

2016 Report to Stakeholders

Growing our Coalition:

The ERA Coalition continues to grow as an alliance of prominent women’s and civil rights organizations and individual leaders who are dedicated to leading the effort to pass and ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. Our outreach efforts are focused on building a coalition that represents a strong and diverse national movement. The ERA Coalition consists of 72 Member Organizations including 21 Lead Organizations, and 53 individually prominent ERA Supporters. With *pro bono* assistance, we continue to build our website, which is now bilingual with the addition of Spanish over the past year. We are also working with *pro bono* assistance to develop and test creative concept campaigns as we outline a formal messaging plan.



ERA Coalition Board at A Night of Comedy with Jane Fonda



ERA Coalition Lead Organizations



ERA Coalition advocates in LA for Patricia Arquette’s Dinner for Equality

Updates from the Hill:

In 2016, we continued to work with the Congressional sponsors of ERA legislation to increase the numbers of co-sponsors on their respective bills. H.J. Res 51, the “Three State Strategy,” introduced by Representative Jackie Speier, has 164 cosponsors. HJ Res 52, the “New ERA,” introduced by Representatives Carolyn Maloney (NY-12-D) and Cynthia Lummis (WY-AL-R), has 194 cosponsors. Both bills in the House of Representatives have bipartisan support. In the Senate, S.J. Res 15, the “Three State Strategy,” introduced by Senator Ben Cardin (MD-D) and Senator Mark Kirk (IL-R), has 30 cosponsors, including bipartisan support. S.J. Res 16, the “Traditional Strategy,” introduced by Senator Robert Menendez (NJ-D) has 10 cosponsors. We will be working on reintroducing ERA legislation as we enter a new Congressional session in January 2017.

Representative Bonnie Watson-Coleman (NJ-12-D) led two special order hours on the Equal Rights Amendment in 2016, bringing the issue of the ERA to the house floor. Representative Watson-Coleman was joined by Representatives Carolyn Maloney, Jackie Speier and Gwen Graham (FL-2-D) at the first Special Order Hour on March 3, 2016. On May 12, 2016, Representative Watson-Coleman was joined by Representatives Carolyn Maloney and Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX-18-D). In advance of both special order hours, we organized social media campaigns to highlight this congressional action and encourage other members of Congress to participate by mobilizing our members on Twitter.



In coordination with our sister organization, the Fund for Women’s Equality, we co-hosted a Congressional viewing of the documentary *Equal Means Equal* with Representatives Carolyn Maloney (NY-D) and Jackie Speier (CA-D) at the U.S. Capitol. Following the screening, a panel discussion was moderated by ERA Coalition Board Member Carol Jenkins, with Patricia Arquette, Lenora Lapidus, Kamala Lopez and Dr. E Faye Williams.

Election 2016:

During the summer Congressional recess, we focused on including the Equal Rights Amendment in the national conversation surrounding the current election cycle. The ERA Coalition website hosted a page dedicated to holding candidates accountable for their support of the Equal Rights Amendment, <http://www.eracoalition.org/election.php>. The webpage featured a candidate commitment form to provide ERA advocates a tool to gather information on their candidate’s position on the ERA.

Our efforts to influence the Democratic Platform were successful in creating stronger language of support for the ERA than the past Democratic Platforms. Working with the Platform Drafting Committee, we were able to secure an opportunity for Patricia Arquette and ERA Coalition President Jessica Neuwirth to provide testimony at the Platform Committee Hearing in Phoenix, Arizona on June 18th.

“We will fight to secure equal pay for women and—after 240 years—finally enshrine the rights of women in the constitution by passing the Equal Rights Amendment.”

- Language included in the 2016 Democratic Platform



Patricia Arquette and Jessica Neuwirth testify at the Democratic Platform Hearing in Phoenix, AZ



The Democratic Platform Hearing was held in Phoenix, AZ on June 18th

The ERA Coalition was an allied organization at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia in July. Throughout the week, the ERA Coalition was represented by our board, staff and volunteers. Our representatives and volunteers handed out thousands of ERA Coalition stickers and ERA Coalition brochures and attended events focusing on women’s equality, including the DNC Official Convention Proceedings, the DNC Women’s Caucuses, Feminist Majority’s EqualTea, Women of Color: Uniting the Country Luncheon, and EMILY’s List Reception.

Although we made several attempts to contact the Republican National Committee to participate in the Republican National Convention in Cleveland we were not able to successfully connect. Therefore, we were not able to participate in the events during their Convention.

We worked throughout the campaign cycle to include the Equal Rights Amendment as a part of the national dialogue during the election. The Second Presidential Debate took place on October 9, 2016. The ERA Coalition Communications Task Force agreed that the ERA Coalition should organize a social media campaign to encourage the debate moderators to ask a question on the ERA. Out of over 15,000 questions submitted on the Open Questions website our question was ranked as the 121st most popular question with 5,292 votes.



(l to r) Jessica Neuwirth, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and Carol Jenkins at the DNC



(l to r) Teresa Younger, Carol Jenkins, Marcy Syms and Bettina Hager at Feminist Majority’s EqualTea at the DNC



(l to r) Jamie and Bonnie Schaefer at the DNC

Vision for 2017:

The ERA Coalition is committed to growing a national, diverse and multi-generational movement to pass and ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. We will concentrate on expanding our networks to include allies from like-minded social and civil rights movements. We will also work to increase the number of state affiliates to strengthen our grassroots presence.

Following the results of the 2016 Presidential election, we are reevaluating our strategy and looking at the possibility of expanding the scope of the Equal Rights Amendment. The election highlighted the many groups of Americans who do not have adequate protections of their civil and human rights. Our goal is to keep women at the center of the conversation while advancing the rights of every American who is vulnerable to discrimination.

The ERA Coalition Board and staff will continue to work and meet with Congressional offices on Capitol Hill to increase co-sponsorship for ERA legislation. We will focus on growing a broad bipartisan base of support with targeted outreach to Republican members of Congress and their staff. The ERA Coalition will encourage lead sponsors of ERA legislation to hold briefings and hearings to create movement for the ERA.

The ERA Coalition will continue to engage in targeted actions and campaigns with our Lead Organizations, Advisory Council, and prominent ERA Supporters to increase the level of public awareness and support of the Equal Rights Amendment. Using both traditional and social media strategies, we will focus on bringing the ERA into the greater public consciousness.

The financial and *pro bono* contributions of our donors are vital to the work of the ERA Coalition – thanks to all of our supporters. In particular, we would like to acknowledge and thank:

Anonymous	enso	Regina Manian
Deborah Ashford	Edie Lycke	Mondo Agit
Bradley Berger	Chandra Jessee	Gloria Neuwirth
Donna Deitch	Rep. Carolyn Maloney	Rosie O'Donnell



ERA Coalition Leadership

Board of Directors

Jessica Neuwirth, <i>President</i>	Carol Jenkins
Maria Vullo, <i>Chair and Secretary</i>	Gloria Steinem
Liz Young, <i>Treasurer</i>	Marcy Syms
	Teresa Younger

Advisory Council

Melanie Campbell	Donna Deitch	Abigail Disney	Minna Elias
Gloria Feldt	Jane Fonda	Agnes Gund	Sarah Jones
Christine Lahti	Suzanne Lerner	Jane Levikow	Judy Lotas
Catharine MacKinnon	Laura Neuwirth	Marla Schaefer	Taylor Schilling
Linda Kaplan Thaler	Jamia Wilson	Marie Wilson	

Lead Organizations in the ERA Coalition



Operational Team

Jessica Neuwirth Director	Jimmie Briggs Consultant
Bettina Hager DC Director	Carol Jenkins Consultant