

Strong Voices for Positive Change

The Progressive Women's Alliance is a strong voice for women in West Michigan. You have made yourselves known across the state in the best of ways, fighting to improve Michigan communities. I appreciate your friendship and your commitment to Michigan's future.

Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm (D)

I have always felt that the financial aid from the Progressive Women's Alliance was critical in jump starting my campaign. PWA assisted in going door to door, phone banking, making individual contributions, and was a key ally in our efforts to win the 91st District House seat that I now hold. I deeply appreciate their help and encouragement.

Michigan State House Representative
Mary Valentine (D-Muskegon)

As a young woman committed to improving the lives of families in West Michigan, I searched for my place in the political landscape. With the help of the Progressive Women's Alliance, I realized my dream to win a political office in order to further my efforts toward a stronger community.

Grand Rapids 2nd Ward City Commissioner
Rosalynn Bliss

When an issue is defined as "progressive" in politics, I find it is often connected to thoughtful, productive, solution-minded folks who will reach out to everyone they can think of to make positive change happen. Anytime I'm called "progressive," I know it's a compliment. Being a member of the Progressive Women's Alliance is a great honor.

Bob Eleveld, Mainstream Republicans

Women in West Michigan need to come together to break down the glass walls that dilute our collective voice. The PWA is a hammer that ensures women's voices will be heard and that positive change is afoot in our community.

Ellen James, Community Activist

Meet Fellow Members

In Grand Rapids

Meetings are generally held in Grand Rapids on the third Wednesday of each month (except December).

Refreshments at 5:00 pm and program from 5:30–6:30 pm, at the Women's City Club, 254 E. Fulton Street, in Heritage Hill.

Along the Lakeshore

Along the lakeshore, we host community forums, panel discussions, book clubs, and other programs. Find out more about these gatherings at www.progressivewomensalliance.org or email PWALakeshore@gmail.com for more information.

All meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

Please check our website at www.progressivewomensalliance.org or call 616-481-0584 for up-to-date information.



For more information call 616-481-0584
or visit
www.progressivewomensalliance.org

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PWA
Working to influence public policy
through the election of candidates
and the advocacy
of a progressive agenda.

Who We Are

The Progressive Women's Alliance (PWA) is a nonpartisan Political Action Committee (PAC) committed to identifying and supporting progressive candidates and issues, registering new voters, and educating and mobilizing the population for positive change.

Uneasy about political trends, the lack of money available for progressive candidates, and the shortage of women interested in running for local office, several women came together in 2003 to create the Progressive Women's Alliance. They chose the colors purple and white—two of the three colors of the original Suffragette movement—to represent their organization. One hundred charter members quickly grew to more than 800, and eventually a group of women living along the Lakeshore became a committee representing Holland, Grand Haven, Muskegon, and Spring Lake.

PWA works to improve the political landscape, both financially and with volunteer assistance, and, as of this printing, has endorsed more than 20 candidates, registered over 500 voters, and raised more than \$235,000 in individual contributions.

Our work continues.

What We Believe

To secure and maintain a just and responsible community, the Progressive Women's Alliance believes:

...a democratically elected government is a positive force which empowers citizens to achieve success,

...a socially responsible society assures a reasonable standard of living for all citizens, consistent with human dignity,

...an effective, efficient government should balance the power and influence of the private sector,

...efforts to maintain the separation of church and state and further the tolerance of religious and cultural differences in this pluralistic society should be supported,

...women should retain the constitutional right of privacy to make choices regarding reproduction.

...meaningful equality of opportunity must be a primary motivating factor in a just society,

...a high quality public education system is the most effective institution to ensure equal opportunities to realize the potential of each unique individual,

...affirmative Action is an appropriate means toward achieving an inclusive and diverse society,

and

...the environment, land, water, and peoples of this planet must be protected through meaningful policy and business decisions.

How We've Impacted Local, State, and Federal Elections

PWA has endorsed and/or contributed to numerous successful campaigns including:

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), 2004
Senator Barack Obama (D-IL), 2004
Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME), 2004
Governor Jennifer Granholm (D-MI), 2006
Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), 2006
Michigan House of Representatives, 2006
Pam Byrnes (Ann Arbor)
Barb Byrum (Ingham County)
Marie Donigan (Royal Oak)
Kathleen Law (Wayne County)
Mary Valentine (Muskegon)
Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell, 2003, 2007
Grand Rapids 2nd Ward City Commissioner
Rosalynn Bliss, 2005
Grand Rapids Senior Millage, 2006
Grand Rapids Rapid City Transit Millage, 2007

How We've Educated the Community on Progressive Issues

PWA uses monthly meetings, special political events, and *Strong Voices in Art, Music, and Politics*, a signature event held annually, to bring timely, notable speakers to our community. Past speakers include:

Senator Debbie Stabenow
Governor Jennifer Granholm
Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell
Former East Grand Rapids Mayor Judy Frey
Former UN Ambassador Richard Holbrooke
Emily's List President Ellen Malcolm
Author, Capitol Correspondent, and TV Host
Tim Skubick
GVSU Homeland Defense Initiative Director
Jonathan White

How to Get Involved

Members are welcome to join the following committees to help direct progressive energy into meaningful action:

Book Club – Discuss timely and relevant literature with a dynamic group of readers. Access detailed book notes through PWA's website.

Candidate Endorsement – Identify, endorse, and grow diverse, non-partisan candidates and issues in support of PWA's agenda and directly impact the local and regional political landscape.

Communications – Impact local media and keep PWA members abreast of the latest organizational news through a central website, regular emails, and year-end report.

Fund Development – Leverage financial resources for political candidates and issues by planning and hosting events.

Issues Education & Advocacy – Identify key PWA issues, educate our members, provide opportunities for action, and ensure increased and fair access to elections.

Lakeshore – Participate in local activities with PWA members who live along the lakeshore.

Membership – Recruit and retain an inclusive, diverse membership.

Program – Identify speakers and topics for discussion on progressive issues.

Take Action!

Visit PWA's website
www.progressivewomensalliance.org
or call 616-481-0584
to connect with a committee.

Silence is the voice of complicity. **Be heard!** Become part of PWA's voice in West Michigan.