

SUMMER POLICY INSTITUTE

Gender in Public Policy

Promoting Equality in Today's Political Climate

Liz Charles

She/Her/Hers

Executive Director
Oklahoma Women's Coalition



Tamya Cox-Touré

She/Her/Hers

RD of Public Policy & Organizing
Planned Parenthood Great Plains



Today's Presentation

TOPIC OUTLINE

Where We've Been

Where We Are Now

Policy & Strategy

Case Study

Where Do We Go From Here

Women & the Oklahoma Legislature

In 1920, Amelia McColgin and Lamar Looney were the first 2 women elected to the Legislature. The 1960s saw the first African-American woman elected.



Lamar Looney was elected to the Senate from Harmon County



Amelia McColgin was elected to the House from Roger Mills County



Hannah Atkins was elected to the House from Oklahoma City

Women Represent

21.5% IN OKLAHOMA
LEGISLATURE

32 women currently serve in the Legislature. 9 in Senate and 23 in House.

28.7% OF ALL STATE
LEGISLATURES

2,118 women serve in state legislatures. Most elected at one time than anytime before.

23.7% OF CONGRESS

127 women hold seats in Congress. More elected at one time than any time before.

Where We Are Now:

GOVERNOR'S
ADMINISTRATION

3/15

Women appointed to
governor's Cabinet

4/11

Women elected to
statewide, executive
office

29/109

State agencies
administered by
female executive

Why It Matters

Individuals deserve to have a government that accurately represents them

Increasing the number of women/POC in executive level leadership makes agenda more responsive to the needs of underrepresented populations

A public workforce representative of the people will help ensure that the interests of all groups are considered in policy implementation

3 Guiding Principles

Each of us deserves the opportunity to control our lives at the most basic level: our bodies, our families, and our life's path, including whether and when to become a parent.

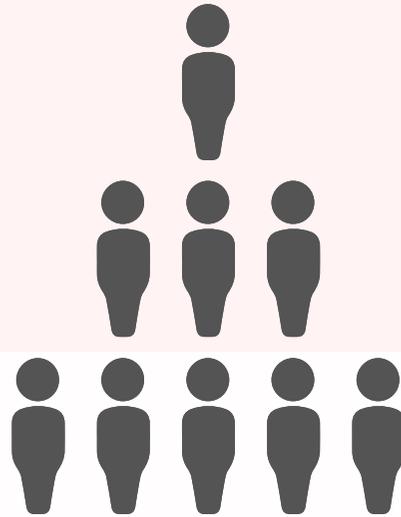
A person should make informed decisions when it comes to her own pregnancy — without interference from politicians.

Reproductive Justice intersects with every other social justice fight



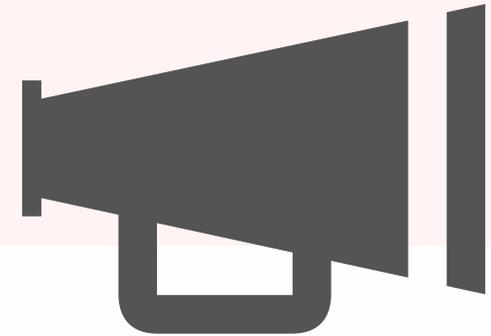
GRASSROOTS

Building public support, political will and pressure



COALITION BUILDING

Convening diverse stakeholders to leverage influence



DIRECT LOBBYING

Securing support and pushing legislation

Educate

Educate

Educate



***Case Study:
Failure to
Protect***



“

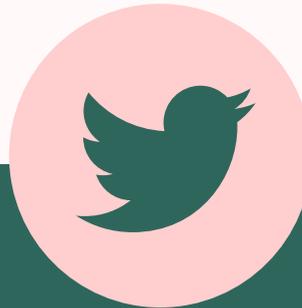
**When injustice
becomes law,
resistance becomes
duty.**



Follow us on Social Media



@oklahomawomenscoalition
@plannedparenthoodgreatPlains



@okwc
@PPGreatPlainsOK



@okwomenscoalition
@ppgreatplains

*Our
Contact
Info*

TAMYA COX-TOURE
REG. DIR. PUBLIC POLICY &
ORGANIZING
PLANNED PARENTHOOD GREAT
PLAINS VOTES

tamya.cox-toure@ppgreatplains.org
office: 405.274.3996

LIZ CHARLES,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OKLAHOMA WOMEN'S COALITION

director@okwc.org
cell: 918.850.6945