



Maine Youth Power Mid Fall 2023 Newsletter

November 2nd, 2023

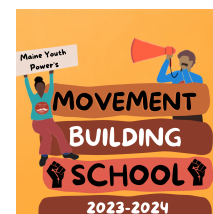
What a summer and fall it has been for Maine Youth Power! We are incredibly proud of the work our team has put into building youth movement power and the growth we see! We are just about to be three years old this December and it feels like we have built more power in these last few months far more than ever before. We tabled at 10 Prides across Maine, as well as in Lewiston and at the Common Ground Fair engaging a team of over 20 volunteers. In August, we convened a coalition of 15 cross-issue organizations youth serving and youth led to get serious about strategy and critical about where we are as Mainers.

Pride and Summer Program

In June, we tabled and showed up at 10 pride events across rural Maine! These events allowed us to meet and sign up about 500 new members to Maine Youth Power, have critical conversations about LGBTQ+ issues and the state of youth here in Maine. We absolutely love engaging with volunteers and members at Pride and making it all over the state to start critical movement building conversations with so many young people. We grew in numbers through community outreach and also through the work of coalitions and the new group we launched with Youth-Led organizations across Maine called the Maine Youth Collaborative. This group was convened by our policy director and MYP founder, student Jane Dawson.

Movement Building School

Since we launched in 2021, the need for political education in our state is clear. Young people in Maine are isolated from national movements for justice and radical change. We knew that bringing the youth movement to rural Maine meant bringing education and analysis to the power that has been brewing here all along.



We started planning our political education program back in February 2023, making plans, sharpening our approach and building a program that would full the serious need for historical and current movement knowledge in our base. We launched Movement Building School this September! Movement Building School is a first of its kind program in Maine to scale up activated young rural Mainers into movement organizing for our future. This program includes 10 training sessions that run from mid September 2023 through mid April 2024 for people ages 17-22 years old. We had 55 applicants and we selected 25 for our first ever cohort.

These young people *all* come from Maine's Second Congressional District. Movement Building School covers organizing skills, understanding systems of oppression such as capitalism, racism, and the patriarchy in our state. This series will dive deep into why we are organizing and why we can win!

After our First Movement Building School Training we asked participants about what stuck them!

"I was especially struck by the diversity of locations that people were calling in from. This was really encouraging because it shows that we can have a state-wide impact!"
17 yrs - Orono, Maine

"The topic that stuck out the most to me was just how deeply individualism influences Americans and rural Mainers."
21 yrs - Sangerville, Maine

We asked them about their dreams for the future of Maine

"I want Maine to be a place that thinks about its future people, land, and community."
17 yrs - Farmington, Maine

"I want Maine to be a place where I can proudly call it my home. Where we don't allow hatred to hurt our communities."
20 yrs - Augusta, Maine





Referendum Questions

This fall, our Organizing Fellow Anghy Tehuitzil led our team in researching and creating information for our base on each of the eight referendum questions in this statewide election. Kevin Craig, our social media fellow, created simplified explainers for each of the referendum questions so that our base and the general Maine community could more easily understand the content. We are using information sharing as a technique to engage with voters this odd year election and we are running info sessions on the questions this coming week.

There is so much more to be shared in the spirit of collaboration with other youth organizations through the coalition we are leading called Maine Youth Collaboration and more! We are excited to bring you all with us as supporters and sustainers of our movement.

In Solidarity with the movement!

[Phoebe Dolan](#) and [Shukri Abdirahman](#) - Maine Youth Power Co-Directors

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is "Phoebe" and the second is "Shukri".

Sustain Maine Youth Power today! [Donate](#)
Follow us on [Instagram](#) and on our [website](#)

