

Blue Future Impact Report

2020



B L U E  **F U T U R E**

CONNECTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO PROGRESSIVE CAMPAIGNS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Blue Future is a national organizing program run out of the Youth Progressive Action Catalyst, the largest progressive, youth-led, political action committee in America.

We're building the field infrastructure to help progressive Democrats win key races across the country while simultaneously developing a diverse leadership pipeline to strengthen the future of the Democratic party and the progressive movement.

We started out the year like we normally do, knocking doors and doing the work of grassroots organizing. Traditionally, this is how Blue Future operated. We would provide students with the resources and funds they needed to campaign for local candidates and organize students on their campuses.

However, by March we realized we needed to shift our focus to meet the moment and adapt to a virtual world. To do so, Blue Future launched the Summer for Progress and Change, a 10-week training program, to train young people to volunteer on progressive campaigns across the country.

For 10 weeks, we convened over 100 students on Zoom to train them on all aspects of grassroots organizing. With the success of the summer program, Blue Future launched a similar program in the fall to train youth organizers. In 2020 alone, Blue Future invested over **\$335,000** directly in the pockets of youth organizers.

In 2020, young people everywhere flexed their voting power. This election saw the highest youth voter turnout in history. Over 53% of eligible youth voters voted in this election!

Young people did this, despite unprecedented challenges against them. Young people also powered the historic victories of Raphael Warnock & Jon Ossoff in Georgia! The COVID-19 pandemic, the mass protests following the murders of Black Americans by police, and President Trump's & Republicans' attacks on our democracy have exposed the injustices that the powerful few have unleashed since the founding of our country, and at the same time, opened up the possibility for a profound realignment in our politics.

2020 was a moment in history that would redefine the story of America. And as history has shown, young people have always been the driving force of social movements. Relying on their resilience, energy, and brilliance, young people still found a way to build the movement for social change, and lead us toward a brighter future, even amidst a global pandemic.

Young people, specifically youth of color, turned the White House and the Senate Blue and kept the House in Democratic control. This impact report shines a light on the efforts of youth organizers who worked with Blue Future to make America a place where freedom and justice is for all of us.

OUR IMPACT IN 2020



This year we focused on Presidential swing states, Senate campaigns, and state legislatures. In total, Blue Future organizers worked on **53** Democratic campaigns.

In addition to these races, Blue Future organizers also made calls in partnership with the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee to recruit volunteers in all of the key Senate states.

Blue Future worked on the following campaigns:

Arizona

Mark Kelly - US Senate
Judy Schwiebert - HD 20
Douglas Ervin - SD 20
Kathy Knecht - HD 21
Ajlan Kurdoglu - SD 17
Joe Biden for President

Florida

Joe Biden for President

Georgia

Jon Ossoff - US Senate
Rev Warnock - US Senate
Regina Lewis Ward - HD 109
Joe Biden for President

Iowa

Theresa Greenfield - US Senate
JD Scholten - US House (IA-4)
Joe Biden for President

Maine

Sara Gideon - US Senate

Michigan

Gary Peters - US Senate
Rashida Tlaib - US House (MI-13)
Joe Biden for President

Minnesota

Tina Smith - US Senate
Joe Biden for President

Pennsylvania

Josh Shapiro - Attorney General
Nina Ahmad - Auditor General
Matt Cartwright - US House (PA-8)
Joe Biden for President

North Carolina

Roy Cooper - Governor
Cal Cunningham - US Senate
Yvonne Lewis Holley - Lieutenant Governor
Terri LeGrand - NC State Senate (21)
Kirk Deviere - NC State Senate (19)
Jen Mangrum - NC Superintendent of Public Instruction
Joe Biden for President

Texas

MJ Hegar - US Senate
Candace Valenzuela - US House (TX-24)
Mike Siegel - US House (TX-10)

Wisconsin

Joe Biden for President



OUR IMPACT IN 2020



Our students also worked independently as interns, fellows, and volunteers for a number of campaigns, including the following:

- Anthony Brindisi (NY-22)
- Amanda Cappelletti - State Senate, Pennsylvania
- Amy McGrath - US Senate, Kentucky
- Andy Kim (NJ-3)
- Bernie Sanders for President
- Carol Doherty - MA House of Representatives
- Charles Booker - US Senate, Kentucky
- Darien Wilson and Lisa Neal-Graves for Douglas County Commissioner campaigns, Colorado
- Ed Lazere, DC council at large
- Ed Markey, Massachusetts
- Elizabeth Warren for President
- Gary Spillane - State Senate, Pennsylvania
- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
- Ilhan Omar (MN-5)
- Jackie Gordon (NY-2)
- Jake Auchincloss (MA-4)
- Jamie Harrison - US Senate, South Carolina
- Jared Breckenridge for AISD School Board campaign, Texas
- Jeeva Senthilnathan for Parker Town Council campaign, Colorado
- Lauren Underwood (IL-14)
- Marquita Bradshaw - US Senate, Tennessee
- Mia Mason (MD-1)
- Merav Ben-David - US Senate, Wyoming
- Pete Buttigieg for President
- Steve Bullock - US Senate, Montana
- Tom Palzewicz (WI-5)
- Vanessa Fuentes City Council Campaign, Texas

They also coordinated their own phone banks with these partner organizations:

- Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Bigger than Biden
- Bruin Democrats at UCLA
- College Democrats of America
- Douglas County Youth Alliance, Colorado
- Enough Greater Philadelphia
- Environmental Voter Project
- Friends of Bernie Sanders
- Florida Democratic Party
- Generation Ratify
- George Washington College Democrats
- Grassroots Democrats HQ
- High School Democrats of America
- March for Our Lives PA
- MassVOTE
- Nevada Voter Protection Program
- Planned Parenthood Votes
- Progressives for Biden
- Seniors for Biden
- Sunrise Movement
- Tufts University Democrats
- University of Pennsylvania Democrats
- Vote from Home
- When We All Vote
- Women's March
- YWCA

OUR IMPACT IN 2020



Winning states in the electoral college :

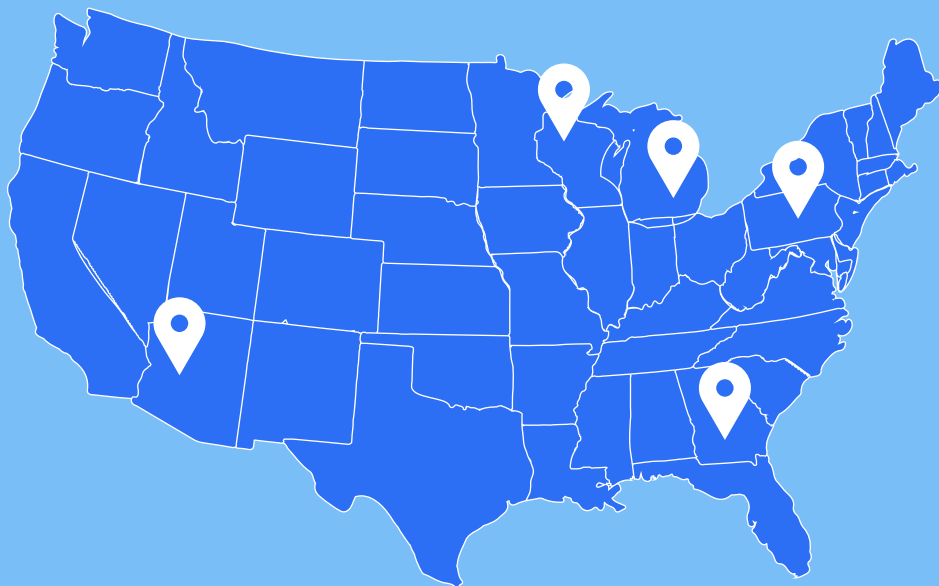
7,341 calls into AZ
Joe Biden won by 10,457 votes
Mark Kelly elected to the US Senate

7,500 calls into GA for general
election
Joe Biden won by 11,779 votes

74,440 calls into MI
Joe Biden won by 154,188 votes
Gary Peters re-elected to US Senate

64,704 calls into PA
Joe Biden won by 81,660 votes

32,502 calls into WI
Joe Biden won by 20,608 votes

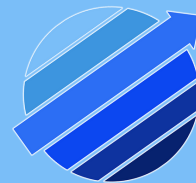


BLUE FUTURE ORGANIZERS
CALLED
651,129
VOTERS
IN 2020

We also had the following students take on these roles:

- Drew Skilton: Field Director of Terri LeGrand Campaign (NC)
- Faria Tavacolia: poll watcher and ballot observer in Nevada
- Itzel Luna: digital organizer for Tom Palzewicz (WI-5)
- Kevin Chisolm: field organizer, When We All Vote
- Mayana Nell-Torres: poll worker in Brooklyn, NY
- Michael Nevett: Field Director of Gary Spillane Campaign (PA)
- Michelle Loree: field organizer, VT Democratic Party
- Mimi Halpern: poll worker in Philadelphia
- Tim Williams: field organizer, GA for Biden
- William Kimani: a ballot biker, biking ballots from elderly and ill people who did not trust the USPS or couldn't mail their ballots

GEORGIA RUNOFFS



Our Impact in the Georgia Runoffs

- In partnership with the DSCC and Grassroots Dems HQ, trained over 4,000 volunteers in phone banking.
- Invested over \$35,000 into grassroots organizing, where most of the money was given directly to local groups on the ground.
- Sent over 200,000 texts to voters to discuss their voting plans.
- Partnered with the Future Coalition to be part of a youth-led coalition, Peaches for Progress, where we participated in phonebanks, Twitter townhalls, Tiktok challenges, and more
- Built and managed a texting bot that housed a youth voter texting hotline for all young people in GA struggling with how to vote.
- Phone banked each week calling thousands of voters and partnered with *13 Reasons Why* Star, Tommy Dorfman, to kick off a GOTV phonebank.
- Conducted ballot curing in the days after the election to secure the Democratic victories.



ORGANIZER

BREAKDOWN

Given the virtual nature of our work, Blue Future was fortunate to partner with students all over the country who exemplify what it means to be leaders in their communities.

Summer Cohort

- 130 students from 29 States & DC
- 18 languages represented
- 68% identify as women
- 51% identify as BIPOC
- 31% identify as LGBTQ+

Fall Cohort

- 113 students from 27 States & DC
- 21 languages represented
- 80% identify as women
- 53% identify as BIPOC
- 20% identify as LGBTQ+

Satisfactory Survey

After surveying 210 of our youth organizers on the effectiveness of our program and how they enjoyed it, we found that:

- 100% of students said they would likely recommend Blue Future to a friend
- 96% of students said they were likely to continue organizing after this election
- 91% of students found the Blue Future staff helpful and supportive
- 91% of students believe that the culture of Blue Future is one full of inclusivity, support, diversity, and acceptance
- 81% of students were satisfied with what they learned in the program
- 71% of students feel this program has been helpful for developing their own leadership and power

WORDS FROM OUR ORGANIZERS



"Young people flipped our country blue. Queer people, Black, Indigenous, Latinx people... none of our victories would have been possible without a diverse coalition of organizers fighting for what is right and just. And from the beginning, Blue Future got that. In a few short weeks, fascism will no longer reside in the White House. Issues that directly affect our generation's young leaders, from the climate crisis to crippling student loan debt, will actually be on the forefront of our national agenda. WE did that. We are ushering in a better world, because the youth have the power to actively change it. We certainly deserve to celebrate. But our work is far from over. In fact, Blue Future is just getting started."

- Cassidy Strong, North Carolina



"Through Blue Future, I joined a cohort of inspired (and inspiring) young leaders fighting against the racism, sexism, islamophobia, anti-semitism, homophobia, and elitism that plagues our country. We empowered ourselves and each other, taking a step towards eradicating the inequities and injustices that exist in all levels of government and in our everyday lives.

I loved witnessing how many of us showed up for the work that needed to be done."

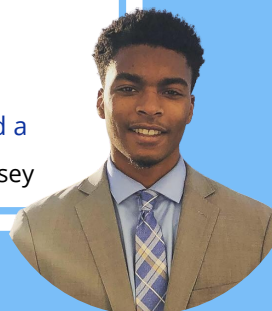
- Allison Lee, Louisiana



"Learning about media relations, budgeting, legislative advocacy, and digital organizing made the Summer for Progress and Change more than just an opportunity to phonebank. It provided an opportunity to learn how to be an effective changemaker. Most organizations have people PAY for this kind of training, instead of paying you to show up. This is what separates Blue Future from other political organizations.

As a fellow with Blue Future this summer, my interest in politics was nurtured and I gained a new perspective on political organizing."

- Kevin Chisholm, New Jersey



WORDS FROM OUR ELECTEDS & CANDIDATES



“

“The future of America rests with you [Blue Future] and with the young people all across this country.”

- Senator Bernie Sanders



“

“Blue Future is building the pipeline of progressive youth organizing in an equitable and transformative way.

I'm excited to continue our work together to make America a place where we all can be safe and free and create a government where young people's voices are valued.”

- Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib



WORDS FROM OUR ELECTEDS & CANDIDATES



“

“I’m so thankful for Blue Future and the students who organized to help elect the youngest, most diverse Congress in history.”

- Democratic House Chairman
Hakeem Jefferies



“

“I’ve been so impressed with Blue Future’s strategic vision for engaging the next generation of political organizing...You are VIPs, our Volunteers in Politics. You know what we say, we don’t agonize, we organize.”

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi



WORDS FROM OUR ELECTEDS & CANDIDATES



This year Blue Future was honored to have many elected officials join our trainings and speak to our students as well as many candidates that we were working for.

We had the following elected officials and candidates join us:

- Rep. Matt Cartwright, (D-PA)
- Rep. Rashida Tlaib, (D-MI)
- Rep. Jim McGovern, (D-MA)
- Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, (D-NY)
- Speaker Nancy Pelosi, (D-CA)
- Sen. Bernie Sanders, Vermont
- Sen. Tina Smith, Minnesota
- Sen. Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin
- Candace Valenzuela and Mike Siegel, Texas Congressional Candidates
- Sarah Godlewski, Wisconsin State Treasurer
- Regina Lewis Ward, Georgia House District 109
- Joanna McClinton, Pennsylvania State House member
- Ajlan Kurdoglu, Douglas Ervin, and Judy Schwiebert, Arizona State Legislature candidates
- David Crowley, County Executive Milwaukee County
- Terri LeGrand and Kirk DeViere, North Carolina State Legislature candidates





Key Takeaways

What Makes Blue Future Unique

- We've built independent, sustainable, revenue streams and let youth organizers guide our funding decisions. We take a design thinking approach to actively solicit their input on our strategic direction and listen to their needs. From there, we ideate, test, and scale plans that make the most impact and add as much value as possible in the lives of each young person we work with.
- Blue Future strives to extend an open hand and work with anyone who shares our vision for a country where freedom and justice is for all of us, no matter our race, gender, sexual orientation, accent, or zip code.
- The biggest area we are transforming is the training space. Often times organizations charge a fee for training. Other groups hope people will attend free trainings, ignoring the opportunity cost of time. A free training model often leaves low-income communities out of the political process.
- Blue Future is disrupting this structure and paying people to get trained in the fundamentals of political and community organizing. We do this because the way an organization chooses to spend their money is a statement of their values.
- At our core, we value young people's time and by paying as many people as we can, we honor their commitment to organize and elect decision makers who will fight for our rights, no matter what we look like, where we come from, or what's in our wallet.



Partners

This year Blue Future teamed up with the following organizations to maximize our impact:

- **Progressives for Biden**
 - Blue Future organizers recruited volunteers and promoted progressive mobilization events in partnership with the Biden campaign.
- **Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC)**
 - Blue Future organizers worked with the DSCC as Field Organizers to recruit and train volunteers in the key Senate states. Additionally, we worked closely with them to manage and run their Georgia phonebanks and texting campaign.
 - “Blue Future was an invaluable partner to the DSCC this cycle. The energy and talent from their youth organizers helped fuel our Senate campaigns across the country, increasing our organizing capacity early on when we invested in state field programs and other partners weren’t ready yet, Blue Future was there. Blue Future is a pipeline that engages, trains, and prepares young people for the real-world of electoral campaigns, which is exactly what is needed in our movement to help more young people lead.”
 - Dawn Le, National Field Director, DSCC
- **Grassroots Dems HQ**
 - Blue Future co-sponsored youth to youth phone banks into swing states and Georgia with the support of GDHQ.
- **Motivote**
 - Blue Future organizers joined Motivote’s team and invited their friends to do the same to get reminders about voting, make voting plans, and triple their vote.
- **Racial Justice**
 - Blue Future raised over \$30,000 to support racial justice organizations.
- **Future Coalition**
 - Blue Future joined the Peaches for Progress coalition in partnership with the Future Coalition to mobilize young people for the Georgia Runoff elections.

2020 BUDGET



2020 Budget

Expenses	Amount	Revenue	Amount
Staff Salary	\$125,539	Cash on Hand January 2020	\$38,109
Youth Organizer Grants	\$280,000	Small-Dollar Email Program Revenue	\$514,525
Grants to Racial Groups & Local Electoral Groups	\$52,316	Major Donors	\$55,000
Rent, Legal, Administrative Expenses	\$20,769	Labor Unions	\$2,000
Cash put on reserve	\$35,000	Total Revenue	\$609,634
Total Annual Expenses	\$513, 624	Ending Cash on Hand	\$96,010



In 2021 and 2022, Blue Future plans to continue to support youth organizing across the country. In February 2021, Blue Future intends to launch a 10-week issue advocacy program for young people. In this program, students will learn the ins and outs of issue advocacy campaigns and focus on specific issues that matter most to young people such as climate justice, reproductive rights, student debt cancellation, democracy reform, racial justice, gun violence prevention, healthcare & economic justice.

Our students will participate in the following activities:

- phone banking
- text banking
- drafting opinion editorials
- creating shareable social media content on key issues
- lobby days
- policy trainings

To continue the imperative of year-round youth engagement, we will launch a national campaign to establish youth advisory councils at the local, state, and federal level. Building off of our issue advocacy training program, we will train and resource young people to own their seat at the table and hold decision makers accountable to their commitments—equal justice, good paying jobs, vibrant communities, clean air and water, quality health care, free college, and livable neighborhoods.



VISION

2021 - 2022



Blue Future will provide the organizational infrastructure to sustain pathways to power where young people can inform, coordinate & mobilize on policy priorities that affect all of us. Evermore, coordinating a national campaign to create locally led councils as early investments in competitive electoral areas will bolster young people's power in local and national elections.

Blue Future will also continue to develop our professional development program and offer all current students and alumni of our programs resume + cover letter support, job + internship opportunities, and professional development workshops + trainings. All of these resources will be free to young people.

In the later half of 2021, we will support the Virginia and New Jersey gubernatorial race and other elections. Additionally, we are specifically looking at statewide elections in VA, NJ, PA, WI, and WA. Our organizers will also tap into special elections that may arise with the change of administration. In the meantime, we will continue to build the progressive pipeline and offer professional development trainings, run for office trainings, and alumni support.

In 2022, we plan to ramp up our largest effort yet and focus on the midterms. We are dedicated to ensuring that young people push for a profoundly transformative and progressive agenda that will change our lives for the better and pave the way for a brighter tomorrow.



STAFF



Nick (he/him) serves as the Co-Founder & Co-Executive Director of Blue Future. Nick focusses on developing the leadership of our team, setting our strategic vision, political theory of change, and managing our fundraising, legal and administrative departments. Nick supports Blue Future's digital and social media organizing, communications and messaging, legislative advocacy, and our partnerships and coalition work. Nick loves pasta, tacos, meditation, soccer, and his home state of California—in that order.

Morgan (she/her) serves as a Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of Blue Future. At Blue Future, Morgan focusses on leadership development, managing our Progress and Change programs, and supporting our students in professional development. Additionally, Morgan supports the organization with coalition building, partnership development, and communication and messaging. Prior to her work with Blue Future, Morgan was an organizer on the Elizabeth Warren Presidential Campaign in New Hampshire and is a graduate from American University. Originally from Northeastern PA, Morgan is passionate about making sure women and young people have a voice in our political system.



Maria (she/her) is the Deputy Director for Blue Future. She is an experienced and enthusiastic organizer, working on multiple local and national campaigns for over 4 years. Additionally, she has written and published articles during the 2018 Midterm Election, advocated and lobbied on Capitol Hill, consulted political social media platforms, and helped manage and grow organizations. She loves using her skills to contribute to the exciting and groundbreaking work that happens every day at Blue Future. Maria graduated from Longwood University in 2019 with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and History. While in school, she established the first Hispanic Latino Association and earned the IB Dent Excellence Award for my exemplary leadership and programming skills. Maria is inspired by her parents who gave everything so she could have a brighter future in the United States, her incredible team that always goes above and beyond, and all the organizers that dedicate their time towards creating impactful change in their community. In her free time she enjoys hiking, cooking, and safely exploring new locations in the great state of Virginia!

Robert (he/him) is a Regional Organizing Director for Blue Future. He is a recent graduate at Albion College, where he majored in political science with a minor in history and a concentration in public policy. He previously served as president of the Albion College Student Senate, treasurer of the Michigan Federation of College Democrats, and as president of MFCD. Robert is currently working for the Michigan Laborers District Council as the Director of Advocacy, where he works to write and promote pro-worker policies. Robert got his start in politics volunteering for his local county water resource commissioner, and since then, has worked for a number of candidates at the state and federal levels. Motivated by his commitment to improving public education and combating climate change, Robert knows that the Democratic party's ideas on these issues are the best ways to help people. In his spare time, Robert enjoys traveling, nature walks, and exploring new cultures.



Satchel (she/her) was Blue Future's Organizing Manager. She is an organizer for climate justice, youth voter engagement, reproductive justice, and racial justice. After working at Blue Future, she went on to Coordinate the Biden Campaign's Senior and Progressive Engagement Programs under the direction of Heather Booth. She is currently returning to her studies at Swarthmore College after working on the Daniel Blackman campaign for Georgia Public Service Commission.

Rina (she/they) has the unique role of managing Blue Future's social media as well as organizing with Blue Future's campaigns. Rina is a survivor, organizer, and young woman figuring life out after university, where she majored in Political Science. Her passion is protecting and advancing human rights and preserving our planet through public policy and law. When she's not being political, she loves to hang out with her two dogs and enjoy nature.



Jiahn (she/her) is an Organizing Intern with Blue Future. Prior to becoming an intern, she was a part of both the Summer and Fall for Progress and Change Programs. In addition, she interned with Food and Water Watch New Jersey this past summer and helped in the fight against the NJ Transit power plant. She is a current senior at Bergen Tech High School where she majors in law and justice, and she plans to attend a 4-year college in the fall and major in English and Political Science. In her downtime, she loves running, reading, and creative writing.

WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN
OUR PROGRAMS

