

CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT & TRAINING UPDATE SPRING 2022



Meet the first class of our Board and Commission Fellows in
North Carolina!

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

LCV's Candidate Recruitment and Training program exists to provide both short and longterm candidate development opportunities to leaders across the Conservation Voter Movement (CVM), and in particular to grow a diverse and better-prepared candidate pool that can win their races and advance clean energy and conservation in their communities.

This year, our work is expanding to serve more leaders in more ways. On the c3 side, our Boards and Commissions Fellowship is expanding to South Carolina, and we are planning to bring the fellowship training to *Chispa* leaders in Florida and Colorado through hybrid, partially-online, delivery of the curriculum. Through bringing high quality leadership training to dozens more leaders of color, we are changing who is serving on local boards and commissions and influencing environmental policy in more communities.

We had a smaller class for this year's Progressive Governance Academy because 2021 was an off year election, but our newly-elected environmental champions are already doing great work to advance policy wins in their communities. Read on for more on their work.

On the c4 side, our monthly webinars for candidates across the CVM continue to grow in audience and are allowing us to share and support the work of our partners with leaders across the CVM, while keeping the idea of running for office in front of our members.

Our Candidate Academy alums are leading strong campaigns from State Legislatures to County Commissions and other races. Meet some of our them in the coming pages.

Please read on for more updates from this spring!

WEBINAR

**OUT TO WIN 2022:
WINNING STRATEGIES
FOR LGBTQ+ CANDIDATES**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022
10 AM PT/1 PM ET
60 MINUTE WEBINAR


CONGRESSWOMAN
SHARICE DAVIDS
KS-03


STATE REPRESENTATIVE
PARK CANNON
GA-58



REGISTER NOW



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Meet Priya, Juliette, and Ryan, Class of 2022



Priya Sundareshan is running for State Legislature (LD-18) in Arizona. She is a lawyer with a background in environmental law. Priya teaches natural resources law at the University of Arizona, and her campaign is focused on water conservation and security, making Arizona a clean energy leader and protecting voting rights. She previously worked at the Environmental Defense Fund on sustainable fisheries law and policy, and has also served as the Voter Protection Hotline Legal Director for the AZ Democratic Party.

Juliette Beck is running for County Supervisor in Yolo County, California's Central Valley. She has a background in climate organizing, and was instrumental in the founding of Yolo County's Climate Action Commission. Yolo County is a drought-prone agricultural county, and Juliette is focused on climate resiliency and protection of groundwater for future generations. Juliette has also been an advocate for youth involvement in climate solutions and wants to make that a priority for the entire county.



Ryan Gordon is running for Garfield County Commissioner in Colorado. An Engineer and native of Garfield County, Ryan is running on improving public transportation infrastructure, water quality and conservation, forest health, drought resiliency, and climate adaptation. Through his work, he has worked on many water infrastructure projects in the state and wants to bring that expertise to Garfield County.

Celebrating Toni Belknap-Brinegar, a CVM star in Idaho



We are working with our second cohort of Boards and Commissions Fellows in Idaho, and one of the program tweaks this year is a deepened focus on inclusive leadership. Conservation Voters for Idaho EF's Boards and Commissions Coordinator, Toni Belknap-Brinegar (at right, above), has been brilliant at integrating this into the fellowship curriculum. Toni has also been extremely generous with her time with the other state leagues that have taken on this work, helping to support other states with their hiring, their fellowship recruitment and interview processes, curriculum development and more. This year we will expand to three additional states, including piloting an online version of the fellowship for *Chispa* leaders in Florida and Colorado. Toni has agreed to help us design the online version of the program. The CVM is so lucky to have her and her leadership!

PROGRESSIVE GOVERNANCE ACADEMY ALUMNI UPDATES



Jennifer Rangel was elected to the Bellevue, ID City Council in 2021, and represents the first Latinx representation in the history of the city council. She participated in the second class of our Progressive Governance Academy (PGA), and has already put the framework to work and won a new policy for the city.

The PGA teaches newly-elected CVM leaders how to use inside-outside strategy to win on the issues they care about; in other words, how to pair their formal roles in elected office with the power and organizing of community organizations and leaders in order to win. She worked with community organizer Luis Lecanda on a Safe Communities Resolution, designed to ensure that undocumented people would feel secure in reporting crime and domestic violence to police, without fear of deportation. It passed, and now undocumented people do not have to live in fear of traffic stops, making witness declarations or reporting crimes, because they will no longer be asked to provide identification documents.

The PGA was especially helpful for Jennifer in overcoming her fear of the media. She was able to work with local media to get positive attention for the resolution, and she helped to train local non-profit leaders to serve as spokespeople for the resolution. They were critical in writing letters and making public comments in favor of the legislation, and in pushing back against the idea that Bellevue would become a sanctuary city.

The next issue that Jennifer plans to work on is affordable housing for city employees, which has become an issue in Idaho, where demand for housing has grown dramatically over the last several years.

Our next PGA with re:power will be held in December 2022! We offer this training free to newly-elected CVM leaders to support them in being more effective in their new roles. Please share with any 2022 candidates you know of.