

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Maine Women's Lobby & Maine Women's Lobby Education Fund



FROM THE CHAIRS

Lucia Chomeau Hunt & Lauren Jacobs



Lucia Chomeau Hunt
CHAIR OF THE BOARDS, 2022

From our outgoing Chair:

During my six years on the board, the Maine Women’s Lobby and MWL Education Fund went through significant changes and re-alignment, and this transformation resulted in a clear, shared, vision for the role of our organizations. As I step down at the end of my terms as a member and my year as Chair, I couldn’t be more proud of the work that the organizations have done both internally and externally. As we close out 2022, we know that our organizations are not only leaders in providing legislative advocacy for gender justice, but also building feminist leadership from Girls Day through a gender-responsive legislature, connecting organizations and coalitions for gender equity, and providing thorough and thoughtful policy analysis, like our Roadmap for Gender Justice. I know there is so much good work ahead, and I can’t wait to see what’s next.



Lauren Jacobs
CHAIR OF THE BOARDS, 2023

From Our Incoming Chair:

I am so honored to be serving as chair of the boards for the Maine Women’s Lobby and the MWL Education Fund. These two organizations do such important, tangible work for the people of our state. And speaking of work, there’s plenty on the plate! This is a big year for Paid Family and Medical Leave, and I’m particularly proud of the continued work we do, along with our invaluable partners, on this important topic. Be sure to keep in touch with us and our work, and please get involved and engaged however you are able! It will take all of us to continue our work to build gender equity in Maine.

MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

We celebrated key wins including **funding for the paid leave commission and the childcare workforce, laws that will support LGBTQ+ people** (like more consistency in the domestic partner's laws and Maine Human Rights Act, as well as letting people change their names without public notice), initiatives that will help **Maine defeat hunger**, and laws that will **protect workers from harassment**. We're so grateful to all the sponsors that carried out this work.

You can read up on our priority bills from the 130th Maine Legislature online on our website: MaineWomen.Org/MWL-Report-Cards.

ELECTION SEASON

We know that we can move the needle by helping more feminists and gender-justice advocates

be leaders in their communities, to educate candidates on the issues, and to energize their neighbors and community members to make noise for change.

Our election season kicked off at **Broadturn Farm** in Scarborough, with our community coming together to support and celebrate gender equity champions in policy change.

Throughout September, we hosted the **Election Action Institute**, a series of trainings focused on building the skills for civic engagement and relational organizing. Community members learned tools to connect with their neighbors and to vote for gender justice.

We also worked throughout election season with a **powerful group of 30 rural leaders in Hancock, Lincoln, and Aroostook Counties** to engage with new voters and get people to the polls. Members of the **Rural Leadership Cohort** assisted us in Lincoln County for our first ever candidate canvas! We

knocked on over two hundred doors together to get out the 'care vote'. We are here to say in the halls of power that **care work counts**.

MAINE
WOMEN'S
LOBBY

GET OUT THE
care
VOTE

SUPPORT
CANDIDATES WHO
SUPPORT CARE.

Without care work, other work grinds to a halt. We spread the word that care systems and policies were on the ballot because we need elected representatives who recognize that care work is work. Recognizing and compensating care work is one of the most powerful ways to advance gender equity in Maine. For us, this means building care systems, like paid family and medical leave and more flexible and affordable childcare; supporting care workers, a workforce that is underpaid and undervalued due to the racism and sexism in the roots of this system; and recognizing the links between caregiving and reproductive justice, because people must be able to choose when and how to grow one's family.

Read more about our election campaign for care at MaineWomen.Org/VoteCare.



Board Member Selecca Bulgar-Medina addresses the crowd at Broadturn Farm to kick off our Care Vote campaign in July.

Board of Directors

Lucia Chomeau Hunt, Yarmouth
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Lauren Jacobs, Old Town
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Treasurer

Holly Cavanaugh, Topsham

Erin Cinelli, Yarmouth

Katrina Ray-Saulis, Augusta

Sally Struever, Portland

Selecca Bulgar-Medina, York

Layne Gregory, Falmouth

Lisa Miller, Somerville

Samantha Paradis, Caribou

Malory Shaughnessy, Westbrook



Volunteers and staff knocked on doors in Lincoln County (from left to right: Brooke, Dania, and Michelle).

MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY

PAID FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE

Maine people should be able to put family first without sacrificing their job and financial security.

The Maine Paid Leave Coalition, which we coordinate, increased to 35 member organizations representing tens of thousands of Mainers. We organized hard to ensure that the bill for PFML would be in the Legislature in 2023.

But we know that might not be enough. That's why we teamed up with Maine People's Alliance to pursue a ballot initiative. Together, we collected 50,000 signatures on Election Day alone, and had more than 80,000 signatures to submit.

Whether we pass a bill for paid leave or push through a ballot, we know we can't wait to make care work count.

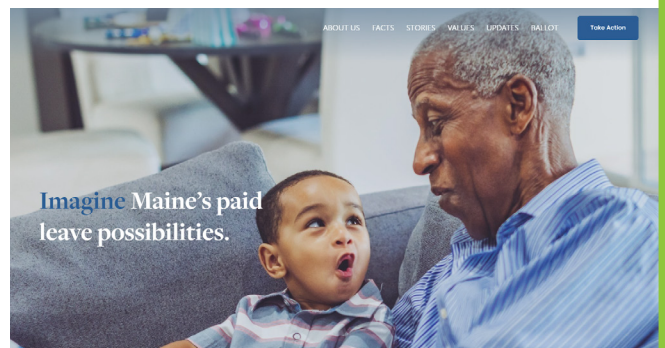
Find out more at MaineFamilyLeave.Org.



I cannot impress upon you how hard it is to leave your baby, your parent, your loved one behind because you have to work – not knowing if that will be the last day that you see them.

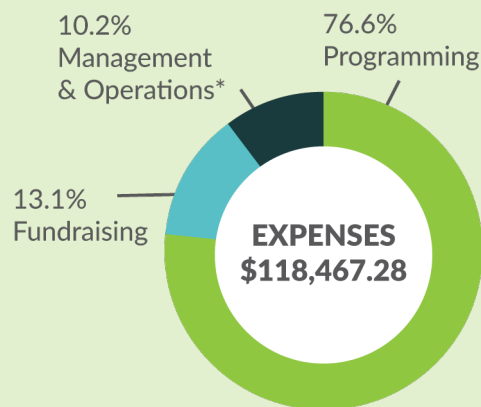
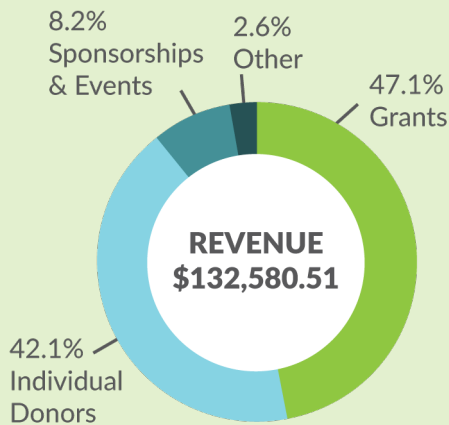
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MAINE
PAID FAMILY LEAVE



Clockwise from left: Collecting signatures and gearing up to make PFML a reality for Maine; PFML social media; Maine Paid Leave Coalition website.

FINANCIALS



* Management and Operations include Board and staff support and development, agency infrastructure and policies, overhead, and other efforts to ensure the organization is well-organized, informed, and effective.

MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY EDUCATION FUND



Some Girls' Day Alumna, from the 1990s to today, with Governor Janet Mills at the Blaine House.

YOUTH POLICY LEADERSHIP FORUM

We were thrilled to launch the new **Youth Policy Leadership Forum!** After a quarter-century of success, **Girls' Day at the Statehouse** expanded to include a **high school cohort**, which will track the legislative process in real time through the session, from the moment legislators register bill titles to the final budget process.

We were so proud to celebrate 26 years of this program in September and highlight the power of Girls Day at the Blaine House, Maine's Governor's mansion, surrounded by program alumni, volunteers, legislators, supporters and champions, and Governor Mills.

Our programs continue to build a cohort of **young people from every county in Maine** who are invested in gender-equitable civic engagement and social change on a local, statewide, and national level. In 2023, we expect to be working with over 150 youth to make the policy process more transparent, connect them with each other as valuable resources, and equip our participants with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to take on change in their corners of Maine.

Learn more at MaineWomen.org/MWLEF-Girls-Day.

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Lauren Jacobs, Old Town
Secretary

Emily Parker, Newport
Treasurer

Andrea Breau, Lewiston

Erin Cinelli, Yarmouth

Rebecca Petrie, Orono

Rachel Talbot Ross, Portland

Shawna Traugh, Caribou

Marina Chakmakchi, Yarmouth

Gretchen Johnson, Cape Elizabeth

Quinn Gormley, Auburn

THE END OF ROE V. WADE

During the 2022 summer of rage and the fall of Roe v. Wade, Americans saw terrifying abortion laws go up in multiple states. We came together many times in Maine and in national conversations to affirm and assess Maine's own protections on abortion. We also connected reproductive justice with our Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts, like the Fall of the Patriarchy mini festival in Portland at Lincoln Park, with our partners in reproductive health advocacy.

Throughout this work, we collaborated with Maine Family Planning, Grandmother's for Reproductive Rights, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, and other supportive ally organizations for community support and education through screenings, panels, and rallies throughout the summer.

Mareisa Weil of Maine Family Planning speaks at our Fall of the Patriarchy event in Portland.



MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY EDUCATION FUND

COURTS MATTER

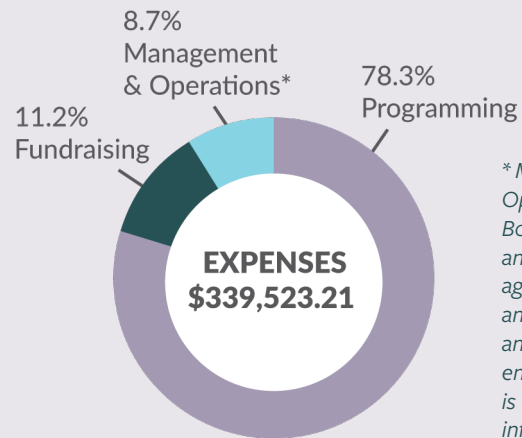
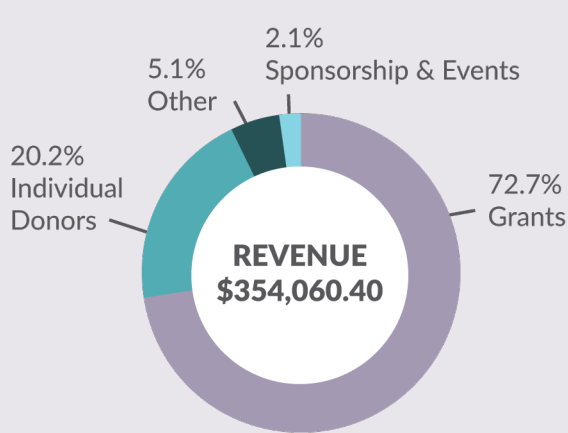
We are still celebrating the confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court - the first, but not the last, Black woman, and the first-ever public defender. Equal justice for all starts with representative courts. The MWL Education Fund convenes the Courts Matter to Maine Coalition, and last spring, we launched a brand-new website with information about the coalition and courts in Maine - as well as this beautiful new artwork from Maine artist Abigail Gray Swartz! Swag and stickers are available! Find us at CourtsMatter.ME.



We used the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson as an opportunity to build our coalition's first logo and website.



FINANCIALS



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2022 STAFF

Destie Hohman Sprague
Executive Director

Dania Bowie
Development and Communications Coordinator

Ambureen Rana
Programs Coordinator

Catie Reed
Paid Family and Medical Leave Coalition Coordinator

Brook Minner
Information and Outreach Coordinator



Maine Women's Lobby
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mainewomen.org

In February, we submitted a petition to the Legislature and Governor; we got 1,200 signatures in ten days!

