

FEMALE POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

Participants: Anne Burkholder (CEO, YWCA Utah, WIEC Member), Mark Thomas (Chief Deputy, Director Elections, Lt. Governor’s Office), Pat Jones (Former Utah Senator; CEO, WLI), Sheryl Allen (Former Rep.; Chair, RWR), Rep. Becky Edwards (Utah House of Representatives, Co-Chair of the WIEC), Susan Madsen (UWLP Director), Erin Jemison (Director of Public Policy, YWCA Utah),

Categories	Current Resources/Strengths	Gaps/Challenges	Potential Interventions
1. Financial incentives and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and education resources with Women’s Leadership Institute (WLI) Real Women Run (RWR), and Utah Women & Leadership Project (UWLP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intimidation factor in raising money. • Availability of financial support through Political Action Committees (PACs), etc. • Social norms (e.g., self-promotion, fundraising, gender roles in public sphere). • Current elected officials support candidates they know, which continues the cycle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create PACs for female candidates – how to promote, encourage, etc. • Offer training and education on self-promotion and unconscious bias. • Have strategic conversations with major donors/decision-makers in Utah politics, including current elected officials. • Bring fundraising training into <u>everything</u> RWR, WLI, and UWLP does.
2. Capability building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WLI Development Series • RWR training • UWLP events • Utah Women in Higher Education Network (UWHEN) workshops • Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) • Citizen advocates • Political party training and development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the political party training is not gender-specific. • Overall, there is less party training available for Republican candidates than Democrat candidates. • Training has not been provided for women involved in campaigns and other policy work but who have not considered running themselves. • Training has been limited to the Wasatch Front. • Media coverage of women in office is limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to PTA (Sheryl). • Create a media campaign and press outreach regarding why we need women in politics at all levels. • Design consistent messaging with/from all of us. (Pat to develop one-pager). • Have networking conversations and do outreach with elected officials and those who have worked on campaigns and been engaged in the community in various ways. • Encourage and empower women more generally; identify and reach out to civically engaged women, educate them on personal benefits of running, and provide tools on moving forward. • RWR is moving statewide this year (spring 2017). Explore potential of WLI and UWLP collaboration with this expansion. • UWLP and WLI in partnership for more general women’s leadership evening events in rural areas—touching on women in politics.

<p>3. Advocacy and shaping attitudes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WLI, RWR, and UWLP education, training, and outreach • Women in the Economy Commission (WIEC) potential efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of media and public awareness. • How do we appeal to LDS women? • Lack of understanding about the values of “the west.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create consistent messaging regarding the importance of women in political leadership positions. • Find ways to include men; for example, sometimes what men want for their wives and their daughters is different. We must educate, raise awareness, and challenge assumptions. • Connect with LDS church on what messaging might be helpful for women.
<p>4. Laws, policies, and regulations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 54 – opened up pathway to ballot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unknown: Mark Thomas will research more. • Info about why women did not utilize SB 54 more is needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore agricultural extension services for women. • Continue exploring more options for women. For example, SB 54 even with a challenging start has potential and provides options. • Continue to offer training through RWR and WLI on “how to” with SB 54 path to ballot. • Assist WIEC in becoming a robust body to contribute, including a possible path to info on SB 54 and how/why women utilize it or not.
<p>5. Research and data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UWLP Research & Policy Brief • RWR tracking of elected officials and women running for office • Utah Association of Counties data • Vote.utah.gov resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard to track gender in local filings at all levels, including school boards, town/city councils, etc. • Difficult to connect filings and office holders to RWR and WLI training participants. • No central database to send the data to ensure database is accurate and comprehensive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider options for adding gender to the filing form; the form is in statute so understanding if it needs legislation to add gender is important. • Look at other states and sources of data (Erin) • Add special service districts, expand database, and add photo and bio/statement for the public (make gender data available at back office level only). • Provide incentives or strategies for county clerks to actually submit information; consider highlighting candidates and elected officials who are missing • Explore the data that is already available through the Lt. Governor’s Office.