



Leadership Opportunity: Political Steering Committee for the 2024 Election Season

The Land Stewardship Action Fund, the partner 501(c)(4) organization to the Land Stewardship Project, is forming a Political Steering Committee. It will be made up of 6-9 LSP members from our 3 target counties (2-3 members per county) who represent different backgrounds, lived experiences, and interest areas within LSP's member base, but all have a passion for building community-rooted political power through elections. This committee will be responsible for advising and collaborating with staff in crafting an electoral organizing plan for the upcoming election cycle that is rooted in the Land Stewardship Action Fund's mission, vision, and values. Also, committee members will help actualize the electoral strategies and tactics within their respective communities.

As we plan and execute our work to shape the election environment, engage with candidates, and elevate our values in new ways through LSAF, we identified the following principles to guide our work:

- We'll seek to create positive experiences for members, and build for the long-term (in contrast with an approach to elections that wrings people out for a short-term outcome)
- It will be authentic to who we are—leading with our values and vision. Focused on maintaining our credibility as an organization.
- We'll prioritize elevating and shifting narrative.
- Our approach should be inclusive—inviting people in, not adding to the polarization that is prevalent. We should articulate this clearly.
- We seek to grow our base and power through this work.

Being on this committee is about a 3-6 hours per month commitment, with the time commitment falling toward the top of that range as the fall general election gets closer. The committee's first meeting will be in early February, and we will continue meeting monthly through the end of the year. Each month, 1.5 hours will be spent in our regular meeting(s) and the rest of the time commitment will be for our strategies and tactics. These might include research into local elections, relationship building within target counties, planning and executing election focused community events, and more. We anticipate planning and implementing 2-3 tactics in each target county and need committee members who can play a hands-on role in all tactics in their county.

This committee will be supported by a group of LSAF staff who will facilitate meetings, help guide and give direction when needed, and provide resources. Also, this committee will be working to actualize the mission, vision, and goals of the political work the LSAF Board of Directors set, within your own community. While the Political Steering Committee and LSAF board won't be in conversation or collaboration, the board will receive regular updates on the work the committee is doing and will be the final approver on supporting or endorsing candidates.

The LSAF board and staff recognize that while political change on the local level is a common goal shared by people across the state, the long-term strategies and the day-to-day tactics differ depending on the race and location. The role of the Political Steering Committee, and you on the committee, will be to determine what those strategies are for your community and what tactics will be most effective.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Regularly attending and actively participating in Steering Committee Meetings, held virtually.
- Leading the development, strategy, and organizing of our electoral goals by deeply engaging LSP members and partners in your community.
- Organizing LSP members and your own networks to engage in events and local political races.
- Serving as a spokesperson for LSAF in the media, during events, and with potential or current political candidates.

You would be a strong fit for the committee if you are excited to work with farmers and community members to create change in your local levels of government and you are passionate about building people power and your own leadership skills.

We seek individuals with experience, expertise, and/or passion in the following areas:

- Building political power that is rooted in community and its specific needs.
- Disrupting our current political landscape by challenging the status quo of who is or can be a political candidate or elected official.
- Building an anti-racist, multi-racial, and decolonized democracy and, farm and food system.

LSAF recognizes that people experience barriers to being able to participate in roles like this. The Committee will have some financial resources available for members to apply for if they face barriers such as travel costs for in-person meetings, lack of internet, childcare, or financial burdens.

If you're interested in being a part of this committee, have questions, or would like to learn more, contact LSAF's Political Organizer, Emily Minge, at eminge@landstewardshipaction.org