CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

PROGRAM UPDATE
SPRING 2023

LCV's 2023 Candidate Academy was held in Baton Rouge and trained our first class of all women-identifying prospective candidates. There are very few candidate training programs in Louisiana, so this was an opportunity for our movement to bring some much-needed capacity to the state.

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Our Earth Is Worth Fighting For

PROGRAM
OVERVIEW

LCV's Candidate Recruitment and Training program exists to provide both short- and long-term candidate development opportunities to leaders across the 30+ states in the Conservation Voters Movement (CVM). In particular, it helps to grow a diverse and better-prepared pool of local and state candidates and provide them with the tools and resources they need to effectively represent their communities.

Since 2020, this program has worked to recruit diverse environmental champions to run for office and provided training that is welcoming and inclusive to candidates of color, young people, LGBTQ+ people, and women. By bringing high-quality leadership training to dozens more leaders of color this year, we are continuing to change who is serving in local elected office and influencing environmental policy in more communities.

LCV has two main strategies for training prospective candidates. Our annual **Candidate Academy** brings together environmental candidates from all over the U.S. for intensive sessions with trainers from **re:power**, some of the best campaigners in the country. This year, we are also launching training in partnership with **state affiliates**, beginning this spring with training for Idaho leaders with Conservation Voters for Idaho.

We also train candidates and potential candidates all year long via our **webinar series**. This allows us to raise the idea of running for office with our large membership base, and to bring in experts from all sectors of the movement to share expertise on messaging, voter contact, fundraising, and more. In 2022, we worked with partners Climate Cabinet Action and Blue Horizon Texas on a webinar about messaging resources for candidates. In 2023, we'll be talking with future candidates about running on transportation issues, running in rural areas, campaign fundraising basics, seeking endorsements, and more.

WEBINAR

MESSAGING RESOURCES FOR CLIMATE CANDIDATES

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022
11 AM PT/2 PM ET
60 MINUTE WEBINAR

EVA ESTRADA
Regional Campaigns Director, LCV

EMMA FISHER
Deputy Director, Climate Cabinet Action

STEPHANIE PHILLIPS
Co-Founder and ED, Blue Horizon Texas

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REGISTER NOW

Our Candidate Academy alums are continuing to run for office. Some of their stories follow.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Alumnae Who Ran in 2022

Lisa Diaz Nash won her race for City Council in San Mateo, California, her second run after an unsuccessful bid in 2020. San Mateo is a coastal city that is highly vulnerable to sea level rise and struggling to meet the demand for housing in the San Francisco Bay Area. Lisa serves on the boards of multiple housing-focused organizations and plans to champion affordable housing and sustainable water use during her time on the council. Before running for office, Lisa worked on international water security and sanitation with Thrive Networks.

Priya Sundareshan won her race for state Senate (LD-18) in Arizona. Priya is a lawyer with a background in environmental law and teaches natural resources law at the University of Arizona. Her campaign 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 Arizona Democratic Party.

Updates from the 2023 Candidate Academy

Our 2023 Candidate Academy trained our first all women-identifying class and was our first in-person candidate training since 2020. Held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the training was intended to bring some needed capacity to a state with very few opportunities for environmental candidates to receive training and support. The training covered everything from fundraising and campaign budgets to digital organizing, messaging, and voter contact, and participants left having developed their stump speeches and started their fundraising plans.

> **"LCV and the fabulous trainers showed me that I can do this. That time, effort, and perseverance can overcome the obstacles in my mind about running for Public Service Commissioner."**
> – Mary Anne Mushatt, New Orleans, LA

(From left to right): **Michelle Crossland is supporting candidates running for a utility board in South Carolina, Andrea Galvan is considering a run for City Council in Ontario, CA, and Dorothy Peña is considering a run for City Council in Corpus Christi, TX.**

Kiah Ford is considering a second run for City Council in New Roads, LA.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Alumni Running in 2023

Mario Enriquez is a 2022 alum of LCV's Candidate Academy, running for City Council in Stockton, California. He runs the Center for Identity and Inclusion at the University of the Pacific and previously worked as Director of Constituent Engagement at the LGBTQ+ Victory Institute.

> **"The training I received through the Candidate Academy was instrumental in laying out the foundation of my campaign plan. I appreciated the opportunity to engage with the trainers and put all the lessons I gathered into practice in my community."**

Kate Daniels is a 2020 alum of the Candidate Academy and is planning to run for Monterey County Supervisor in California. Currently, Kate serves as CA state Senator John Laird's Policy Advisor for the Monterey District, with a specific focus on issues related to the water supply, homelessness, and the Big Sur coast.

> **"The Candidate Academy inspired me to take a bolder approach to running for office than I otherwise might have if I hadn't connected with the excellent trainers. The program expanded my vision for what is possible."**