



CLC seeks a future in which the American political process is accessible to all citizens, resulting in representative, responsive and accountable government.

From the President

2020 was by all measures an extraordinary year for the country and for Campaign Legal Center (CLC). We witnessed unprecedented attacks on the pillars of American democracy. And CLC, its partners, and you, rose to the challenge to ensure a safe, secure election and the lawful recognition of the result.

In the pages that follow, we reflect on the challenges we faced to overcome obstacles to voting. Some of those were caused by the ongoing and devastating pandemic—others by lawmakers who saw voter suppression as their strongest electoral strategy. Despite these challenges, we celebrate CLC's achievements in helping a record number of Americans vote—in the courtroom (often by phone or video), in the court of public opinion and with our partners in states across the country.

CLC worked hard to defend our democracy. But our work is far from over.

Last year showed us how critical it is that every American play a role in protecting the democratic process. Our accomplishments would not have been possible without CLC lawyers who engage in transformative litigation, our state and local partners who monitor elections on the ground and our donors who provide the resources we need to respond strategically and flexibly.

Thank you for standing with us as we fight for fair representation for every American, everywhere.



Sincerely,

Trevor Potter

Campaign Legal Center,

President and Founder

Fighting for Safe, Secure and Accessible Elections in the Face of a Global Pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic changed the way we conduct daily life in America. It also presented numerous challenges during a critical election year.

CLC's efforts to create a transparent, accountable and inclusive democracy took on renewed urgency as national, state and local partner organizations sought answers on how election activities could proceed safely and securely.

To ensure that our core democratic function—voting—remained intact, we engaged in critical litigation, advocacy and public education across the country to implement commonsense responsive policies and inform Americans about voting during a global pandemic and a period of civil unrest. Early on, CLC spoke about the importance of expanding vote by mail and early voting. Despite voter suppression attempts, we witnessed historic voter turnout. CLC played a key role in educating voters across the ideological spectrum to refute false statements about absentee voting, while warning them about the danger of eroding public confidence in the security of the American election system.

CLC's three core election crisis priorities were:

- Launching emergency litigation to protect the freedom to vote
- Providing legal, policy and legislative guidance to ensure safe and elections
- Preparing for and combating election crises, including threats to the counting of popular and electoral votes in the 2020 presidential election



CLC devoted significant resources to prepare for legal action to combat anti-democratic abuses and ensure that the 2020 elections were free and fair. As a founding member of the National Task Force on Election Crises—a diverse, cross-partisan group of more than 50 experts in various fields—we prepared for a multitude of potential election scenarios. Through this preparation, CLC laid the groundwork for immediate legal action against efforts to disrupt the presidential election with misinformation and baseless litigation.

Amidst a constant influx of misinformation about the election results, we provided legal advice to election officials, journalists and peer organizations on the rules and requirements for vote-counting in presidential elections, ensuring that key stakeholders had the accurate information and support necessary to carry out their duties.

CLC compelled Pennsylvania—and several other states, including New Jersey, New York, and North Dakota—to discontinue their practice of rejecting absentee ballots because of signature issues. This issue rose to national attention due to the increase in voting by mail due to COVID-19. In Pennsylvania alone, CLC's efforts gave the more than 2.6 million Pennsylvania voters who voted absentee more confidence that their ballots wouldn't be rejected due to perceived discrepancies in handwriting.

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Danielle Lang on Univision News



Trevor Potter on MSNBC



CLC Sues Pennsylvania to Protect Absentee Voters in General Election

Before Campaign Legal Center sued Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth Kathy Boockvar, voters like you were at risk of disenfranchisement in the November election.

The Commonwealth's practice burdened people's constitutional right to vote by conducting signature match verification for mail-in ballots, often rejecting them, and without providing ample time for voters to remedy the situation. CLC's suit challenged this practice and argued for a uniform process to let voters fix signature-related issues with their mail-in ballots, thus giving people confidence that their vote counts.

While the utilization of mail-in voting skyrocketed nationwide during the pandemic, there was an especially dramatic increase in Pennsylvania. In the June 2016 presidential primary, 87,000 voters cast an absentee ballot. By passing Act 77 in 2019, Pennsylvania joined more than 30 other states in allowing no-excuse absentee voting. As a result, nearly 1.5 million voters cast their ballot by mail in the June 2020 presidential primary.

Rejecting mail-in ballots is not out of the ordinary—every election cycle, election officials nationwide reject mail-in ballots because they mistakenly believe there is some defect or discrepancy with voters' signatures. While they vary dramatically in their policies, 36 states have some form of a signature match requirement.

However, signature matching is a flawed process. No two signatures, even from the same signer, are exactly alike.

Signature variance—and risk of disenfranchisement—is more prevalent among certain populations of voters. Factors such as age, disability, education, signing surface and even type of pen can impact a signature's consistency. Because Pennsylvania embraced this unreliable and inconsistent ballot verification mechanism, CLC believed it had a constitutional obligation to provide voters with notice and an opportunity to fix ballot issues.

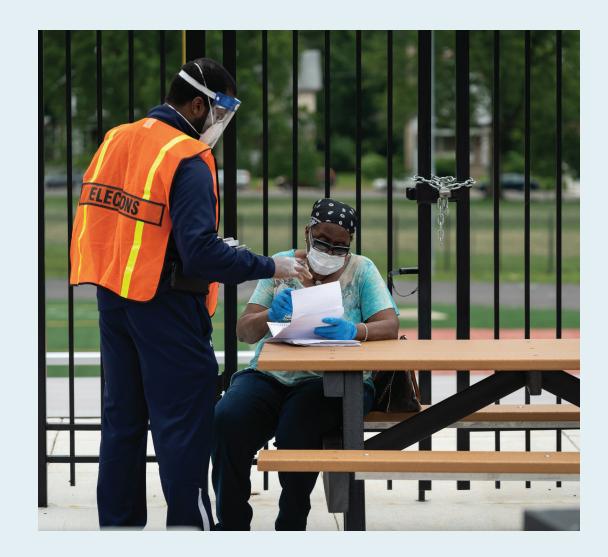


CLC represented the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, the League of United Latin American Citizens Council #20009, the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, Amy Campbell and William Gilligan in this lawsuit.

Amy Campbell is a Pennsylvania voter who had her ballot rejected in the June 2020 primary. Ms. Campbell was not notified that her ballot had been rejected until June 11, 2020—two days after the receipt deadline. Plaintiff William Gilligan is an 83-year-old Pennsylvania citizen who has suffered from two major strokes, leaving his body weakened. He has impaired control over his handwriting.

Because of CLC's lawsuit, Secretary of State Boockvar issued guidance to establish uniform processes across counties for counting mail-in ballots—resolving our case.

This monumental victory meant that voters like Amy Campbell and William Gilligan could have confidence that their vote would count when they participated in an election.





Witness Requirement for Voting May Force Me To Sit Out November Election



We reached out to Miranda Oakley in July 2020 for her story.

On August 13, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an

attempt by the Republican National Committee to reinstate a requirement that would force absentee voters in Rhode Island to find two witnesses or a notary public to sign absentee ballots for them to count. The decision left in place a previous ruling from the U.S. District Court in Rhode Island that approved a consent agreement between state election officials and voters represented by CLC seeking to waive the law because of the hardships it would cause if enforced in an election held during a pandemic.

We have a huge election coming up in November, and it would be a shame if I couldn't vote because of health concerns. With less than 100 days until America votes for President, I'll be left out unless something changes quickly. I've been blind my entire life, and I live with my mother and grandmother.

We've been closely following social distancing guidelines to protect ourselves and the elderly people my mother works with. The sooner we follow the rules, the better chance we have of beating COVID-19.

Although I've voted in person in years past, I want the option to vote by mail in November to avoid unnecessary exposure to the virus. Going to a polling place this year isn't an option. Not only would I have to wait in line with other voters and interact with poll workers to assist me, I need to touch many surfaces to get from place to place. Additionally, my mother would have to risk the lives of her elderly clients to take me to the polls.

Sometimes people think that disabled people don't care about having or aren't able to have a voice in politics. But voting is important to me; it's something that should be practiced by everyone, whether they are male, female, able-bodied or disabled. And it is especially important for me to vote to ensure that the disability community is represented in politics.

So what is stopping me from casting a ballot from the safety of my home? Many states have made reasonable accommodations for voters without sacrificing the security of elections. Mine hasn't.

Restrictive Witness Requirement

My home state of Rhode Island imposes a requirement that people who wish to vote by mail have two witnesses or a notary sign their ballot envelope, even amid a highly contagious and deadly pandemic. These requirements necessitate face-to-face and hand-to-hand interaction between voters.

If I am forced to get a witness, I likely won't be able to vote. Many states have voluntarily eased voting restrictions during the pandemic; however, Rhode Island hasn't followed suit. I don't know why it has put its voters in this situation.

Joining the Fight for a Legal Solution

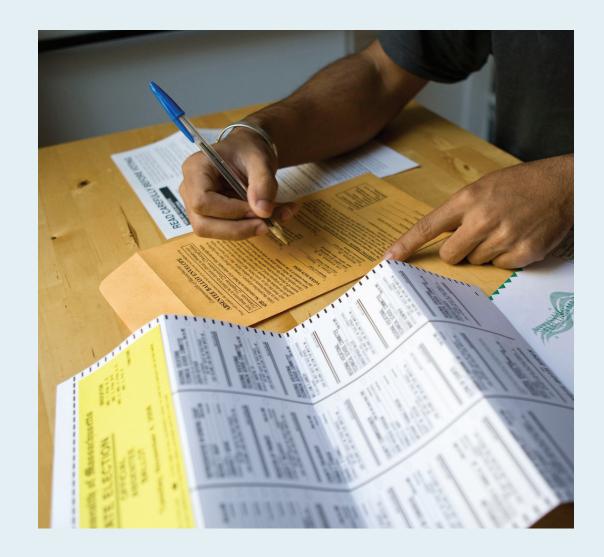
That's why Campaign Legal Center and the American Civil Liberties Union turned to the courts to solve this problem and have sued the state on my behalf. I am a plaintiff in the case along with two other voters with disabilities because it's important to speak out.

If this law isn't changed, it would be devastating. It has the potential to disenfranchise a lot of people. Rhode Island is small but mighty.

More than 125,000 Rhode Islanders live alone, and of those, over 50,000 are 65 years and older and are therefore at significant risk of serious health complication if they contract COVID-19.

Countless others live with no more than one other adult who can serve as a witness and would need to interact in close proximity with someone outside their household to be able to comply with Rhode Island's law.

I want to vote like people in other states so I can advocate for change. People should not have to risk their lives or the lives of others to vote.



Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform Wins in Alaska

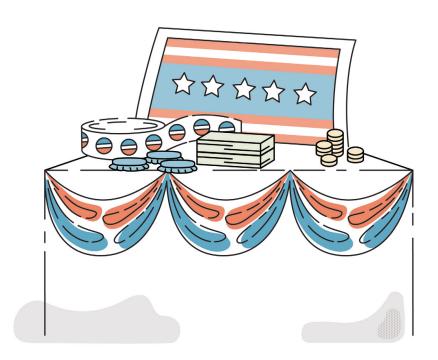
CLC fights for transparency in our campaign finance laws which results in more government accountability and less corruption. Voters have a right to know which wealthy special interests spend big money in elections.

Because of the gaps in existing campaign finance law, wealthy special interests can hide their influence on elections by giving to groups that are not required to disclose their donors or by funneling their money through an intermediary before it reaches the outside spender.

These gaps result in large amounts of dark money—money whose source is obscured by tactics like these—pouring into elections, leaving voters without valuable information about who is trying to influence them. Since the landmark Supreme Court case Citizens United v. FEC, more than \$1 billion in dark money has been spent on elections in the last decade.

Voters in Alaska agree with CLC: we should know who is spending large amounts of money on our elections. Motivated by this lack of transparency in political spending, a group of Alaskans decided to take action and formed Alaskans for Better Elections.

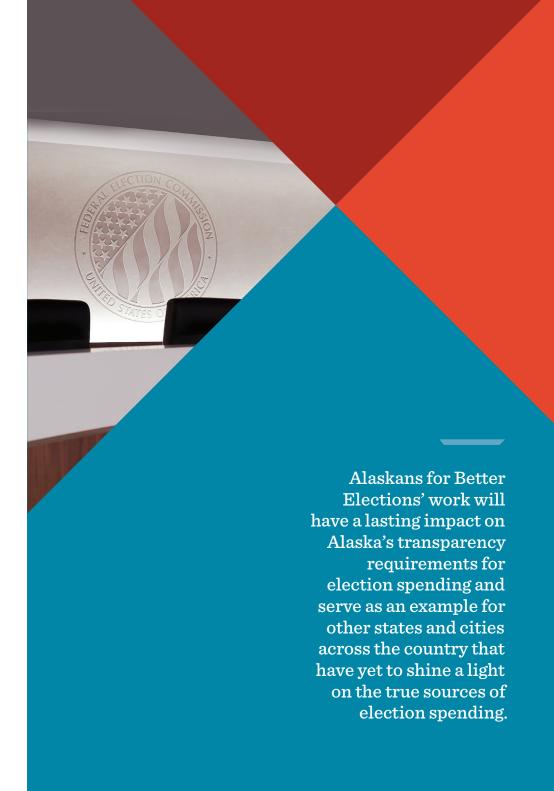
With Alaskans for Better Elections at the helm, Alaska voters succeeded in putting their measure on the ballot—calling for transparency and government accountability, among other important initiatives.



Through strategic organizing and partnership with CLC, civil society groups, grassroots activists and legislators, Alaskans for Better Elections ultimately helped enact a comprehensive measure with wide-reaching effects on their state's elections.

By passing Ballot Measure 2, Alaskans voted to know the real source of election spending through new disclosure laws.

Their work will have a lasting impact on Alaska's transparency requirements for election spending and serve as an example for other states and cities across the country that have yet to shine a light on the true sources of election spending. CLC's partnership with Alaskans for Better Elections continues as we assist the group with the defense and implementation of this monumental reform. CLC is working to defend the law in court and to ensure it is implemented effectively to provide Alaskans with meaningful transparency.



CLC Protects Michigan's Voter-Approved **Redistricting Commission**

In addition to our election work, CLC continued to lead the charge in redistricting reform during the election year. In a culmination of several years of close collaboration with a Michigan-based, nonpartisan, citizen-led organization—Voters Not Politicians—CLC successfully defended Michigan's newly established Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) in federal court.

In 2018, fed up with partisan gerrymandering in Michigan's state legislative and congressional districts, Voters Not Politicians (VNP) decided to take action to establish an IRC in their state.

An IRC is a body, separate from the legislature, responsible for drawing the districts used in congressional and state legislative elections. Because this process—known as redistricting—generally involves political actors whose careers depend on how the lines are drawn, both major political parties have used the process to unfairly strip voters of their voice.

State-led redistricting efforts and well-designed IRCs remain the only stronghold against the manipulation of district lines for partisan advantage.

Volunteers worked tirelessly to gather over 425,000 signatures from Michigan voters in every one of the state's counties. After submitting the signatures to be put on the general election ballot in November and surviving several legal challenges, Proposal 2 made it onto the midterm election ballot.



Proposal 2 passed by an overwhelming majority on November 6, 2018—amending the Michigan Constitution and establishing an IRC.

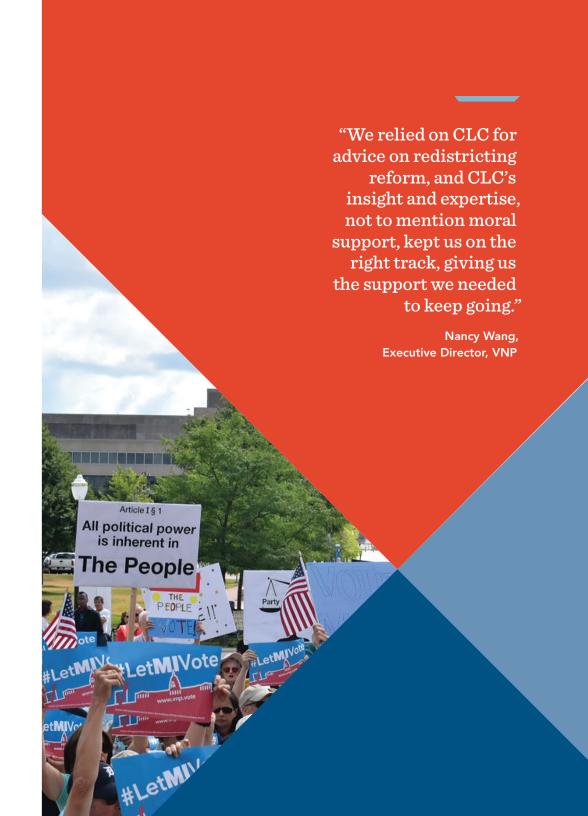
However, two significant roadblocks arose in 2019, which jeopardized the IRC. Various individual Republicans and the Michigan Republican Party filed two lawsuits against the state, alleging that provisions in the amendment violate the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

CLC represented VNP in federal court to defend the constitutionality of the IRC. In March 2020, CLC's Vice President Paul Smith argued before the appellate court via phone and successfully defended Michigan's voter-approved IRC.*

The commission is now enshrined in the Michigan Constitution.

The success story of VNP is just one example of how voters can make impactful, lasting change on the state level. CLC has made it its mission to support citizen-led organizations working to create and implement IRCs and protect those IRCs once implemented.

*Since defending the constitutionality of the IRCs in March 2020, the plaintiffs have again appealed. Mark Gaber, CLC's Director of Redistricting, argued before the Sixth Circuit in March 2021.



Wilbur Ross Violated Ethics Rules, Multi-Year Investigation of CLC Complaint Finds

Early in his tenure, former President Donald Trump assembled the wealthiest cabinet in modern history.

One of those ultra-wealthy cabinet members was Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, whose estimated net worth was around \$600 million. While Secretary Ross's wealth in itself was not necessarily problematic, the complex nature of his finances meant his financial disclosure reports—and any conflicts of interest they may have revealed—were inscrutable to the public.

That is where Campaign Legal Center (CLC) came in. We serve as a watchdog, holding government officials accountable through investigations, complaints and public education. Our ethics team reviewed his financial disclosures and discovered a myriad of possible conflicts of interest hidden within intricate financial arrangements. In August 2018, CLC filed a 115-page complaint with the Department of Commerce Inspector General (IG), requesting an investigation into Secretary Ross.

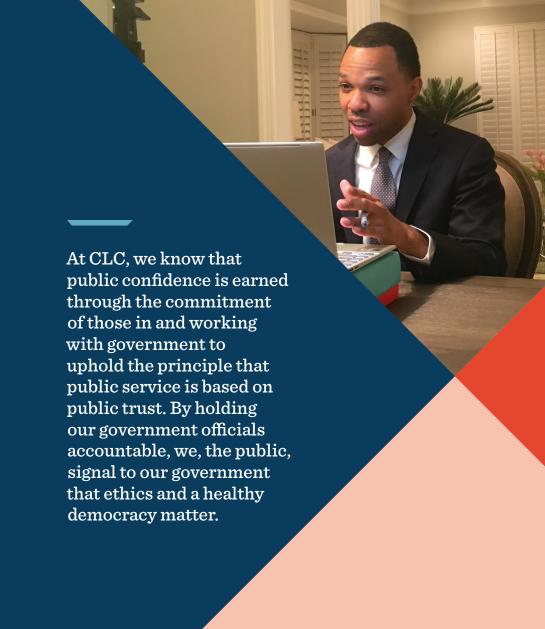
The complaint alleged that Secretary Ross repeatedly took actions that created the appearance of unethical conduct, engaged in oil and gas industry export negotiations while owning assets in the oil and gas industry sector and failed to divest from assets outlined in his ethics agreement.



The IG undertook an investigation, combining CLC's allegations with others against Secretary Ross. After over two years of investigating, the IG issued its report on December 3, 2020, finding that Secretary Ross violated ethics rules designed to protect the public's trust in government.

At CLC, we know that public confidence is earned through the commitment of those in and working with government to uphold the principle that public service is based on public trust. By holding our government officials accountable, we, the public, signal to our government that ethics and a healthy democracy matter.

We must expect more from our public servants. Only then will we have the opportunity to create and sustain a healthy democracy.

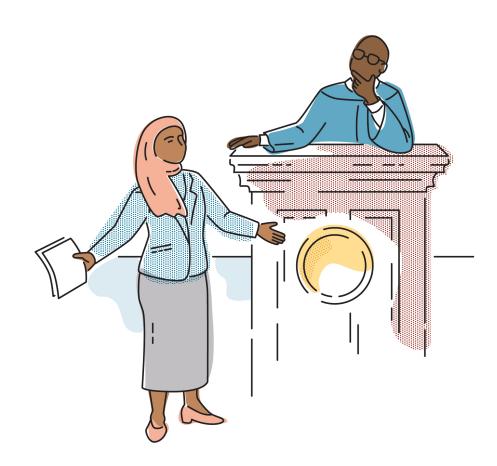


CLCA: A Strategic Approach to Protecting Democracy

Campaign Legal Center Action (CLCA) is a 501(c)(4) organization created in 2019 to expand opportunities for offensive litigation that increases enforcement of laws that protect democracy. CLCA pursues high-impact litigation by representing strategic plaintiffs (such as political entities) in litigation that Campaign Legal Center, as a 501(c)(3) organization, would be constrained in conducting. Unlike many (c)(4) organizations that focus on lobbying, CLCA provides the freedom and flexibility to pursue litigation that will have the most significant systemic impact.

Since it launched in 2019, CLCA has built out its network of potential clients to represent in strategic litigation. In its inaugural case, CLCA filed suit on behalf of the anti-violence organization Giffords against the Federal Election Commission (FEC). This suit challenged the FEC's failure to take action against the National Rifle Association (NRA) for using shell corporations to illegally coordinate campaign spending with seven federal candidates spanning three election cycles.

The NRA's complicated scheme had the effect of evading campaign contribution limits and shielding millions of dollars of political spending—including up to \$25 million coordinated with Donald Trump's presidential campaign—from public scrutiny. We are now awaiting a ruling from the court in this case.



CLCA and the 2020 Election

CLCA took action in the 2020 election by suing the State of Texas in response to a proclamation issued by Texas Governor Greg Abbott. This eleventh-hour proclamation prohibited each of Texas's 254 counties from providing more than one ballot drop-off location. Not only did this decision create confusion amongst voters, but it also specifically disenfranchised voters of color, older voters and voters with disabilities in Texas's largest counties.

Because the Governor's proclamation violated the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act, CLCA partnered with the League of Women Voters of Texas, Texas League of United Latin American Citizens, the Mexican American Legislative Conference of the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Legislative Black Caucus, as well as two individual Texas voters, to file a federal lawsuit challenging the rule.

Our suit was successful in the district court. Unfortunately, the Fifth Circuit—among the most anti-voter courts in the nation—reversed the district court's decision, allowing Governor Abbott's directive to remain in place. Nonetheless, CLCA's lawsuit shined a bright spotlight on Texas's suppressive activity, gaining coverage from journalists around the country, and helped major Texas counties maximize the use of their drop-boxes within state-imposed constraints.



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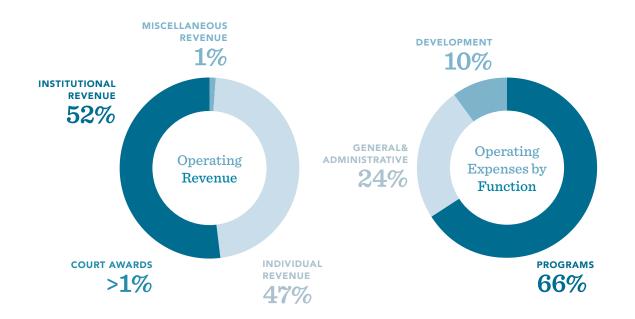
Paul Spirn

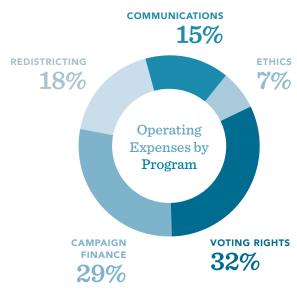
Leslie Scallet and Maury Lieberman

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Vanguard Charitable

Financials





OPERATING REVENUE

Total	\$15,056,115
Court Awards	\$4,988
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$102,982
Individual Revenue	\$7,146,463
Institutional Revenue	\$7,801,682

OPERATING EXPENSES BY FUNCTION

Total	\$9,988,313
Development	\$989,968
General & Administrative	\$2,392,580
Programs	\$6,605,765

OPERATING EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

Total	\$6,605,765
Ethics	\$447,495
Communications	\$961,330
Redistricting	\$1,157,238
Campaign Finance	\$1,946,138
Voting Rights	\$2,093,564

In 2020, the threats facing the election spurred significant giving to CLC. We were fortunate to receive a major, one-time gift—one of the largest in CLC's history—as well as multi-year commitments to support strategic efforts continuing into 2021. Our fundraising success in 2020, as well as steps we have taken to expand the capacity of our fundraising team, have laid the groundwork for financial security and continued growth in 2021 and 2022.







CAMPAIGN LEGAL CENTER

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