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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

People Like Us Claim our Power 22 out of 29 OneAmerica Votes endorsed candidates win tough elections

SEATTLE, WA -- With OneAmerica Votes (OAV) leading the way, people like us have created a movement to claim our power and shape the nature of electoral races at the local, state, and federal level.

Victories for [OAV-endorsed people like us](#) – pro-immigrant, progressive candidates like **Debra Entenman, My-Linh Thai, Joe Nguyen, Bill Ramos, Debra Lekanoff, Claire Wilson** and **Dr. Kim Schrier** who is leading in the 8th Congressional District – signal the power of the immigrant rights movement and the energy and commitment of our grassroots leaders and volunteers.

"In this election, OAV mobilized people like us - people of color, immigrants, and refugees - put their stamp on our democracy," says **Rich Stolz, Chief Executive Officer of OneAmerica Votes**. "With votes remaining to count, immigrant, refugee and infrequent voters had an impact on this election, helping to flip control of the US House of Representatives and to expand pro-immigrant majorities in the State legislature. "

We knocked on 9,800 doors.
We made 8,700 calls.
We registered 1,200 voters.
We elected 22 out of 29 OAV-endorsed candidates.

New American and infrequent voters turned out in immigrant communities across Washington State. Our grassroots leaders knocked on 10,000 doors, made 8,700 phone calls, and ultimately turned out 5,700 voters as of Tuesday afternoon (1,107 in CD3, 3,107 in CD8, 425 in LD17 and 1,002 in LD30). For example, OneAmerica Votes' work to turn out voters for Claire Wilson in the 30th legislative district makes up more than half of the current difference in that race. In the end, 22 out of 29 OAV-endorsed candidates won in the general election.

With the US House of Representatives shifting to Democratic control, we're ready to stand strong against harmful policies coming from the administration that seek to divide or scapegoat our communities, and to move forward with permanent protections for DACA youth and effective oversight over unaccountable deportation agencies charged by the President to tear our families apart.

"I think democrats can put forward our vision of what we see as a just and equitable future for all Americans," said **Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal**. "I really believe that as much as we emphasize diversity that we are so much more alike than we are different. We all want the same things: dignity, respect, jobs, the ability to get healthcare, the ability to send our kids to college without mountains of debt, and the ability to retire with security."



In the state legislature, with meaningful gains such as **22 pro-immigrant legislators in Washington State**, OneAmerica Votes is ready with a progressive agenda driven by our leaders focused on improving education for dual language learners and strengthening our state to stand against Trump's harmful federal policies.

"Last night was a good night here in Washington State to shore up and strengthen our numbers in Olympia," said **Rebecca Saldana, State Senator for the 37th Legislative District and OneAmerica Endorsed Candidate**. "We will make sure that residents here in Washington state are protected and supported- whether they have immigrant status or not...that here in Washington State they are welcome and they are critical members of our community."

OneAmerica Votes' victories was led every step of the way by our grassroots leaders from immigrant and refugee communities. This year, community leaders from across the state rooted in the immigrant rights movement ran a rigorous endorsement process to interview candidates, decide on key strategic and values-aligned endorsements, and hold candidates accountable as we work with them to advance a pro-immigrant agenda.

"This year, I was part of leading the endorsement process for OneAmerica Votes," said **Karishama Vahora, a youth leader with OneAmerica Votes**. "We had more than 40 immigrant leaders from across this state, coming together to make these decisions and also to make sure those who we support are accountable to us. And because of this, now I know us grassroots leaders with OneAmerica Votes will be there to support them."

OneAmerica Votes fought back against disempowering narratives that our communities don't vote and aren't engaged, and rejected the harmful rhetoric and actions of the administration. Showing that when people like us claim our power, we #UniteTheVote, we show up, and we win real victories for our communities. In addition to wins in Washington state our national movement supported the first two Muslim women ever to be elected to congress.

"Muslims are the third largest religious group in the USA. We work. We pay taxes. We serve in the military," said **Uzma Siddiqi, member of the OneAmerica Votes Justice Fund Muslim Committee**. "Our community powered in civic outreach—including phone banking and door knocking. We went to rallies, we gave money, and we voted."

"I started knocking on doors, and it was ironic. Because it brought back a few memories of growing up. My mother told me I could not open the door. It could be ICE. It could be an unfriendly stranger that feared our way of living. But I decided to turn that around," said **Rebecca Muniz, a self-described super volunteer for OneAmerica Votes**. "So, I'm putting my face and my body in front of those doors so that immigrant families and immigrant voters can have a different experience. So that when someone knocks on their door, it's to help them register to vote."

OneAmerica Votes worked in conjunction with national networks of organizations to lift up the voices of under-represented communities. Through FIRM Action, OAV was part of a nationally-coordinated strategy that reached a total of 2.2 million voters in 17 states that sought to flip 15 House Seats, including Washington's 8th Congressional District, six governors races and six senate races. Through



People's Action, OAV was part of a national strategy that knocked on more than 1 million doors and had more than 334,000 conversations with voters in targeted communities across the United States, including in the 3rd and 8th Congressional Districts.

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OneAmerica Votes promotes democracy and builds power in immigrant and refugee communities through advocacy, civic engagement and leadership development. As a multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual organization, we believe that building broad-based movements led by people of color and their allies and grounded in grassroots community organizing will create a more just, democratic, and compassionate society.