From: Local Progress, the National Municipal Policy Network
To: Stoffmacher, Bruce
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In Major Political Victories, Local Progress Members Seize Mayoralties

Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio and his family during his victory celebration Nov. 5.

Local Progress members won decisive victories in two major mayoral races last Tuesday, signifying voters' strong appetite for local governance that prioritizes equality and shared prosperity.

In New York City, in what the *New York Times* called "a sharp leftward turn for the nation's largest metropolis," **Bill de Blasio** won in a landslide. At his victory speech, mayor-elect de Blasio seized the victory as a mandate for reform. "Make no mistake," he said. "The people of this city have chosen a progressive path, and tonight we set forth on it, together."

Ten days earlier, attendees at the 2013 Local Progress Annual Convening saw a personal message from de Blasio, which you can

Join us at the National League of Cities Conference

Local Progress is sponsoring a workshop and a reception at the upcoming National League of Cities annual conference, which will take place November 13-16 in Seattle, WA. The 2013 Congress of Cities and Exposition will "showcase the dynamic ways cities are driving change and finding successful solutions to the most pressing challenges in local government."

If you will be in attendance, make sure to come to Local Progress's reception. **Members and representatives of Local Progress will be at the Paramount Club on Saturday, November 16, from 10:00-11:30 AM.** We'd love to see you and your guests, including anyone who may be interested in joining. Come by and meet other members, including

watch here. “This is a tremendous moment for progressive activism,” he told the convening. “I urge everyone who is a part of this convening to seize this moment and make the most of it. Share ideas, work together, and express support and solidarity for each other.”

In Pittsburgh, **Bill Peduto** won election to be mayor on a platform of jobs, neighborhood redevelopment, and more transparent government. A few days before his landslide victory, and before arriving in Washington, DC for the Local Progress convening, he tweeted:

De Blasio and Peduto’s wins were only some of the many progressive victories around the country. Did you have an election last week? Do you have one coming up? Update us on your election with this brief survey.

Stay in Touch: Tell Us About Yourself

Local Progress members: Please fill out this very short survey about yourself. It will help us keep track of our membership and provide you with better information about your colleagues.

Second Annual Local Progress Convening is a Resounding Success

Local Progress members at the 2013 Second Annual Local Progress Convening

“Here I feel a lot more hope, a lot more optimism” – Council Member Megan England, Roeland Park (KS).

In late October, municipal officials from across the country came together in Washington, DC, for the 2013 Local Progress Annual Convening. Together with community members and advocates, these local elected officials spent the weekend discussing policy, strategy, communications, and our movement for progress. There was a significant focus on the first year of Local Progress and the various ways in which we can assist and connect officials all over the country. The convening was held in coordination with the Progressive States Network’s Conference, giving local and state officials the opportunity to get to know each other. Click here to see photos from the event.

Small group sessions focused on topics from education and foreclosure-prevention strategies to communication techniques, giving elected officials the opportunity to share their own experiences and develop innovative ideas for the future. “You learn from the wins but also from the losses,” said Yonkers **City Councilman Chuck Lesnick**. **Councilman Wilson Goode** from Philadelphia led a discussion about local opportunities for Low Wage Worker Organizing. **Mayor Gayle McLaughlin** from Richmond, CA presented about her Local Principal Reduction campaign, which has the potential to alleviate the burden of foreclosures on low-income communities.

Seattle Councilman and Local Progress Chair Nick Licata. We’d be happy to discuss more regarding how Local Progress can help you in your town or city.

Local Progress will also be co-sponsoring a Preemption Workshop with the Democratic Municipal Officials on Saturday morning from 7:30-9:00 AM. A group of experts will provide historical and legal background on home rule authority and state preemption, and will also provide guidance on ways you can avoid being preempted by your state. We hope to see you at both events. If you plan on attending NLC, please click here.

Local Progress Policy Work on Jobs and Housing

At our national convening last month, Local Progress members discussed many exciting policies that they are pursuing in their cities. We highlighted two topics in particular: Creating Good Jobs and Preventing Foreclosures.

Local Progress members are working hard to improve the quality of low-wage jobs by raising labor standards, encouraging workers to organize, and enforcing crucial wage and hour laws. If you would like to learn more about what you can do in your community and connect with other elected officials who care about these issues, click here.

Led by **Mayor Gayle McLaughlin** of Richmond,

Other discussion groups focused on voting rights, education, and sustainability. Because many attendees lack staff or sufficient city resources, or govern without a progressive majority, the conference focused on a variety of approaches that can be tailored for local political and policy realities.

The conference featured high-profile guest speakers **Congresswoman Donna Edwards**, **SEIU Vice President Mike Fishman**, incoming **Democracy Alliance President Gara LaMarche**, **National Education Association Executive Director John Stocks**, **American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten**, and **Georgetown Law Professor Peter Edelman**. There was also a video address from New York City's new **Mayor-elect Bill De Blasio**. These speakers emphasized the critical importance of local officials in the fight for a progressive America. Progressive change from the federal government has to come from "the bottom up," said Fishman. "It has to come from states and cities." Congresswoman Edwards agreed: without local progressive support, she said, "I can't do my job."

Local Progress was thrilled to have so many thoughtful and progressive elected officials and community members come to DC. We're grateful to all who attended and hope to see even more of you next year. We know that the best ideas come when everyone has a chance to connect with one another. As Pittsburgh **Mayor Bill Peduto** said, "It's the interpersonal part that makes change possible."

Spotlight: Local Progress Members

Madison Alderwoman Lisa Subeck

Alderwoman Lisa Subeck has served on the City of Madison Common Council since 2011. Currently in her second term, she represents Southwest Madison, a highly diverse district. Lisa grew up in the Chicago area and moved to Madison in 1989 to attend college at the University of Wisconsin.

Her first foray into politics was through advocacy work, during her tenure as a board member of the Wisconsin Head Start Association and in her work at the YWCA. As Lisa continued to work with low-income and struggling families, including homeless families, she found herself dedicated to advocating for individuals facing systemic barriers to self-sufficiency. She began to realize that while helping an individual or family is critical, comprehensive policy reform is how widespread change truly occurs.

Lisa ventured into policy work, first at NARAL Pro-Choice Wisconsin and then at United Wisconsin, where she currently serves as Executive Director. She also became engaged in local advocacy

CA, Local Progress members are also exploring whether their cities can use the power of eminent domain to write down the principal on underwater homeowners' mortgages so that families can avoid foreclosure and reduce their monthly bills. If you'd like to learn more about whether this solution can help your local economy improve – or if you'd just like to express support for Richmond's effort – please email us.

City Council Member Helps Lift Up Low-Income Residents

Although Montgomery County is one of the richest counties in the country, the cost of living is extremely high – a household with two adults and one preschooler requires almost $90,000 to realistically support a family. For the countless residents who make far less than that, taking care of their families is a serious struggle. As a result, poverty is growing faster in Montgomery County than anywhere else in the region.

From 2000-2010, the County enacted a local Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which offered tax credits to low-income workers. By matching the state's EITC dollar-for-dollar, the Working Families Income Supplement was one of country's most successful programs at combating poverty. More than 30,000 households received the credit, which "keeps millions of Americans out of poverty, encourages work among

efforts around workers' rights - including raising the minimum wage and guaranteeing paid sick leave, combating poverty and homelessness, and neighborhood empowerment. Eventually she decided to run for local office.

On the City Council, Lisa has been a champion for strengthening neighborhoods and for social justice. She has also worked on good government issues and, most recently, successfully passed legislation requiring that organizations making independent expenditures to influence city elections disclose their donors. Lisa recently announced her candidacy for State Assembly in the November, 2014, election.

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single mothers, promotes success for low-income children in school and even reduces the incidence of low birth weight among babies." But in 2010, following the financial crisis, the County cut the credit by a third.

This year, four Councilmembers, including **Local Progress member Hans Riemer**, introduced a bill to fully restore the credit. Last month the council passed it on a 9-0 vote. "As the county slowly recovers from recession, it's only fair to working families that we help them recover too," said Councilman Riemer. This is a great example of how local elected officials can reduce poverty in their communities.

Local Progress is a national municipal policy network. For more information please visit www.localprogress.org

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