Founded in 2015 by Melinda French Gates, Pivotal Ventures expands opportunity and equality in the United States through high-impact investments, partnerships, and advocacy. We’ve committed $1 billion to advancing women’s power and influence—including women’s political power.

Our political system was not designed with women’s political participation as a goal, and women—especially women of color—remain underrepresented at all levels of government. In recent years, we have seen what happens when government does not reflect the people it is supposed to serve, from the failure to pass a national paid leave law to the enactment of several state policies that roll back women’s rights.

If we want a functioning democracy that lives up to its promise, we need a political system in which women of all backgrounds can fully and equally participate.

To change the face of political power in this country, we must support women throughout their political careers: as they prepare to run for office, as they campaign, and crucially, as they govern once elected. In this effort, Pivotal works with partners at the state level, where a lot of important policymaking happens. Additionally, we support partners focused on reforming the political system and lowering the barriers that keep women out of government.

Read more about our strategy →

Visit pivotalventures.org to learn more about our work, sign up for email updates, and follow us on social.
OUR FOCUS AREAS

**Women Candidates**

We support partners to help more women—especially women of color—run for office and win, particularly at the state level. We invest in organizations that:

- Recruit and train women to run for state legislature and win their campaigns.
- Address structural barriers that impact women candidates disproportionally, like restrictions against using campaign funds for childcare.
- Support electoral reforms like ranked choice voting that reduce hyper-partisanship and lead to better electoral outcomes for women candidates.

**Women Legislators**

We support partners to help women in state legislatures govern effectively, successfully setting and advancing legislative agendas that reflect their priorities and drive social progress. We invest in organizations that:

- Train women officeholders on effective policymaking and coalition-building and connect them to networks and mentorship.
- Scale systemic reforms that make state capitols better workplaces for women—addressing issues like low legislative pay, in-person requirements, and lack of paid leave—since retaining women in office is just as important as recruiting them.
- Advance democracy reforms and encourage organizations to center gender and racial equity in their efforts against extremism, since issues like political violence disproportionately impact women of color.

**Women Donors**

We support partners to engage women at all giving levels since women donors are an under-tapped source of political power. We invest in organizations that:

- Expand donor infrastructure for women—including efforts to organize women through networks like state-based giving circles that can deepen their engagement with the political process and help move their issues higher on the political agenda.

**A Stronger Field**

We support partners to increase the capacity of front-line organizations working to advance women’s leadership and political power. We invest in organizations that:

- Conduct research into the barriers women face and surface effective solutions to advance political power for women, especially women of color.
- Connect organizations working in the women’s leadership space with each other and with vital operational services, which can range from human resources support to best practices in measurement and learning.
- Engage funders to help partners have the resources they need to sustain and grow their work.

FEATURED PARTNERS DRIVING IMPACT

©2023 Pivotal Ventures, A Melinda French Gates Company