

## Manager, Student Inform

**From:** Inform  
**Subject:** EM: April 29, 2022 - Leslie Martes, VP of Political & Strategic Initiatives, DLCC

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**From:** Rebecca Ballinger



### *Forget about Manchin and the US Senate, the fight for democracy and progress is in the states*

There is so much focus on the federal level. Elections for US Senate and House suck up the oxygen and money when really the greatest impact on people's lives happens at the state legislative level. Items like teacher pay, access to abortion, and the minimum wage are really determined at the state level. The far-right has been investing for decades at the state legislative level even the local school board level because they know this is where they can have the most impact. Leslie Martes will talk about the impact of spending decisions and attention on the federal level of the ballot at the state of state and local and the impacts that is having on people's lives and they don't even know it.

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**Leslie Martes**  
VP of Political & Strategic Initiatives  
DLCC

**April 29, 2022**

12:00-1:00pm  
Vita Nova 100  
Scripps College



Leslie Martes, a veteran political strategist, serves as the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee's Vice President of Political and Strategic Initiatives, working to elect legislators in key states, knowing that progress happens in the state. Prior to joining DLCC, Leslie served as the League of Conservation Voters' State Electoral Campaign Director, working on strategic political programs with LCV's network of state leagues to elect climate champion Governors and State Legislators. Leslie also served as the Program and Outreach Director at the Voter Participation Center, registering and turning out the Rising American Electorate. She is also proud to have served as the Director of the North Carolina House Democratic Caucus and has worked on political campaigns at all levels (Presidential, Senate, Gubernatorial, Legislative) in New Hampshire, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Washington State. Born and raised in the Southern California city of El Cajon, Leslie is a graduate of Scripps College, class of 2002, in Claremont CA. She lives in DC with her adorable rescue dog, Benny!



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