

NURSES CAN CHANGE
THE WORLD:
10 LESSONS IN POLICY
& ADVOCACY

Indiana Organization for Nursing Leadership

Spring Conference

April 26, 2024


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Co-Founder, Healing Politics

Healing
Politics

The logo for "Healing Politics" is displayed on a white rounded rectangular background. The word "Healing" is in a dark blue, sans-serif font. The word "Politics" is in a red, sans-serif font. The letter "o" in "Politics" is replaced by a circular icon containing a red silhouette of a capitol dome. A light gray stethoscope is overlaid on the text, with its chest piece positioned near the "o" and its tubing looping around the words.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - SIMON CHAPMAN

- Reflections on a 38-year career in public health advocacy:
10 pieces of advice to early career researchers and advocates
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25848732/>

- 
- The background features a gradient from red at the top to blue at the bottom, overlaid with a field of small white stars. On the right side, there are several circular diagrams: a large one with concentric circles and a scale from 0 to 200, and a smaller one below it with dashed lines and arrows. On the left, there are faint circular outlines and arrows.
- Healing Politics and what we do
 - Civic Engagement
 - 10 Lessons in Policy & Advocacy
 - "Representation" and Why It Matters to Have Nurses in Elected Office
 - What Can You Do?



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Are you a health policy expert?

A. Yes

B. No

C. I don't know





INTRODUCTIONS: WHO AM I AND WHY HEALING POLITICS?

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Welcome to Healing Politics

Healing Politics is an educational, non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)3 organization.

We are on a mission to inspire, motivate, recruit, & train nurses & midwives to run for elected office up & down the ballot while building a culture of civic engagement within the professions.

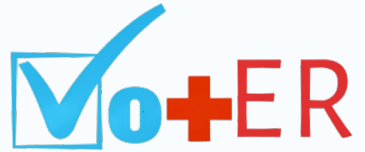
[Learn More](#)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Civic participation encompasses a wide range of formal and informal activities, such as voting, volunteering, participating in group activities, and community gardening. ([Healthy People 2030](#))





Civic Engagement Promotes Health!



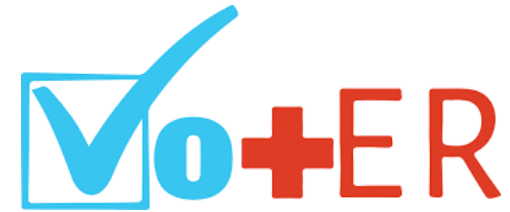
www.vot-er.org



[@vot_er_org](https://twitter.com/vot_er_org)

HOW TO BECOME CIVICALLY ENGAGED

- Show up
 - Advocacy Day
 - City Council Meetings
- Register voters
 - Vote411.org
 - Vot-ER.org
- Become a poll worker
 - powerthepolls.org
- Volunteer on a campaign
 - State Legislative Committee
 - AONL Director of Advocacy
- Volunteer with a political party
 - Votesmart.org



Stage 1
Buy-in

Stage 2
Self-interest

Stage 3
Political sophistication

Stage 4
Leading the way

**THE FOUR
STAGES OF
NURSING'S
POLITICAL
DEVELOPMENT**

#1 Developing civic identity is a process.

- And we are all on a continuum. This is an important part of nursing education and professional socialization!



#2 Policy and politics *will* impact your practice.

Policies – laws and regulations at the federal, state and local level – impact your clinical practice daily (no matter your role or specialty).



States Weigh Laws for Nurse Practitioner Full Practice Authority

As California finalizes its nurse practitioner full practice authority, Indiana and Pennsylvania lobby lawmakers to act on lapsing regulations allowing expanded scope of practice.

Source: Getty Images

POLITICS

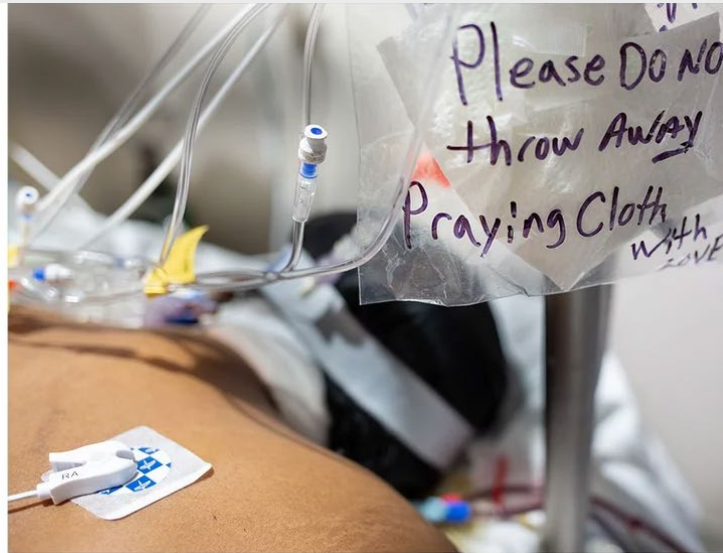
Indiana senators consider bill to deal with state's nursing shortage

According to the Indiana Hospital Association, by 2031, the state will need an additional 5,000 to meet the growing demands of an aging population.



#3 Leverage the public trust in nurses.

- **Now more than ever:** Use the trust the public has in you as a nurse.
- When asked about trust in various groups trying to improve the US health care system, Americans “do not trust any major interest group, with the exception of nurses.”



#4 Don't go it alone.

Coalitions can be a powerful way to amplify your voice.



Building a Healthier America, State by State

Action Coalitions in almost every state and Washington, D.C. carry out the work of the Campaign at the local, regional, and state levels. Our multi-sector state coalitions extend beyond nursing and health care and include nearly 2,000 organizations, working together to build health equity.

State coalitions are comprised of a mosaic of partners including local school systems, fire and emergency services, 4H chapters, libraries, area health education centers and other workforce organizations, businesses and business groups, foundations, and social justice organizations, among others. Leveraging the power of local community, collectively, state coalitions have raised more than **110 million dollars** as of 2021, all in service of creating healthier communities through nursing.

Action Coalitions, are you looking for resources? Check out our Action Coalition Resource page

[View](#)



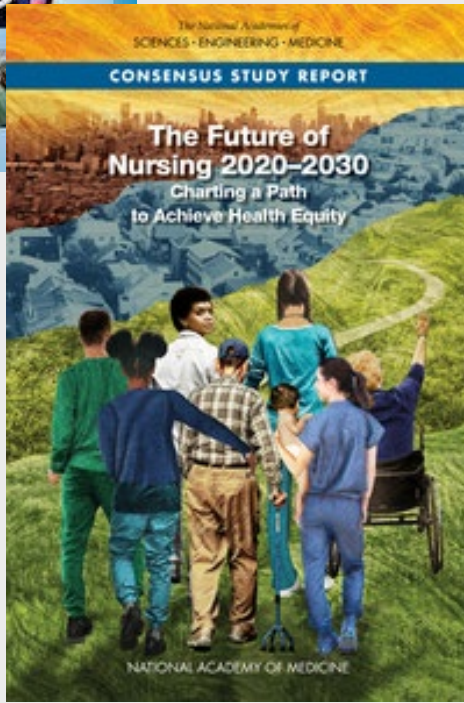
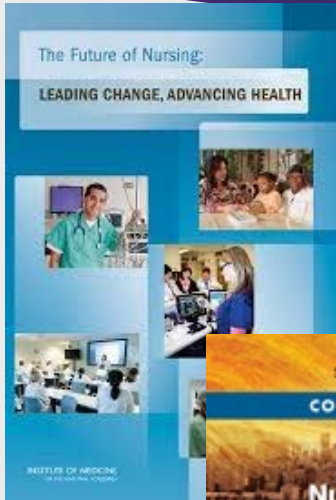
#5 Learn to use the media.



- [The Woodhull Study on Nursing and the Media](#), first published in 1998 and revisited 20 years later, found:
 - Barriers are keeping journalists from nurses (don't know how to find them, editorial biases...)
 - Barriers are keeping nurses from journalists (not strategic about engaging journalists...)

Pictured here is Alan Hawes, formerly a photojournalist and now a nurse at the Medical University of South Carolina. Photos on the slide of Lesson #3 are his. Read the NPR story [here](#).

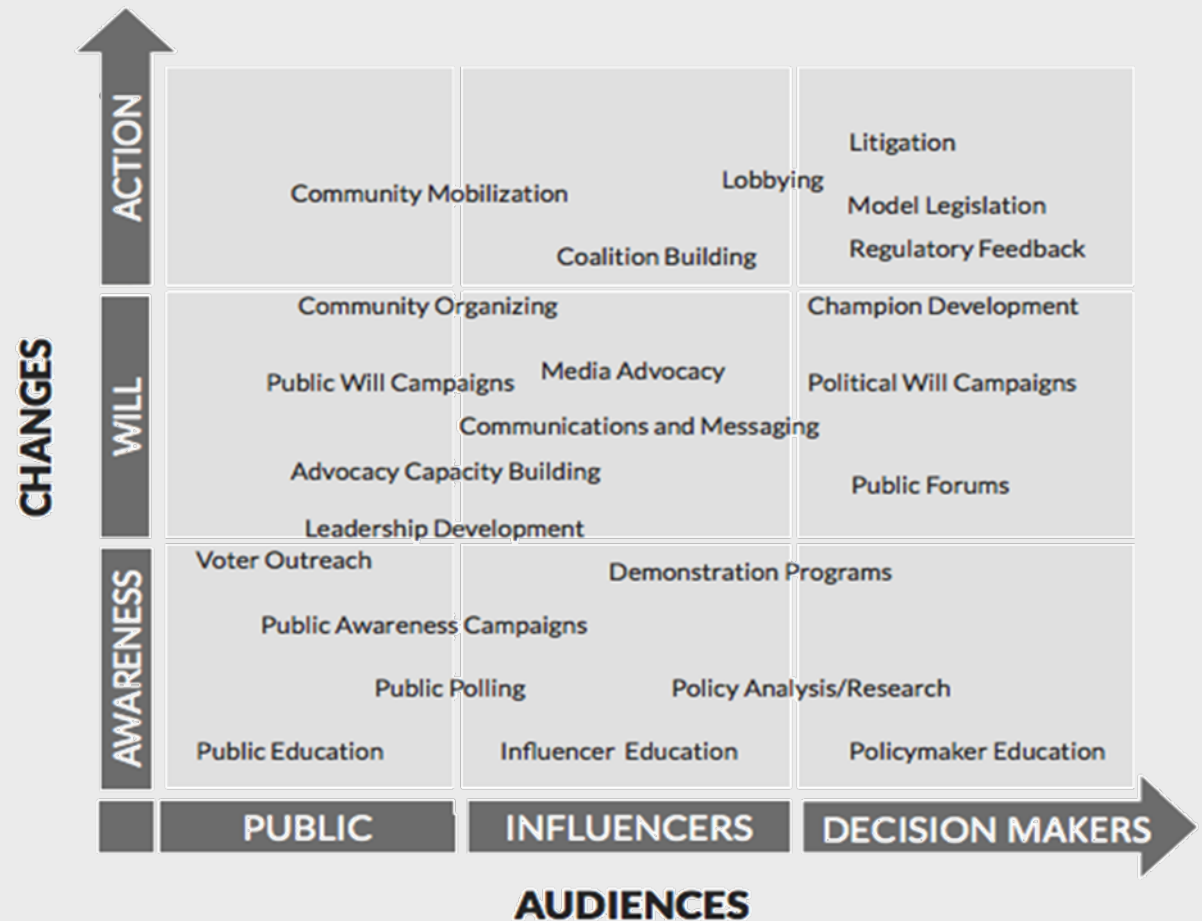
#6 Know and use the evidence.



- “Use killer facts” – stock up on them and have them ready.
- But, (particularly when it comes to scope of practice battles) don’t be fooled into believing that more evidence is what you need to win.

#7 Have a strategy.

- Be clear and concrete about what you want to support
- The Advocacy Strategy Framework (Coffman & Beer, 2015) is one framework.
- Important to organize advocacy strategy and mapping



#8 The devil is in the details (words matter).

- Regulatory work, aka rulemaking is critical.
- Words matter when naming providers: “Physician,” or “qualified healthcare professional”?
 - An important goal is provider neutral language.

(Legislation is not always the best solution to the problem.)

#9 Relationships are everything.

Making friends *outside of nursing* is important!

Campaign for Action
AARP[®]

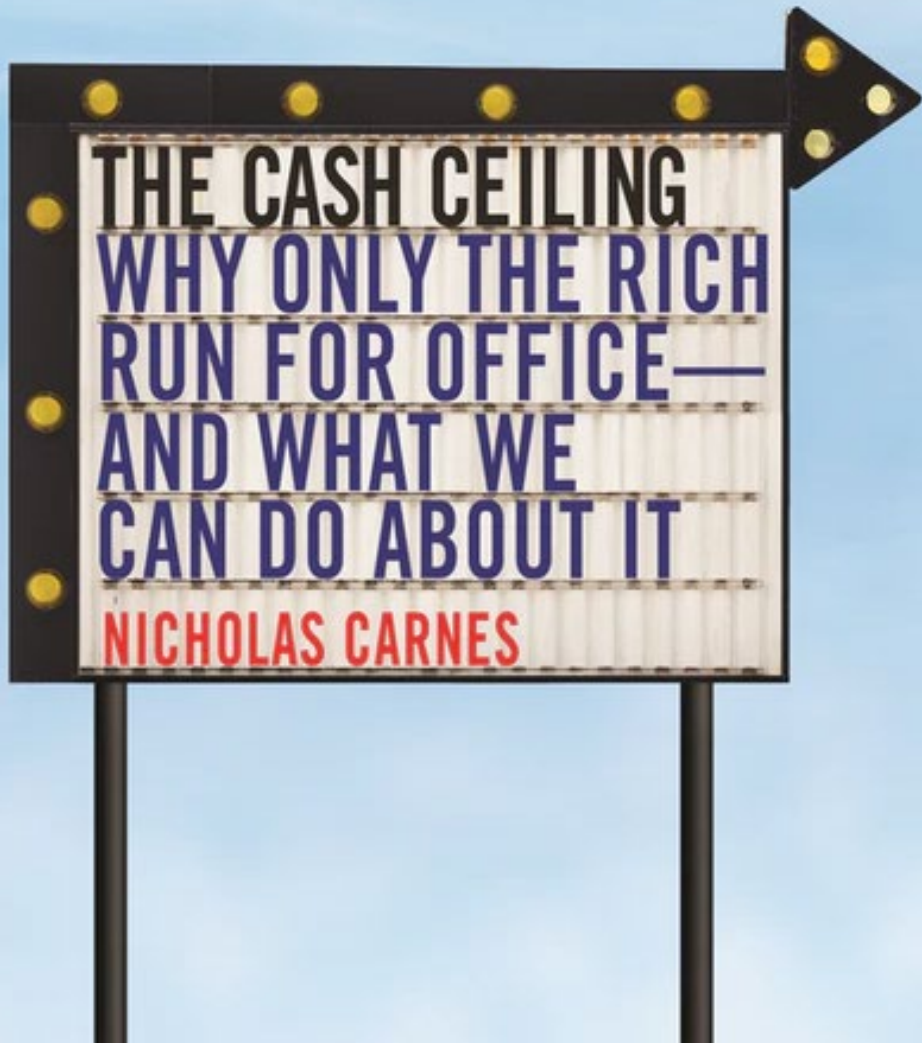


Catherine Dodd: *In politics, friends come and go, but enemies accumulate. Acknowledge people. Thank people. Stay connected.*



10 Representation matters.





REPRESENTATION MATTERS!

A more diverse elected body produces better policy.

- Mansbridge, J. (1999). **Should blacks represent blacks and women represent women? A contingent "yes"**. *The Journal of Politics*, 61(3), 628-657.
- Crowder-Meyer, M. (2020) Baker, Bus Driver, Babysitter, Candidate? Revealing the Gendered Development of Political Ambition Among Ordinary Americans. *Political Behavior* 42(2).

AFTER 2016 GENERAL ELECTION

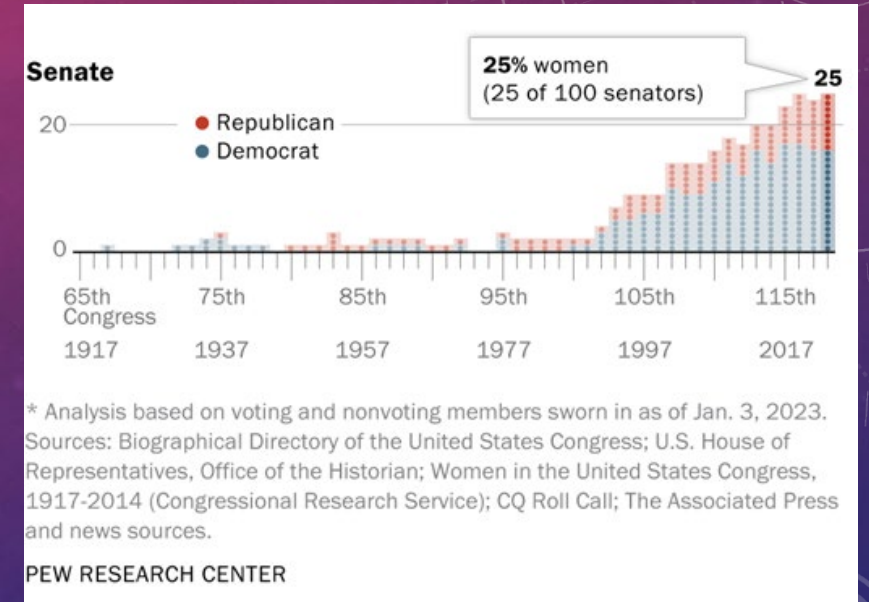
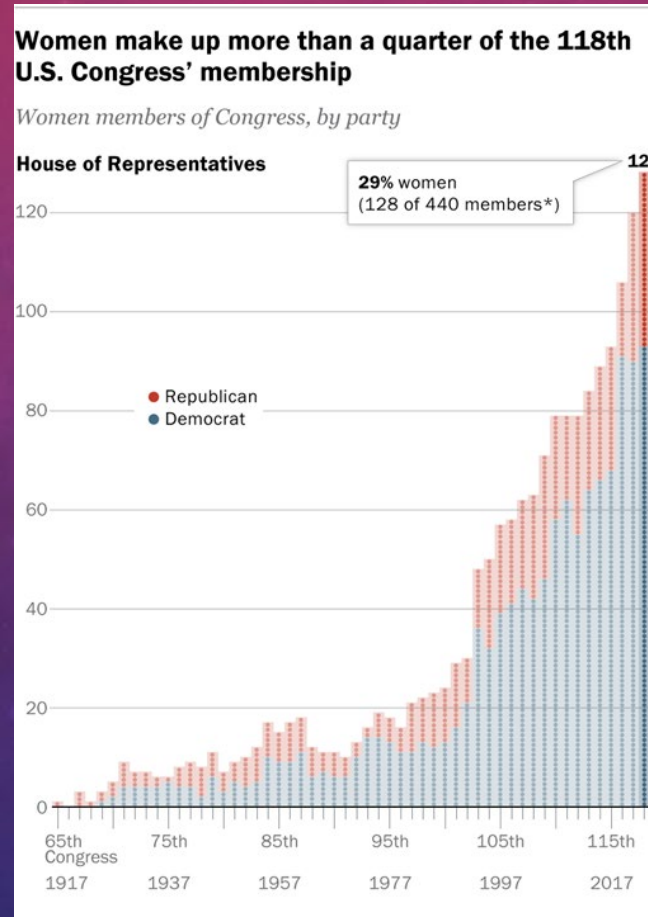
More women running = more women in office

2018 – “The Year of the Ordinary Woman”



Today, the percentage of women serving as state and federal legislators is the highest in our history.

- Federal legislators 28%
- State legislators 33%



Wednesday

NURSES IN ELECTED OFFICE

What do we know about nurses in elected office?

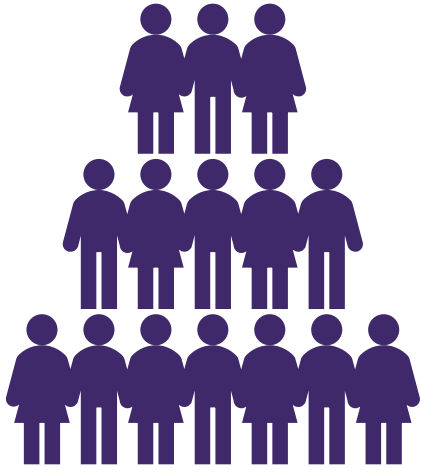
PRESIDENT'S 2020 HOMELAND SECURITY BUDGET REQUEST

REP. LAUREN UNDERWOOD

Illinois, 14th District

Harvard, Sandwich, Geneva

C-SPAN2



0

U.S. Senate

3

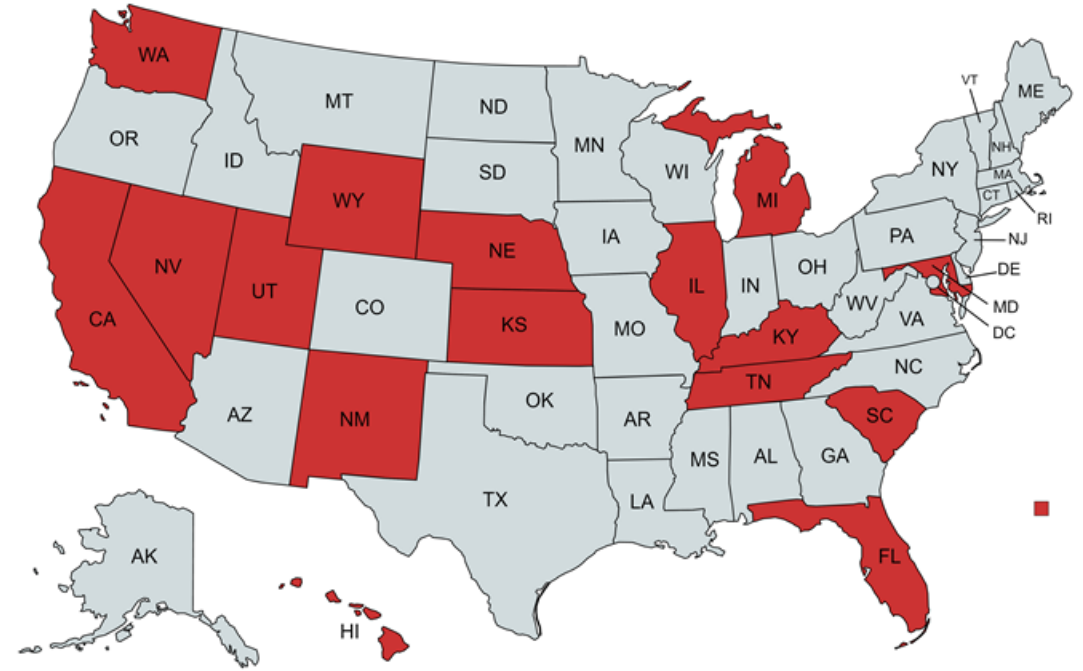
U.S. House

77

State Legislatures

??

School Board, City Council, County Council,
Mayor, County Coroner, Sherrif

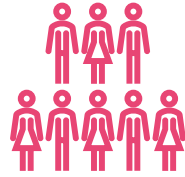


Curley and Stone. Nurse State Legislators, 2013 to 2023. Nursing Outlook 72(2024).

A photograph of two nurses in a hospital room. They are wearing blue scrubs and white face masks. The nurse on the left is looking at a tablet device. The nurse on the right is looking towards the camera. In the background, there is a patient bed with a white sheet, a television mounted on the wall, and various medical equipment. The text "WHAT QUALITIES DO NURSES BRING TO ELECTED OFFICE?" is overlaid in blue, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

**WHAT QUALITIES DO NURSES BRING
TO ELECTED OFFICE?**

QUALITIES OF NURSES WELL SUITED FOR ELECTED OFFICE



Leading &
building
teams



Conflict
management



Collaboration



Negotiating



Data driven
decision
making



Managing
competing
priorities



Listening
skills



Expert
communicator

[Americans Most Trusted: Nurses Continue to Rank the Highest
January 2024](#)

NURSES SEE HEALTH IN ALL POLICY

What are social determinants of health?

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

SDOH can be grouped into 5 domains:



Economic Stability



Education Access and Quality



Health Care Access and Quality



Neighborhood and Built Environment



Social and Community Context



POLITICAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

- The fundamental causes of the social determinants of health that create & worsen health inequities.
- Three major aspects of PDOH are voting, government, & policy.



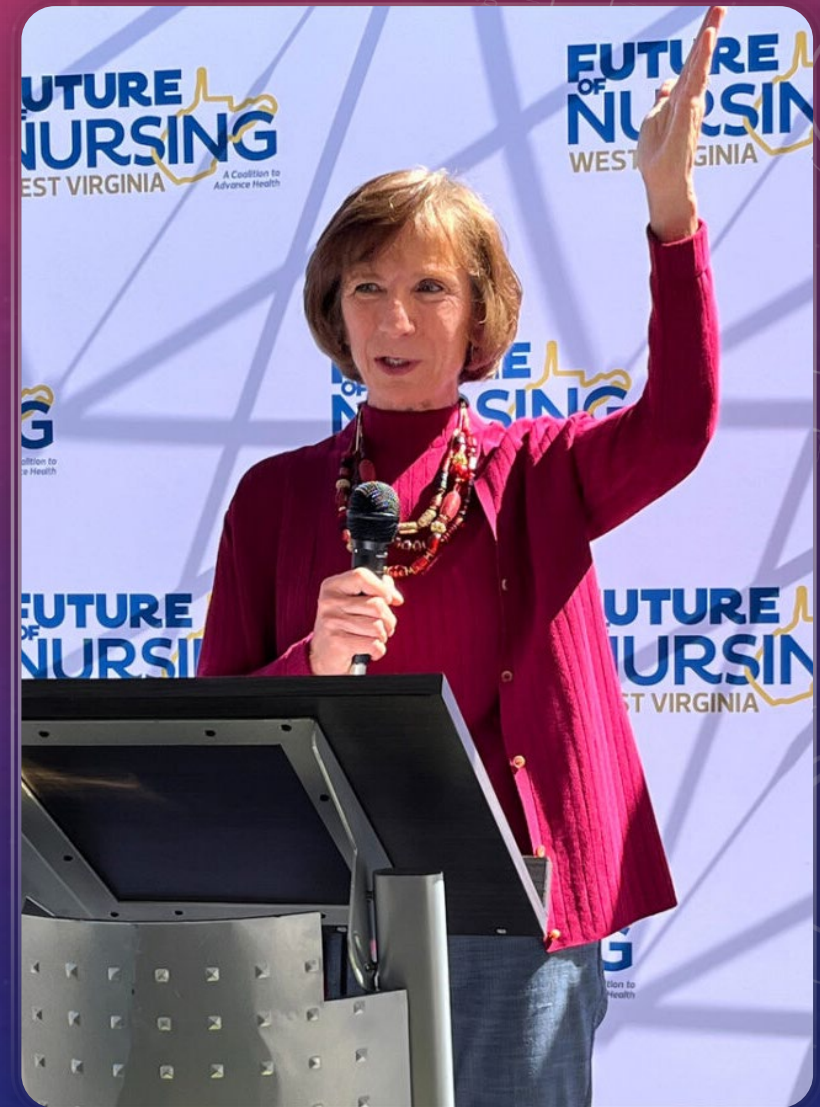
The framing of health inequities as politically determined serves as an imperative, a call to action.

NURSES LEADING BEYOND HEALTH CARE

"Nurses have myriad opportunities to lead entirely outside the traditional boundaries of health care, in both the public and private sectors. ...

Nurses can be appointed to senior government positions or stand for election to political office, positions in which they can use their expertise and voice to advocate for policy change in the areas of SDOH and health equity. "

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2021. The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. Chapter 11





WHAT ABOUT YOU?

If you can learn to do this....
(and be a leader in your
organization)



you can surely do this!

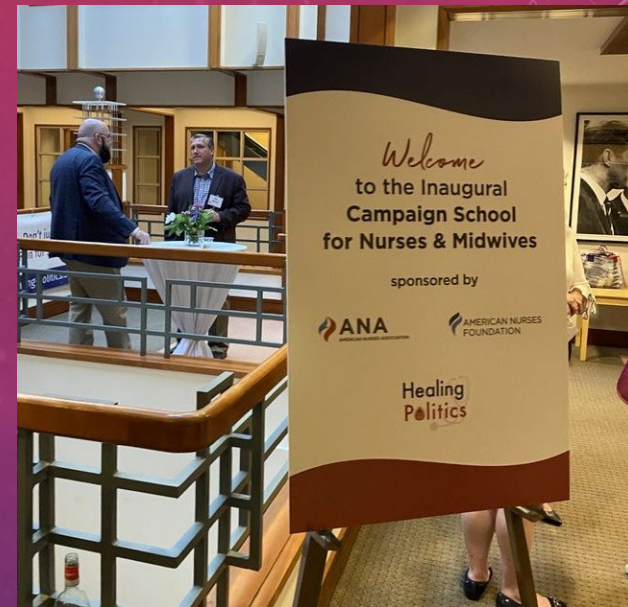




Order a free  registration badge

- Scan the QR code
- Choose Healing Politics from the list
- Ensure your friends, family, & colleagues are registered to vote

RUN FOR SOMETHING!



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Encourage a colleague (or mentor) to run for office.
- Support nurses who run; engage with those who serve.
- Engage in advocacy work!
- Increase your civic engagement - register voters, get involved in a campaign, get involved in a party or advocacy group.
- Visit Healing-Politics.org & sign up for our newsletter. (whether you want to run, learn more, or help!)
- Follow us on social media.



Thank
you

QUESTIONS?

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