

Semester in Review

August 2022

yale dems





A Note from the Board

Dear Extended Dems Community,

Thank you for helping us make Spring 2022 a semester to remember! Between campus-wide fundraisers, weekly Tuesday meetings, resuscitated social events, and the stray [Daily Mail](#) appearance, Dems is back and better than ever. As Yale loosened pandemic restrictions, we set about investing in our vibrant community, forced (mostly) apart for the better part of two years. Our efforts have been rewarded with improved engagement among membership, bolstered social media traffic, and a historically productive work session for the organization. We're proud to share our successes with you in the following pages.

At the Connecticut General Assembly, 16 Dems-sponsored bills were passed into law, a record for the organization. Fellows with our Voter Engagement team contacted hundreds of eligible Yale voters and encouraged them to participate in upcoming primaries. In the City of New Haven, Dems members served as critical support staff on behalf of government officials and nonprofits alike. Last but not least, Elections Fellows contributed over 500 work hours to seven campaigns and grassroots organizations as virtual interns.

In 2022, Dems made a significant commitment to causes, raising nearly \$3,000 on behalf of frontline progressive organizations in the American South and Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) here in New Haven. Hundreds of Yale students helped us rebuff Sen. Ted Cruz's presence on campus by contributing to pro-choice, pro-trans, and pro-democracy nonprofits in Texas. Our third-ever Benefit Gala, three years in the making, welcomed more than 120 guests across six participating campus groups. All proceeds (\$1,100+) will help displaced families establish new lives in Connecticut.

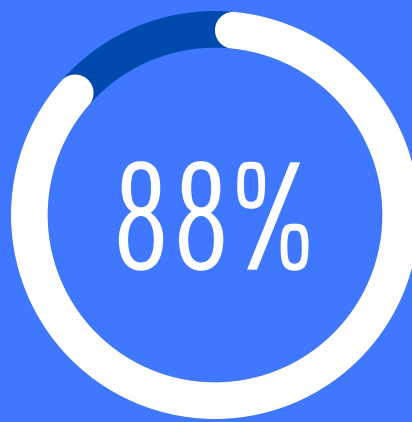
We're excited to continue leading with our values through the end of 2022 and look forward to our return to campus in September!

Legislative Advocacy

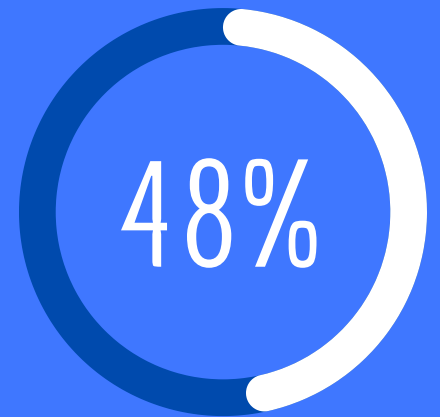
The Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) started its 2022 legislative session on February 9 and concluded on May 4. Each of our 32 Legislative Fellows selected a bill that was introduced to the CGA and spent hours advocating on its behalf, within and beyond the halls of the Connecticut State House. Dems' agenda spanned criminal justice to equitable education to voting rights, touching 32 unique bills this semester.



Dems-sponsored bills awarded a public hearing



Dems-sponsored bills that cleared their committee



Dems-sponsored bills that became law (CGA average = 26%)

Below, Dems members hear from Representatives Paris, Sanchez, and Parker in a conversation about youth involvement in politics moderated by our Legislative Coordinator, Josh Guo (left).



Our Impact at the CGA

14 OPINION PIECES
PUBLISHED

ctpost

the ct mirror

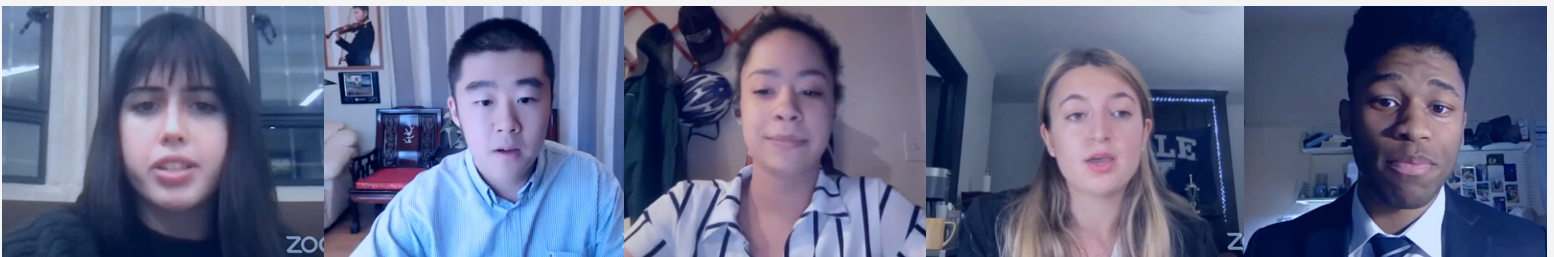
Fellows made the case for their bill in local Connecticut outlets, including the *Connecticut Post* and *Connecticut Mirror*. Read them [here!](#)

350+ PIECES OF TESTIMONY
SUBMITTED

During our weekly Tuesday meetings, Legislative Fellows gave presentations on their bill's importance and impact. Over the course of the semester, members submitted 350 pieces of written testimony to committeepersons in support of Dems-sponsored legislation.

25 ORAL TESTIMONIES AT
PUBLIC HEARINGS

Fellows had the opportunity to advocate directly to legislators during public hearings - committee convenings where the public can offer live input and debate. 25 Fellows delivered oral testimony this semester; listen to their presentations [here!](#)



Voter Engagement

Last year, Dems published our [Campus Voting Climate Report](#), identifying several areas for improvement in Yale's effort to promote civic engagement among students. This Spring, Dems led the charge to revive the Yale Votes Coalition, the university's sole campus group dedicated to improving student turnout. Our campaign posted encouraging numbers:

558

Students reached through our pledge-to-engage form*

\$4,500

Raised on behalf of Yale Votes via YCC and Yale administration

150+

Yalies stopped by our grilled cheese truck on Cross Campus (below)

*With the input of Dean Burgwell Howard, Yale Dems and Yale Votes produced our pledge-to-engage form, a simple questionnaire that enrolls students in a reminder program to receive information about upcoming elections tailored to their state of residency.



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:

Source Development Hub

Fellows with Source Development Hub aided in pioneering creative, data-driven solutions to endemic issues of homelessness within New Haven and Connecticut. Their work focused on interdisciplinary policy and data collection/research concerning homelessness and what additional opportunities are lost when communities experience pervasive homelessness or lack of affordable housing. Fellows' research explored how New Haven's peer cities have piloted creative solutions to homelessness. Additionally, fellows were able to converse directly with members of Source Development Hub who have experienced homelessness—placing those most affected by this issue at the forefront of developing solutions.

*While the majority of our work with the New Haven Mayor's Office is confidential, Fellows worked diligently to promote progressive executive and legislative solutions to issues facing the New Haven Community.



Board of Alders Education Committee

Fellows played an active role in researching, developing, and delivering testimony (and other political support) for "Right To Read" legislation, which seeks to tackle the problem of low literacy rates within New Haven Public Schools by changing the way in which students are taught to read. Their research was used by the Board of Alders to improve support offered to New Haven educators. Additionally, Fellows working with the Board of Alders' Education Committee explored non-governmental routes through which future legislation might be funded, alleviating financial pressure for the city and learning about the intersection of politics and philanthropy.

Ward 14 Initiatives

Fellows worked intimately with Alder Sarah Miller and the New Haven Board of Alders to conduct research concerning petty crime and ordinances in New Haven's 14th Ward. Fellows gained exposure to the provision of constituent services and voting accessibility initiatives, working to ensure that Ward 14 residents were updated and active within voting databases. Fellows also attended joint forums and meetings between the New Haven Board of Education and the Board of Alders Education Committee, on which Alder Miller serves. In these conversations, Fellows documented reactions from community members regarding the current state of public education in the city and what can be done to improve it.

New Haven Climate Movement

Fellows developed personal working relationships with New Haven youth active in the city's climate justice campaign. Through these relationships, our Fellows were able to better understand climate change impacts the City of New Haven and what young people are doing about it. Our fellows worked to advance the New Haven Climate Movement's core initiatives, including dedicated research and political advocacy in service of their Electric Future Campaign, a Board of Education Climate Emergency Resolution, the New Haven Rescue Plan, a Connecticut Green New Deal, and the City Climate Emergency Resolution. Fellows attended biweekly protests and demonstrations in front of New Haven's City Hall to demand legislative solutions for the city and state that better address the growing crisis of climate change.

Elections

Elections Fellows served as remote interns for some of the most competitive campaigns in the nation and worked as grassroots activists mobilizing marginalized communities in some of the country's toughest battleground states. Fellows spent their time conducting donor research, compiling press clips, writing policy memos, meeting with campaign managers and other high-level staffers, and diving into data analytics. Fellows received assignments from their respective campaigns, gave weekly reports on their work to the Elections Coordinator, and attended weekly meetings with interactive workshops to learn the ins-and-outs of campaigning.

7

Partner campaigns and grassroots organizations (see next page)

8

Campaign workshops hosted

500+

Work hours contributed to partner campaigns/organizations



Partner Campaigns



Rep. Steven Horsford
NV-04



Rep. Kim Schrier
WA-08



Rep. Tom Malinowski
NJ-07



Sen. Maria Collett
PA-12



New Georgia Project



Texas Organizing Project



Florida Rising

From the Campaign Trail...

"I am so pleased with the work of our Yale Dems Fellows!"

- **State Senator Maria Collett (PA-12)**

"As an elections fellow, I gained experience working within and around campaigns while making connections in the political sphere. It has been an invaluable experience during my time at Yale and was instrumental in teaching me the skills necessary for further work on campaigns.

- **Elections Fellow Gustavo Toledo, '25**

"The elections branch of Dems helped me access great campaign experiences! One highlight was working on Congressman Tom Malinowski's campaign on tasks created by all-female campaign leadership. I felt really supported and learned a lot from them."

- **Elections Fellow Joy Liu, '25**

Speaker Events



Former Attorney General and Chairman of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee **Eric Holder** helped Dems break down the fight to draw fair maps ahead of the 2022 midterms and the difficult prosecutorial decisions being made at the DOJ.

Representative Ted Lieu (CA-33) spoke to Dems about his experience as an Impeachment Manager in the aftermath of the January 6th insurrection and championing solutions to issues that affect the AAPI community.



Mira Sydow is an award-winning graphic designer whose work has been used by congressional and local campaigns across the country. Mira led a [graphic design workshop](#) for interested Dems members and community partners.

Dems in the News

Learn more about what Dems accomplished this Spring through the eyes of local, student, and national journalists! Click each logo for a story.



Our Community

Having spent the better part of two years apart as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, we worked diligently and deliberately to restore the fabric of our on-campus community, improving the member experience and reconstituting the extended Dems "family." Follow our fun below!



Each of our nearly 80 active Fellows were sorted into a Dems "family," led by upperclassmen in the organization. Families organized get-togethers outside of Dems and fostered cross-class mentorships. Fellows received a goody bag at their dorm with treats and matching party hats for our family "reveal" event!

For the first time in three years, Dems hosted our annual Benefit Gala in support of IRIS, a local non-profit that helps immigrants and refugees resettle in Connecticut. Attendees helped us raise more than \$1,100!



Quarterly Financial Report

Our Accounts

Bank Account

\$6,291.27

Federal PAC

\$1,760.10

State PAC

\$1,340.51

Net Gain (Since 1/1/22)

Bank Account: \$745.85

Federal PAC: \$480.10

State PAC: \$0

TOTAL: \$1,225.95 (+15.01%)

Semester Highlights

We raised **\$1,650** to distribute between four progressive organizations in Texas – the ACLU of Texas, the Texas Organizing Project, Planned Parenthood Texas, & the Central Texas Transgender Health Coalition!

Our Spring Gala brought in over **\$1,100** for IRIS, a local immigrant service center in New Haven!

The return of Dems Woads sold out, 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 \(@YaleDems\)](#)! 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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