



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact:

November 5, 2009

Dana Laurent, Political Director

Planned Parenthood VOTES! Washington

(206) 861-7502 / cell (206) 913-8125

Elaine Rose, CEO

Planned Parenthood VOTES! Washington

(206) 328-7735 / cell (206) 794-9550

Planned Parenthood and Reproductive Rights Supporters Claim Election Victories for Equality and Health Care Access

2009 was a banner election year for reproductive health and rights in Washington.

Planned Parenthood Votes Washington (PPVW) proved the political might of its dedicated staff and supporters by making 26,000 volunteer calls, leaving more than 100,000 messages and sending nearly 60,000 mail pieces across the state. This effort reinforced key messages to targeted pro-choice voters asking them to: Approve Referendum 71; vote No on I-1033; vote in support of Dow Constantine for King County Executive, and for Julie Anderson for Pierce County Auditor. PPVW ran multiple volunteer phone banks per week—from the Tri Cities to Tacoma, and from Bellingham to Ellensburg—in support of Approve Referendum 71, and engaged in a coalition partnership, People for Qualified Leadership, which helped define King County Executive candidate Susan Hutchison as a right wing anti-choice conservative in the final weeks of the campaign through its “Wink” TV ad. Through these efforts, we were able to educate the public about why even local races matter when it comes to protecting and advancing people’s rights and access to health care.

“We know voters want honest information about where candidates stand on every important issue – including access to reproductive health care,” said Dana Laurent, Political Director, Planned Parenthood VOTES! Washington. “We are not surprised that once they know the truth, voters side with candidates whose core values reflect their own.”

Planned Parenthood Votes! Washington was able to make a significant impact resulting in wins in every single race the organization worked on. Additionally, Planned Parenthood played a significant role in two statewide ballot initiatives: field organizers across the state, especially in Pierce County, worked directly with the Approve Referendum 71 campaign to execute critical voter contact efforts; and a Planned Parenthood organizer worked tirelessly in Snohomish County to make sure voters in this key swing county knew the dangers of I-1033.

The wins:

- ✓ Approve Referendum 71
- ✓ No on 1033
- ✓ Dow Constantine for King County Executive
- ✓ Julie Anderson for Pierce County Auditor
- ✓ Mike O'Brien for Seattle City Council Pos. 8
- ✓ Adrienne Fraley-Monillas for Edmonds City Council
- ✓ Amy Ockerlander for Duvall City Council
- ✓ Dan McShane for Whatcom County Council

###

Planned Parenthood Votes! Washington (PPVW) is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization educating Washingtonians and policy-makers about reproductive health issues.

VOTES! lobbies and educates to advance Planned Parenthood's mission and also engages in limited electoral activities.