Let's Get Loud!

Voter Guide to the 2022 Connecticut Election
Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund
LOCAL ELECTIONS ARE YOURS TO SHAPE

ADVOCATE AND ORGANIZE YOUR COMMUNITY

ABOUT THIS VOTER GUIDE:
- We designed this guide with inclusivity in mind and pulled from practices cultivated and led by marginalized groups.
- To counteract the erasure of women from history, this guide highlights important women across time in CT to inspire your work.
- Key terms you'll see throughout this guide are defined on page 5.

CWEALF IS COMMITTED TO OUR LEADERSHIP IN ADVANCING ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR ALL WOMEN. JOIN US!

HOW TO USE THIS VOTER GUIDE:
CWEALF's Let's Get Loud: Election 2022 is designed to get you thinking about how to advocate and organize in your community this election cycle to get loud and ensure Connecticut women are one step closer to economic security.

TIPS AND IDEAS INCLUDED IN THIS GUIDE:
Advocacy suggestions are in this blue. Community organizing suggestions are in green.
These are just a start; fill us in on your actions and share your events, stories, and your work with us at stories@cwealf.org!

HOT TIP Hot tips are insider knowledge that helps you advocate and organize better!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE | TITLE
--- | ---
1 | About this guide
2 | Message from CWEALF's Executive Director
3 | About CWEALF
4-5 | Key Terms
6-7 | Vote Like You Know: A timeline of important voter dates 5 ways to prepare to vote Who’s on your ballot?
8 | CWEALF'S Policy Priorities
9 | Paid Sick Days
10 | Fair Work Week
11 | Paid Family Medical Leave
12 | Other Policies We Support Connect with CWEALF
Dear Community Member,

Our democracy is precious and so are our communities. Each time we go to the polls we have the opportunity to cast our votes for the candidates who will shape policies impacting ourselves, our families and our neighbors. Voting matters and your vote is powerful so I hope you’re inspired to organize the people around you to advocate and vote for your shared priorities. Never forget: elected officials work for us so use your vote to help make your voice heard. Election Day is November 8. I’ll be voting and I hope you will too. Together, our votes will help create the world that all women and girls deserve.

Truly,
Janée Woods Weber
Executive Director, CWEALF

A COMMUNITY OFFERING:
HOW TO USE A QR CODE & HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN!

We have a lot of know-how at CWEALF and we are fans of sharing our wealth. Here is an easy tool that can help facilitate your change work. QR codes are pictures that hold a link. Have fun and keep us in the loop!

To access with an iPhone:
- Using an iPhone? Open your camera app and aim it at the QR code.
- A box will pop up with the link. Click on it.

To access with another device:
- Download a QR reader application.

To make your own:
- Create an account on Canva.com or Bitly.com
- On Canva: QR Code can be generated once you begin a new project.
- On Bitly.com: QR codes can be generated with the QR generator on the dashboard.
CWEALF is a statewide, nonprofit that uses a justice and equity lens to advocate for under-resourced, marginalized women and girls in Connecticut. We work to close the civil legal justice gap and to create policy that advances women’s economic security.

CWEALF provides FREE bilingual legal information and referrals to attorneys and community agencies.

CALL OUR INFORMATION AND REFERRAL LINE:
(860) 524-0601
EMAIL US: BIT.LY/CWEALFCONTACT

Open Monday-Thursday: 9AM-2PM
Friday: 9AM-1PM
CWEALF advocates for policies that support women's economic security. Here is a vision of what that could look like. What becomes possible for you when you can meet your needs?

**KEY TERM: WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY**

CWEALF advocates for policies that support women's economic security. Here is a vision of what that could look like. What becomes possible for you when you can meet your needs?

**Defined:** Women's economic security is the condition of having a stable income or other financial resources to support themselves and/or their families.

**LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? SIGN OUR PLEDGE AND JOIN THE FIGHT!**

Use your phone's camera or app to scan!
CWEALF DEFINES: COMMON LANGUAGE IN SOCIAL MOVEMENT WORK

At CWEALF, we know that language is often used to exclude people from political spaces and to discourage them from participating. Here is a list of words we commonly use and their definitions:

POWER: the ability to do something or act in a particular way; ability to influence or make something happen

ADVOCATE
publicly support or recommend a particular cause or policy

ACTIVIST
a person who campaigns to bring about political or social change

ORGANIZE
activating community members to strategize and execute social movement work

CAMPAIGN
a connected series of strategies designed to bring about a particular result

MOVEMENT
a group of people working to advance their shared political, social, or artistic ideas

DISTRICT
a region or area of the state where you live

CONSTITUENT
a voter who elects a person to represent them and their community or neighborhood

LEGISLATURE
a body of government that passes laws in the state where you live

LEGISLATOR
a person who is elected to represent an area of the state in order to make laws

RALLY
a larger meeting making a political protest or showing support for a cause

BALLOT
a sheet of paper used to cast a vote

ABSENTEE BALLOT
a ballot completed and typically mailed in advance of an election by a voter who is unable to be present at the polls

AFFIDAVIT BALLOT
aka provisional ballots- used when you believe you are eligible to vote but cannot submit a regular ballot

hot tip!
THIS IS WHAT YOU USE TO VOTE!

BILL
a draft of a proposed law

CT WOMEN LEAD: Carrie Saxon Perry

Carrie Saxon Perry was the first African-American woman to lead a major New England city as the mayor of Hartford. She is credited for helping reduce racial tension in the city. Notably, she visited Black neighborhoods after the Rodney King verdict in 1992. Saxon Perry championed LGBTQ+ rights in Hartford, such as introducing legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in Hartford schools, 5 years before the policy was adopted statewide.
VOTE LIKE YOU KNOW!
A CWEALF guide to help you prep yourself and others to vote before election day.

IMPORTANT VOTER DATES

**SEPTEMBER**
- September 15th, 2022
  - List of candidates who will appear on your ballot is finalized
- September 20, 2022
  - National Voter Registration Day!

**OCTOBER**
- October 7th, 2022
  - Absentee ballots are available. Download your application online or pick it up at your Town Clerk’s office.

**NOVEMBER**
- November 1st, 2022
  - Deadline to register to vote online or by mail
- November 8th, 2022
  - ELECTION DAY!

5 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU VOTE:

1. CREATE A LIST OF NEEDS
   - Think of:
     - What do you, your family, your communities and your cities need?

2. RESEARCH:
   - Candidates
   - Needs and solution
   - Your polling place

3. REGISTER:
   - Check your registration or register online or at your town hall!

4. ADVOCATE
   - GET LOUD ON:
     - Social Media
     - Social Events
     - Campaign Events

5. ORGANIZE
   - Join a Campaign!
   - Create a strategy with your community

HOT TIP:
Register to vote: voteregistration.ct.gov

GET LOUD!
Share on your social media pages about the election and remind folks to vote!

ORGANIZE!
- Set up a table with our information in your community.
- Talk to your community about women’s economic security.
- Register your community to vote!

CT WOMEN ORGANIZE:
Maria C. Sanchez (La Madrina)

Affectionately known as la madrina (the godmother) of the Hartford Puerto Rican community, Maria Clemencia Colón Sanchez was a respected advocate, listener and mentor. She served on the Hartford Board of Education and advocated for bilingual education in public schools. In 1988, she became the first Hispanic woman elected to the CT General Assembly.

As an activist, Sanchez founded the Puerto Rican Parade Committee in 1964 and co-founded La Casa de Puerto Rico, the Society of Legal Services, the Spanish-American Merchants Association, the Puerto Rican Businessmen Association, and the Community Renewal Team.
VOTE LIKE YOU KNOW!
A CWEALF guide to help you prep yourself and others to vote on the day of elections.

VOTE LIKE YOU KNOW HOT TIPS!

- Check your registration status and polling place online before heading to vote on voterregistration.ct.gov
- CT asks for identification, but you can sign an affidavit if you don’t have one on election day.
- Use an absentee ballot if there is a chance you will be unable to cast your vote in person on election day.
- You can still vote on Election Day if you make it into the line by 8:00 pm regardless of your position in line.

CT WOMEN IN HISTORY: MARGARET E. MORTON

Margaret E. Morton’s career in politics was sparked by organizing her own Bridgeport neighborhood to urge the city to install a stop sign at the sight of frequent car accidents. Morton became the first African American woman to serve in the CT House of Representatives in 1972. In 2012, the Bridgeport City Hall Annex was named the Margaret E. Morton Government Center.

WHO’S ON YOUR BALLOT?

1 CONGRESS (U.S. SENATE & HOUSE)
- U.S. Senators: 2 elected six-year positions that represent the state at the federal government
- U.S. Representative: represent the 5 CT congressional districts, elected to the House of Representative for a two-year term

2 STATE LEGISLATURE (SENATE & HOUSE)
- State Senator: Elected to serve in the State Senate for a two-year term
- State Representative: Elected to serve in the House of Representatives for a two-year term

GET LOUD!
Feel discriminated, mislead, or see misconduct from voting staff while at the polls?
Call 1-866-733-2463

3 STATEWIDE OFFICE (AKA CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE)
- Governor: the highest state office
- Lieutenant Governor: the first in line to succeed the Governor and tie breaker in the state senate
- Attorney General: CT’s top legal officer
- Secretary of State: keeps official records, provides services to businesses, administers all state and federal election law
- State Treasurer: responsible for the state’s cash, debt and pension funds management
- State Comptroller: provides accounting and financial services to the state
CWEALF advocates for legislation at the State Capitol that advances women's economic security. Our key priorities include paid sick days, fair work week, and paid family and medical leave (PFML).

**Page Guide:** Below are actions you can take to advocate and organize in your community on each issue. True to organizing practices, we've provided a script to help you advocate. Share with us how it goes!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PAID SICK DAYS</strong></th>
<th><strong>FAIR WORK WEEK</strong></th>
<th><strong>PAID FAMILY &amp; MEDICAL LEAVE</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid sick days provide workers short-term time off from work ensuring they don’t lose their paycheck when they need to care or recover.</td>
<td>Fair work week gives workers advance notice of their schedules so they can plan other aspects of their lives.</td>
<td>PFML provides longer time off to welcome a new child, recover from or care for a loved one with a serious illness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Script:** We don’t choose when we get sick! Stop making us choose between losing wages while healing or going to work and spreading germs when we are sick. We need Paid Sick Days now!

**Script:** Women want to work! But we also need to care for children and family members, coordinate rides, and much more. We, and all those that depend on us, deserve to know our work schedules.

**Script:** Women still carry most caregiving responsibilities to their families. Without paid family medical leave, many women need to exit the workforce, which affects their job security and earnings now and in the future.

| Share why you need paid sick days with your community and get the contact information of people who share that need. Begin a group chat. | Ask your coworkers how their schedule affects their lives and if they’d like to work towards a solution. Set up a meeting. | Learn your rights under the law and share with your neighbors, coworkers, friends, family, and community. |

---

**CT WOMEN IN THE LAW:**

**Constance Baker Motley**

Constance Baker Motley was a civil rights advocate and the first African American woman to not only argue a case before the Supreme Court, but to become a federal judge. From 1945 to 1964, Judge Motley worked on all of the major school segregation cases supported by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. She wrote the legal brief for the landmark **Brown vs. Board of Education** case and also played a prominent role in desegregation cases involving universities of Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Oklahoma, and Georgia. Judge Motley won **nine out of the ten** cases she argued before the Supreme Court.

---

**@cwealf**

facebook.com/cwealf

@cwealf
CWEALF POLICY PRIORITY
PAID SICK DAYS

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
Life happens! But Connecticut workers are facing hard choices when taking care of basic life circumstances like recovering from a cold or the flu, caring for a sick loved one, or attending doctor's appointments. This affects us all.

WHY PAID SICK DAYS?
When workers have to choose between their pay and caring for themselves or their family:

- People are more likely to go to work sick. This spreads illnesses to coworkers and customers.
- Workers can't be there for a loved one who is sick with an illness like the flu.
- Women, who still shoulder the majority of care, are at highest risk of losing income.

THE SOLUTION
Connecticut was the first state to require certain employers to provide paid sick time in 2011. However, more than 10 years later, the law needs improvements!

We support legislation that strengthens our law by:
- Including all workers, no matter where they work
- Expanding the definition of who a worker can use paid sick days to care for to include all types of families
- Eliminating the waiting period to use paid sick days so that workers can take their time as they need it

GET TOGETHER TO DEMAND WE ARE ALL INCLUDED
It's hard to know who's even covered under our existing paid sick days law because of a long and confusing definition of "service worker." Organize a group at your church, school, or community to write letters to your elected officials!

GET LOUD! ASK YOUR CANDIDATES:
Do you support all workers having access to paid sick days?
If you are elected, what will you do to ensure that all workers in our state have access to paid sick days?
WHAT’S THE PROBLEM?
In Connecticut, hourly workers - many earning poverty wages - struggle to earn a stable and reliable income needed to support their families because of unpredictable work schedules. Workers are often forced to go to work with little notice, maintain open availability for “on-call” shifts without any guarantee of work and have their shifts canceled at the last minute.

WHY FAIR WORK WEEK?
When workers don't know their schedules, they can’t:
- Secure quality and affordable child care
- Attend doctor's appointments for themselves or their family
- Go to school to earn a degree or certificate

THE SOLUTION
We are members of the Fair Work Week Coalition led by CT Working Families fighting to pass legislation to support hourly workers in our state.

We support legislation that provides hourly workers:
- Predictable and stable work schedules
- Resting periods in between long shifts
- Predictability pay for canceled shifts
- Access to additional hours as they are available

GET LOUD! ASK YOUR CANDIDATES:
Do you support fair work week legislation?
If you are elected, what additional actions will you take to end unfair treatment of workers throughout the state?

HOT TIP
Fair work week legislation has been introduced the last 5+ years but has yet to pass. Now is the time to get involved!

HELP FAIR WORK WEEK CROSS THE FINISH LINE!
Talk to your network about why fair work week is important to you and your family. Then organize a meeting with your local legislators!
CWEALF POLICY PRIORITY
PAID FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE

WHAT IS PAID FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE (PFML)?
PFML operates like insurance. Workers pay a small amount into a fund they can draw from when they need time off to:
- Welcome a child through birth, adoption or foster care
- Recover from a serious health condition, like an illness or surgery
- Care for a family member with a serious health condition

THE TIME TO ORGANIZE IS ALWAYS NOW!
Ask 2 groups you spend time with to let you talk about the difference between paid sick leave and paid family leave and why we need both!

HOT TIP! PROTECT PFML!
Even active policies need to be protected! Talk to your candidates and make sure they support it!

GET LOUD & ASK YOUR CANDIDATES:
Do you support our state’s paid family and medical leave law?
If yes, what will you do if you are elected to make sure the program stays in place and that workers know their rights?

WHERE ARE WE NOW?
CWEALF leads the Campaign for Paid Family Leave & won passage of PFML in 2019. The law went into effect on January 1, 2022. For more information & to learn your rights, visit the CT Paid Leave Authority.

CT WOMEN NEED ELECTED OFFICIALS & CANDIDATES TO:
- Commit to providing more outreach and education about the law
- Examine & support ways to improve the program to ensure that all workers have access to benefits
- Oppose any efforts to weaken the program or reduce benefits
WHERE WE SUPPORT

Transformative policy change happens when we work together. CWEALF is a member of coalitions and supports the leadership of our partners. Learn more below:

Child Care
We support the Child Care for CT’s Future Coalition and advocate for a system of universal child care.

Recovery for All
We support the Recovery For All Coalition’s efforts to create greater transparency and build equity into our state’s current tax structure.

Abortion Rights & Reproductive Health Care
We are a member of the Coalition for Choice and support the leadership of PPSNE and Pro-Choice CT to advocate for policies to increase access to reproductive health and abortion care.

LGBTQIA+ Rights
We support policies to advance and protect the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community and follow the leadership of their advocates & organizers.

Housing
We support policies that provide more inclusive housing opportunities for families in the communities where they want to live. We support groups like the CT Fair Housing Center.

HUSKY for Immigrants
CWEALF is a member of the HUSKY 4 Immigrants Coalition which fights for the expansion of eligibility to the state’s Medicaid program, HUSKY, regardless of immigration status.

Gender Wage & Wealth Gap
We support legislation that addresses gendered pricing, as well as other policies that lead to pay equity and more transparency. We also support policies that curb or cancel student debt and the leadership of the Student Loan Fund.

Protections from Sexual & Domestic Violence
We support the leadership of the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) and the CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence to advocate for increased protection for victims and survivors.

Gun Control
We support the leadership of the CT Against Gun Violence and policies that keep our communities safe from gun violence.

CONNECT WITH US!

1. FOLLOW & SUBSCRIBE
   • Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
   • Stay in the know by subscribing to receive our action alerts: bit.ly/CWEALFAction
   • Have a story you want to tell? Tell us your stories, visions, solutions, and needs by emailing us at stories@cwealf.org.

2. TAKE ACTION
   • Take our pledge and share it with 5 friends, your local candidates, and anyone else you think will benefit from women’s economic security!

3. REACH OUT FOR LEGAL INFORMATION
   • If you need legal information, contact us at the Information & Referral (I&R) phone line:
     (860) 524-0601 or Toll Free: 1-800-479-2949
     Monday through Thursday: 9 am – 2 pm and Friday: 9 am – 1 pm

CT Women in Activism: Shawn Lang

Shawn Lang was a champion for LGBTQ rights in CT and a longtime AIDS activist. As a tireless and relentless advocate, Lang worked with partners to successfully fight for the inclusion of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression in Connecticut’s hate crimes and anti-discrimination laws, as well as increased support for people experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, opioid addiction and more.

Lang was honored as a Champion of Change for Advancing Prevention, Treatment and Recovery by former President Barack Obama.