

House Party Toolkit

**This guide will help you
successfully throw an engaging
and productive house party
- and have fun while doing it!**

Included in this toolkit are:

Steps to plan a house party

House party checklist

Sample agenda

Sample communications

Discussion questions

How to report back to Supermajority Education Fund

Fact sheet (2 pages)

What is Supermajority Education Fund?

Printable materials

Steps to plan a house party

Supermajority
Education Fund

House Party
Toolkit

By providing a space for people to come together, you can discuss issues important to women and gender non-conforming people in your community, and take the Supermajority Education Fund survey together.

The plan is to have people host their parties throughout the month of August. We will gather your feedback and insights after your party.

By taking the time to plan and strategize, you will be able to move forward with a deliberate and thought-out approach. Let's get started!

Step 1: Identify a location, date, and time for your Supermajority Education Fund House Party

Inviting people to your home is great, but you can also gather at a coffee shop, bar, house of worship, union hall, college campus, community center, or many more spots.

Things to consider:

Can the space accommodate the number of people you expect?

Is there wifi so that people can fill out the survey on their devices?

Step 2: Register your house party with us by visiting www.supermajority.com/houseparty if you haven't already!

Step 3: Create a guest list

Build your list of attendees. Not sure who to invite? Think outside your usual group of friends. Invite family members, coworkers, classmates, neighbors, or acquaintances from your place of faith, book club, or the gym. You could even create a Facebook event to get the word out to a wider audience. Remember - there will be people who say they will come, but won't show up, so invite more people than you think you want!

Step 4: Send out invites

You can send invitations to your event in a number of ways, so choose the ones that work best for you. You can send emails or text messages, create a Facebook event, or even send an invite. Be sure to ask for RSVPs, and follow up with a reminder the day before the event.

Step 5: Plan your agenda

We have created a suggested agenda in this toolkit for you to use as a starting point. Add your own personal touches as you see fit. For example, if you know that most of the people in the room will be meeting each other for the first time, you may want to do more than one introduction activity. Make the agenda your own!

Step 6: Print materials you need

It feels like printing always takes longer than you think it's going to. Don't leave your printing to the last minute! If you are making door signs, printing agendas, or creating custom name tags, don't leave it until the last minute!

Step 7: Host your party!

All of your hard work has paid off - enjoy yourself!

Step 8: Follow up with Supermajority Education Fund and your guests

Send a thank you correspondence to everyone who attended your party and let them know you'd love to have them join you again in the future. Report back your success to Supermajority Education Fund by this form: www.supermajority.com/housepartyfollowup

Checklist

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Communications

- Register your party with us by visiting www.supermajority.com/houseparty
- Create guest list
- Send invitations with RSVP request
- Send event reminder
- Share survey link www.supermajority.com/poll
- Send Thank You after event

Materials and supplies

- Print outs
 - Welcome signs
 - SM branded name tags
- Pens
- Large format paper (optional)
- Markers (optional)
- Any extra mobile devices or computers

Day before preparations

- Serving snacks? Buy and prep them today
- Be sure you have enough cups, plates, napkins etc for your guests
- Test your wifi set up and make sure it's working
- Send reminder email, remind people to bring their mobile devices

Day of preparations

- Set up the room
- Finalize any food or drink prep
- Put up any signs, lay out any materials

During the party

- Relax! You've got this!
- Take a group photo! (And share it on social media with the hashtag #superhouseparty)
- Be sure everyone submits the Supermajority Education Fund survey

Post party

- Send Thank You email to your guests (include your group photo)
- Let us know how it went at www.supermajority.com/housepartyfollowup

Agenda

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0:00-0:15 Sign ins/Mingling

Greet your guests and have them sign-in on the sign-in sheet.
Give them some time to mingle before getting started.

0:15-0:20 Welcome and introductions

Welcome from host, explanation of meeting purpose, overview of agenda.

0:20-0:35 Attendee introductions

Have everyone introduce themselves and, if comfortable,
why they decided to attend the event today.

0:35-0:55 Discussion

Ask people for their ideas about what women's lives are like in this country today.
We've listed some ideas for questions on the Discussion Questions page.

0:55-1:25 Fill out the survey

Ask each guest to visit www.supermajority.com/poll to fill out the Supermajority Education Fund survey. Encourage people to get snacks and drinks as they fill it out.

1:25-1:30 Wind down

Finish the party by taking a photo of your group and posting it on social media
with the hashtag #superhouseparty - we will retweet and regram you!

1:30- 1:35 Thank you and closing

Let your guests know how much you appreciate them coming,
and that you look forward to gathering together again in the future.

Promote your party

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Text

Hey! I'm hosting a Supermajority Education Fund House Party on [DATE] at [TIME] and would love it if you came! It will be a time for real talk about what it's like to be a woman in this country. Are you free?

Email

Hi everyone!

Please join me for a Supermajority Education Fund House Party to discuss what it is really like to be a woman in this country. I'm so excited to hear from each of you about your experiences, and share our visions for a better world. I hope you can make it!

When: [DATE, TIME]

Where: [Address of location]

Please RSVP by replying to this email so I know how many folks are coming.

You're more than welcome to bring a friend or family member along but please make sure they RSVP too. All are welcome, especially if you have a passion for seeing a world where women are truly equal!

Hope to see you there!

Thanks,

[YOUR NAME]

Facebook

[YOUR TOWN]-area friends! I'm hosting a Supermajority Education Fund House Party on [DATE] at [TIME] and would love it if you joined me! It will be a time for real talk about what it's like to be a woman in this country. Comment below if you want to join me and I will send you the details!

Twitter

I'm hosting a Supermajority Education Fund House Party in [YOUR TOWN] to talk about being a woman in this country. If you're nearby, join me! PM me for details!

Discussion questions

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Gender awareness

When did you first become aware of your gender?
What prompted you to become aware of it?

How has gender impacted where you are
in your life today? List as many ways – good, bad,
or neutral – that come to mind and explain how it
makes you feel.

Leadership

According to a new Daily Beast and Ipsos poll, 33%
of Americans surveyed believed their neighbors
would be comfortable with a female president.
What is your reaction to this? Why do you think this
is the case in our current moment?

How do you define leadership? What makes a good
leader? Why?

Who is one person that you respect and admire?
Why that person?

Who in America would you regard as a villain?
Who is making life harder, or hurting, people like
you? Or America as a whole? What can be done to
start changing this?

Community

How do you define community? Do you feel like you
are part of a community?

When you think about your group of friends, what
'role' do you typically play? When did you start
playing that role?

Livelihood

What are the issues that all women have to deal
with in their day-to-day lives? Are there issues that
some women in America face that others do not?
What are they?

Some people say there are issues in our country
that are “women’s issues.” What’s your initial
reaction to that phrase? What do you think of as
“women’s issues” – and what makes an issue belong
in this category?

Have you heard much recently about reproductive
issues such as birth control or abortion? What have
you heard, and how has it made you feel? When you
hear people – friends, the media, leaders – talk
about these types of issues, does it make you want
to get more informed and involved – or just change
the channel? Explain why.

Movement building

What makes you commit to something? What ideas
have you committed to in your life?

Have you heard anything about a “women’s
movement” over the last few years? Who are the
kinds of women you think are involved in the
“women’s movement?” Try and visualize her: what
does she look like? Where is she from? How old is
she? Why do you think she decided to get involved?

Connecting back with Supermajority Education Fund

**You did it,
you hosted a house party!**

If you registered your party with Supermajority Education Fund,
we will send you a survey to hear how it went.

If you didn't register, we still want to hear from you!

Please visit supermajority.com/housepartyfollowup
to let us know all about your house party!

Fact sheet

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Here are some facts that illustrate the role that gender plays in some of the most important issues of our time.

Pay Equity

Right now, women on average still earn just 80 cents for every dollar a man earns. For Black women, it's 61 cents to the dollar a white man earns. For Latinas, it's 53 cents (National Partnership for Women & Families).

The gender pay gap occurs across nearly all occupations and industries (AAUW).

If we keep going at the current rate it will take 202 years to close the global gender pay gap (WEF).

In 2017, 13% of American women ages 18–64 were living below the federal poverty level (AAUW).

Minimum Wage

The current federal minimum wage is \$7.25, which hasn't changed since 2009. In every state, a woman with two children working full-time at minimum wage would live near or below the poverty line (NWLC).

Right now, nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers in the U.S. are women, disproportionately women of color (NWLC).

And for tipped workers, the majority of whom are women, the federal minimum cash wage is just \$2.13 per hour and it hasn't gone up for more than 25 years (NWLC).

Housing

We know that affordable housing is key to economic security.

In order to afford to rent a two-bedroom apartment in America, a full-time worker needs to earn \$22.10

per hour. It's estimated that minimum wage workers would need to work 122 hours per week in order to afford this (National Low Income Housing Coalition).

Right now three-quarters of families living in public housing are led by women (ICRW). This means cuts to housing assistance disproportionately impact women, particularly women of color.

Paid Family Leave and Child Care

Today, more than 40% of women are their family's breadwinner (Center for American Progress).

Four-in-ten mothers said that at some point in their work life, they had taken a significant amount of time off or reduced their work hours to care for a child or other family member. Mothers were also nearly twice as likely as fathers to say that taking time off for parental or family leave had a negative impact on their job or career (Pew).

The U.S. is still the only industrialized country without national paid family leave.

Child care costs more than college tuition in 28 states (Fortune).

Maternal Care and Mortality

Maternal mortality is a healthcare crisis. Women living in America today are 50% more likely to die in childbirth than their own mothers (Harvard).

The U.S. has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the developed world, and we are the only country where the rate of women who die from complications is rising (Lancet).

More than 700 women are dying each year, yet about 60% of these deaths were preventable (Politico). And for women of color, it's even worse. Black women are 3 to 4x more likely to die than white women (CDC).

Federal and state funding show only 6% of Title V block grants for “maternal and child health” actually goes to the health of mothers (NPR).

Reproductive Rights

States across the country have been passing abortion bans that fly in the face of Roe v. Wade.

Alabama passed the most extreme ban on abortion we’ve seen since Roe v. Wade — banning abortion outright and putting doctors in jail for life.

Six states are down to only one abortion provider and there’s a real threat that Missouri could become the first state without a single health center that can offer abortions.

More than a dozen cases that could challenge Roe are already one step away from the Supreme Court and with Kavanaugh on the Court, the risk is real.

1 in 4 women will have an abortion in their lifetimes (Guttmacher Institute).

What is Supermajority Education Fund?

We're at a moment in this country
when women are activating — many for the first time ever —
and more than resist,
they want to build the kind of world they want to live in.

1 in 5 Americans have marched or protested since 2016
and the biggest issue driving these actions is support for women's rights.

In 2018, women made up 53 percent of the electorate,
creating a historic 23-point gender gap and propelling a record number of women,
and women of color, into office.

In 2018, women donated over \$100 million more
to candidates and campaigns than they did in 2016.

Women are the majority of organizers, activists, and voters across the U.S.

After traveling around the country, listening to women from a wide range
of experiences talk about a desire to build something greater
than the sum of our parts, we launched Supermajority Education Fund.

Supermajority Education Fund is building a home for women's activism
to train and mobilize a multiracial, intergenerational community
who will fight for gender equity together.

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