



NATIONAL BREAST CANCER COALITION PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM

Policy is determined by those who are elected to office. Election results are determined by those who vote.

Breast cancer is a political issue. Our elected and appointed officials are charged with making important breast cancer policy decisions every year. Consider the following:

FUNDING FOR MEANINGFUL BREAST CANCER RESEARCH.

- Congress makes that decision. The United States Congress decides each year the amount of our federal tax dollars that will be spent on breast cancer research and federal programs.
- The President submits a budget to Congress that includes medical research funding.
- The United States Congress funds the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program and the National Cancer Institute.

RESEARCH THAT FOCUSES ON PRIMARY PREVENTION AND INTERVENTIONS THAT WILL SAVE LIVES

- The directors of the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute oversee distribution of billions of research dollars. The President of the United States appoints those public officials who decide how the money will be spent, and what research strategy will be followed.

ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

- The United States Congress has the power to expand access to quality health care to all.
- The President appoints leadership in agencies and cabinet positions that determine Medicare and Medicaid, drug approval and other breast cancer related issues.
- The United States Congress has the power to regulate medical insurers and to prohibit discrimination and pre-existing condition restrictions. Each state's legislature has the power to regulate insurance and medical providers within its boundaries.
- The President appoints leadership in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which approves devices and drugs used in cancer treatment.

EDUCATED ADVOCATES MUST HAVE A SAY IN DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING THE POLICIES THAT IMPACT BREAST CANCER.

- Congress and state legislatures can mandate the inclusion of consumers in decision-making, including at agencies that determine important issues on research, health care and drug approval.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

- ***Elections are often determined by a very small margin which is why your vote is so critical.***
- Roughly 43% of eligible voters did not vote in the 2016 elections.
- The 2016 Presidential race was decided by a swing of about 80,000 votes across three states, out of the 139,000,000 votes cast; 18 states were won by fewer than 250,000 votes.
- In a recent Pennsylvania state delegate race (November 2017), the candidates received the same number of votes (11,608), resulting in a coin toss to determine the victor
- On January 4, 2018 a Virginia Elections Official put his hand in a bowl and drew a name to decide the winner of a tied House of Delegates race. Just one vote would have made a difference.
- U.S. voter turnout is among the lowest in the developed world.

EVERYONE WHO CARES ABOUT BREAST CANCER POLICY MUST VOTE!

We must make certain that our grassroots members pledge to vote and get others to do so. Publicize NBCC's Platform. Ask candidates hard questions and get them to endorse our Platform. Find out where candidates stand on breast cancer issues. Find which candidates have endorsed NBCC's Breast Cancer Policy Platform.

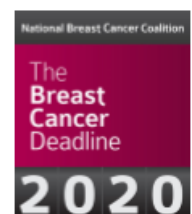
WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Become a volunteer in END BREAST CANCER: VOTE! Spread the word. Work to get others to volunteer for END BREAST CANCER: VOTE!

- Send a letter to candidates. A sample is on the website.
- Go to meetings where candidates will appear. Ask questions. Sample questions are provided.
- Take a video of the candidate talking about the NBCC platform and stating what their positions are.
- Take a video of yourself and other advocates in support of Campaign Vote Breast Cancer. Samples available.

Join our voter registration/voter pledge drive by visiting VoteBreastCancer.org and downloading your END BREAST CANCER: VOTE! The kit includes:

- END BREAST CANCER: VOTE! pledge forms;
- Updates on which candidates and other public officials have endorsed our Breast Cancer Policy Platform;
- Suggestions on what to ask the candidates;
- Sample social media posts and Letter to the Editor and;
- Talking points.





THE NATIONAL BREAST CANCER COALITION
END BREAST CANCER: VOTE!
VOTER PLEDGE FORM

Breast cancer is a political issue. We will only continue to make progress in our campaign to end this disease if the women and men who sit in the White House, in Congress and in the state legislatures and IN all government agencies are willing to support our goals. And remember, we control who sits there! So register to vote today — and END BREAST CANCER: VOTE!

VOTER PLEDGE

I pledge that I will vote in the local, state, and federal elections, and get five others to vote.

Name _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email Address _____
Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

YES! Please remind me of my pledge.

Visit VoteBreastCancer.org for our END BREAST CANCER: VOTE! kit.

Return your completed Voter Pledge Forms to
votebreastcancer@breastcancerdeadline2020.org
or via mail to:

National Breast Cancer Coalition
1010 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005
Attention: END BREAST CANCER: VOTE!



Background

BREAST CANCER IS STILL AN EPIDEMIC. There are more than 3.1 million women and thousands of men living with breast cancer in the United States. In 2018, approximately 330,080 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in women, 266,120 invasive and 63,960 in situ and 2,550 new cases in men. An estimated 40,920 women and 480 men will die. We still do not know what causes breast cancer, how to prevent it, or how to stop it from metastasizing or cure it once it does. Breast cancer is a political issue that remains an urgent health crisis.

The National Breast Cancer Coalition

The National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) is a powerful voice, speaking for women and men across the country, demanding an end to breast cancer.

Founded in 1991, NBCC's mission is to end breast cancer through the power of action and advocacy. NBCC links hundreds of organizations and tens of thousands of individuals from across the country into a dynamic, diverse coalition that gives breast cancer a meaningful voice in Washington, DC and state capitals, in laboratories and health care institutions, and in local communities everywhere. They recognize that breast cancer is a political issue and that elected and appointed policy makers must be held to a high standard and a focus on ending breast cancer.

Breast Cancer is a Political Issue

Congress and the Administration make policy decisions that directly affect breast cancer— from the availability and cost of health insurance and the process by which drugs and devices are approved, to Medicare coverage for metastatic breast cancer patients, and protection against genetic discrimination to environmental regulations and funding for breast cancer research.

The general principles and specific federal initiatives described in NBCC's 2018 Public Policy Platform are set out below. Candidates and public officials will be held accountable for how they vote and govern with regard to this Platform.

RESEARCH:

The federal government must

- Appropriate sufficient funds annually to support meaningful breast cancer research and develop policies that guarantee public transparency, oversight and accountability of that Investment of funds.
- Create new initiatives that encourage scientific creativity and innovative models of research that include educated consumers at every level

- Develop strategies to bring together representatives from a wide variety of disciplines, including advocates, to leverage existing resources by identifying the tools, technology and ideas resulting from this nation's prior investments and apply them to ending breast cancer.
- Appropriate \$150 million for fiscal year 2019 and again in 2020 for the DOD peer-reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program.

ACCESS: Health care is a basic human right. The federal government must adopt policies that guarantee that all individuals have access to patient centered, evidence based, high quality health care and that

- guarantee everyone coverage of appropriate care that is evidence based and affordable.
- provide the same comprehensive benefits to everyone that meet the public's reasonable expectations.
- Provide that treatment and coverage decisions are based on evidence and best practices.
- Provide that all individuals must financially contribute to the system, based on ability to pay.
- Support a health care system that is easy to use for patients and providers, and easy to administer.
- Assure Medicaid coverage for treatment of low-income women screened and diagnosed with breast cancer in connection with federal programs.
- Waive the waiting periods for Medicare and disability benefits for those with metastatic breast cancer who qualify under social security benefits.

INFLUENCE: The federal government must ensure that trained and educated advocates have a seat at all tables where breast cancer research, health care and policy decisions are made and implemented.

Patient advocates must meet the following criteria: have a patient-led, patient-centered organization with a patient constituency to which they are responsible and accountable; have been personally affected by disease; and be knowledgeable, trained, prepared and confident in their ability to participate in the decision making process of science and medicine.

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER COALITION BREAST CANCER POLICY PLATFORM ENDORSEMENT

I, _____, _____ do endorse and
(position/candidate for)

pledge my support for the National Breast Cancer Coalition's Breast Cancer Policy Platform.

Signature _____

Date ____/____/____

Representing _____