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STATEMENT: Women overcome fierce political attacks to make history in Governor and Congressional races, now must push an agenda that advances economic security

Statement from Noreen Farrell, President and CEO of Equal Rights Advocates Action Fund, on the historic number of women elected governor in Tuesday's midterms, including the first Black, Native American and Latina women ever elected to lead a state

Nov. 4, 2026 — Noreen Farrell, President and CEO of Equal Rights Advocates Action Fund (ERA-AF), released the following statement Wednesday:

"Tuesday was a historic night for women winning governors' races across the country. They now have the opportunity to champion issues long dismissed as women's issues, that are really economic security policies every family depends on.

Georgia elected Keisha Lance Bottoms, the first Black woman to govern any state. New Mexico elected Deb Haaland, the first Native American woman to govern any state. Texas elected Gina Hinojosa, its first Latina governor. Minnesota and Ohio elected their first women governors ever, Amy Klobuchar and Amy Acton. In total, 17 states elected female governors. In statewide offices, including governor, more women than ever will hold office after Tuesday's election, at 101 women total, according to the Center for American Women and Politics.

Women also made history in Senate and House races across the country on Tuesday. Democrat Peggy Flanagan will become the first Native American woman to serve in the U.S. Senate after her projected win in Minnesota. In Illinois, Democrat Juliana Stratton's projected U.S. Senate win means there will be three Black women serving in the Senate at the same time. South Carolina and Colorado also had first in terms of women and women of color in Congress, respectively.

Many of these female candidates won after a campaign season that threw everything at them. Women candidates faced attacks on their looks, their fitness for office that their male opponents never had to answer for, and the most disgusting and stunning attack putting their childhood trauma on display in the name of scoring political points.

The women taking the helm of governors' mansions and in our legislatures in January won because they put the economic issues that matter to families at the center of their campaigns. And now they have the authority to set the agenda on the issues that hit their communities hardest and they must deliver if they are going to earn the durable trust of voters.

We've endured years of historic rollbacks of rights for women. Tuesday's results create an opportunity to put us on the right course by enacting economic security policies that advance key issues like paid leave, equal pay, childcare and wages that keep up with the cost of living."

To schedule an interview with Noreen Farrell, President and CEO of Equal Rights Advocates Action Fund contact Janel Knight Trulear at janel@emccommunications.com or 617-875-6581.

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About Equal Rights Advocates Action Fund (ERA-AF)
Equal Rights Advocates Action Fund (ERA-AF) is the 501(c)(4) arm of Equal Rights Advocates, which has fought for gender justice across America for more than 50 years. ERA-AF polls voters, shapes public debate and recruits gender equity champions in statehouses and Congress. www.ERA-AF.org