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MEDIA ADVISORY

Women Make History in Kansas City and Across the Nation

Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus Celebrates Historic Election Victories and Reaffirmation of Reproductive Freedom

KANSAS CITY, MO — Tuesday's election marked a historic breakthrough for women in American politics, with record numbers headed to governors' offices, Congress, and state legislatures. The Kansas City region was at the forefront, with women winning pivotal elections, assuming powerful leadership positions, and helping break longstanding legislative supermajorities in Kansas and Missouri.

The Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus (GKCWPC), a multi-partisan organization dedicated to recruiting, training, and electing pro-choice women regardless of political affiliation, is celebrating an extraordinary election for women's political leadership.

Among the most significant developments:

- **Kansas makes history:** Cindy Holscher's apparent victory positions her to become Kansas's fourth woman governor, following Joan Finney, Kathleen Sebelius, and Laura Kelly. Her election would also mark the first time a Kansas governor has been directly succeeded by another from the same political party.
- **Women take the reins of Jackson County government:** Stacy Lake's election as County Executive, combined with victories by seven women for the nine-member County Legislature, represents a historic transformation in county leadership. Alongside Prosecutor Melesa Johnson, women—particularly women of color—will hold an unprecedented share of the county's most influential elected positions.
- **An all-woman Kansas City Senate delegation:** Keri Ingle's victory over Missouri House Speaker Jon Patterson means all four Kansas City-area Missouri Senate districts will be represented by women: Ingle, Barbara Washington, Patty Lewis, and Maggie Nurrenbern.
- **Pro-choice women help break legislative supermajorities:** Victories by pro-choice women helped end the longstanding supermajority in the Kansas House, as well as supermajorities in both chambers of the Missouri Legislature. Particularly significant were the victories of Keri Ingle in Lee's Summit and Betsy Fogle in Springfield, whose wins broke the supermajority in the Missouri Senate.
- **Voters reaffirm reproductive freedom for the third time in four years:** Beginning with Kansas voters' decisive rejection of an anti-abortion constitutional amendment in

2022, followed by Missouri's approval of reproductive freedom protections in 2024, voters in both states have repeatedly demonstrated their support for reproductive rights. On Tuesday, Missouri voters rejected Amendment 3, which would have repealed the protections approved just two years earlier, by approximately 55.5% to 44.5%—an even larger margin than the original victory.

"This was an extraordinary election for women—not just because of how many were elected, but because of the leadership positions they will hold and their ability to shape public policy," said **Laura Loyacono, President of the Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus**.

"For decades, our members have worked to elect pro-choice women and protect reproductive freedom. Tuesday demonstrated why that work matters. Women helped break legislative supermajorities in both states, while Missouri voters once again made clear that reproductive freedom is a fundamental right. These victories can change not just who serves in government, but how decisions are made."

Building the Next Generation of Women Leaders

For the past 15 years, GKCWPC has held an annual Campaign School to help women prepare to run for public office. Beyond practical training in fundraising, messaging, and campaign strategy, the program provides mentorship, connections, and a lasting network of support for women navigating the political process.

The Caucus can trace the impact of its training and mentorship to women serving at every level of government, including Congresswoman Sharice Davids, Senator-elect Keri Ingle, Jackson County Executive-elect Stacy Lake, and many others. GKCWPC also endorsed dozens of candidates in the 2026 election cycle and is compiling the results of those races.

"Our work doesn't begin or end on Election Day," Loyacono said. "We help women take that first step toward running for office, connect them with experienced leaders, and build a network that supports them throughout their political careers. Seeing so many of those women succeed is incredibly gratifying—and we know there are many more preparing to lead."

The next GKCWPC Campaign School will be held **Saturday, January 23, 2027**. Women interested in running for office or becoming involved in political campaigns can find more information at **www.gkcwpc.org**.

Media Interviews Available

Laura Loyacono is available for live television and radio interviews, print and digital media interviews, and additional commentary on the historic election results, reproductive freedom, women's growing political influence, and GKCWPC's work developing future candidates.

Additional quotes and information about successful endorsed candidates and Campaign School graduates are available upon request.

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About GKCWPC

The Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus is a multi-partisan, multicultural, grassroots organization and affiliate of the National Women's Political Caucus. It works to increase women's representation in government by recruiting, training, supporting, and electing pro-choice women to public office in Kansas and Missouri.