

Semester in Review

December 2022

yale dems





A Note from the Board

Dear Extended Dems Community,

Happy New Year! We are thrilled to be ringing in 2023 in good company and on the heels of an exceptional semester for our organization. As ever, thank you for your steadfast support and unwavering commitment to the Dems mission. Your generosity allowed us to welcome a record number of students into our ranks this fall and tackle an ambitious, cross-country get out the vote initiative. We're excited to share our successes with you in the following pages.

Dems Fellows staffed the front lines of the nation's most competitive congressional, gubernatorial, and state legislative races, rolling up their sleeves to deliver Democratic victories in more than half of the contests we had a hand in. Our members worked tirelessly to register Yalies to vote and assist in requesting absentee ballots. Though Democrats narrowly lost the House majority this past November, Dems Fellows kept the margin close, contributing to a better-than-expected showing and staving off a "red wave."

Closer to home, Dems members road-tripped to Fairfield County to knock doors with Representative Jahana Hayes and State Senate hopeful Tim Gavin (YC '17), both over October Break and in the run-up to the general election. We revived favorite Dems traditions, including our Fall Formal and First-Year Initiation celebration. All the while, members partnered with New Haven nonprofits and leading state legislators to seek progressive change in New Haven, in Connecticut, and across the country.

We look forward to what 2023 has in store!

Elections



This fall, Dems Fellows staffed our most diverse array of partner campaigns in recent memory, making waves coast-to-coast. Elections Fellows served as remote interns to 11 campaigns and grassroots organizations (distributed geographically on the map above), earning exposure to the nitty gritty of electoral politics. Between voter outreach, donor research, and press strategy, Fellows kept busy and introduced the larger Dems membership to their respective candidates. Fellows emerge having gained considerable campaign experience in an unforgettable midterm cycle, skills that will serve them well in their upcoming summer internship search (which Dems similarly works to make a successful one). Elections Fellows were far from the only Dems members to get their hands dirty this fall. Between Fall Break and GOTV weekend, **40+ Dems** made the trip to Fairfield County to **knock more than 800 doors** on behalf of Representative Jahana Hayes and State Senate Candidate Tim Gavin. Check out the scene from Fall Break below!



Partner Campaigns



Rep. Steven Horsford
NV-04



Rep. Kim Schrier
WA-08



Rep. Tom Malinowski
NJ-07



Rep. Jahana Hayes
CT-05



Jamie McLeod-Skinner
OR-05



Gov. Ned Lamont
CT



State Rep. Ricky
Hurtado (NC-63)



State Sen. Maria
Collett (PA-12)



Tim Gavin (CT-28)



Texas Organizing Project



Florida Rising

From the Campaign Trail...

"Working on Rep. Tom Malinowski's campaign has been nothing but fulfilling for me. Our managers make sure to give us a diverse range of work to complete, from donor and voter research to phonebanking. Malinowski Fellows receive so much support; we were even invited to meet Team Tom during GOTV weekend. Being a part of Malinowski's campaign has been a highlight of my Yale Dems experience."

- ***Elections Fellow Maddy Megal, '25***

"Working with the Hurtado campaign has been an absolute pleasure this past semester. The campaign has been nothing but appreciative of the work we've done as Elections Fellows! We got a chance to meet Ricky over Zoom and it's clear he really cares about us and his constituents. I'm so proud to have contributed to his campaign!"

- ***Elections Fellow Jeremy Williams, '25***

Legislative Advocacy

While the Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) is not in session during the fall, Legislative Fellows were still hard at work creating policy proposals for the 2023 legislative session. Each Fellow was given the freedom to research a pressing issue in Connecticut of their own choosing and propose a comprehensive policy solution. To do so, Fellows worked directly with state legislators and community organizations.

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OPINION
PIECES

ctpost

the ct mirror

Fellows sought public support for their policy proposals in statewide Connecticut newspapers. Here are two samples in the [Connecticut Post](#) and [Connecticut Mirror](#) - keep your eyes peeled as more Dems are published in the coming weeks!



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POLICY MEMOS AND
INFOGRAPHICS

Fellows also prepared internal policy memos and infographics to be circulated among committee chairs and state legislators, directly informing policy planning for the 2023 session by our legislator partners in the CGA (pictured at a Dems meeting below).



Voter Engagement

College students remain among the nation's most severely disenfranchised voters. It might surprise you to learn that Yale students are not afforded a free mailing address; Dems Fellows worked tirelessly to advocate on behalf of Yale's voters and implement cost-free solutions. Thanks to their perseverance, students were able to receive and mail ballots from their residential college office, among other programs:

1,584

Students reached through our pledge-to-engage form*

\$6,200

Raised on behalf of Yale Votes via YCC and Yale administration

26k+

Emails sent to Yale students ahead of critical deadlines

*Pioneered by Yale Votes, the "pledge to engage" program enrolls students in a timely reminder program whereby they receive personalized election information and campus resources in an effort to improve voter turnout on campus.



In the City

Reflecting our commitment to curating sustainable, understanding relationships with activists, organizers, and government leaders* in New Haven, our City Engagement Fellows spent the semester rendering services to five project groups. Along the way, City team members contributed to our shared knowledge of New Haven affairs, delivering "Elm City Updates" during Tuesday meetings to bring attendants up-to-speed with the latest goings-on in New Haven. This semester's projects included:

New Haven Climate Movement

City Fellows worked with the New Haven Climate Movement (NHCM) to organize rallies and demonstrations in front of City Hall for climate justice. They assisted in various campaigns hosted by NHCM, including the Electric Future Campaign, Climate Education Initiative, and the 2023 Campaign calling on the New Haven Board of Education to declare a climate emergency. Fellows also engaged in relationship-building with young New Haven leaders and worked together towards the common goal of climate action.

Urban Resources Initiative

This semester, Fellows worked closely with the Urban Resources Initiative (URI) to engage community members in environmental stewardship. Fellows canvassed neighborhoods across New Haven and started conversations across the city about the role individuals can play in combating urban climate change through tree planting. Fellows were able to spread awareness to hundreds of residents about the work of URI and their capacity for involvement.



Speaker Events



Former Alabama **Senator Doug Jones** reflected on his stint in Congress, shepherding now-Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's nomination through the Senate, and representing a red state as a Democrat.

After making calls to voters, Maryland **Governor-elect Wes Moore** shared insights with Dems members from the campaign trail and reminded us what's at stake in the 2022 midterms: respect for our nation's democratic institutions.



Michael German is a former FBI special agent and current fellow with the Brennan Center for Justice. Mr. German spent his career in law enforcement monitoring the activity of domestic terrorist organizations and is the author of *Disrupt, Discredit, and Divide: How the New FBI Damages Democracy*.



Dems in the News

Dems made a regular appearance in this semester's *Yale Daily News* stories, offering commentary about President Biden's [student loan forgiveness program](#), our [efforts to reach Yale's voters](#), [canvassing trips](#) to Bethel, CT, and [reflections](#) on the results of this year's midterm elections.

Our Community

Dems members work hard, but we know how to play hard, too. In light of loosening COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to resume much of our business-as-usual programming, resurrecting treasured traditions and inaugurating new ones!



Demos Initiation

New members received Demos goody bags, completed group challenges, and celebrated the coming semester with us in September!



Demos Woads



Demos Formal

Demos danced the night away at Toad's Place (above) and our first Fall Formal in three years (left)!

Quarterly Financial Report

Our Accounts

Bank Account

\$4,523.82

Federal PAC

\$2,480.47

State PAC

\$1,214.99

Net Gain (Since 1/1/22)

Bank Account: -\$709.60

Federal PAC: \$1200.60

State PAC: -\$125.52

TOTAL: \$365.48 (+4.65%)

Semester Highlights

We received a generous donation of **\$1,000** to drive to Bethel, CT and canvass for Tim Gavin's State Senate campaign for our annual fall break trip and an extra weekend of GOTV!

Parent's Weekend brunch brought in **\$215** and brought us together with members' families for the first time in 3 years!

The return of Dems Woads sold out (again!), bringing **\$250** in revenue to our bank account!

Stay in Touch!

The generous support of our alumni allows us to offer Dems members unparalleled opportunities for political engagement. Whether you've given your time, advice, or dollars to Dems, you've made a positive difference in the life of a Yalie. If you're interested in getting your hands dirty or exploring opportunities for greater involvement, continue to read on!

Mentor a Dem!

The majority of Yale Dems members are in their first or second year at Yale. All have been affected by virtual schooling, many having sacrificed traditional rites of passage and critical networking opportunities in the process. In an effort to make up for lost time and capitalize on the experience of our outstanding alumni, Yale Dems looks forward to launching our Alumni-Membership Match Program, whereby interested members are connected with former Dems. Become a mentor [here!](#)

Support a Dem!

Dems is unable to remain cost-free to members without the support of alumni! We accept donations via [Bulldog Democrats PAC](#) and [Venmo \(@YaleDemocrats\)](#)! Feel free to be in touch with additional questions; we'd love to help you consider what gift amount would be most impactful!



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