

# VoteRunLead

## **Statement from Erin Vilardi, Founder & CEO of VoteRunLead**

VoteRunLead, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that trains women to run for office, stands with Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley and Rashida Tlaib. We have stood with the “Squad” since we brought them together just days after the history making general election for our 2018 “Women and Power” Town Hall. The four representatives-elect took time out of their congressional orientations to be a part of VoteRunLead’s national conversation about women, our power, and where we were headed as a country. Like the thousands of other women who ran for office in response to a leader who had diminished their identities, dismissed their ideas, and disrespected their ideals, they were hopeful and steeled for the road ahead. And we stand with the Squad now as they continue to inspire women and girls all over the nation with their resilience, patriotism, and perseverance.

We condemn the behavior of those who incite violence and use their platforms to push hate, racism and xenophobia. There is no doubt that by questioning the patriotism of these powerful women, President Trump aims to undermine their power. However, through our work training thousands of women to run for office and win, we know intimately that the President’s unAmerican attacks are in fact backfiring and fueling another generation of women to run. From Georgia to Minnesota, Nashville to Seattle, and throughout rural America, VoteRunLead is growing the squad by training record numbers of women who aspire to make America as good as its promise. Each day, as more Ilhans, Ayannas, Alexandrias and Rashidas - from all parties - decide to run as they are, VoteRunLead is there to help them map out a plan to run for state and local office.