



Pro-Choice Victories in the 2006 Midterm Elections

On November 7, Americans reaffirmed their commitment to the values of freedom, privacy, and personal responsibility by electing pro-choice candidates and defeating anti-choice ballot measures in races across the country. Although some races have yet to be called, these gains show that voters are tired of divisive attacks on woman's right to choose and oppose allowing politicians to interfere in our personal, private decision-making.

NARAL Pro-Choice America, the nation's largest non-partisan pro-choice political organization, capitalized on the public's call for change with a comprehensive \$2.5 million political program, which included independent expenditures in congressional races, direct contributions to candidates, and contributions to the efforts to defeat anti-choice ballot measures. The organization's one-million-strong network of member activists built on these financial investments by phone banking and going door-to-door on behalf of pro-choice candidates across the country.

NARAL Pro-Choice America projects a net gain of at least 20 pro-choice seats in the House, along with key wins in the Senate. Even as some races remain too close to call, there are multiple examples of pro-choice gains:

- Rep. Sherrod Brown (Ohio), Claire McCaskill (Missouri), and Jon Tester (Montana) defeated anti-choice incumbent senators.
- In Pennsylvania's 7th District, retired Admiral Joe Sestak defeated 10-term anti-choice incumbent Curt Weldon. In the state's 8th District, Iraq war veteran Patrick Murphy defeated anti-choice incumbent Mike Fitzpatrick.
- In Iowa's 1st District, Bruce Braley won an open seat being vacated by retiring anti-choice Rep. Jim Nussle, who lost a gubernatorial race to pro-choice Chet Culver.
- In Arizona's 5th District, Harry Mitchell defeated anti-choice incumbent J.D. Hayworth, who first won election to Congress in 1994.

U.S. Senate

NARAL Pro-Choice America made especially significant contributions in these races:

California: Dianne Feinstein (D)

Incumbent Sen. Dianne Feinstein defeated anti-choice opponent Dick Mountjoy. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 86,983 pro-choice activists in support of Feinstein.

Connecticut: Joe Lieberman (I)

NARAL Pro-Choice America endorsed Sen. Lieberman, who has consistently stood up for a woman's right to choose. Lieberman, running as an independent, defeated Ned Lamont and Alan Schlesinger.

Maryland: Ben Cardin (D)

Rep. Ben Cardin won a high-profile battle for the seat vacated by retiring pro-choice Sen. Paul Sarbanes against vehemently anti-choice Michael Steele.

NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 15,364 pro-choice activists in Maryland to vote for Cardin. Nancy Keenan, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, joined Cardin supporters on November 6 at an event where she outlined the differences between Cardin and Steele – in particular pointing out that Steele opposes legal abortion even in cases of rape and incest. Cardin's victory is a major pro-choice win, as Bush and the National Right to Life Committee spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on an anti-choice message Maryland voters ultimately rejected.

Michigan: Debbie Stabenow (D)

Incumbent Sen. Debbie Stabenow defeated anti-choice challenger Mike Bouchard. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 19,166 pro-choice activists in Michigan to vote for Stabenow.

Missouri: Claire McCaskill (D)

Claire McCaskill won a highly competitive race against Sen. Jim Talent, one of the most anti-choice members of the Senate. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 12,446 pro-choice activists in Missouri to support McCaskill.

Montana: Jon Tester (D)

Pro-choice State Senate President Jon Tester defeated three-term anti-choice incumbent Sen. Conrad Burns. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized nearly 3,000 pro-choice activists in support of Tester and featured the farmer-rancher as a "Pro-Choice Pick" in a September email alert to 45,000 of its most active members nationwide.

New Jersey: Bob Menendez (D)

Rep. Bob Menendez defeated Tom Kean, Jr. --- a candidate who initially tried to convince New Jersey voters he was moderate on choice, but whose true views were unveiled when he welcomed last-minute electoral help from extremist groups like the National Right to Life Committee.

NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 16,021 pro-choice activists to vote for Sen. Menendez, helping elect a leader who in addition to earning a fully pro-choice record, has authored groundbreaking legislation to prevent teen pregnancy.

Ohio: Sherrod Brown (D)

Rep. Sherrod Brown defeated anti-choice incumbent Sen. Mike DeWine – one of the Senate’s most anti-choice members and author of the so-called “Unborn Victims of Violence Act.” NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 21,541 pro-choice activists in Ohio to vote for Brown. He was also among the select candidates featured in the September “Pro-Choice Picks” email alert sent to 45,000 of our most active members nationwide. Early in the race, NARAL Pro-Choice America reached out to its members in the Buckeye State and generated a list of 300 volunteers for the Brown campaign.

Vermont: Bernard Sanders (I)

Rep. Bernard Sanders defeated anti-choice candidate Richard Tarrant in a bid for the seat being vacated by retiring pro-choice Sen. James Jeffords. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 2,372 pro-choice activists to support Sanders.

Washington: Maria Cantwell (D)

Sen. Maria Cantwell defeated Mike McGavick to win a second term. NARAL Pro-Choice America featured Cantwell as a “Pro-Choice Pick” in a September email alert sent to 45,000 of its most active members nationwide. In addition, NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 25,000 pro-choice activists statewide to support Cantwell.

U.S. House of Representatives

Pro-choice Americans are projected to gain at least 20 seats in the new Congress. Here are examples of victories in which NARAL Pro-Choice America played a significant role:

Arizona:**Harry Mitchell (D-5)**

Harry Mitchell defeated anti-choice incumbent Rep. J.D. Hayworth. NARAL Pro-Choice America reached nearly 54,000 households and spent nearly \$200,000 on independent expenditures, including voter identification, polling, persuasion mail pieces, online alerts, and phone calls. Nancy Keenan, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, spoke at a “Women’s Rally for Mitchell” event on October 30 in Phoenix.

Gabrielle Giffords (D-8)

Gabrielle Giffords defeated vehemently anti-choice candidate Randy Graf in the race to replace retiring Rep. Jim Kolbe. NARAL Pro-Choice America reached nearly 54,000 households and spent nearly \$200,000 on independent expenditures, including voter identification, polling, persuasion mail pieces, online alerts, and phone calls. Nancy Keenan, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, campaigned with Giffords on October 29 in Tucson.

California:

Jerry McNerney (D-11)

Jerry McNerney defeated anti-choice Rep. Richard Pombo in a closely watched race. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 17,078 pro-choice activists in this area to work on behalf of McNerney.

Colorado:

Diana DeGette (D-1)

Rep. DeGette, who is the co-chair of the House Pro-Choice Caucus., faced no opposition to reelection, underscoring her constituents' support for her leadership on protecting women's freedom and privacy.

Ed Perlmutter (D-7)

Ed Perlmutter defeated anti-choice and Republican National Coalition for Life PAC-endorsed candidate Rick O'Donnell. NARAL Pro-Choice America featured Ed Perlmutter as a "Pro-Choice Pick" in an email alert sent to 45,000 of its most active members nationwide. NARAL Pro-Choice America volunteers made GOTV phone calls to members in the district and mobilized 2,057 activists to vote for Perlmutter.

Florida:

Kathy Castor (D-11)

Kathy Castor defeated anti-choice candidate Eddie Adams. NARAL Pro-Choice America endorsed Castor in her primary and mobilized 1,189 pro-choice voters to support her on November 7.

Ron Klein (D-22)

Ron Klein defeated incumbent Rep. Clay Shaw. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 1,762 pro-choice activists in this district in support of Klein.

Illinois:

Melissa Bean (D-8)

Rep. Bean defeated anti-choice challenger David McSweeney. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 970 pro-choice activists in this district to vote for Bean.

Phil Hare (D-17)

Phil Hare defeated anti-choice candidate Andrea Lane Zinga. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 563 pro-choice activists in this district for Hare.

Indiana:

Julia Carson (D-7)

Rep. Carson was challenged by anti-choice candidate Eric Dickerson. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 936 pro-choice activists to help Carson push back this challenge.

Iowa:

Bruce Braley (D-1)

Bruce Braley defeated anti-choice candidate Mike Whalen. NARAL Pro-Choice America spent \$91,970 on polling, voter identification, and persuasion calls in this race. NARAL Pro-Choice America identified and contacted 3,500 pro-choice voters and helped Braley win a four-way primary over anti-choice opponents in the June 6 primary. NARAL Pro-Choice America also featured Braley as a "Pro-Choice Pick" in an email alert sent to 45,000 of our most active members nationwide. Braley will replace retiring anti-choice Rep. Jim Nussle, who lost the race for governor to pro-choice Secretary of State Chet Culver.

Minnesota:

Tim Walz (D-1)

Tim Walz defeated anti-choice Rep. Gil Gutknecht. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 1,217 pro-choice activists in this district to support Walz.

Keith Ellison (D-5)

Keith Ellison defeated anti-choice candidate Alan Fine, whose campaign website states, "I don't believe that the abortion option should be taken outside of the case of rape, incest, or the life of the mother being at risk." NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 7,676 pro-choice activists in this district to support Ellison.

New York:

Kirsten Gillibrand (D-20)

Kirsten Gillibrand defeated anti-choice Rep. John Sweeney. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 1,606 pro-choice activists in this district.

Michael Arcuri (D-24)

Michael Arcuri defeated anti-choice candidate Ray Meier. NARAL Pro-Choice America featured Mike Arcuri as a "Pro-Choice Pick" in an email alert sent to 45,000 of our most active members nationwide. Additionally, NARAL Pro-Choice America volunteers made GOTV phone calls to members in the district and contacted 1,209 pro-choice activists in this district to vote for Arcuri.

Louise Slaughter (D-28)

Rep. Slaughter, chief House sponsor of the bipartisan Prevention First Act and co-chair of the House Pro-Choice Caucus, easily won reelection. Voters once again supported her record of an unwavering commitment to the values of freedom and privacy.

North Carolina:

Brad Miller (D-13)

Rep. Brad Miller defeated virulently anti-choice opponent Vernon Robinson, who made attacking social-policy issues such as choice, the centerpiece of his foiled campaign. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 1,436 pro-choice activists to vote for Miller.

Ohio:

Betty Sutton (D-13)

Betty Sutton defeated anti-choice Craig Foltin. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 1,099 pro-choice activists to vote for Sutton, keeping this seat, currently held by victorious Senate candidate Sherrod Brown, in pro-choice hands.

Oregon:

Darlene Hooley (D-5)

Rep. Hooley defeated anti-choice candidate Mike Erickson in a closely watched reelection race. NARAL Pro-Choice America featured Rep. Hooley as a “Pro-Choice Pick” in an email alert sent to 45,000 of our most active members nationwide.

Pennsylvania:

Joe Sestak (D-7)

Retired Navy Admiral Joe Sestak defeated anti-choice incumbent Rep. Curt Weldon in a highly publicized and high-profile battle. In this race alone, in addition to a \$10,000 PAC contribution, NARAL Pro-Choice America spent nearly \$232,000 on independent expenditures contacting voters, including voter identification, polling, persuasion mail pieces, GOTV mail, online alerts, and phone calls.

Patrick Murphy (D-8)

Iraq war veteran Patrick Murphy defeated anti-choice incumbent Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick. In this race alone, in addition to a \$10,000 PAC contribution, NARAL Pro-Choice America spent nearly \$230,000 on independent expenditures contacting voters, including voter identification, polling, persuasion mail pieces, GOTV mail, online alerts, and phone calls.

Allyson Schwartz (D-13)

Allyson Schwartz defeated anti-choice candidate Raj Bhakta in a closely watched reelection race. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 1,591 pro-choice activists to vote for Schwartz.

Vermont:

Peter Welch (D-AL)

State senate president Peter Welch ran for an open seat against Martha Rainville. NARAL Pro-Choice America mobilized 2,178 pro-choice activists, educating them about Peter Welch’s pro-choice views and the importance of keeping this seat, formerly held by Rep. Bernard Sanders in the pro-choice column.

Ballot Initiatives

South Dakota:

In addition to the congressional victories, NARAL Pro-Choice America and its affiliate, NARAL Pro-Choice South Dakota, played a leading role in the formation of the South Dakota Campaign

for Healthy Families, a successful state-based coalition to repeal that state's draconian abortion ban. This pro-choice victory in one of the nation's most conservative strongholds is a clear sign that voters – Democrats, Republicans, and Independents – are tired of politicians overstepping and interfering in personal, private decisions that should be between women, their doctors, their families, and their God.

California and Oregon:

NARAL Pro-Choice California and NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon played leading roles in defeating deceptive and dangerous ballot measures.

Voters in both states voted against mandated parental-involvement measures (California rejected this divisive measure for the second time in two years.) These victories show that voters support good family communication, but saw that these measures would threaten our most vulnerable young women. The California campaign stressed that the real answer to preventing teen pregnancy is strong caring families and comprehensive sex education that includes abstinence and birth control—not laws that delay teens' access to counseling and medical care.

NARAL Pro-Choice America's affiliate network led efforts to elect and reelect pro-choice governors and legislators in 24 states.