

# Maine Youth Power End of Year Newsletter

## What Maine Youth Power has been up to!

Written by Co-directors Shukri Abdirahman and Phoebe Dolan



We are writing to you all, just days after Reverend Warnock won his seat in the senate, keeping a democratic majority. Organizers from across the state of Georgia are to thank for this incredible win! In Maine, we were hard at work all fall turning out our friends and communities to vote and we surpassed our own goals for the program. We got to watch as our plans for voter turnout this election sparked many young Mainers to get to work in their own communities and turnout their friends and classmates.

After countless hours of tabling across multiple counties, campuses and fairs, we saw our list grow to around 1000 young people, we activated them over our electoral program and are preparing to invite them to jump in our year round organizing efforts as well.

### Our electoral program:

This election season, We worked diligently to plan, build, and implement an electoral program for the fall of 2022. We worked together to create an application and hire five electoral fellows for the program. We posted our application on a couple of websites and orgs where we were able to find successful candidates. We hired five excellent fellows who graciously joined our movement and worked to bring results in the electoral program. For the electoral program we used Empower, a relational organizing tool, to reach our personal networks and friends networks as easily as possible. We know that relational organizing is the best way we've found to reach young Mainers in rural Maine, and the results proved it!

We pushed our Governor this election by our political director Jane Dawson writing [this article](#), demanding our current governor Janet Mills prioritize listening to young people. It was published in the Portland Press Herald on November 1st 2022.

Finally, this was our first program where we had a strong, in person presence. Maine Youth Power had people on the ground at UMaine Orono, UMaine

Farmington, University of New England, Husson University, College of the Atlantic and more schools. We presented and tabled at, The Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine Youth Vote Summit in Fairfield, Maine Youth Action Network Conference in Orono, Maine Environmental Changemakers in Lincolnville and more!

This season we hosted around **40 vote parties** with **3,500** young people texted! We hired **5 fellows** from across Maine to lead the program

On November 8th, We **Vote Tripled** at **18 locations** across Maine!! we got **3,117** texted to come vote!

Which means that we turned out around **6,617** young rural Mainers to Vote this year!

"This election season I, along with other fellows, put in a lot of effort to increase the amount of youth voters. We were able to do outreach to various students by **reminding them to vote**, and also helping students **register to vote**. We helped fellow college students on how to get a proof of residency, and encouraged people that out of state students are **allowed to vote**. The fellows were key in building MYP and growing impact on students by getting them confident and wanting to vote. ~ **Angie**, Maine Youth Power Fellow in Western Maine (edited for clarity)



### **Practice shifts and Coalition Building:**

In September MYP was awarded a two-year grant continuing our work with the Funders Collaborative on Youth Organizing (FCYO). This grant funds our movement to make a practice shift towards being more effective in our field! In October, we, the co-director team, went to the first FCYO convening in New Mexico.

We traveled to Santa Ana Pueblo to convene with youth organizers from all over the country and engage in a passionate struggle on how best to organize our people to win. We met with youth leaders from all across the country and found that our organizing efforts succeeded and failed in similar ways. For the next two years, we will continue to sharpen our organization with guidance from the incredible team at FCYO.

### **What's coming up for Maine Youth Power**

Looking towards the start of 2023, we are looking at the legislative session and at our emerging campaign to increase student access to Gender Neutral Bathrooms. We have a strong start with our fellow and campaign leader Saga pushing the way forward in her high school.

Our high school leadership and partnership across the state has been a huge success and we are delighted with all the amazing work and excitement coming from the team. This is an active part of our movement as we head into the winter and the students at Saga's high school are headed into negotiations and pushing the Superintendent to make school a safe place for all students to thrive.

We also are a few days into the legislative session and we are getting ready and excited to continue our work with elected officials making sure that policy is being passed that supports young people and stands issues that our base, rural Maine youth, fight for!

To prepare, **we are hiring for a Legislative Lead Organizer now! Share this job posting around if you know anyone looking to work with us! [bit.ly/legislativelead](https://bit.ly/legislativelead)**

Finally, your support of youth movements, especially in rural Maine is the only way that we build a state where we all thrive! As we arrive in December, please consider supporting us through [monthly donation](#) or as a major donor. Please reachout to Phoebe at [phoebe@maineyouthpower.org](mailto:phoebe@maineyouthpower.org) if you would like to talk more about supporting Maine Youth Power.

Please reach out for a conversation about what we accomplished this year and where our movement is heading anytime! Email us at [phoebe@maineyouthpower.org](mailto:phoebe@maineyouthpower.org) and [shukri@maineyouthpower.org](mailto:shukri@maineyouthpower.org)



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