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A Note from Women's Campaign Forum

*From the desk of Erin Cutraro
WCF Politics and Education Director*

Dear nominees,

With the election cycle in full swing, this is the perfect time to find out more about how to run for office by volunteering for a local campaign.

Making the decision to serve can seem like a daunting task. However, with some first-hand experience on a campaign during these critical pre-election days, you'll have a better understanding of what to expect in terms of the road it takes to get there.

Another great way to learn about life as a candidate is to sign up for a training

program with the White House Project — this month's featured organization. The White House Project equips amazing women like you with the skills needed to lead, run a great campaign and win.

We're also thrilled to highlight Kristy Pagan, a fellow nominee (and White House Project Alum). Pagan is a great example of a young, pro-choice leader who has already run and won her first exciting campaign.

Enjoy this month's issue and go volunteer with a local pro-choice candidate today! Let me know if you need help finding a local race to help out with.

-Erin

Spotlight on Training Organizations: The White House Project

If you want to experience the life of a candidate in one weekend, The White House Project is for you. They offer three unique training opportunities across the country. They encourage you to Go Vote, Go Run and Go Lead.

Go Vote trainings are smaller evening or all day sessions focused on the basics of Get Out the Vote (GOTV), including voter registration, education and mobilization. The White House Project works in coalitions and with local partners to provide the training sessions.

Go Run is the premier leadership training of The White House Project. It is a three-day intense training weekend for about 150 women to explain the

political process in an interactive environment.

Go Lead trainings are short sessions that focus on specific issues and skills throughout the year.

"Whether you're a candidate or looking to run in two years or ten years the training will give you the skills to run a campaign and increase your politi-

cal network," said Erin Vilardi, program director. The *Go Run* training is uniquely designed to meet women at their level of campaign and political experience.

Go Run will equip women with the basic skills of campaigning, communications and fundraising, while explor-

ing specific issues relative to their geographic location.

Go Run will give you the confidence needed to run a successful campaign and win your election. The training works to inspire, equip and inform women about the political process.

The Tip Sheet: Running for Public Office

Erin Vilardi of The White House Project shares some advice for women who want to run for public office. "Just get out there and throw your hat in the race," said Vilardi,

"Come and get trained," said Vilardi. Training is a great way to gain the confidence needed to run for office and to increase your skills while running. "About 50% of *Go Run* participants are candidates," said Vilardi. She encourages women to gain

skills along the way.

Vilardi also encourages women to find a woman who has ran for public office and discuss with them what it is like to run for office. Finding a mentor can be a great way to learn about what it takes.

"Think about the person who is in that seat. If you can do a better job, than you have an obligation to run," said Vilardi. "We're counting on you."

The White House Project

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Women who have taken part in The White House Project training, have really valued the experience: "It was also very inspiring to talk with so many other women who had or are thinking about running for office. It made it feel like running for office could be something 'normal.'" So, Go Run.

The White House Project runs training programs throughout the year, to find out more email gorun@thewhitehouseproject.org or visit their website at www.thewhitehouseproject.org

For upcoming training dates in your area visit our website: <http://www.sheshouldrun.com/index.php?/pages/trainings>

Women and Politics in the News

["Statement on Gov. Palin"](#) WCF, 9/18/08

Following Governor Palin's nomination we have issued a statement. We conclude, "Were Governor Palin an advocate for women's reproductive choice, we would be thrilled to consider her for endorsement. However, she is not." <http://wcfonline.org/sn/palin>

["Both Sides Seeking to Be What Women Want."](#) New York Times, 9/14/08.

Both campaigns are increasingly reaching out to women voters, through rallies, voter registration and adverts during 'Oprah'.

Meet Kristy Pagan, Fellow Nominee

Kristy Pagan feels called to public service. Pagan aspires to serve her home state of Michigan as a U.S. Senator. Pagan is a legislative aide for U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow and Chairwoman of the Women's Information Network (WIN).

"I believe if you want to help your community you serve them," said Pagan.

Pagan has always been interested in leadership. After years of losing student elections to boys, Pagan created a student organization in college to support women as leaders.

"I was never deterred," said Pagan, "I was determined to be a leader because I felt women's voices need to be heard."

Pagan moved to DC and worked as a grassroots organizer and became a member of WIN. She took advantage of leadership opportunities and rose from a member to the network director. After a hotly contested race, Pagan won the election to serve as WIN's Chairwoman. The leadership and campaign experience gained through WIN will make

Pagan a stronger candidate to run for political office.

Pagan has attended The White House Project *Go Run* training in New York and Michigan. Pagan describes the training as one of the best trainings she has attended. The training connected her with like-minded women and gave her the confidence to run for office.

"They know the field of politics, and what it takes to be a candidate and win elected office," said Pagan. "It gave me the skills I needed to layout my plan for running for office."

Pagan has created a plan to run for future office that includes training, leadership experience and going back to Michigan to run for local or statewide office.

At the New York *Go Run* in Sept., Pagan presented on the panel, "Leading a Political Life." She discussed how to incorporate the *Go Run* training into your everyday life. Pagan encourages women to take every opportunity to expand their political leadership.

Get Involved: Take Action for Choice in Your Community

On August 21st, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a new proposed regulation that would limit a woman's access to reproductive services, including abortion and birth control. The public has until September 25th to submit comments to HHS on the regulation.

The regulation places a health care provider's conscientious rights above the rights of a woman to reproductive health services. Based on religious, moral or ethical convictions health care professionals and

entities may refuse not only to perform abortions, but they may also refuse to participate in "counseling, referral, training, and other arrangements for the procedure, health service, or research activity."

The federal government is once again infringing upon a woman's right to the legal procedure of an abortion. There is no provision in the regulation that ensures a woman will be provided with an alternative means to seek the reproductive health services she needs. It does not require a health care provider to

refer or counsel a woman on her full range of reproductive choices.

Please act now and share your voice. Visit <http://www.wcfonline.org/page/invite/tellHHSno>

We only have until September 25th to make our voices heard. To read the full regulation, visit www.rcrc.org/pdf/osedreg808.pdf.

We need 50 more She Should Run nominations to reach our goal.
Nominate a woman today!