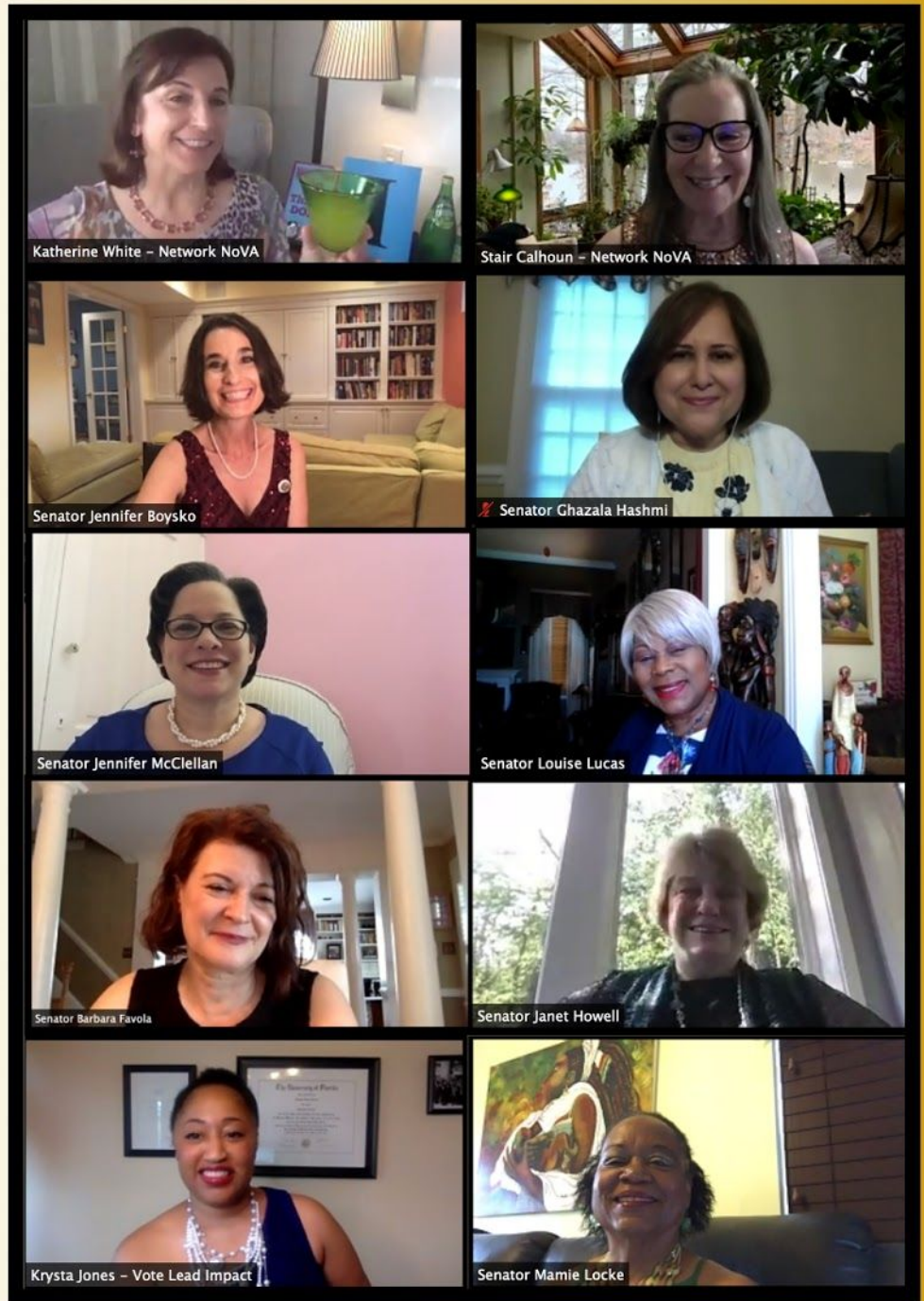


# Summit Recap



**WOMEN'S  
SUMMIT**

**E-X-P-E-R-I-E-N-C-E**

June 20 - 30, 2020

# Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Rallies</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Opening Rally: Winning is the Only Option</i>	3
<i>Rally Finale: Getting Out the Vote</i>	4
<b>Political Organizing</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>BADASS Women Organizers Flipping the Nation Blue</i>	6
<i>BFFs + Unlikely Partners: How Women Build Community</i>	7
<b>Political Issues and Legislation</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>Coalition Conversation 1: 2020 Legislative Unpack</i>	8
<i>Coalition Conversation 2: Focus Climate &amp; Clean Energy</i>	9
<i>Winning Essential Rights for Essential and “Nonessential” Workers</i>	10
<i>Getting Real on Race</i>	11
<i>Raising Rural Voices</i>	12
<i>Let’s Talk ERA - What’s Next?</i>	13
<b>Political Analysis</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>Politics of Voting</i>	14
<i>2020 Predictions</i>	15
<i>Media &amp; Disinformation</i>	16
<b>Power Conversations</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>Cocktails &amp; Conversation with Women Senators</i>	17
<i>Black Women Lead</i>	18
<b>Leadership Bootcamp: Owing Chaos Parts 1 and 2</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>About Network NoVA</b>	<b>20</b>
<i>Save the date for next year’s Women’s Summit : June 18-20, 2021</i>	20

## *Executive Summary*

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This year's Women's Summit (the 4th annual) shifted from its traditional large in-person weekend extravaganza to a virtual event in response to COVID-19 and the necessity of social distancing. Our challenge was to bring the excitement, enthusiasm, and community building that our large gatherings accomplish to an online space. We started by shifting the length of the event from one weekend to 11 days. Then we added pre-summit workshops, high energy opening and closing rallies, 1-2 sessions per day, and a grassroots community approach. By all accounts, we succeeded. Not only did our virtual Summit energize and excite everyone for the November election, we were able to expand our reach. This year we had participants from 21 states (CA, CO, DC, FL, GA, IL, KY, MA, MD, MI, MN, NC, ND, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX and WI) as well as people from all over Virginia.

The theme of this year's Summit was "Winning is the Only Option." What we learned from all the sessions is that there are many dimensions of winning and that winning this election will be challenged on all fronts by strategic and relentless efforts to suppress the vote.

Winning also goes beyond the November election. We need long term systematic change in every aspect of society. Here are some of the pathways to achieve this multi-dimensional view of winning in 2020 that emerged from the sessions:

- **Protecting our right to vote by countering voter suppression and expanding absentee voting.**
- **Social, racial, and criminal justice reform** through active advocacy and meaningful legislation
- **Listening, allyship, and social equity.**
  - To better understand and provide space for voices across Virginia.
  - To understand and incorporate perspectives of others into our decision-making.
  - To build relationships and trust within communities and with communities.
  - To expand our investment into rural communities.
- **Supporting Virginia candidates in 2020** to hold and expand our wins.
- **Promoting women who are organizing and leading through their voices, networks, and actions, and are shifting** the political, social, and economic landscape.
- **Building relationships across the U.S.** to champion and galvanize Grassroots activism.

This recap summarizes each of the 17 sessions highlighting key takeaways and listing calls to action. There are also links to session videos and additional resources. You can view videos of all Summit sessions and Pre-Summit workshops from our Playlists on YouTube: [Women's Summit EXPERIENCE 2020](#) and [Pre-Summit Workshops](#).

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**About this Recap:** This Recap was compiled by Robbin Warner & Michelle Moore with the contributions of the Summit recap email writers: Allena Opper, Lisa Howard, Bonnie Rollins, Vicki Moffit, Peggy Pridemore, and Meg Athey.

## Rallies

### Opening Rally: Winning is the Only Option



Krysta Jones



Katherine White



E-X-P-E-R-I-E-N-C-E



E-X-P-E-R-I-E-N-C-E

From the opening poem to the closing recitation by grassroots activists, there was no doubt that the theme of this year's Women's Summit EXPERIENCE was "Winning is the ONLY Option.

- Poetess Tamarrah Addison kicked off the rally with a spoken word poem celebrating the achievements of grassroots women throughout Virginia in 2019.
- Grassroots activists described what flipping Virginia blue in 2019 meant to them.
- Songwriter Crys Matthews sang her powerful new song *Battle Hymn for an Army of Lovers*.
- A diverse array of Virginia's elected officials offered their thoughts and appreciation.
- Our 2020 candidates vowed to keep up the fight for what is right and to win big in November.
- Senator Tammy Duckworth shared words of hope and encouragement.
- Senator Elizabeth Warren lauded Virginia's legislative achievements and emphasized the need to work for secure, safe and fair elections: "Staying safe does not mean staying silent."
- Jennifer Woofter, candidate for delegate in southwest Virginia, challenged us to support rural areas.
- Delegate Charniele Herring shared her reflections on events leading to the deaths of black citizens: "It is time to wake up... It is time to listen to those who need to be heard...and fight for reform."
- A video montage to the song *We Can Do It* celebrated the women and events that led to Virginia being the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.
- And if that was not enough, the ending credits featured a fun music video highlighting the organizers of the Women's Summit as the BADASS Bunch.

#### Session Video

- [Opening Rally](#)

#### Individual Opening Rally Videos

- ["Winning is the Only Option" spoken word poem by Tamarrah Addison](#)
- [Voices from Virginia grassroots activists](#)
- [What it meant to flip Virginia blue](#)
- ["Battle Hymn for an Army of Lovers" sung by Crys Matthews](#)
- [Conversation with Del. Eileen Filler-Corn and Del. Charniele Herring moderated by Julie Jakopic](#)
- [Majority Leader Delegate Charniele Herring recorded this powerful commentary on race and social justice on Friday, May 29, 2020](#)
- ["We Can Do It" video montage celebrating Virginia being the 38th state to ratify the ERA.](#)
- [Jennifer Woofter speaks about the challenges of being a candidate in a rural district in Virginia.](#)
- [Senator Elizabeth Warren's remarks](#)
- [BADASS Bunch](#)

#### Candidate Remarks

- [Rep. Don Beyer \(CD8\) and Megan Beyer](#)
- [Rep. Elaine Luria \(CD2\)](#)
- [Rep. Abigail Spanberger \(CD7\)](#)
- [Senator Mark Warner](#)
- [Rep. Jennifer Wexton \(CD11\)](#)

## Rally Finale: Getting Out the Vote



Wrapping up the incredible 10-day program, the Women's Summit Rally Finale focused on Virginia's 2020 candidates and what it will take to win big in November in Virginia and across the country.

Candidates included long time incumbents [US Rep Gerry Connolly](#) (CD11), [US Rep Donald McEachin](#) (CD4), and [US Rep Don Beyer](#) (CD8); the three incredible women elected in 2018—[US Rep Jennifer Wexton](#) (CD10), [US Rep Elaine Luria](#) (CD2), and [US Rep Abigail Spanberger](#) (CD7); as well as the three new candidates [Dr. Cameron Webb](#) (CD5), [Qasim Rashid](#) (CD1), and [Nicholas Betts](#) (CD6).

[US Senator Mark Warner](#) praised the energy of Network NoVA and women activists. He vowed to work harder for southern Virginia and address fundamental needs uncovered by COVID-19.

Postcards4VA premiered their new video [Power of Postcards](#) with testimonials from activists on how writing postcards connects with the voter, empowers the writers, and expands the scope of activism. Purchase postcards at Network NoVA's [BADASS Boutique](#).

Andrew Whitley ([Democratic Party of Virginia](#)) focused on building polling station infrastructure with a call out for volunteers to help staff polling stations this election.

Lauren Reyes and Tonya James with the Virginia Coordinated Campaign talked about the mobilizing efforts to get out the vote for all the candidates in Virginia. They especially need volunteers to text/phone bank; to register, contact the [digital organizing team](#) or contact VA20 Field Director [Tonya.james@virginiavictory.org](mailto:Tonya.james@virginiavictory.org)

Luisa Boyarski ([luisaboyarski@gmail.com](mailto:luisaboyarski@gmail.com)) with the [Virginia Grassroots Coalition](#), outlined the coalition's strategy for getting out the vote in Virginia and across the country (see Calls to Action box for support opportunities.)

Amanda Brown Lierman with [Super Majority](#) stressed the power of women talking to women about issues that concern them. Super

### Videos

- [Session Video – Rally Finale](#)
- [Power of Postcards Video](#)

### Calls to Action

- Add your group to the [Virginia Grassroots coalition](#), and learn about [Vote 2020](#).
- Adopt A Candidate - Support a campaign by hosting virtual meet and greets and fundraisers, making phone calls, text banking, and writing postcards.
  - o (CD1) [Qasim Rashid](#), [Click here to contribute](#)
  - o (CD2) [Rep. Elaine Luria](#), [Click here to contribute](#)
  - o (CD5) [Dr. Cameron Webb](#), [Click here to contribute](#)
  - o (CD6) [Nicholas Betts](#), [Click here to contribute](#)
  - o (CD7) [Rep. Abigail Spanberger](#), [Click here to contribute](#)
  - o (CD10) [Rep. Jennifer Wexton](#), [Click here to contribute](#)
- Make phone calls with [Beyond Arlington](#) for our Virginia Congressional Candidates
- Write Get Out the Vote postcards for Virginia candidates with [Postcards4VA](#)
- Write to unregistered households in Virginia using their tailored "Voter Registration" postcards; to help, contact Herndon Reston Indivisible: Joanne Collins, [collinsjoanne@yahoo.com](mailto:collinsjoanne@yahoo.com)
- Support expanded voting options. [Contact the Governor](#). We need to exert pressure on the governor to fully fund vote by mail and extend opportunities for early voting. We need to keep ALL polling locations open to support same-day voter registration in November.
- Volunteer at the polls - Help your local Democratic Committee by [volunteering as a poll worker](#). If your location has enough volunteers, help somewhere else. VA Democrats Volunteer.

Majority enables one of the largest women-to-women voter contact efforts.

[Jill Caiazzo](#) (Chair, Arlington County Democrats) and [Adele McClure](#) (Virginia Black Caucus) ended the Summit by encouraging us to challenge ourselves and include more and more people in efforts to affect meaningful change.

#### Outside Virginia

- Write postcards to encourage voter registration - [Arlington Blue Families](#) and [Herndon Reston Indivisible](#) are working with Reclaim Our Vote to write letters in four key states (GA, NC, MS, TX) – to help, contact Herndon Reston Indivisible: Joanne Collins, [collinsjoanne@yahoo.com](mailto:collinsjoanne@yahoo.com).
- Join the multi-grassroots group **fundraising initiatives for North Carolina State House seats** "[Let NC Breathe](#)"
- **Make phone calls** with [Sister District DC](#) supporting flippable state house seats in PA
- **Register Voters:** Help register voters across the nation, especially college students who are now home learning virtually, minority communities that are targeted by unfair voting laws, and people who have recently moved.
  - [Voto Latino](#)
  - [Reclaim Our Vote](#)

## Political Organizing

### BADASS Women Organizers Flipping the Nation Blue

**SUN JUN 21**  
7 – 8 pm

**BADASS Women Organizers  
Flipping the Nation Blue**  
LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA ORGANIZERS

Buta Biberaj  
Commonwealth Attorney  
Loudoun County

Juli Briskman  
Albemarle District Supervisor

Barb Jones  
Organizer

Krysta Jones  
Founder  
Wild Land Project

Phyllis Randall  
Chair  
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Lissa Savaglio  
Chair  
Loudoun County Democratic Committee

Jennifer Wexton  
Congresswoman  
CD-11

Phyllis Randall  
Lissa Savaglio  
Jennifer Wexton

WOMEN'S SUMMIT 2020 NETWORKNOVA.ORG

**SUN JUN 21**  
7 – 8 pm

**BADASS Women Organizers  
Flipping the Nation Blue**  
ORGANIZERS OUTSIDE VIRGINIA

Ashley Jordan  
Founder  
Women Activists in Wisconsin

Jamie Perrapato  
Executive Director  
Turn PA Blue

Becca Zerkin  
Founder  
Neighbors on Call, North Carolina

WOMEN'S SUMMIT 2020 NETWORKNOVA.ORG

This session focused on women activists who are changing how campaigns are run and won. The first half featured an impressive line-up of women activists and elected officials sharing their insights on building the energy and synergy that won big in Loudoun County, Virginia, in 2019. The second half highlighted women organizers in Wisconsin, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.

BADASS women organizers of Loudoun County opened with their stories. Phyllis Randall (Chair, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors) and Lissa Savaglio (Chair, Loudoun County Democratic Committee) reflected on their leadership, identifying new candidates to fill the ticket, and supporting the largest and most diverse array of Democratic candidates. Juli Briskman (Loudoun County Board of Supervisors) and Buta Biberaj (Loudoun Commonwealth attorney) shared their perspectives as first time candidates drawing on their personal and professional experiences and convictions to launch successful campaigns. Krysta Jones and Barb Jones, master organizers behind Buta's campaign, emphasized breaking the "campaign mold" to try new ways to excite and motivate their dedicated corps of volunteers and supporters.

Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton, the only Democrat elected in Loudoun in 2014 who then won her 2018 congressional race by 20 points, emphasized the importance of collaboration in building election energy and urged more women to run.

The second half featured organizers outside of Virginia: Ashley Jordan, founder of Women Activists in Wisconsin, Becca Zerkin, a founder of the North Carolina organization Neighbors On Call, and Jamie Perrapato, as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania grassroots organization Turn PA Blue. They expounded on their group's efforts to build activism and mobilize support for Democratic candidates in their states. Each has developed a different approach to organizing and expanding their support base and to overcome obstacles presented by COVID-19.

**Video**

- [BADASS Women Organizers Flipping the Nation Blue](#)

**Virginia Resources**

- [VA Candidates 2020](#)
- [Virginia Grassroots Coalition - Things You Can Do Right Now](#)

**Pennsylvania Resources**

- [Turn PA Blue](#)

**North Carolina Resources**

- [Neighbors on Call](#)
- [Phone Banking Training](#)
- Support [Let NC Breathe](#) a multi-group effort in Virginia to support four female candidates for North Carolina's state legislature

## BFFs + Unlikely Partners: How Women Build Community



An engaging session led by [Kate Viggiano Janich](#) and [Amy Dagliano](#), co-founders of Rowan Tree with panelists [Luisa Boyarski](#) (Coordinator, [Virginia Grassroots Coalition](#)), [Mali Phonpadith](#) (CEO of [SOAR Community Network](#)), and [Donielle Scherff](#) (Founder, [Scherff Consulting](#)) who described why they set out to create communities of people with shared interests willing to support each other to achieve a collective benefit. Each saw incredible value in collaboration as an approach to achieving results, such as the coalition of activist groups (Virginia Grassroots Coalition) that together changed the political landscape in Virginia.

In all cases, the panelists found that working together allowed them to accomplish more and tackle more complex problems. Building collaborative relationships helped them grow as leaders and become more grounded within themselves.

### Videos

- [BFFs + Unlikely Partners – How Women Build Community](#)

### Pre-Summit Videos

- [Liberating Our Youth](#)
- [Digital Organizing 101](#)

### RESOURCES

- Check out the movie [Pride](#) about London's gay community that supported striking Welsh miners. This remarkable story tells how one year later the miners reciprocated and supported gay rights by attending a Pride march.



## Political Issues and Legislation

### Coalition Conversation 1: 2020 Legislative Unpack



[Luisa Boyarski](#) (Coordinator, [Virginia Grassroots Coalition](#)) moderated a review of the legislative work achieved during the 2019 session, major barriers faced by advocates, and ways to improve for 2021. Panelists [Delegate Josh Cole](#) (HD-28), [Sharon Shutler](#) (Co-Chair, Clean Energy and Climate Working Group), [Michelle Woolley](#) (Leader, Coalition to Repeal Right to Work), [Brad Haywood](#) (Leader, [Justice Forward Virginia](#)), and [Gary Broderick](#) (Legislative Strategist, [Rise For Youth](#)) highlighted the significance of their legislative priorities and shared their tips for being better prepared in educating and reaching out to legislators.

#### Key takeaways:

- Get an earlier start, which is, essentially, now!
- Engage legislators, establish legislative priorities, and eliminate barriers to getting a seat at the negotiating table.
- Amplify support for your bill and work to get early buy-in and endorsements.
- Recognize that the legislative process is weighted toward lobbyists and organizations with resources—partner with organizations that have a common objective.
- Encourage legislators to look outside the state at systems and programs that are successfully addressing your issue.

#### Video

- [Coalition Conversation - 2020 Legislative Unpack](#)

#### Pre-Summit Workshop Video

- [Democracy Losses When Big Money Wins](#)

#### CALLS TO ACTION

- Add your group to the Virginia Grassroots Coalition directory [viriniagrassroots.org/org-add](http://viriniagrassroots.org/org-add)
- [Virginia Grassroots Coalition - Things You Can Do Right Now](#)
- Volunteer to help a legislative working group or an organization committed to advancing progressive legislation
- Contact your representatives and let them know the issues and legislation you support

#### RESOURCES

- [Women's Summit 2019 Declaration](#)
- [Virginia Grassroots Coalition](#)
  - [Bills endorsed by the Coalition that passed in 2020](#)
  - [Environmental Legislation priorities 2020](#)
- Sign up to receive up-to-date legislation information from [VA Our Way](#)
- [Justice Forward Virginia](#)
- [The Criminal Justice Reform Agenda Virginia Democrats Put Off Until 2021](#)
- Coalition to Repeal "Right to Work" <https://www.facebook.com/repealVARTW>
- [Rise For Youth](#)
- [Legal Aid Justice Center](#)
- [ACLU VA](#)
- [Rise for Youth](#)
- [NAACP](#)

## Coalition Conversation 2: Focus Climate & Clean Energy



[Sharon Shutler](#), (Co-Chair, Climate & Clean Energy Working Group) moderated a panel discussion focused on advancing environmental and clean energy legislation featuring Senator [Jennifer McClellan](#), Delegate [Rip Sullivan](#), [Dana Wiggins](#), (Director, Outreach & Consumer Advocacy, [Virginia Poverty Law Center](#)), [Ivy Main](#), (Renewable Energy Chair, [Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club](#)), and [Cliona Robb](#), (Director, Thompson McMullan, P.C.). The panelists reviewed the successful passage of the Virginia Clean Economy Act and several other smaller bills. In order to capitalize on the groundwork laid in 2020 and given the complexity of energy regulation, the panelists emphasized the need to help keep legislators informed and educated throughout the year.

Virginia's legislative cycles are short with a packed agenda and time leading up to a new session should be used for reminders not for education.

Progress made on issues in 2020 include:

- Mandated levels on wind and solar generation capacity
- Joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
- Established a Renewable Portfolio Standard and an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard
- Committed utilities to closing all coal, oil, and biomass plants this decade

For the 2021 session, the panelists noted a desire to address:

- CO2 pollution from the transportation sector
- Clean Energy Choice Act
- Benchmarking energy efficiency in commercial buildings
- Examining the fairness of ratepayer cost vs. the profits and risks incurred by electric utilities

### Videos

- [Coalition Conversation - Climate and Clean Energy](#)

### Pre-Summit Workshop Video

- [How a Mom and Her Son Have Changed Our Energy System](#)

### Calls to Action

- Support [Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club](#) and its Clean Energy series:
- [Virginia Clean Economy Act \(slide show\) –VA Energy Transition Presentation - video](#)
- [New Solar Laws \(slide show\) - Solar Freedom Presentation - video](#)
- Follow Ivy Main's blog [Power for the People](#) on Clean Energy in Virginia
- Join [Climate and Clean Energy Working Group](#), to join email Sharon (shutlersharon@gmail.com)
- Join [the Virginia Grassroots Coalition](#) and stay informed [VirginiaGrassroots.org/Environment](#)

### Resources

- [Energy Acronym Decoder](#)
- [VA Our Way](#)
- [Virginia Clean Energy Council](#)
- [Solar United Neighbors](#)
- Coalition to Repeal "Right to Work" <https://www.facebook.com/repealVARTW>
- [Rise For Youth](#); contact email is: [gary@riseforyouth.org](mailto:gary@riseforyouth.org)
- [Legal Aid Justice Center](#)
- [ACLU VA](#)
- [Rise for Youth](#)
- [NAACP](#)

## Winning Essential Rights for Essential and “Nonessential” Workers



Tara Gibson ([Virginia Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy](#) (CFFE)) moderated a panel discussion on Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) with Senator [Jennifer Boysko](#), Senator [Jennifer McClellan](#), Delegate [Jennifer Carroll Foy](#), [Shilpa Phadke](#) ([Center for American Progress](#)), and [Paige Perriello](#), MD, FAAP that highlighted the challenges people face without paid leave and the financial hardships borne by workers and families, especially by those most affected: women and people of color. With COVID-19, more people are experiencing similar challenges and gaining a deeper understanding of the public health crisis that is exacerbated by not having paid family and sick leave.

### Key takeaways:

- A study is underway on implementation of PFML in the Virginia Employment Commission, a positive step toward moving PFML bill forward in the next session
- Despite years of economic growth, the market will not address this structural problem
- The U.S. is the only developed country without a national PFML policy
- PFML is a racial justice issue that disproportionately affects black and brown communities
- Virginia ranks dead last for workers lacking basic protections for workers
- Personal experiences of members of Virginia's General Assembly and in the US Congress do not reflect the experience of most Virginians or Americans, so we need to educate them

Keep telling delegates and senators how important PFML is and VOTE!

### Video

- [Summit Video - Winning Essential Rights](#)

### Calls to Action

- [Support Virginia Campaign for Family Friendly Economy](#) and follow on [Facebook](#)
- Flood your representatives with stories on why we need PFML on the state and national levels
- In Virginia, reach out to Delegates and Senators to support PFML
- Nationally, we need to put pressure on the US Senate
- Listen to the stories of your neighbors - elevate those stories and educate others on PFML
- Take Action [Paid Leave for All](#), Center for American Progress

### Resources

- [Campaign for Family Friendly Economy Virginia](#)
- [Why “Right to Work” Is Harmful to Americans](#)
- [Virginia Ranked Worst State for Workers Rights](#)
- [National Partnership for Women and Families](#)
- [Center for American Progress - Paid Leave for All](#)
- [US News article "Virginia Is Worst State for Workers' Rights" \(Sep 2019\)](#)

## Getting Real on Race



The session began with a video of [Delegate Charniele Herring](#) (Chair, House Democratic Caucus) speaking passionately about how police killing African-Americans is affecting children who see the news and how these horrific events have awakened young people to fight against systemic racism.

Following the video moderator [Krysta Jones](#) led a discussion with [Karen Boykin-Towns](#) (NAACP), [Wendy Fields](#) (Democracy Initiative), [Marjorie Velázquez](#) (District Leader), and [Dr. Melvena Wilson](#) ([Center for Advocacy and Research on Health Equity](#)) on the detrimental effects of racism. The panelists agreed that combating racism will require a complete overhaul. They described what allyship looks like in practice: creating space for people you are allying with so they can speak for themselves, listening to them, and stepping up when you or others are confronted with racism.

### Key takeaways:

- We need to start fresh, if we rebuild on the ruins of racism then we will carry those problems forward.
- We need to re-envision education to encourage girls and children of color to pursue their interests in STEM and to allow for more hands-on and exploratory learning.
- We need to provide better and more equitable funding for schools and fair home loans and facilitate access to capital for small businesses.

### Videos

- [Summit Video - Getting Real on Race](#)
- [Del. Charniele Herring's statement](#)

### Calls to Action

- Get involved at the local level and promote a community of allyship and equality
- When at a meeting, look around. If you are white and everyone in the room looks like you, do something about it.
- Review policies that discourage minorities from moving into your community: Homeowners Association (HOA), Neighborhood Watch, Community-based support.
- Consider the culture of your community and ensure that families of color feel welcome.
- Help working parents stay informed on local policy and events by making information available to them (schools board, police).
- Review zoning policies related to starting a business for rules that discourage diversity of business types.
- Examine your biases towards your black colleagues and employees for equity in the opportunities they are given even if their leadership styles differ from yours.

### Resources

- [Karen Boykin Towns](#), NAACP
- [Rev. Leila Ortiz](#)
- [White Privilege by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy](#)
- [Update to Definition of Racism](#)
- [SceneOn Radio](#)
  - [Season 2 - Seeing White](#)
  - [Season 3 - Men](#)
  - [Season 4 - The Land](#)
- [Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Obstetrics and Gynecology](#)
- [Oneika Traveller - White Privilege Video](#)

## Raising Rural Voices



[Lindsey Davis Stover](#) (Edwards, Davis, Stover & Assoc.) moderated a panel of rural specialists, featuring former candidates Jennifer Woofter and Christian Worth, rural activists [Lynlee Thomas](#) and Ian McNally, Delegates [Chris Hurst](#) and [Wendy Gooditis](#), and advocates Vee Fry ([Rural Caucus](#)) and [Sister Simone Campbell](#) (Network Lobby), who addressed the disparity of support for rural candidates and the unrealized opportunities to win hearts, minds, and votes in rural communities. Panelists emphasized the importance of having Democratic candidates in every race in order to build infrastructure and advised that rebuilding voter trust will require time and a long-term investment in these areas.

### Key takeaways:

- Rural campaigns need tailored support in terms of fundraising, organization, training and campaign tactics and strategy.
- Legislative development and decision-making lacks rural perspective, which can needlessly exclude rural interests and undermine efforts gained by rural candidates and the party.
- Rural voters have different interests and perspectives to those of urban and suburban voters. They need access to affordable broadband, food, and healthcare, and improvements in transportation and education.
- Trust can be achieved when the focus is on listening and building relationships, not just winning elections.
- Candidates need to represent their communities; what works in Northern Virginia and Richmond will not necessarily resonate in rural communities.
- Many veterans live in rural areas and can be a source for potential candidates and organizers.

### Videos

- [Raising Rural Voices](#)

### Pre-Summit Workshop Videos

- [Rural-Urban Divide Part 1](#)
- [Rural-Urban Divide Part 2](#)
- [Rural-Urban Divide Part 3](#)

### Calls to Action

- Support a Congressional candidate in a rural district - [VA Candidates 2020](#)
- Adopt-a-district and invest time in developing relationships within their communities – dollars invested in rural races go a long way
- Support development of digital media tools for rural areas (addressing poor communication infrastructure and long distances)
- Write postcards – they have high impact especially in rural areas

### Resources

- [Raising Rural Voices](#) (Report by Network Lobby)
- [Together Virginia PAC](#) (PAC supporting rural candidates)
- [Rural VA Dems](#) (aka the Rural Caucus)
- [Anthony Flaccavento](#) website and recommended reading
  - [Strangers in Their Own Land](#)
  - [Anger and Mourning on The American Right](#)
  - [Heartland-A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth](#)
  - [Beyond Contempt How Liberals Can Communicate Across the Great Divide](#)
  - [Merge Left](#)

## Let's Talk ERA - What's Next?



Moderator [Eileen Davis](#), longtime Virginia ERA activist and panel members [Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring](#), [VA Deputy Solicitor General Michelle Kallen](#), [Kati Hornung](#) ([VoteEqualityUS](#), formerly VAratifyERA), and [Andrea Miller](#) (interim President of the newly formed [National Women's Political Caucus of Virginia](#)), reviewed the status of the ERA and roles for activists in advancing its ratification.

### Key takeaways:

- Legal battle looms to block final adoption as the 28th amendment; panelists believe they have a strong argument and legal precedent ([Virginia v Ferriero](#)) for ratification.
- Virginia's legal team filed the motion in US District Court for DC to dismiss the Trump challenge.
- Legislation and policy that supports and protects women and families helps to advance the importance of equality
- Advocates should work to elect candidates that represent "equality leadership" in states with close Senate races and to get more and more young people involved and registered to vote.

Special guest and veteran ERA activist, 92-year-old [Laura Callow](#) of Michigan, closed the session by pointing out that we are on the right side of history. She reminded us of Susan B. Anthony's mantra: *Failure is impossible.*

### Video

- [Session Video – Let's Talk ERA – What's Next?](#)

### Pre-Summit Workshop Videos

- [Meet National Women's Political Caucus of Virginia Pre-Summit Video](#)

### Resources

- [National Women's Political Caucus-VA \(NWPC-VA\)](#)
- [Generation Ratify - youth-led movement to ratify the ERA](#)
- [VoteEqualityUS \(formerly VaRatifyERA.org\)](#)
- Article from the William & Mary *Journal of Race, Gender, and Social Justice*, "[The Equal Rights Amendment: Why the Era Remains Legally Viable and Properly Before the States](#)"
- [Virginia v. Ferriero](#) - Virginia and other states have sued the Archivist of the United States seeking a declaration that the ERA is now the law

## Political Analysis

### Politics of Voting



Two powerhouse women, Neera Tanden (Center for American Progress) and Gaby Goldstein (Sister District), joined moderators Katherine White (Network NoVA) and Krysta Jones (Vote Lead Impact), to assess current political and policy trends at the national and state levels.

#### Key takeaways:

- Women are organizing for justice everywhere to address systemic problems, such as police accountability, criminal justice reform, and voter suppression.
- Voter apathy is an issue for 2020 and the focus should be on generating turnout, especially among young people, and ensuring voters can get ballots and vote safely.
- Democratic party needs to focus on state legislatures, an area that has been weaponized by Republicans.
- Creation and development of new candidate pipelines, especially among women and people of color.
- Allyship between the electorate and movements is key to making real progress.

#### Video

- [Politics of Voting Summit Video](#)

#### Pre-Summit Workshop Videos

- [Get to Know EveryDistrict](#)

#### Resources

- [Sister District- 2020 Target States](#)
- [Center for American Progress](#)
- [Every District - 2020 Target Districts](#)

## 2020 Predictions



Katherine White ([Network NoVA](#)) moderated a session with dynamic panelists [Rachel Bitecofer](#) (Political Analyst, [Niskanen Center](#)) and [Ashlei Blue](#) (Political Director, [Swing Left](#)) on their 2020 election predictions. This rapid fire discussion covered a broad range of topics, including: Democratic Vice Presidential candidates, potential impacts of COVID-19 and national protests against police brutality on the November election, challenges of countering voter suppression, and energizing young voters.

### Key takeaways:

- Ongoing protests have shown that Democrats are awake and energized. They warned that Republicans will respond with their most powerful weapon, voter suppression
- Black voters will vote. Efforts should be directed at countering voter suppression and protecting voters' access to ballots and the polls.

Ashlei discussed Swing Left's 12 target [super states](#) (AZ, CO, FL, GA, IA, ME, MI, NC, OH, PA, TX, WI). She also mentioned their program to attract more young volunteers ([college intern program](#)) to work the polls and to support voter turnout through phone banking, voter registration drives, and compiling a state-specific list of early voting details.

Surprise guest VA Delegate and candidate for Governor [Jennifer Carroll Foy](#) encouraged activists to agitate, organize, and stay vigilant about voter suppression in Virginia. She discussed her work to make mail-in voting easy and widespread.

### Video

- [2020 Predictions Summit Video](#)

### Resources

- Look for Rachel's new show, [The Election Whisperer](#)
- Swing Left's [12 target super states](#)
- Swing Left's [College Intern Program](#)



## Media & Disinformation



[Mindy Burrell](#) (GOTV Committee Chair, of the [Woman's National Democratic Club](#)), [Lilly Strieder](#) ([New Blue Interactive](#)) and [Lori Coleman](#) ([DemCast](#)) provided an overview on how we process information and the challenges that result when trying to counter the effects of disinformation on social media platforms. They clarified that misinformation is false information, while disinformation is the intentional spreading of lies. And they stressed that analysts believe Russia will use disinformation tools to try to manipulate the 2020 US presidential election

### Key takeaways:

- The ability to recognize the different types of bias is important in identifying and countering misinformation:
  - **Confirmation bias** - tendency to interpret new information as confirmation of one's existing beliefs
  - **Attribution error** - errors made when people try to find reasons for their own and others' behaviors
- Cognitive ease impacts how positively (or negatively) we feel about something
- Repetition associates credibility to information.
- Forwarding and posting disinformation “repeats” the message and can actually make it appear more valid.
- Raise awareness and combat disinformation with truth
- Use a *Truth Sandwich* framework to counter misinformation: start with facts, explain the lie in the middle, and then finish with the truth.
- Check veracity using [Politifact](#) and verify whether the author was writing fact or opinion.
- Fact checking sources like [Snopes](#) have a reliable track record
- Report disinformation posts on Twitter and Facebook because more platforms are taking action on disinformation, especially politically motivated disinformation.
- When reporting, take a picture of content instead of forwarding so that you do not promote it.

### Video

- [Media and Disinformation](#)

### Pre-Summit Workshop Videos

- [Your Brain on Politics](#)
- [Your Intuition Is Your Superpower](#)
- [Your Story is Powerful: Challenge, Choice and Outcome](#)
- [Restorative Justice for Social Advocates](#)

### Calls to Action

- Get involved with [DemCast](#)
- Help address online disinformation
- Contact your representatives and demand more regulation and policy changes

### Resources

- [Full PowerPoint as pdf](#) - (This deck has more slides than used in the session)
- [Volunteer at DemCast](#)
- [Democratic National Committee - Combatting Online Disinformation](#)
- [National Democratic Institute - Canary in A Digital Coal-mine](#)
- Radiolab [Post No Evil Redux podcast](#) on Facebook's process to review and take down posts

## Power Conversations

### Cocktails & Conversation with Women Senators



All seven of Virginia's Democratic Women Senators shared their stories and achievements while sipping BADASS cocktails! When it seems that we hear nothing but negative news, the obvious camaraderie of these Senators, their perseverance in getting meaningful legislation passed, and their pride when sharing their legislative successes reminded us of the positive change that is being made.

Moderator Senator Jennifer Boysko and her colleagues, Senators Janet Howell, Louise Lucas, Mamie Locke, Barbara Favola, Jennifer McClellan, and Ghazala Hashmi recounted their inspiration for running for office and the challenges they face navigating through the “paternalistic perspectives of the male corners of the Senate.”

Surprise special guest Congresswoman and former Virginia Senator Jennifer Wexton joined her former colleagues in celebrating Virginia's legislative accomplishments, especially those that have improved the lives of Virginians, notably women.

One of the most poignant discussions of the evening was when Senator Boysko asked her colleagues what they were most proud of in their work in the Senate. Here is their list: killing the transvaginal ultrasound bill, passing the budget, running a tight committee, expanding Medicaid, moving forward on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial, securing absentee voting, delivering the casino bill, and passing the ERA.

#### Videos

- [Cocktails & Conversation with Women Senators](#)

#### Resources

- [Hedrick Smith's blog/video Virginia: Women Lead Voting Reforms](#)

## Black Women Lead



Who runs the world? Girls! Three young women led a powerhouse panel discussion on some of the key issues of the day. Genisus Holland and Joi Coleman ([Girls for Change](#)), and Kayla Rothstein (student representative from the Fairfax County Commission for Women) took turns questioning [Senator Mamie Locke](#), [Senator Jennifer McClellan](#), and [Delegate Jennifer Carroll Foy](#) on legislative initiatives, policies, and issues on topics that included: Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML), disparity in maternal and child healthcare for black and brown women, passage of the ERA, and protection of victims of human trafficking.

### Key takeaways:

- **PFML:** Women and black and brown people, many of whom are essential workers, are forced to decide between caring for themselves and their families or going to work to provide for their families. Women as primary caregivers would benefit immediately from PFML.
- **Maternal and Child Health:** Disparity in the type and quality of care available to communities of color results in the devastating consequences of needlessly high infant and maternal mortality rates. Increased support is needed to improve healthcare options and health education, and to expand programs for children.
- **Long-term Improvements:** There is a substantial need for more women, especially women of color, in public leadership who can serve as role models for young women and make and influence decisions that affect the needs of women and black and brown communities. We need more moments like the history that was made when Senator Louise Lucas, president pro tempore, presided over the passage of the ERA in the Virginia Senate.

This session was hosted by Krysta Jones ([Vote Lead Impact](#)) and Lisa Sales (Chair, [Fairfax County Commission for Women](#)).

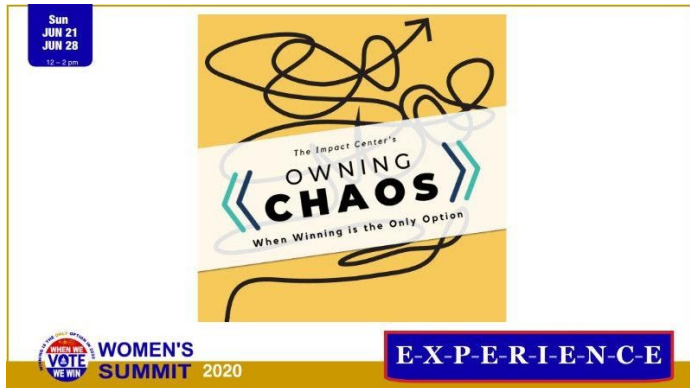
### Videos

- [Black Women Lead](#)

### Resources

- [The Center for American Women and Politics](#)
- [Fairfax County Commission for Women](#)
- [Newport News Healthy Families Initiative](#)

## Leadership Bootcamp: Owing Chaos Parts 1 and 2



Delegate [Sam Rasoul](#), with assistance from Lillian Franklin and Eleanor Roy from [The Impact Center](#), facilitated a 2-part interactive workshop on when and how to address and discuss today's emotionally charged issues. The sessions were built on the premise that chaos is not random or arbitrary but is a reflection of underlying interconnectedness. We can control our responses and use our understanding of the fear generated by chaos to better understand each other and identify opportunities to build trust.

Part 1 focused on identifying fears and understanding our responses. It explored the concept that chaos can open doors to new opportunities. Participants identified their fears related to the current chaotic situation and then in small groups talked about the opportunities that arise from the current chaos. Sam mapped out three responses when confronted with chaos and threats: Fight, Ignore, Engage or Act, Don't React, and Radically Empathize. He explained why we choose one response over another.

Part 2 applied the concept of Owing Chaos to the upcoming elections emphasizing that:

- Voting is an emotional decision, not a logical one
- Two main drivers in voting are fear and trust
- Humans are tribal

The "storming" technique can help prepare you for controlling chaos - identify the events or situations that could negatively affect your life and develop a response.

### Key takeaways:

- Focus on what our candidates will do for the public as a means to build trust with the public
- If we want to own chaos, we have to maintain control
- The politics of building trust is harder and takes more time, but it is more enduring than the politics of fear.

### Videos

- [Owing Chaos 1](#)
- [Owing Chaos 2](#)
- [Session Preview video](#)
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### Resources

- [The Impact Center](#)  
Sam Rasoul - [Delsrasoul@house.virginia.gov](mailto:Delsrasoul@house.virginia.gov); [info@theimpact.center](mailto:info@theimpact.center)
- [How to assist someone being harassed video](#)
- [Practical Peace and Empathy in Communication video](#)
- [How former Green Beret Nate Boyer engaged with Colin Kaepernick re. national anthem video](#)
- [Why Trump will win in 2020 video](#)
- [North Dakota Governor's moving request to stop attacking people wearing facemasks video](#)
- Article in *Campaigns and Elections*: ["Why this cycle needs to be about service more than winning?"](#)
- Article in *Forbes*: ["Do People Feel You Genuinely Care? Why Empathy Is Crucial to Leading Through Crisis"](#)

## ***About Network NoVA***

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Network NoVA is a grassroots organization whose mission is to connect with others in Northern Virginia and beyond for the purpose of promoting the democratic values of equality, justice, and human rights by creating opportunities for political engagement and civic participation to educate, engage, and empower voters, candidates, and elected officials. We strive to strengthen partnerships and build broad coalitions to continue the progress of winning back electoral power for the Democratic party. We do not endorse candidates in the primary process unless the candidate is unopposed.

Network NoVA produces the annual Women's Summit as the agenda-setting event for the grassroots movement. This powerhouse event is designed to deliver exceptional content, networking opportunities, and targeted learning to aid the grassroots in being an effective force in the political arena.

### **Save the date for next year's Women's Summit : June 18-20, 2021**

Location: Hilton McLean Tysons Corner

#### **Contact Information**

- Email: [networkvirginia@gmail.com](mailto:networkvirginia@gmail.com)
- URL: [www.networknova.org](http://www.networknova.org)

#### **Social Media**

- Twitter: [@networkvirginia](https://twitter.com/@networkvirginia)
- Instagram: [network\\_nova](https://www.instagram.com/network_nova)
- Meetup: [NetworkNoVA](https://www.meetup.com/NetworkNoVA)

#### **Videos**

- [YouTube Channel](#)

#### **Newsletter**

- [BADASS Briefings](#)

#### **Swag Store**

- [BADASS Boutique](#)