and just cause for eviction are not widespread--we live in a weak tenant protection state. How do we engage with and educate elected officials? What local data or knowledge is available? One suggestion was to hold Council study sessions to better understand policies. Alongside these efforts should be community organizing and feedback from constituents, especially those experiencing disparities. City staff and city attorneys tend to push back on more progressive policies, trying to protect the city from potential litigation. A landlord association recently sued the City of Saint Paul for enacting a just cause notice.

Other breakouts included a school board cohort, climate action, and diving deeper into public safety. Note, these issues are all interconnected and are just a selection of what's on a local elected official's mind. School board members noted white supremacist attitudes pervading meetings and curriculum: who sets the narrative on safe public schools preparing kids to face the future and participate in a multiracial democracy? The climate track expressed prioritizing policy that actually impacts the climate over "feel good" legislation like proclamations. The public safety track discussed community response teams and departments of public safety.

Repetition is necessary: we know we're stronger when we're united around our shared values. We all can thrive when we fully fund our communities. I'm grateful to Local Progress for the work they do. I am inspired by (and can learn from) my local elected officials of all backgrounds and perspectives. [#pineislandstrong](#)



Marissa Roy

@MarissaRoy\_LA

This was an incredible team effort by [@public\\_rights](#), [@cjpMiami](#), [@splcenter](#) & [@JennerBlockLLP](#) to file this groundbreaking lawsuit!

We could not have done it without the courage and leadership of [@LocalProgress](#) leaders like [@Gail4Gville](#) & [@VoteJackPorter](#)!

Thank you!!!

6:28 PM · Sep 20, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

2 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 16 Likes



Juan Miguel Arredondo (He/Él) @VoteJMA · Jun 22

I attended my 1st [@LocalProgress](#) meeting last summer. (Thanks [@GregCasar](#) & [@acg4SMTX](#) for the invite!) Since then & w/ their support we've accomplished a lot!

- 👉 COVID-19 safe schools reopening
- 👉 historic staff pay raises & \$16 minimum wage
- 👉 mental health supports for students



**Local Progress** @LocalProgress · Jun 22

If you're a school board member - get excited!

Our Campaigns Organizer Josh Acevedo is helping ramp up our school board work, including:

- Creating a community of practice
- Convening a school board cohort
- Developing a training program, policy platform & resources

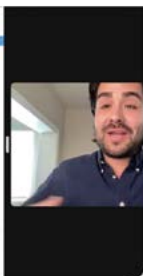
[Show this thread](#)



**Josh Acevedo, Ed.D.**

Campaigns Organizer, School Boards

School Board Trustee, District 3  
o Independent School District - El Paso, Texas



Mike Bonin

@mikebonin

Fired up after [@localprogress](#) convening. Nationwide, progressives are scoring wins for tenants, workers, housing, sustainability, reimagined public safety & more.

Stoked [@EunissesH](#) & [@kennethmejiaLA](#) joined me. A new generation of leaders will make LA a progressive beacon.



Kenneth Mejia, CPA and 2 others

12:18 PM · Aug 7, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



**Greg Casar** @GregCasar · Aug 6

US House candidate, TX-35

Together, @LocalProgress members are shaking every chamber in this country up to U.S. Congress!

I'm incredibly proud to be an alum. #LP2022



**Local Progress** @LocalProgress · Aug 6

So happy to welcome back former Board co-chair and LP alum, @GregCasar!

Greg modeled what it means to be both an organizer and an elected official, organizing with his colleagues to raise wages, invest in public health, and create housing.

"We ARE the majority."

#LP2022



**Elissa Silverman** @tweetelissa · Sep 30

This week I re-introduced the Reckless Driver Accountability Act, modeled after a New York City program I learned about from @LocalProgress member @bradlander. See below for more details on the program, the video reckless drivers have to watch in NYC & their reaction to the class



**Sam Rosen-Amy** @rosenamy · Sep 30

We've gotten a few people asking about the reckless driver bill and the restorative justice classes in it. Do they really work to reduce reckless driving?

The short answer is yes. But here's a thread with more about them. [twitter.com/CM\\_Silverman/s...](https://twitter.com/CM_Silverman/s...)

[Show this thread](#)



**Hugo Garcia** @CMHugoGarcia

Replying to @LocalProgress @HelenGymPHL and 9 others

Thank you @LocalProgress this weekend was exactly what the spirit needed! #LFG



**Ashley Dwire** @ashleydwire · Aug 5

Proud to be joining @LocalProgress this week to continue to build worker power for ALL with local electeds from across the country #LP2022



**SEIU Local 105** @SEIU105 · Aug 5

Our DEN airport members are proud to stand united with @amazonlabor! When we fight, WE WIN! @Shut\_downAmazon #UnionsForAll



“The thing that is most inspiring is how LP always seems to be at the right place and the right time. Especially in responding to the many crises we’ve seen in our democracy, especially post-2016. Seeing this group of leaders mobilize in the days and months after the Trump election, to rallying against SB 4 in Texas, to being an incredible source of information in the deepest darkest days of the covid pandemic.”

- Elizabeth Guernsey, Open Society Foundations

# IN THE NEWS

Over the last few years, Local Progress has steadily grown its communications work and media presence. This year, we increased the visibility of work at the local level, helped push the national narrative on key issues, and uplifted local elected officials as champions of progressive change. Here are some of our favorite moments:



## Florida Phoenix:

Progressives claim FL Legislature is ignoring real people's needs this session



## Minnesota Reformer.

Minnesota's biggest cities lead in advancing worker rights



## The Nation.

How One Progressive City Is Fighting to Decriminalize Abortion.



## Next City.

New York Can Lead in Reimagining Public Safety. Here's How.



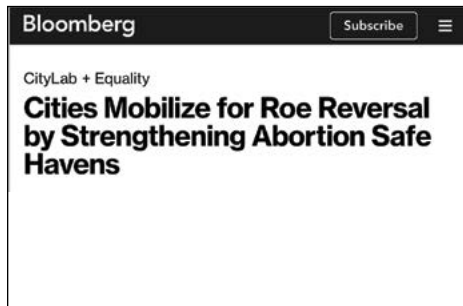
## Documented.

Local Policies Fill the Gaps in Workplace Protections Where State, Fed Laws Fail



## Denton Record-Chronicle.

Local Progress takes progressive reproductive freedom agenda to local leaders



## CityLab.

Cities Mobilize for Roe Reversal by Strengthening Abortion Safe Havens.



## Bolts Magazine.

How Small Towns Are Working to Protect Abortion Rights from State Threats





# WHAT'S AHEAD

Here are a few projects we're excited to share with you in 2023:

- ★ **Building out our national and state-based housing work**, including our first-ever state housing meeting in New York and a social housing working group.
- ★ **Continuing to grow our leadership development opportunities** through state organizing, identity caucuses, governance trainings, and a network-wide learning community.
- ★ **Updating our public safety framework** with a special focus on community-led safety programs, such as non-police responder programs, violence prevention, and traffic safety.
- ★ **Digging deep into our school board governance** with a cohort, training model, and leadership body.
- ★ **Developing regional organizing frameworks** in the Northeast and Southwest and exploring new state organizing in California, Colorado, Georgia, and Pennsylvania.
- ★ **Providing in-depth workshop spaces** for members and partners on a range of workers' rights strategies.
- ★ **Establishing a member-led climate justice advisory committee** to shape our policy and organizing approach.
- ★ **Experimenting with new and creative narrative projects** that engage more local leaders and reach a broader audience beyond the progressive movement.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## TEAM

- ★ Joshua Acevedo, Campaigns Organizer, School Boards (he/him)
- ★ Melissa Carrera, New York Downstate Coordinator (she/ella)
- ★ Silvia Fabela, Program Director (she/her)
- ★ LiJia Gong, Policy and Legal Director (she/they)
- ★ Reynold Graham, Campaigns Organizer (he/him)
- ★ Iimay Ho, Director of Organizational Development (they/them)
- ★ Nate Horrell, Policy & Research Analyst (he/him)
- ★ Sarah Johnson, Executive Director (she/her)
- ★ Jessy Lancaster, Membership Data Manager (they/them)
- ★ Ivan Luevanos-Elms, Organizing Director (he/el)
- ★ Francesca Menes, Deputy Organizing Director (she/her)
- ★ Deandrea Newsome, North Carolina Chapter Manager (she/her)
- ★ Jonathan Peebles, Development Manager (he/him)
- ★ D'Ana Pennington, Program Manager (she/her)
- ★ Jillia Pessenda, Minnesota State Coordinator (she/her)
- ★ Rebecca Poutasse, Communications Manager (she/her)
- ★ Chad Radock, New York Chapter Manager (he/him)
- ★ Aparna Raj, Communications Manager (she/her)
- ★ Vishal Reddy, Legal Fellow (he/him)
- ★ Elizabeth Roberts, Operations Manager (they/them)
- ★ Ari Schwartz, Associate Program Director (he/him)
- ★ Kara Sheehan, Texas Chapter Manager (she/her)
- ★ Trisa Taro, Communications Director (she/her)
- ★ Kidist Teferi, HR & Operations Manager (she/her)

## LP BOARD

- ★ Kristerfer Burnett, Baltimore City Councilmember, Co-Chair (he/him)
- ★ Jillian Johnson, Durham City Councilmember, Co-Chair (she/her)
- ★ Aleksandra Annello, El Paso City Representative (she/her)
- ★ Dorcey Applies, Albany's Chief City Auditor (she/her)
- ★ Megan Ellyia Green, St. Louis City Alderwoman (she/her)
- ★ Andrew Friedman, Senior Director of Strategy and Co-Founder of The Action Lab (he/him)
- ★ Kelly Kent, Culver City Unified School District Governing Board Member (she/her)
- ★ Robin Kniech, Denver City Councilmember At-Large (she/her)
- ★ Jerry Maldonado, PolicyLink Vice President of Programs (he/him)
- ★ Eddy Morales, Gresham City Council President (he/him)
- ★ Stephanie Morales, Portsmouth Commonwealth's Attorney (she/her)
- ★ Teresa Mosqueda, Seattle City Councilmember (she/her)
- ★ Marcelia Nicholson, Milwaukee County Board President (she/her)
- ★ Gabriela Santiago-Romero, Detroit City Councilmember (she/her)
- ★ Arti Walker-Peddakotla, Oak Park Village Trustee (she/her)
- ★ Becky Wasserman, SEIU (she/her)

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- ★ Way to Win
- ★ Women Donors Network
- ★ Z. Smith Reynolds F



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