



## **Emergence Louisiana Commitment Document**

### ***Your Candidacy Begins Today!***

#### **ACCOUNTABILITY IS IMPORTANT:**

**Attend every session.** We will expect you to attend every session unless you have an emergency or a previously planned major event (wedding, unavoidable business trip). As a candidate, you will be required to commit to attending many events where your presence is not only expected, but crucial to your campaign and the people supporting you. In addition, the bond you share with your fellow program members will suffer if all program members are not together. If you miss more than one session, you do not graduate. If you are unable to attend an entire session, you must discuss that with the Executive Director in advance – missing any part of a weekend will count as an absence.

**Arrive on time to every session.** Again, this is critical as a candidate. It is the first impression many voters will have when meeting you. We have worked hard to schedule speakers eager to interact with you and it is respectful to show up on time. In certain cases, late arrival will mean you miss that session all together. Pre-arranged notices of late arrival will be considered. Please allow extra time for travel, traffic and parking.

If you are late, we begin without you. Please enter the room with as little disruption as possible. During the first break, ask a fellow participant what you missed.

**RSVP when asked.** If you are called or emailed an invitation to anything and your response is required or desired, please respond as soon as you have confirmation of your ability to attend. As a candidate, your word is taken seriously, so if you say you can/cannot attend, plans will be made accordingly.

#### **BE SENSITIVE TO YOUR IMPACT ON OTHERS:**

**Full participation in each session.** This is an interactive program and you will get out of it what you put into it. If you choose not to participate fully, you put yourself and your fellow program members at a disadvantage. Take every opportunity to engage fully.

**Be direct and kind.** If you have an issue with a program member, board member or the program itself, please address it directly with that person. We're here to support each other and create an overall long lasting bond. The less distraction of superfluous items, the better work we can do together. The appropriate practice of proper conflict management and direct communication is crucial for any candidate. See: Direct Communication Policy.

**Step away to use your phone.** We understand you might need to respond to text messages and emails and have included scheduled breaks during every session for you to do so. If you need to respond to a

text or an email during a session, you must step away from your seat and do so in the back of the room. Using your phones and other electronics during the training is disrespectful of the trainers, who are donating their time and expertise to our program. It is also distracting to your fellow participants. If you use a laptop to take notes during the training, refrain from multitasking (i.e., sending emails, updating Facebook, etc.) until a scheduled break.

#### **BE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE WORLD:**

**Fundraise for Emerge Louisiana.** You will be expected to do some level of fundraising for the organization during the training year. This is typically done through annual fundraising events. You will be given training on fundraising and the resources needed to be successful.

**Volunteer on a campaign.** We recommend that you volunteer 8 hours a month on a political campaign to further your experience in this field. Your own campaign does count! This is an exceptional way to familiarize yourself with the inner workings and day to day aspects of a campaign. Notices on volunteer opportunities will be forthcoming over the program year or you can come up with your own volunteer opportunity.

**Write one letter (or email) to the editor.** We recommend you write one letter to the editor of any paper on a topic of your choosing in the realm of politics, social concerns or current campaigns. It is an excellent practice in researching a topic and articulating a position on it. Please always send a copy to EMAIL for our records. You are also required to write blog postings for Emerge America's website. In doing so, you will not only strengthen your writing ability and keep up to date on current events, but also promote the Emerge Louisiana cause with your personal experiences.

**Long term commitment to Emerge Louisiana.** When you become an alumna, it is very important to maintain a strong commitment to the organization. This includes:

- Fundraising for Emerge Louisiana: Continued support of the Emerge Louisiana program by participating each year in fundraising events.
- Campaigning for a fellow alumna: Commit to campaigning for a graduate or a participant who is running for office. It's critical that Emerge Louisiana alumnae support each other in their campaigns.
- Recruit your replacement: Help us spread the word about Emerge Louisiana and recruit a woman to take the class in 2019.
- Participating on the Alumnae Committee: Stay involved with Emerge Louisiana and help us continue to support our alumnae.
- Ask women to run for office!

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the above and will fulfill the requirements of the Emerge Louisiana program. My candidacy begins today.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date