

# Maine Youth Power Midwinter Newsletter

February 12, 2024

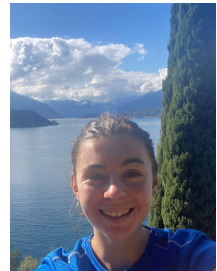
Maine Youth Power has had an explosive/energetic start to 2024! We grew our staff, said goodbye to one of our directors, and started scheming and planning for our largest voter turnout program ever! We are planning to turnout 10k people to vote in 2024, across our most rural towns, as well as Lewiston and Bangor. We have been building our leadership through Movement Building School and we are excited to watch new organizers take on the work of activating their communities.

## Welcome Rose and Welcome Jane!

On January 8th, we welcome our new Electoral Organizing Director **Rose DuBois** to our team at Maine Youth Power! She is coming from the Pine Tree Power campaign and working with Maine DSA. Rose is kicking off our electoral program planning already and getting creative with how we are going to turn out 10k people to vote in rural Maine! Welcome Rose to our movement!



**Jane Dawson**, a founder of Maine Youth Power and current college student came on board as our part-time Policy and Endorsement Director. We are thrilled to have Jane's energy and thoughtful direction as we launch our first-ever endorsement process! Welcome to your new role Jane!



We are also sadly saying goodbye to **Shukri Abdirahman**, one of our Co-directors. She is leaving Maine Youth Power in March and getting ready to start a new dream, pursuing law school! Here is a message from Shukri:

**I am saddened to report that I will no longer be a Co-Director at Maine Youth Power. I would like to personally thank Phoebe and the whole Maine Youth Power team for giving me this opportunity to grow and learn in this organization.**

**MYP has taught me a lot and helped me grow as a person.**

**Phoebe has been the best Co-Director anyone could ask for and I am the luckiest to have worked with such an intelligent, hardworking and passionate young leader as her. As I am leaving, I will complete Movement Building School program. I know Maine Youth Power will continue growing and doing amazing work.**



We all appreciate you, Shukri, for what you have brought to the movement and are excited for you in your next phase of changemaking and rabble-rousing!

### **Movement Building School Update**

Movement Building School is halfway over! The goal of this program is to scale up our electoral program in 2024 and **significantly grow members' leadership capacity**, particularly in Maine's more rural areas. We recognize that the unique knowledge and community connections that young Mainers have, coupled with the skills learned from Movement Building School, positions participants strategically to be mobilized in 2024 to **achieve record voter turnout among rural youth voters.**

Since launching Movement Building School in September 2023, we held six successful trainings, featuring guest speakers with expertise in leadership and organizing landscapes. The first half of the training covered crucial topics such as power structures, how young people have the power to make a change, racial patriarchal capitalism, the 1% agenda, burnout culture, and getting educated in a colonized state. In the upcoming second phase of the trainings, we look forward to discussing topics of Maine's governmental systems, movement organizing funding, and digital organizing, and then engaging Movement Building School participants in 2024 election programming

In April 2024, we will conclude Movement Building School. Participants who attend Movement Building School will have relational organizing skills to base build and bring other young people to organize. 2024 is an important year and we want to be able to **equip young people with the skills to be able to activate youth voters.**

### **Gender Neutral Bathroom Campaign Update**

Over the past year, Maine Youth Power's gender-neutral bathroom campaign has expanded to over **fifteen schools** and reached more than forty through workshops, surveys, and conversations. We have started campaigns from the ground up, helped campaigns started a decade earlier follow through, and convinced resistant communities of the benefits of gender-neutral bathrooms.

Currently, we have **seven campaigns** running from all around the state, and will likely have at least **six of those campaigns win Gender Neutral Bathrooms by May.** We do this by working one-on-one with dedicated students from each school and their administrations—negotiating a new bathroom that is accessible, respectful, and cost-efficient for schools. We can't wait to continue on this campaign in the 2024-2025 school year! Look out for us with this pride!

Finally!

We are growing our grassroots sustainer base this year! Trying to add 30 more monthly donors of \$10-25/month. These donations support our youth movement allowing us to be nimble and make our programs stronger. Join us as a monthly donor [here!](#) If you have any further questions about donating and resourcing our movement please reach out to our Operations Director Angela, [angela@maineyouthpower.org](mailto:angela@maineyouthpower.org)!

In Solidarity,

Phoebe Dolan and Shukri Abdirahman

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