The Ascend Fund is committed to accelerating the pace of change toward gender parity in U.S. politics. Because while women are 51% of the U.S. population, they still make up less than 30% of our country’s elected leaders—even accounting for recent and historic gains.

When women run, women win

But for women, the current pathway to elected office is often unclear, riddled with barriers and diversions, or worse, altogether inaccessible. As a collaborative fund, The Ascend Fund pools philanthropic capital and invests in nonpartisan, nonprofit organizations. Increased investment, in historically underfunded organizations, help them more effectively. Without additional investment, it could take more than 100 years to achieve gender parity in U.S. politics. We have a plan for women to reach 50% representation in all 50 states by 2050.

Establish a pathway

for more women to see themselves as candidates and normalize women’s leadership.

Bridge the gap

by providing women with the tools, training, and resources to successfully run for office.

Transform the system

by dismantling roadblocks so elected officials reflect the diversity of the population.

When women lead, our nation is transformed

The Ascend Fund is committed to realizing a representative democracy within 30 years, not merely because we believe it’s what’s fair – but because we believe it’s what’s smart. When women win elections, they:

Change the agenda

and are more likely to prioritize legislation that benefits women, children, and families.

Govern differently

by building coalitions, working across the aisle, and reaching compromise on divisive issues.

Disrupt systems

and normalize women’s leadership which positively affect the political ambitions of young women and women of color.

The year women would reach parity if we were to continue at the rate seen over the last century.

The year women could reach parity if we continue to progress at the same rate as the past 20 years.

Our accelerated target for achieving parity. Together, we are committed to realizing a representative democracy within 30 years.

The Ascend Fund is powered by Panorama Global. Panorama Global is a Seattle-based 501(c)(3) action tank working to solve problems by influencing people and policy and through innovative partnerships.

invest in women. invest in democracy.
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**THE MOMENTUM STARTS WITHIN THE STATES**

**RANKING THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN AMONG STATE LEGISLATURES**

Critical policy decisions are made in state legislatures, yet in 40 states, women hold less than 40% of the seats.

**PARTNERS IN PROGRESS**

The Ascend Fund works with organizations aiming to improve the gender composition of state legislatures. We’re currently working in more than a dozen states with plans to be in all 50 states by 2026. By investing in state legislatures, we’re investing in a critical pipeline to propel women to parity in all levels of government.

**VAST POTENTIAL**

There are 8,000 elected officials serving at the state level, compared to 535 members of Congress.

**CRITICAL GROUND**

Powerful policy decisions happen at the state level and they have cascading influence upward and across our communities.

**COMPOUNDING EFFECT**

State legislative campaigns operate on smaller budgets than congressional ones, so dollars stretch farther and impact more seats.

The Ascend Fund is uniquely committed to supporting women across the political spectrum. Why? Because if we’re going to ascend, we must rise together. We are creating state-specific strategies to reach this ambitious goal by 2050 and have already invested more than $5 million in organizations committed to accelerating the pace of gender parity. Learn more at www.theascendfund.org.

“The moment starts within the states.”

“Getting more women in office starts with getting more women to run.”

— MELINDA GATES

“Vast potential”

“Critical ground”

“Compounding effect”