

SUMMER POLICY INSTITUTE

# *Gender in Public Policy*

Promoting Equality in Today's Political Climate

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# *Today's Presentation*

## TOPIC OUTLINE

Where We've Been

Where We Are Now

Policy & Strategy

Case Study

Where Do We Go From Here

# Women & the Oklahoma Legislature

In 1920, Amelia McColgin and Lamar Looney were the first 2 women elected to the Legislature. The 1960s saw the first African-American woman elected.



Lamar Looney was elected to the Senate from Harmon County



Amelia McColgin was elected to the House from Roger Mills County



Hannah Atkins was elected to the House from Oklahoma City

# *Women Represent*

21.5% IN OKLAHOMA  
LEGISLATURE

32 women currently serve in the  
Legislature. 9 in Senate and 23 in  
House.

28.7% OF ALL STATE  
LEGISLATURES

2,118 women serve in state  
legislatures. Most elected at one  
time than anytime before.

23.7% OF CONGRESS

127 women hold seats in Congress.  
More elected at one time than any  
time before.

# *Where We Are Now:*

## GOVERNOR'S ADMINISTRATION

3/15

Women appointed to  
governor's Cabinet

4/11

Women elected to  
statewide, executive  
office

29/109

State agencies  
administered by  
female executive



# *Why It Matters*

Individuals deserve to have a government that accurately represents them

Increasing the number of women/POC in executive level leadership makes agenda more responsive to the needs of underrepresented populations

A public workforce representative of the people will help ensure that the interests of all groups are considered in policy implementation



## *3 Guiding Principles*

Each of us deserves the opportunity to control our lives at the most basic level: our bodies, our families, and our life's path, including whether and when to become a parent.

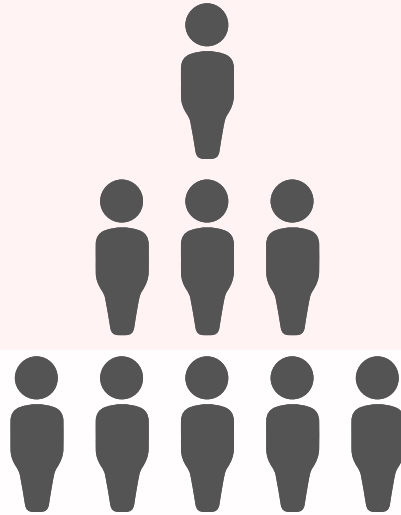
A person should make informed decisions when it comes to her own pregnancy — without interference from politicians.

Reproductive Justice intersects with every other social justice fight



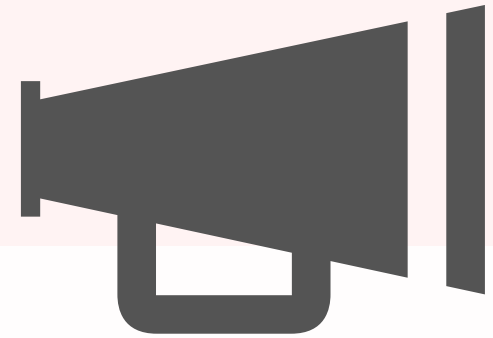
## GRASSROOTS

Building public  
support, political will  
and pressure



## COALITION BUILDING

Convening diverse  
stakeholders to  
leverage influence



## DIRECT LOBBYING

Securing support and  
pushing legislation

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# ***Case Study: Failure to Protect***



“

**When injustice  
becomes law,  
resistance becomes  
duty.**



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