



personalPAC

Pro-choice. No exceptions.

2020 IMPACT REPORT



Thanks to the commitment of its dedicated supporters, Personal PAC helped to protect Illinois' pro-choice majority in the General Assembly this past November through the retention of pro-choice leaders and the election of new ones. Personal PAC will now work with these essential partners to repeal our dangerous Parental Notice of Abortion (PNA) law and safeguard reproductive rights in the coming critical two years.

OUR VICTORIES

2020 Election Results

Every one of Illinois' pro-choice Senators was re-elected, including Dave Koehler of Peoria, who faced a well-funded anti-choice challenger, and Reproductive Health Act (RHA) sponsor Melinda Bush of Lake County. Additionally, every single Senator who voted for the RHA and HB 40 won their races—further demonstrating that supporting commonsense reproductive healthcare legislation is good policy and good politics!

All of Illinois' pro-choice incumbent State Representatives were re-elected with the exception of two—Diane Pappas of Itasca and Mary Edly-Allen of Libertyville. Three incumbent anti-choice State Representatives were defeated—pro-choice Janet Yang-Rohr of Naperville defeated Grant Wehrli, Suzanne Ness of Crystal Lake defeated Allen Skillicorn, and Dave Vella of Rockford defeated John Cabello, who was not only the sponsor of numerous anti-choice bills in the General Assembly but was the state chair of Donald Trump's presidential campaigns. With the addition of Denyse Stoneback's defeat of anti-choice Mark Kalish in the March primary, our slim pro-choice majority in the House has increased by two votes.

Personal PAC's ability to win elections comes from you. Your gifts are used to strategically target pro-choice voters (e.g. telephone, direct mail, and social media) to inform and motivate them to vote for our candidates. These high-powered, get-out-the-vote programs on behalf of pro-choice candidates leverage the help of volunteers, pollsters, media consultants, and other campaign professionals to ensure pro-choice candidates have all the resources they need to win on election day.

IT'S PRO-CHOICE OR NO CHOICE!

THE CHALLENGE

Trump's Supreme Court

The U.S. Supreme Court now has a solid 6-3 anti-choice majority that has demonstrated its commitment to making abortion illegal. With Trump's three appointments to the Court, there is no way to parse what the future holds.

There are currently 17 reproductive rights cases headed to the Supreme Court. Anti-choice extremists want to define "life as beginning at conception," and many state legislatures are ready to end access to abortion. Anti-choice groups want to eradicate access to abortion, as well as birth control, and are winning the battle across the Midwest. Their top target is Illinois and the 2022 election when they can fund anti-choice extremists to replace Illinois' pro-choice leaders.

It is imperative that Illinois remain a safe place of access and care for both those in Illinois and those in neighboring states who need us. One bad election can wipe out all of the progress we have made, erase the pro-choice majority in the General Assembly, and see the repeal of both HB 40 and the RHA. That is why Personal PAC is already focused on the 2022 election and how we can protect reproductive rights into the next decade.



THE 27TH ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON



Above: Jane Fonda, Heather Booth, and Personal PAC Board Chair Eileen Dordek.

This year's virtual event, held on October 21st, featured powerful remarks from honorees Toi Hutchinson, Bryan Howard, and Heather Booth, along with presenters Kim Foxx, Cecile Richards, and Jane Fonda. Those who logged on early were treated to a fabulous pre-event panel, which also included China Dickerson and Chloe Sacks, and discussed the past and future of *Roe* from three generational perspectives.

Personal PAC's Annual Awards Luncheon is the organization's primary fundraiser. The event raised over \$850,000 thanks to the efforts of Personal PAC's dedicated Board and Benefit Committee members. These funds were used to protect Illinois' pro-choice majority in the General Assembly and prepare for the fight ahead.

We thank everyone who attended and contributed to the event.

Please mark your calendar for next year's Annual Awards Luncheon – Wednesday, October 20, 2021!



Top: Kim Foxx and Toi Hutchinson. Bottom: Cecile Richards and Bryan Howard.



Above: Pre-Event Panel featuring (clockwise from top left) Heather Booth, Toi Hutchinson, China Dickerson, and Chloe Sacks.

LOOKING AHEAD

As you know, Personal PAC's work is never done, and our next battles are to repeal Illinois' dangerous Parental Notice of Abortion (PNA) law and prepare for the once-in-a-decade 2022 election when ALL 177 House and Senate seats, all Constitutional offices including Governor and Attorney General, and all Cook County Commissioner seats as well as Cook County Board President, are up for election. This ONLY happens once every ten years! The 2022 election will determine the fate of legal abortion in the post-*Roe* era through 2033 as all legislative districts will be redrawn under the re-mapping process to take place in 2021.

PARENTAL NOTICE

Personal PAC is determined to repeal PNA, which forces a young person to tell their parents they are seeking an abortion. This law is dangerous, cruel, and forces young people to go through a rigorous judicial bypass process or potentially seek an unsafe illegal abortion as an alternative.

The American Academy of Pediatrics contends that parental notification and consent laws can lead to serious harm. "There is evidence," the group's policy states, "that such legislation . . . increases the risk of medical and psychological harm to the adolescent." Some of their reasons include:

- **Not all parents are good parents**
- **Volatile homes put individuals at risk for being thrown out of their home**
- **Family members are sometimes the sexual abuser**
- **The judicial bypass process (which is 99.5% successful) forces individuals to miss school and can grossly delay their procedure**

"The parental notification law does nothing but punish, humiliate, and traumatize young women. Legislators must repeal it now."

- Melissa Widen, Volunteer Bypass Attorney

"Parental notification doesn't foster any amount of trust. All it does is traumatize young people who feel powerless and alone."

- October, Survivor

"The parental notification law causes trauma, on top of trauma."

- Dr. Allison Cowett, ObGyn

Repealing this forced parental involvement law will provide for the safety and security for the young people of Illinois. To learn more about our efforts to repeal PNA, please visit our website at www.personalpac.org.

2022 ELECTIONS

As noted earlier, the 2020 election resulted in slim pro-choice majorities in both the Illinois House and Senate. Unfortunately, 2022 is a dangerous political landscape. Historically, the presidential party always loses seats in the midterm election, making the current narrow pro-choice majorities especially vulnerable. Heavy funding will flood into Illinois for anti-choice politicians who want to end reproductive rights in Illinois. Personal PAC needs to be there to ensure that the pendulum does not swing toward anti-choice extremists and that Illinois' pro-choice majority in the General Assembly stays intact.

There are currently 27 anti-choice bills pending in the General Assembly, waiting for that swing.

Our mission will be to educate everyone we know about the profound importance of this once-in-a-decade 2022 election, when all 177 House and Senate districts will be redrawn under the re-mapping process based on this year's census data. In addition to all 59 Senate and 118 House seats, the Governor, Attorney General, and all other constitutional officers will be up for election.

For Illinois, this 2022 election for the General Assembly will determine the fate of safe and legal abortion in the post-*Roe* era through 2033. We need your help spreading the word about the importance of this election and for you to be prepared to fully join the fight for the future of reproductive rights in Illinois!





THANK YOU!

Make a Donation!

- Donate Online – Visit www.personalpac.org
- Donate by Phone – Call the office at **312-422-0005**
- Donate by Mail – **Personal PAC / 134 N LaSalle St., Suite 2040 / Chicago, IL 60602**
- Your gift can be made in **Memory or Honor of someone**



Consider a Monthly Gift

- Monthly giving is a great way to support Personal PAC year-round. Funds will be used to support candidates and pro-choice legislation
- To set up a monthly gift, simply visit the website or call the office

Consider Hosting a House Party

- House parties are receptions (that can be hosted via a Zoom call) that are organized by an individual or group in support of Personal PAC. The host(s) invite friends, family, and colleagues to learn more about Personal PAC and how they can help support the mission
- All event logistics are organized in partnership with the Personal PAC staff who support hosts through every step of the planning process
- House parties help Personal PAC educate current supporters about our latest priorities and introduce new friends to our mission

Consider Leaving Personal PAC in Your Will

- Our anti-choice opponents are never giving up. That is why it is critical for Personal PAC to be well funded so that it can be here to protect future generations
- The Marcie Love Legacy Society was established to honor individuals who make a deferred gift through the inclusion of Personal PAC in their Will
- To learn more, please contact Malia Huff at 312-422-0005

Funds raised will be used to repeal the dangerous PNA law in 2021 and recruit, elect, and hold accountable pro-choice leaders for the important 2022 election. Your donations this and next year will determine just how hard we can fight to ensure that anti-choice legislation is not allowed to restrict access to reproductive healthcare in Illinois.

Thank you for believing in Personal PAC!

The fight is not over. We need your continued partnership to protect the future.