WHO WE ARE

314 ACTION is a 501c4 political action committee dedicated to recruiting, training and electing scientists and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) professionals to public office as well as advocating for electoral policy. Named for the number pi, 3.14, 314 Action is leading the charge for both the scientific and the pro-evidence based policy communities. Currently, it is the only organization of its kind and is poised to be one of the most impactful organizations in the progressive political community.

Formed in June 2016, 314 Action organizes the science community to support STEM candidates with the resources they need to be competitive in political campaigns. With staff ranging from a former Congressional candidate to seasoned political operatives, 314 Action provides critical resources and expertise to STEM candidates who are new to politics.

314 Action has recruits, trains and supports candidates running for local, state and federal offices. In addition to electoral politics, 314 Action’s goals are to elect STEM candidates, amplify the voices of scientists in public discourse and to advocate for evidence-based policy in legislature.

314 Action is one of the premier political organizations on the front lines of the 2018 election cycle and our endorsed scientist and STEM candidates are poised to take back the US House and Senate and are poised to be one of the most impactful organizations in the progressive political community.

“I do not share your view that the scientist should observe silence in political matters”

-Albert Einstein
Shaughnessy Naughton, a chemist and entrepreneur, has a passion for understanding the role of science in our everyday lives. After a career in research and drug discovery, Naughton decided to run for Congress in Pennsylvania’s 9th District out of concern for the future of science in the United States.

With no prior political experience, other than phoning legislators and knocking on doors for campaigns, Naughton faced an uphill battle. During the 2014 primary, Naughton ran against an establishment-backed candidate who had access to a wealth of resources. With lessons learned, she ran again in 2016, this time basing her campaign strategy off of previous scientists who were elected to Congress, like Bill Foster. She observed that scientists, being non-traditional candidates, require a specialized strategy in order to compete with lawyers and career politicians.

Ultimately, Naughton’s campaigns were unsuccessful, but she did receive a tremendous amount of support from the scientific community. Through her campaigns she learned that there are not enough people with scientific backgrounds in Congress and that we reap the effects of that in the attempted politicization of science, mocking of basic research and denial of climate change. This is not just bad for science; it is bad for our country.

Naughton founded 314 Action in June of 2016 to encourage and unite people who care about the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and to elect members of the STEM community to advance a pro-science agenda. That means running for office, at any level, organizing and calling your representatives to stand with science and to make STEM voices heard. Science is and always should be above politics. Too many politicians are taking anti-science positions and we need to push back. The best way to do that is to ensure that problem solving scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians have a seat at the table.

"THE GOAL IS NOT TO POLITICIZE SCIENCE, BUT TO GET SCIENTISTS INVOLVED IN POLITICS."

-Saughnessy Naughton, 314 Action Founder

The core mission of 314 Action is to help elect scientists and STEM candidates, and in 2017, that’s exactly what we did. From Ralph Northam for Governor of Virginia, to State Representatives in New Jersey, we helped elect or reelect 17 STEM and scientist candidates. 314 Action’s success delivered a clear warning to politicians and candidates who distort and ignore science.

In two short years, 314 Action’s grassroots community has grown exponentially, from a few thousand in early 2016 to 500,000 at the end of 2017 and growing. We have over 450 candidates running for all levels of office in 2018, and with your help, we’ve raised more than $2 million to support them. Our staff is keeping overhead to a minimum to ensure every penny possible goes to support our candidates on the ground in their states and districts.

The election of Donald J. Trump meant big changes for 314 Action in 2017. In addition to recruiting, training and electing candidates, 314 Action took its place alongside other pro-science leaders like the League of Conservation Voters and the Union of Concerned Scientists. Together we are building the resistance to the extraordinary attacks on science perpetrated by the Trump Administration.

The pace has been dizzying but it’s also confirmation that we are on the right track. With hard work, quick thinking and dedication to our cause, 314 Action established itself as the leader of the pro-science resistance in electoral politics. In 2018, we will leverage our leadership to take back the House and Senate with victories by our STEM and scientist candidates. 314 Action coined 2018 as The Year of the Scientist and everything we do between now and Election Day will be in pursuit of that goal.

Joshua Morrow
Executive Director
THE WAR ON SCIENCE

SCIENCE IS UNDER ATTACK IN OUR COUNTRY.

Before inauguration day, President Trump’s transition team requested the names of staffers who worked on climate change initiatives. The Trump administration censored the words “global warming” and “climate change” from federal reports and deleted them from government websites. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke even went so far as to accuse more than a third of this workforce as being “not loyal to the flag” and has made unprecedented attempts to silence scientists by placing politics and special interest money over science and the environment. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) barred three scientists from speaking about climate change at a conference. Scott Pruitt, head of the EPA, cut EPA scientists and staff by 50% in favor of the oil and gas industry. President Trump withdrew from the Paris Climate Accord, leaving the United State the only country in the world not committed to fighting climate change. Trump’s drastic budget cuts to the National Institute of Health and the National Science Foundation will cripple research and innovation for America.

When politicians intend on slashing funding and budgets for science initiatives, calling climate change a hoax and issuing subpoenas to scientists they don’t agree with, it’s time to take a stand. Sitting on the sidelines and hoping that politicians will protect science is no longer an option.

WE DESERVE LEADERS WHO WILL STAND UP TO TRUMP’S ATTACKS ON SCIENCE. WE NEED TO SHOW OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE THAT WE REFUSE TO VOTE FOR ANYONE WHO FAILS TO RESPECT THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF SCIENCE.
314 ACTION IN 2017

The Trump administration’s attacks on science were fuel to the fire that ignited the science and STEM community. After the 2016 presidential election, 314 Action expanded overnight, fortifying its grassroots identity by going out in the field and finding scientists and STEM professionals to run for office and defend the role of science in the 2018 midterm elections. With issues like climate change and evidence-based research on the line, candidates from all backgrounds were compelled to rise to action and are running for offices as locally as school boards and as far reaching as Congress.

Anger and frustration with the Trump administration has provided us with an abundance of strategic opportunities to fight the War on Science. From partnering with allied groups such as March for Science, Union of Concerned Scientists and the League of Conservation Voters to fight President Trump’s appointees and hold them accountable, to delivering climate and science textbooks to climate denying officials, and engaging 314’s nationwide grassroots network to support Rep. Paul Tonko and Sen. Bill Nelson’s Scientific Integrity Act Legislation, 314 Action is taking the pro-science movement to the next level.

314 ACTION IS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION TASKED WITH ELECTING CANDIDATES WITH SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUNDS AND SENDING CLIMATE CHANGE DENYING POLITICIANS PACKING IN THE 2018 MIDTERM ELECTION.

UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH:

➔ Before the 2016 general election, 314 Action had 40,000 members. By November 2016, our membership burst to 250,000. At the end of 2017, 314 Action had over 500,000 members and continues to grow.

➔ In 2016, 314 Action began recruiting Congressional candidates with STEP backgrounds to run for office for the 2018 midterm elections. By the end of 2017, 314 Action was advising 30+ congressional and 40 state house STEM candidates for the 2018 midterm elections.

➔ 314 Action raised $1.8 million via small dollar grassroots donations in 2017.

➔ 314 Action endorsed 17 STEM candidates who were elected or re-elected in 2017, including the Governor of Virginia, two Virginia House of Delegates members, and the Mayor of Raleigh, NC, the only mayor of the top 50 cities in the U.S. with a STEM background.

314 BY THE NUMBERS:

7,000
Scientists who have reached out to us to explore runs for office

500,000
Nationwide membership of 314 Action

$2,000,000
Raised election cycle to date

17
Scientists elected or re-elected in 2017

450+
Scientists running in 2018

1,500
Scientists trained to run for office
ELECTORAL POLITICS:
STEM THE DIVIDE INITIATIVE

SINCE LAUNCHING OUR STEM THE DIVIDE INITIATIVE IN EARLY JANUARY 2017, OVER 7,000 SCIENTISTS AND OTHER STEM PROFESSIONALS HAVE ALREADY STEPPED UP TO INDICATE THEY WANT TO RUN FOR OFFICE FROM LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO STATE LEGISLATURES AND US CONGRESS.

314 Action has taken the lead role in recruiting Democratic STEM candidates for Congress, alongside national organizations such as the DCCC and EMILY’s List. Our recruitment and candidate services are part of what sets our organization apart.

314 Action provides fundraising and campaign guidance for our candidates. We introduce candidates to our growing nationwide network of 500,000+ pro-science members who will help provide the crucial early funding that candidates gain credibility. Our team of seasoned political operatives will provide the ongoing support to give our endorsed candidates a competitive edge in 2018.

CANDIDATE TRAINING
In addition to our recruitment and electoral efforts, 314 Action has already trained over 1,500 scientists and STEM professionals to run for office.

In 2017, 314 Action conducted two candidate trainings and several webinars focusing on campaign messaging, fundraising, grassroots organizing and building a winning campaign team.

Our goal for 2018 is to hold at least three regional trainings focused on running for local and state held offices.

US CONGRESS
314 Action is leading the charge to take back the House in 2018.

By the end of 2017, 314 Action will have recruited and launched over 30 congressional candidates in top targeted swing districts across the country. Our recruits are some of the most acclaimed congressional recruits of the cycle.

Through our PAC, 314 Action Fund, we provide fundraising and strategic campaign guidance to our endorsed candidates. Our team of seasoned political operatives will provide the ongoing support to give our endorsed candidates a competitive edge in 2018.

LOCAL POLITICS
314 Action is fighting to turn the tide against anti-science extremists at the local level by recruiting candidates to run for school boards to ensure climate change and evolution are accurately taught.

In 2017, 314 Action re-elected the mayor of Raleigh, NC, the only mayor of a top 50 US city with a STEM background.

Over 160 scientists and STEM professionals have committed to run for school board and we plan to continue recruiting more in 2018. Local politics also serves as 314 Action’s pipeline of future up-ballot elected offices and as a mobilizing factor for volunteers.

STATE LEGISLATURES
314 Action is committed to building the bench by recruiting and helping to elect State Legislative candidates across the country.

In 2017, we elected Ralph Northam as Governor of Virginia, two new STEM members to the Virginia House of Delegates, cybersecurity specialist Haya Ayala and science teacher Cheryl Turpin; and reelected physicist Andrew Zwicker to the New Jersey General Assembly.

We plan to expand legislative efforts in 2018, focusing on swing states like Ohio as well as states with rapidly changing demographics such as Texas.

314 ACTION’S UNDER THE SCOPE program labeled Steve Knight, Dana Rohrabacher, and Lamar Smith of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology as climate change deniers, anti-EPA and are deep in the pockets of the oil and gas industries. Lamar Smith announced his retirement after 314 Action built up a formidable STEM challenger for his seat in 2018.

“Just so you’ll know, global warming is a total fraud…” -Dana Rohrabacher, 2013
314 Action’s Scientific Integrity Whistleblower Program shines a light on scientific wrongdoing within the Trump Administration. We call on government scientists to blow the whistle on malfeasance, science being silenced or other evidence of this administration’s war on science through the Scientific Integrity Whistleblower Project, a secure and anonymous method for government scientists and others to speak out and fight back. This initiative gives scientists and others with evidence of censorship the means to relay information to our team of pro bono attorneys without revealing their identities. Speak up. Speak out.

314 Action has been busy on Capitol Hill working to put science and STEM initiatives at the forefront of personal and committee agendas. One of our first actions in 2017 was to meet with members of Congress to introduce our organization and to get our foot in the door on legislative priorities and STEM initiatives. We also asked policy makers, politicians, business leaders and citizens to sign 314 Action’s STEM Integrity Principles to protect innovation and research from politics. To date 314 Action has over 10,000 signers, including 33 mayors who represent more than 6 million people.

When it became apparent that President Trump was going to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement, 314 Action activated its membership and submitted to the White House over 100,000 citizen signers who pledged to uphold the standards of the Paris Agreement.

We are excited to continue activating policy on Capitol Hill and to encouraging our nation’s leaders to pledge to 314 Action’s STEM Integrity Principles.
CAMPUS OUTREACH

314 Action now has students organizing on over 100 college campuses around the country to discuss current events in the War on Science and to be an incubator for ideas on how to address science in this ever changing political climate. We are developing student leaders to (1) be effective STEM advocates, (2) have a meaningful impact on electing STEM candidates, and (3) set them on a track to continue advocating for science in public policy after they graduate. As an added bonus, many of our current student leaders are also planning on running for office in the near future.

STATE COORDINATORS AND VOLUNTEERING

We have volunteer leadership in place in 35 states plus the District of Columbia, and grassroots supporters in all 50 states. To put it simply, no matter where you live you are not far from other people who are rallying behind our message. Our local leaders are the best tools we have in expanding our network of support and taking concrete actions on the ground. Some of our volunteers have taken on leadership positions within their local Democratic parties to more effectively promote science, others have started to build partnerships on the ground with other pro-science groups; and still others have been leading the charge holding members of Congress like Lamar Smith and Dana Rohrabacher accountable for their anti-science positions.

To find opportunities near you, visit us at: 314action.org/page/s/takeaction

MAKING HEADLINES

“314 Action is a fine example of a spirit that doesn’t dwell in defeat but instead looks at practical ways of putting things right. Trump should beware. The scientific revolution starts here.”

theguardian

“In my interactions with them [314 Action], I’ve had my eyes opened. There’s all this insider knowledge and to be told that if you decide to run, you’d have support and financial backing, is tremendously empowering.”

The Atlantic

“There’s nobody who’s recruiting, training and providing the EMILY’s List-like support for the scientists and technical folks running for Congress... There’s really no organization [outside of 314 Action] that is harnessing the power of this community.”

The Hill
2018: YEAR OF THE SCIENTIST

“If this year is any indication, 2018 is going to be a big year for candidates with STEM backgrounds.”

MOTHERBOARD

“The Largest Number of Scientists in Modern U.S. History Are Running For Office in 2018”

IHUFFPOSTI

“2018: The Year Scientists Run for Public Office.”

The Washington Post

From two of the top tossup US Senate races to the most competitive House races, our scientists are poised to play a crucial role in the fight to take back Congress. Early polling shows that 72% of voters are more likely to vote for scientists and support evidence-based decision making. Voting preferences also indicated that in the 2018 election, voters prefer scientists over lawyers and longtime politicians. A change is coming, and 314 Action is leading it.

IN 2018, 314 ACTION WILL:

- Endorse strong campaigns.
- Expand our legislative efforts to give science a voice in policy.
- Grow our pro-science grassroots network and membership.
- Be a premiere political organization by demonstrating our value in bringing non-traditional candidates to Congress.
- Grow our low dollar fundraising to support our advocacy and grow our high dollar donors to support our candidates.
- Leading scientists and STEM candidates to victory in the 2018 midterm election.
- Take back the House and Senate with scientists and STEM professionals.
- Continue to connect with allied organizations, PACs, and members of Congress.
- Hosting candidate trainings and webinars on state and local campaigns.

JOIN THE RESISTANCE. DONATE TO MAKE 2018 THE YEAR OF THE SCIENTIST.

FINANCIALS


EXPENSES

314 Action is divided into two entities; 314 Action, a 501c4 non-profit, and 314 Action Fund, a Political Action Committee. 314 Action serves the mission of the organization, working on awareness campaigns, candidate trainings, development, and advocacy. 314 Action Fund serves the political ambitions of 314 Action by directly contributing to candidates and providing them with the resources they need to lead a successful campaign.

83 percent of every dollar donated to 314 Action in fiscal 2017 directly funded mission based activities.

84.6 percent of every dollar donated to 314 Action Fund in fiscal 2017 directly funded strategic campaigns to achieve 314 Action’s mission of electing scientists and STEM professionals to elected office.

The remaining percentages were spent on critical activities such as infrastructure and fundraising to ensure 314 Action’s future.

REVENUE

314 Action is proud to be a small dollar, grassroots organization. 314 Action raised $1,416,354 in 2017. Of that number, only $235,965 came in contributions larger than $1,000. This means that 84% of contributions to 314 Action in 2017 were small dollar, grassroots donations.

314 Action Fund raised $286,414 in 2017 and is proud to announce that it is 100% small dollar funded.

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Recognizing that successful electoral politics is part math and part magic, we base financial support and endorsement of our candidates on the strength of the candidate, campaign team, message and solid fundraising, as well as the incumbent’s profile, and the demographics and projected trends in the district.

In 2017, we contributed over $60,000 directly to candidates. That includes giving all of our endorsed federal candidates the maximum allowed PAC donation for the primary. In addition to that (and not included in our budget), we raised at least $60,000 in individual donations from the 314 Action community for our endorsed 2017-2018 candidates, including recently elected Governor Ralph Northam, and Congresswoman Jacky Rosen who is running in a 2018 toss-up race for US Senate.

After making a strategic decision to focus our 2017 campaign activities on recruitment, advising candidates, bundling for our candidates and making direct contributions, we plan to go all in for our candidates in 2018 by spending at least $3 million on advertising, making $250,000 in direct contributions and bundling another $250,000 for our endorsed candidates.

In order to reach our goals for 2018, we need to raise $4.75 million. This is an aggressive, yet achievable goal because of the investments we have made in growing our low dollar grassroots fundraising program and expanding our high dollar contributor program.

WILL YOU SUPPORT OUR CAUSE? JOIN 314 ACTION TODAY.