“DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT”

IMPACT REPORT 2022
OUR MISSION

WAVE (Women for American Values and Ethics) is a nonpartisan, fast-growing grassroots organization dedicated to engaging, educating, and empowering our community to advance progressive American values and ethics.

OUR VISION

A THRIVING AND INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACY.

OUR BELIEFS

We believe in the fundamental values of:

- Human, civil, and constitutional rights
- Respect, diversity, and inclusion
- Collaborative leadership
- Environmental conservation

We believe in our ethical responsibility to:

- Ensure a transparent and accountable government.
- Elect officials who practice cross-party compromise to achieve shared resolutions.
- Create fiscally responsible solutions for current and future generations.
Women for American Values and Ethics (WAVE) was established to provide a community for activists to address policy changes and ensure the survival of a healthy democracy. WAVE's story began after the 2016 election, when 21 women gathered to reject apathy, bigotry, and ignorance, and to ensure that progressive values and ethics would not retreat into the background of political discourse.

From our initial group, WAVE has grown into a strong force of more than 2,300 people: a powerhouse of political activists; a breeding ground for citizen-advocates and candidates at every level of government; a network of community partners and organizers; a collaborative of donors; and, a political home for leaders and thinkers.

During every political cycle since 2016, WAVE has been sought out by national, state, and local candidates for endorsements, volunteer support, voter outreach, and funding. We have been instrumental in increasing voter registration and education in the communities in which we work, and we have been key in winning important seats in Congress, State legislatures, City Councils, the OC Board of Supervisors, and on School Boards.

WAVE’s community action work has also been recognized for its impact on gun safety, the environment, migrant rights, government integrity, and civic engagement. We are incredibly proud that we have found partners from whom we’ve received guidance and lessons as to how best to approach the myriad of issues we face. At WAVE, we respect the work of those who have come before us and who have proven quite effective in their fields. We listen to them, partner with them, and offer our skills that complement their existing work.

“I AM THANKFUL FOR WAVE BECAUSE THEY ALWAYS STAND UP AND FIGHT FOR WHAT IS RIGHT. WAVE IS ESSENTIAL TO WINNING ELECTIONS!”

- Avery, Costa Mesa Dems
MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

For the past six years, it has been the privilege of my lifetime to lead WAVE and work with you to reshape Orange County and our country to more closely reflect our shared values. I am incredibly proud of the positive change we have fostered in our communities, and I feel so blessed for the friendships we have developed. This year, as I step down as WAVE’s President, please know that my heart will remain with our many members who have dedicated their time, talent, and treasure to living out our shared vision of a thriving and inclusive democracy. I am forever grateful to each and every one of you.

In unity,

Joanna Weiss
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT

OUR MISSION IS TO ENGAGE, EDUCATE, AND EMPOWER OUR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY TO ADVANCE PROGRESSIVE AMERICAN VALUES AND ETHICS.

I am extremely proud to release WAVE’s third, biennial Impact Report. This report will showcase not only our accomplishments from 2021 through 2022, but also the deep and meaningful connections we have made in our communities and in the hallowed halls of Congress, our State Capitol, and in dozens of local offices in our county.

We look back with great pride at what we accomplished together during those two years. In 2021 and 2022, we witnessed two of the most shocking events in recent history – the January 6th insurrection and the overturning of Roe v. Wade – and seized on those moments to strengthen our resolve even further. And despite the predicted red tide in the midterm election, American voters upheld the values of democracy and constitutional rights for all, demonstrating a commitment to the same values upon which WAVE was formed.

Because of our dedicated and effective members, over the past six years, WAVE has evolved from a fledgling band of committed activists into a well-respected organization that makes a significant impact on the Orange County political landscape. Financially, we have grown into one of the largest political action committees in the county, and our volunteers dedicate an incredible number of hours to advocate for our values, both electorally and issue-based.

The successes we’ve seen were due in large part to Joanna’s vision and direction. I know I have big shoes to fill, so I am incredibly humbled to have been selected as the new Executive Director of WAVE, and Board President of WAVE PAC. Having been with WAVE since its founding, I feel a deep sense of loyalty and responsibility to its future and to our members. With your support and with the invaluable contributions of our leadership team, I remain confident we can continue on our path of protecting democracy, electing ethical leaders, and advocating for causes that reflect our values, while promoting a strong sense of community and enjoying our time together making positive change.

Thank you for your partnership and activism, and I look forward to this new chapter in WAVE’s history!

In unity,
Ali Monge
WAVE EXECUTIVE BOARDS

WAVE PAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2021-2022
Joanna Weiss, Founder and President
Ali Monge, Vice President
Danea Riley, Treasurer
Arlene Joyce

WAVE ACTION FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2021-2022
Joanna Weiss, Founder and President
Kia Westhead, Secretary
Danea Riley, Treasurer
Michele Johnson

2021 ADVISORY COUNCIL
Charlotte Finklea, Advisory Council Chair
Helayne Angelus
Piper Benom, Co-Chair, Gun Safety Working Action Group
Rita Conn
Beth Daley Ullem, Chair, Endorsement Committee
Cathy Han
Toni Iseman (Honorary)
Irene Kinoshita, Co-Chair, Membership Committee
Debbie Liu
Sue Ellen O’Connor, Chair, Government Integrity Working Action Group
Audrey Prosser, Chair, Fundraising Committee
Gena Reed, Co-Chair, Membership Committee
Kathleen Treseder, Chair, Environment Working Action Group
Kia Westhead

2022 LEADERSHIP TEAM
Beth Daley Ullem, Chair, Endorsement Committee
Liz Dorn Parker, Chair, Endorsement Committee
Bonnie Eastman, Chair, Special Events
Cricket Jamet, Chair, Community Partnerships
Irene Kinoshita, Chair, Membership
Darla Magaña, Chair, Technology
Ali Monge, Vice President & Chair, Communications Committee
Gena Reed, Chair, Fund Development
Joanna Weiss, Founder and President
Kia Westhead, Chair, Operations
WHO WE ARE:
A SNAPSHOT

WAVE is a women-led, all-volunteer organization of more than 2,300 activists, donors, and supporters dedicated to advancing progressive values and ethics. We are a diverse group of individuals from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, religions, and political affiliations. Members include professionals in the fields of education and research, medicine and healthcare, law, business and entrepreneurship, innovation and technology, finance, information and communications, arts and sciences, and philanthropy and social work.
I’m incredibly proud of WAVE’s work, registering new voters, educating and empowering citizens to become activists. It’s deeply gratifying to see WAVE PAC’s endorsed candidates advocating for our shared values of human and civil rights, respect, diversity and inclusion.

– Piper Benom, WAVE’s Director of Operations

HOW WE WORK

WAVE effects change through two distinct organizations:

WAVE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (WAVE PAC)

WAVE PAC is a hybrid super PAC, also referred to as a Carey PAC, that advances political candidates, organizations, and policies that support progressive American values and ethics. WAVE PAC endorses and contributes directly to candidates at the federal, state, and local levels. It also provides opportunities for advocacy, community organizing, meet-and-greets with candidates, listening events with elected officials and policymakers, and partnerships with other PACs. WAVE PAC also operates as an independent expenditure committee (also known as a super PAC) that advances candidates through social media advertising, direct mail campaigns, and voter mobilization.

WAVE ACTION FUND

WAVE Action Fund is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit that supports WAVE’s civic activism, philanthropy, and community involvement work. The WAVE Action Fund’s work in 2021 and 2022 were carried out through the following groups: gun safety, government integrity, the environment, voter mobilization, and migrant rights. For the latter, we have found that there was plenty of overlap with other issues such as housing and healthcare access that we formed a broader “Community Partnerships” group to capture all the initiatives that didn’t fall neatly under migrant rights.

These working groups encouraged citizen-advocates to bring about change through local initiatives and partner programs. Looking ahead, we want to strengthen our work under the WAVE Action Fund by building capacity in education and training, legislative advocacy, rapid response action, and strategic partnerships in order to better support our selected action areas.
WAVE PAC OVERVIEW

2022 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

The growing commitment of WAVE supporters enabled us to provide 36% more in campaign contributions than in 2020 and cover 20% more races in all corners of Orange County, from La Habra to San Clemente and Seal Beach to Rancho Santa Margarita.

Additionally, WAVE PAC and its members supported candidates by advocating for fair redistricting boundaries, amplifying candidates through social media, holding fundraisers and meet-and-greets, providing field volunteers, educating voters and holding ballot parties, phone banking, text banking, canvassing, and writing tens of thousands of letters and postcards at the local and national level to get out the vote.

WAVE continued expanding its network and providing members with even more opportunities to impact the elections by building and strengthening partnerships with individual campaigns and other grassroots organizations, such as Indivisible, Vote Forward, Field Team 6, Grassroots Dems HQ, California Common Cause, and local Democratic clubs.

I’m thankful for the passion, grit, and intelligence of the women of WAVE. So inspirational! So empowering!

- WAVE member
GOAL #1: ELECT PROGRESSIVE CANDIDATES UP AND DOWN THE BALLOT

In the general election, WAVE-endorsed candidates had a 61% win rate, with 11 victories among our 12 endorsed school board candidates! We elected and re-elected 23 progressive women, including Supervisor Katrina Foley, to secure the OC Board of Supervisors’ first-ever non-conservative majority. WAVE helped Ashleigh Aitken and Valerie Amezcua make history as the first women mayors in Anaheim’s 166-year and Santa Ana’s 154-year existence, respectively. At the state level, we re-elected Cottie Petrie-Norris for AD-73 and supported Catherine Blakespear in flipping SD-38 blue. Nationally, we returned Congressmembers Katie Porter and Mike Levin to the House and helped hold the Senate with wins from four of our five U.S. Senate candidates. (Nevada, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Georgia).

GOAL #2: INCREASE MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND BROADEN OUR DONOR BASE

WAVE’s Membership Committee engaged in a robust membership drive in 2022 with several events, including two Wine and Wave evenings that resulted in over 300 dues-paying members and 2300+ subscribers to our weekly newsletter. Our Fundraising Committee planned and executed our most successful fundraiser on the donor side, netting close to $150,000 to expand support for our endorsed candidates and voter mobilization programs. Through our signature in-person Giant Ballot Party, member-hosted ballot parties, and the widely shared WAVE Endorsement Guide Matrix, we exponentially impacted voter participation in voting the whole ballot. Our Voter Mobilization, Migrant Rights, and Community Partnerships leaders began hosting Spanish language “Election 101” sessions to discuss the impact of election outcomes. They also talked about how residents who are unable to vote can still have a positive impact on their communities.

GOAL #3: STRENGTHEN WAVE’S INFRASTRUCTURE

WAVE’s leadership team developed a plan entitled “WAVE Forward,” creating a more potent distributive leadership model and allowing more decision-making power at the committee level. This greater autonomy enables more shared and sustainable efforts while growing a pipeline of leaders within WAVE! We will continue strengthening WAVE’s infrastructure in 2023, recruiting new members to our standing committees and action areas.

GOAL #4: FACILITATE SIGNIFICANT GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY TO HELP OUR 2022 ENDORSED CANDIDATES

We launched a partnership with Grassroots Democratic Headquarters (GDHQ) and sponsored multiple canvassing days for our four congressional candidates in districts 40, 45, 47, and 49. Our partnership with GDHQ facilitated hiring college student interns, coordination of phone banks and canvasses for our endorsed candidates, providing buses for volunteer canvassers from Los Angeles to our OC races, and hiring paid canvassers. With this partnership and others, we trained our community in phone banking and canvassing, through which individual WAVE members dedicated their time, often several times a month, to support their candidates of choice.

Our ThruText interactive text campaign reached over 65,000 female voters in Orange County, supporting Katie Porter, Mike Levin, Katrina Foley, Asif Mahmood, and Jay Chen. We also texted more than 11,000 voters to support our endorsed San Clemente City Council candidates. WAVE and friends mobilized and engaged new or infrequent voters by partnering with Field Team 6, Vote Forward, and grassroots organizers in Anaheim and the Placentia-Yorba Linda School District. These dedicated ballpoint warriors wrote and sent almost 56,000 letters and postcards in Orange County and key strategic states, pursuing every potential margin of victory!
WAVE PAC VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

WE LAUNCHED A PARTNERSHIP WITH GRASSROOTS DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS (GDHQ) AND SPONSORED MULTIPLE CANVASSING DAYS FOR OUR FOUR CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES IN DISTRICTS 40, 45, 47, AND 49. OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH GDHQ FACILITATED THE HIRING OF COLLEGE STUDENT INTERNS; PHONE BANKS AND CANVASSES; BUSES FOR VOLUNTEER CANVASSERS FROM LOS ANGELES TO OUR OC RACES; AND PAID CANVASSERS.

LETTER-WRITING AND POSTCARDING
We sent letters and postcards again! In partnership with Field Team 6 and Vote Forward, WAVE members wrote and sent almost 56,000 pieces of voter registration and GOTV communication! This includes 47,940 Field Team 6 postcards (including Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District and Aitken for Mayor postcards) and 7,809 Vote Forward letters.

CANVASSING
We launched a partnership with Grassroots Democratic Headquarters (GDHQ) and sponsored multiple canvassing days for our four congressional candidates in districts 40, 45, 47, and 49. Our partnership with GDHQ facilitated the hiring of college student interns, phone banks and canvasses, buses for volunteer canvassers from Los Angeles to our OC races, and paid canvassers.

VOTER EDUCATION
We released our WAVE Endorsement Guide Matrix that covered key state, county, and local races and state propositions. This highly-regarded tool has been widely disseminated to voters in Orange County, enabling well-informed voting down the whole ballot.

We hosted an in-person Giant Ballot Party and a Virtual Ballot Party to help our members and the community vote the entire ballot. Individual WAVE members also hosted their own ballot parties for friends and family. These gatherings have had an exponential impact on voter education and participation.

VOTER ENGAGEMENT
Our Voter Mobilization and Community Partnerships leaders worked with local groups to begin hosting “Election 101” sessions in Spanish. Through small group discussions, participants discussed what matters most to their communities and how election outcomes hurt or help those issues. The session lessons were not restricted to just those who could vote -- even residents who are ineligible to vote were empowered with ways on using their voice and other means to positively affect their communities.

BY THE NUMBERS
2022
56,000
LETTERS WRITTEN TO VOTERS
76,000
TEXT MESSAGES SENT
63
CANDIDATES ENDORSED BY WAVE
2,300
ACTIVISTS SUBSCRIBED TO WAVE
$330,000
*SPENT IN SUPPORT OF OUR CANDIDATES
300-400
DUES-PAYING MEMBERS EACH YEAR
100-250
AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS DEVOTED BY A WAVE VOLUNTEER DURING THE 2022 ELECTIONS
*$150,000 IN DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES, $180,000 IN INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES
"THERE IS QUALITY INTERPERSONAL ENGAGEMENT. I LOVE THE BRIGHT, CAN-DO WOMEN IN THIS GROUP."
- Dillon

"I ENJOYED MEETING WOMEN WHO ARE SO DEDICATED TO CARING ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE AND WHO KNOW HOW TO DO IT"
- WAVE Member

76% of survey respondents said that on a scale of 1-10, they were 10/10 likely to recommend WAVE to a friend.

83% of survey respondents report being very satisfied with their volunteer experience.

"THERE IS QUALITY INTERPERSONAL ENGAGEMENT. I LOVE THE BRIGHT, CAN-DO WOMEN IN THIS GROUP."
- Dillon

WAVE ELECTION SEASON VOLUNTEER HOURS (MARCH 2022 - NOVEMBER 2022)

1 - 10: 18.2%
10 - 20: 27.3%
20 - 50: 36.4%
50 - 100: 9.1%
100 - 250: 5.0%
250 - 500: 1.0%
500 - 1,000: 0.0%
>1,000: 0.0%
NONE: 0.0%

Source: WAVE's 2022 Volunteer Feedback Survey

"I LOVE WAVE. The dedication and accomplishments of the leaders is inspiring and sometimes unbelievable."
- Laura Camp

WAVE is my primary organization. The impact that WAVE has is amazing.
- Audrey Prosser

The camaraderie with fellow WAVE members. I’d never have crossed paths with most of them if I hadn’t joined years ago.
- Jen Nichols

I most enjoyed getting to know some local candidates - they restored my faith in political leaders.
- WAVE Member

I like the feeling that I’m doing something to build a system that supports my values.
- Deirdre Magrino

Engaging with like-minded, patriotic people who want to move our country in a positive direction.
- WAVE Member

Getting involved with campaigns or community activism gets me out of the problems and into the solutions...
- Al Fisher

WAVE is a great group with like-minded women. It’s easy to volunteer through them.
- Donna Layne

Helping the cause with like-minded people.
- D. Fitchko

76% of survey respondents said that on a scale of 1-10, they were 10/10 likely to recommend WAVE to a friend.

83% of survey respondents report being very satisfied with their volunteer experience.

"THERE IS QUALITY INTERPERSONAL ENGAGEMENT. I LOVE THE BRIGHT, CAN-DO WOMEN IN THIS GROUP."
- Dillon
WAVE ENDORSEMENTS

WAVE uses a defined process to identify, vet, and endorse viable candidates that support WAVE’s ethics and values on national, state, county, and local levels. WAVE does not endorse in every race, but identifies key races and promising candidates that align most strongly with WAVE and prioritizes those races for the most impact.
ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

WAVE continued refining our endorsement strategy, timelines, and questionnaires to increase the number and breadth of candidates considered, while strengthening an ethical and fair endorsement process. The process includes reviewing candidate responses to our questionnaires, which differ for each office. With the most promising candidates, we conduct probing interviews to ensure that their past actions and future plans align with WAVE’s values and ethics. WAVE also collects highly-valued feedback from members in good standing and community leaders. The committee then considers all of this and a candidate’s viability to ensure WAVE invests wisely in strategic races to ensure our donors’ dollars have the greatest and widest impact.

Our expanded Endorsement Committee includes a diverse membership with deep community ties across a greater geographic span, helping bring more varied and informed perspectives to the deliberations.

ENDORSEMENT RESULTS

In 2021: WAVE contributed more than $46,000 to candidates in 2021 to support special elections or to provide early contributions for their 2022 elections. This is the most money WAVE has contributed to candidates during a non-election year.

In 2022: WAVE broadened and deepened its influence with endorsements of 63 local, state, and national candidates and investments of roughly $150,000 in their campaigns. WAVE also provided significant grassroots support through letter writing, postcarding, phone banking, text banking, canvassing, voter education, ballot parties, and other campaign-support efforts.
WAVE SUPER PAC SPENDING
WAVE’s independent expenditure committee enables us to raise and disburse unlimited funds to advance – or oppose – candidates and issues. In 2021, WAVE’s objective was to help elect Katrina Foley to the Orange County Board of Supervisors, and to help California Governor Gavin Newsom defeat a recall. For the 2022 primary and general elections, WAVE used independent expenditures totaling $180,000 to produce and distribute content that would increase support and engagement for our endorsed candidates. In order to comply with laws prohibiting coordination with campaigns while at the same time determining how WAVE could be most effective, we surveyed the public-facing strategies of each of our endorsed candidates, communicated with other Super PACs, and then used our resources to fill in any gaps.

2021
- At the beginning of 2021, we worked tirelessly to fundraise and support then-Mayor Katrina Foley in her bid to fill the Supervisorsial seat left vacant when Michelle Steel was elected to Congress. WAVE raised nearly $20,000 in a few short weeks to support our super PAC activities that contacted nearly every registered Democrat in the district to encourage them to support Mayor Foley.
- WAVE also mobilized to work against the recall of Governor Newsom. WAVE again textbanked to reach Orange County voters to encourage them to vote no on the recall. We provided significant resources to our members to encourage relational organizing to combat the recall.

2022
- During the primary election season, we invested heavily in critical school board races by sending print mailers in support of Martha Fluor and Sherine Smith.
- We launched another ThruText interactive text campaign that reached more than 65,000 female voters in Orange County. We sent out texts in support of Katie Porter, Mike Levin, Katrina Foley, Asif Mahmood, and Jay Chen. We also supported our endorsed San Clemente City Council candidates by sending out GOTV texts to more than 11,000 voters.
THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW

On May 7th, 2022, WA VE held its annual fundraiser called “The Fierce Urgency of Now”. We were thrilled to have as special guests, Congressmembers Katie Porter and Mike Levin, as well as congressional candidates Dr. Asif Mahmood and Jay Chen. They were joined by several of our endorsed local candidates as well. The evening was filled with great camaraderie, rousing speeches, wonderful silent auction items, and a highly energetic live auction. Our amazing WA VE Fundraising Committee knocked it out of the park again by organizing an evening to remember that also raised close to $150,000!
In addition to these special virtual events, there were in-person Wine and WAVEs as well, featuring Sen. Dave Min and Pete Hardin.

In 2022, WAVE hosted two Wine and WAVEs early in the year. The first one, held in March, featured Supervisor Katrina Foley. The following month, she was joined by Rep. Katie Porter for another event hosted by our UCI-based members.
WA VE Action Fund is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit that supports WA VE’s work in civic engagement, philanthropy, and community outreach. Currently, WA VE supports five working action groups, each dedicated to a specific cause. Their common mission is to encourage citizen-advocates to effect change through local initiatives and partner programs. Moving forward, we will focus on further refining our work under the WA VE Action Fund. We will continue to build our capacity in legislative advocacy, rapid response action, education and training, and strategic partnerships, in order to continue advancing our work in areas such as gun safety, the environment, public education, migrant rights, and voter mobilization.
ENVIRONMENT WORKING ACTION GROUP

Over the past two years, the Environment Working Action Group (EWAG) continued to focus on climate action by supporting the creation of the Orange County Power Authority (OCPA) and lobbying city councils to join the OCPA. When the cities of Buena Park, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, and Irvine confirmed their participation in the OCPA, WAVE wrote letters to their respective city councils to urge them to choose 100% clean, renewable electricity as the default product for all electricity users. Our goal was to convince those cities to aim for not only a clean and secure energy future for Orange County, but also a safer and healthier living environment for their residents. This was a unique and powerful opportunity for the cities to address the ill effects of climate change and of environmental injustice brought on by harmful emissions.

A lot has happened since OCPA was established, and unfortunately, the future of the agency is uncertain. As of this writing, reforms have been underway and more are being discussed. It is our fervent hope that a resolution will be reached soon so as to protect the underlying mission and integrity of the agency.

GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY

We firmly believe that as engaged citizens, it is our fundamental right to hold our leaders accountable and guarantee that our democratic processes are protected. In 2021 and 2022, our main project was the WAVE Is Watching Newsletter. It was our hope that the newsletters helped keep our members informed about current, pending and upcoming legislation at the national and local levels. On the national level, we tracked the most pressing bills as they passed through the House and Senate, making note of how our Orange County representatives voted on each bill. On the local level, we kept tabs on what was happening in Sacramento and monitored how our elected officials responded to certain crises in our communities.

The response to the WAVE Is Watching newsletter has been overwhelmingly positive. Our members highly appreciated the fact that they could refer to one piece of email and learn about the key goings-on in our government from the local all the way up to the federal level.
2021-22 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

17 gun safety bills tracked and supported during the 2022 California legislative session.

16 out of 17 bills are now signed into law.

13 Assembly and Senate committee meetings in which WAVE members called to make public comments in support of gun safety legislation. In many cases, WAVE calls outnumbered NRA and CA Rifle & Pistol Association calls.

9 official WAVE letters of support submitted to the California Legislature in support of gun safety bills.

Successfully supported SB 264 (Senator Min) which banned gun shows at all state fairgrounds, including OC Fairgrounds.

Successfully supported AB 1057 (Assembly Member Petrie-Norris) which broadened red flag laws to include domestic violence cases.

Successfully supported AB 2061 (Assembly Member Petrie-Norris) which ensured that all gun show vendors be subject to inspection by the CA Department of Justice.

Successfully supported a statewide bill to allow citizens to sue gun manufacturers.

Successfully supported bills to ban ghost guns in California.

Successfully supported a bill requiring school districts to notify parents about existing CA law on safe storage of firearms and potential felony charges if child injuries themself or others with unsecured firearm.

2022 ENDORSED CANDIDATES

WAVE endorsed 8 Orange County State Senate and Assembly candidates with strong gun safety credentials. 4 out of the 8 were elected to office.

OTHER ACTIONS

WAVE Gun Safety WAG members attended a local city council meeting to support a gun storage ordinance.

WAVE was recognized by Governor Newsom’s Office as an advocacy partner in gun safety legislation.

Partnered with the following organizations:
- California Firearms Strategy Group
- Everytown for Gun Safety/Moms Demand Action
- Brady
- Never Again CA
- San Diego for Gun Violence Prevention
MIGRANT RIGHTS

WAVE’s Migrant Rights Working Action Group aims to provide relief to underrepresented and underserved immigrant communities. We believe in compassion, fairness, and a willingness to share the American Dream with those looking for a brighter future in our country. We not only educate our members and the community about the issues surrounding immigration and the rights of migrants, but also provide opportunities to advocate for inclusive, non-discriminatory legislation; participate in civic engagement events aimed at Spanish-speaking communities; encourage donations to organizations; and, heed urgent calls to action when our partners raise an issue.

Through our membership in various South County-based collaboratives, we have been able to support the work of partner groups and fill in service and advocacy gaps where needed. We are also grateful that we have been in a position to sponsor and provide other forms of financial support to organizations doing meaningful work in this space, such as CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice) and OCJF (Orange County Justice Fund), among others.

Our partnerships in this area have enabled us to expand our network in Orange County, as we have come to learn more about different groups that address the vast intersection of issues that relate to migrant rights, such as housing and healthcare access. Thus, we established a new initiative under WAVE called ‘Community Partnerships’. This has become an umbrella for all of our links to this broad array of partner groups.
VOTER MOBILIZATION

It was a busy year for the Voter Mobilization Team! WAVE launched a 7-part GOTV letter-writing campaign with Field Team 6 and Vote Forward:

1. PHASE ONE - FIELD TEAM 6 VOTER REGISTRATION

November 2021 – February 2022

The team distributed 20,000 postcards with a QR code that took potential voters directly to Mobilizer, a voter registration site. 5,000 postcards went to each of our targeted districts: CA-39, CA-45, CA-48, and CA-49 (redistricting was not finalized yet at this point.)

Multiple postcard writing parities were held by postcard captains and numerous WAVE supporters. Team leaders also attended virtual and in-person meetings with other progressive groups to promote the project. We were able to develop valuable relationships with fellow activists through these interactions.

2. VOTE FORWARD - VOTER REGISTRATION

February 2022 – June 2022

The team supported voter registration letter-writing to critical swing states across the nation. WAVE hosted numerous trainings and Zooms to support writers. Total count of Vote Forward - Voter Registration letters was 1,320.

3. PLACENTA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (PLYUSD) BOARD ELECTION

February 2022 – September 2022

WAVE members and associates wrote 1,500 postcards in support of inclusive and diverse student-centered education in Orange County public schools. All postcards written included postage donated by our generous writers.

4. PHASE TWO – FIELD TEAM 6 VOTER MOBILIZATION (GOTV)

June 2022 – October 2022

WAVE purchased five different designs of GOTV postcards from Field Team 6. These designs were selected because they reflected the top five researched critical issues for Orange County: affordable housing, jobs, environment, health care, and science/tech. Postcard Captains met several times to write potential scripts for the writers that coordinated with each postcard. After the SCOTUS decision overturning Roe v. Wade, the healthcare postcard was in huge demand. Alternative scripts were also developed that addressed women’s health rights and recent gun violence.

The team then distributed 25,000 GOTV postcards to new districts CA-40, CA-45, CA-47, and CA-49.
5. VOTE FORWARD – GOTV CAMPAIGN

September 2022- October 29, 2022
WAVE actively promoted this new phase of the project in support of our own districts CA-40, CA-45, CA-47, and CA-49. Many local progressive organizations contacted us for support in launching dual postcard/letter-writing campaigns and parties. We also remained a source for training and support to writers. WAVE members and associates wrote 3,779 Vote Forward GOTV letters to local Orange County districts.

6. CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT AITKEN FOR ANAHEIM MAYOR

September 2020 – October 17, 2022
This postcard campaign was not funded by WAVE, but well-supported by WAVE members and associates. The data we had from Field Team 6 included 1,440 Anaheim addresses which we were able to access free of charge.

7. VOTE FORWARD AND FIELD TEAM 6 CAMPAIGN FOR GEORGIA RUNOFF ELECTIONS

December 2022
Even in the middle of the busy holiday season, WAVE wrote 1,000 FT6 postcards and 4,030 Vote Forward letters to Georgia in support of re-electing Senator Raphael Warnock.

All in all, our partnership with Field Team 6 and Vote Forward yielded 55,749 pieces of voter registration and GOTV communication! This includes 47,940 Field Team 6 postcards (including Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District and Aitken for Mayor postcards) and 7,809 Vote Forward letters.

It is a testament to the power of WAVE leadership and membership. It has been an incredible journey.

VOTER EDUCATION

Our Voter Mobilization and Community Partnerships leaders worked with local groups to host a Spanish language “Election 101” session. Through small group discussions, they had conversations around what matters to their community and how election outcomes help or hurt those issues. They also talked about how residents who are unable to vote can still have a positive impact on their communities.
WA VE held a fundraiser to benefit the WA VE Action Fund on Saturday, May 15, 2021. The program was entitled “Light the Way for Change: Hope Inspiration Action.” The virtual hybrid event was held through admission to the virtual presentation, as well as through hosted screening parties for some sponsors.

The program shone a spotlight on “Bravery” as we tackle the societal issues of divisiveness and extremism. We heard from world-renowned experts who empowered attendees to be catalysts for change in their communities and beyond.

Three discussions were led by Megan Phelps-Roper, activist and author of *Unfollow: A Journey from Hatred to Hope*, Dr. Pete Simi, Associate Professor at Chapman University, and Dr. Megan Squire, Digital Science Professor at Elon University. Their discussions covered extremism, intervention and prevention, as well as social media as a cause and a cure.

During the program, WA VE also honored “Guiding Lights” - four remarkable people who are lighting the way for change in the community through their activism and commitment to social justice. This list included Annee Delle Donna, an attorney providing pro bono legal services with UCI Law School students through the Innocence Project; Mary Anne Foo, Executive Director of Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA), advocating for access to healthcare and social justice for Asian and Pacific Islanders in Orange County and combating anti-Asian hate crimes; Arush Mehrotra, a high school student who founded the OC Justice Project to raise awareness of injustice in the criminal system and immigrant detention; and Michael Sean Wright, filmmaker and former EMT who founded Wound Walk OC to help people experiencing homelessness cleanse their wounds and assist them in finding proper healthcare.

Nearly $50,000 was raised by generous donors to support WA VE Action Fund.
GOAL 1
Implement our strategic plan to maximize success in the 2024 election cycle. WAVE will fundraise so we can financially support our endorsed candidates; recruit quality candidates to run at all levels of government; and, develop a volunteer engagement plan to maximize opportunities for member involvement in this crucial upcoming election.

GOAL 2
Provide hands-on training for members to advocate for gun safety, migrant rights, the environment, and voter mobilization/civic engagement. We will continue to build our capacity in legislative advocacy, rapid response action, education and training, and strategic partnerships, in order to continue advancing our chosen action areas. We will also place a renewed focus on supporting our longtime partner, Planned Parenthood, in fighting for reproductive rights and freedom.

GOAL 3
Establish a new action area focused on supporting public school education in Orange County. Extremist conservative groups have increasingly targeted public school boards in the past few years, attempting to make them a battleground in a political and culture war. This began a long time ago, not just in 2022. WAVE is committed to protecting public schools to ensure that all students have access to a high quality education. We will partner with existing groups to maximize and amplify our collective impact.

Looking Ahead...
Develop a strategic plan that will set us up for a stable and solid future as an organization. As WAVE fulfills many needs for many people, we want to be here for the long haul. How we achieve that means that we need to implement measures that ensure three key things: financial sustainability, longevity, and relevance. Join us as we carry out our plans for the next year and beyond. Be a part of our movement. Be a part of the conversation. Be a part of shaping our history.
For questions or comments about this report, please email INFO@WAVE4ALL.ORG.

To become a member, please email MEMBERSHIP@WAVE4ALL.ORG.