



STORIES OF SUCCESS AND CHALLENGE FOR DEMOCRACY

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Campaign Legal Center (CLC) is a nonpartisan organization that advocates for every eligible voter to meaningfully participate in the democratic process.

We use tactics such as litigation, policy advocacy, strategic partnerships and communications to make systemic impact at all levels of government.

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

CLC is fighting for every American to participate in and affect the political process regardless of race, economic status or political affiliation. We advocate for every eligible voter, while recognizing that Black Americans and communities of color, in particular, have historically been and continue to be excluded from participating in the democratic process. CLC's commitment will always be to democracy, not to political parties or to advance an electoral result.

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CLC HAS FOUR MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS:

Campaign Finance

Voters have a right to know which wealthy special interests are spending big money to secretly influence our vote and our government in an attempt to rig the political system in their favor.

Redistricting

Elections should be determined by voters, but when politicians rig our voting maps, they can choose their own voters instead of voters picking their representatives.

Ethics

Federal, state and local governments have a responsibility to enact and enforce clear ethical guidelines and laws. Only then can public officials adequately navigate potential conflicts and be held accountable when they break the public's trust.

Voting and Elections

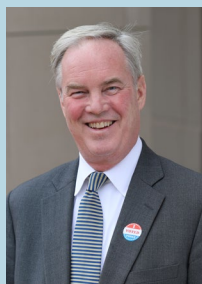
In our elections, every voice must be heard, and every vote must count. Voting should be accessible for all citizens, and our laws should promote participation in our democracy and instill trust in our elections.

VOTING AND ELECTIONS PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Democracy in Crisis — Preventing Election Manipulation

Since 2020, CLC has been at the forefront of the movement to ensure that all votes are counted, and electoral results are honored. In 2022, CLC worked in more than 10 states to prevent bad actors from undermining free and fair elections. Leading up to 2024, CLC is implementing legal and policy strategies to prevent election manipulation. We are also engaged in a robust communications campaign to regain the public's trust in elections and confidence in election outcomes, an effort focused on five crucial battleground states — Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



The challenges facing our democracy in 2022 were well-understood and formidable.

A hotly contested midterm election played out amidst unprecedented spending — much of it

from secret sources — by powerful special interests. Partisan actors worked to undermine trust in our electoral system, actively sought to weaken that system and in some places sought opportunities to overturn the will of the voters. However, a year that began with a sense of uncertainty ended very much with a sense of relief and hope for the future.

As you will learn in the pages that follow, **the tireless efforts of Campaign Legal Center advocates, lawyers, policy experts and communicators produced meaningful pro-democracy gains in 2022.** These contributed to, among other things, midterm elections that were relatively free of the sort of anti-democratic activity we witnessed during the 2020 cycle. The January 6, 2021, attack on our nation was not replicated in state capitals in 2022. In fact, many candidates in swing states who publicly questioned our electoral process ended up losing, with only a few of those attempting to cast doubt on the outcome.

Buoyed by a network of allies and supporters who share our goal of bringing about a more representative, responsive and accountable government, CLC worked during the midterms

to educate the public, lawmakers and election officials about threats to the freedom to vote.

We successfully executed strategies to protect nonpartisan get-out-the-vote activity in Georgia, Kansas and Missouri, provided legal guidance to election administrators on important matters such as mass ballot challenges and the hand counting of ballots, and monitored voter intimidation tactics in states like Arizona and Pennsylvania.

Protecting and strengthening our democracy is not a passive exercise. Throughout 2022, CLC responded to challenges with decisive action.

Our success is inextricably tied to the support we receive from those who understand that this ongoing experiment in self-government cannot realize its full potential unless the political process is accessible to all citizens. To everyone who stands with us in this effort, thank you.

Sincerely,

TREVOR POTTER

Campaign Legal Center President
and Founder

Visit Trevor's profile page on the CLC website to subscribe to his monthly newsletter.

SUCCESS IN CONGRESS



CLC's greatest accomplishment
in 2022 was leading a successful
campaign to update the
Electoral Count Act (ECA).

MAJOR VICTORY: UPDATING THE ELECTORAL COUNT ACT

The ECA was enacted more than 130 years ago and provides the primary legal framework for casting and counting Electoral College votes in presidential elections. Recognizing the dangers posed by the original law's imprecise language, gaps and ambiguities, CLC led the charge to reform the ECA, beginning in 2021. Our advocacy garnered strong bipartisan support for a legislative solution in the U.S. Senate, a truly rare occurrence in today's polarized political environment.

As part of its last act before adjourning last year, Congress took action. As a result, vulnerabilities in the process of casting and counting Electoral College votes revealed during the 2020 presidential election have been eliminated.

CLC's leadership and advocacy played a critical role in crafting and advancing the updated ECA law, which takes significant strides toward protecting the will of the voters in the 2024 presidential election and beyond.



Jan. 6, 2021 — President Trump and his supporters pressured Vice President Mike Pence to abuse his ministerial role in certifying the 2020 Electoral College votes. The updated ECA law clarifies that this ministerial role does not permit the vice president to have any say in the outcome of presidential elections. Photo by Kevin Dietsch/Pool via Xinhua

“

CLC was one of Protect Democracy's closest partners in the years-long effort to reform the law governing presidential elections and safeguard the peaceful transfer of power that is a cornerstone of American democracy. Without their legal expertise, political savvy, and sheer persistence, the Electoral Count Reform Act may never have become law. The nation owes CLC a debt of gratitude.

—GENEVIEVE C. NADEAU, GENERAL COUNSEL,
PROTECT DEMOCRACY



STATE & LOCAL SUCCESS

CLC has a proven track record of working to pass legislation and advocating for ballot initiatives that strengthen and protect our democracy.

WHEN VOTERS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO WEIGH IN ON PRO-DEMOCRACY POLICIES, THE ANSWER IS ALMOST ALWAYS, "YES!"

ARIZONA

Voters usher in a new era of campaign finance transparency

CLC worked closely with Stop Dark Money, a coalition of grassroots advocates and Arizona leaders who recognize that wealthy special interests are exploiting gaps in the law to secretly spend huge sums of money to influence elections, to develop Proposition 211, or the Voters' Right to Know Act.

The Act shines light on the original sources of secret spending in Arizona elections (also called "dark money") and helps ensure Arizona voters know who is spending big money to influence their vote. Following a successful campaign by Voters' Right to Know—the ballot measure committee formed by Stop Dark Money—Prop 211 was overwhelmingly approved by voters in November of last year. Terry Goddard, Arizona's former attorney general and leader of the coalition effort, publicly credited CLC's expert legal assistance for the successful initiative's strong design.

As a result of this law, any group that spends more than \$50,000 in Arizona statewide campaigns (or \$25,000 on other campaigns) on political media advertising and related

spending will be required to keep track of the large donations it receives and to disclose the original sources of donations of more than \$5,000.

CLC provided expert advice to the coalition on effective policy options for addressing rampant secret spending in Arizona elections. We assisted with drafting initiative language that would hold up in court based on our innovative policy solution, requiring election spenders to disclose the original sources of big money behind large campaign media expenditures.

CLC is representing the Voters' Right to Know committee in its efforts to defend Prop 211 against two legal challenges and continues to assist with the effective implementation of the law through the rulemaking process.

PROPOSITION 211,
"VOTERS' RIGHT
TO KNOW ACT,"
PASSED WITH A

72%
MAJORITY

THE
NEW YORKER

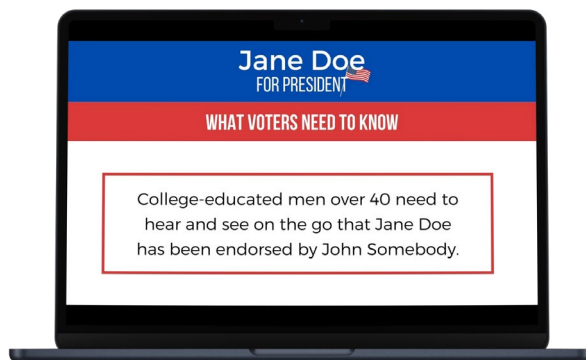
"A RARE WIN IN THE FIGHT
AGAINST DARK MONEY"

"In Arizona, voters from both parties overwhelmingly demanded that big, anonymous political donors reveal their identities."

Banning “redboxing” in Philadelphia

When political campaigns freely provide messaging guidance, stock images, video for download and other resources on their websites, they are likely engaging in illegal coordination with supportive super PACs. CLC has led the effort to stop this practice, known as “redboxing,” and found success in the city of Philadelphia, where the Board of Ethics voted to ban the practice.

CLC staff testified before the Ethics Board in favor of this policy change, explaining that super PAC coordination facilitates a corrupt “pay-to-play” political culture, where super PAC donors and operatives can trade dollars for favors and access. This fundamentally



undermines voters’ confidence that the political system will respond to their concerns and protect their interests.



Oakland Rising volunteers during a walk day for the fair elections ballot measure campaign. The ballot measure created a public financing program in Oakland called “Democracy Dollars.” Photo by Adriana Oyarzun Photography

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

“Democracy Dollars” program approved for a more responsive government

This measure directly empowers Oakland residents to engage in the political process by providing vouchers that can be donated to campaigns of their choice. CLC helped draft this reform and submitted testimony in support of the measure to the city council.

MEASURE W,
VOUCHER-BASED
PUBLIC FINANCING,
PASSED WITH A

74%
MAJORITY

SUCCESS IN COURT



CLC's expert litigation team secures important legal victories that make our government more responsive and representative.

Photo by Tyler Stabile


THE LEGAL PROCESS OF LITIGATING AND RESOLVING SUBSTANTIVE CASES OF IMPORTANCE TO OUR DEMOCRACY TYPICALLY TAKES PLACE OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS. 2022 WAS A YEAR OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON MULTIPLE FRONTS.

REDISTRICTING

League of Women Voters Utah and Mormon Women for Ethical Government v. Utah State Legislature

CLC represents the plaintiffs in this case.


A lawsuit aimed at preventing partisan gerrymandering of congressional districts and reinstating an independent redistricting commission.

 In 2022: A motion to dismiss the partisan gerrymandering claims was rejected by a state district court.

Banerian v. Benson

CLC represents “Voters Not Politicians” in this case, a nonpartisan, citizen-led organization that worked to pass the constitutional amendment that created the IRC.

Defending fair congressional district maps drawn by an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) in Michigan.

 In 2022: A federal district court declined to invalidate the congressional maps.



Members of CLC’s voting and elections team attended the U.S. Supreme Court oral argument for *Merrill v. Milligan* in October 2022, a case challenging the racial dilution of congressional districts in Alabama.

CLC’s amicus brief was cited by Deuel Ross, senior counsel and director of professional development at NAACP Legal Defense Fund, during oral arguments for providing several alternative voting maps and corrective strategies that abide by the Constitution and do not dilute the voting power of Black Alabamians.

“

CLC has been an invaluable partner in our effort to protect fair maps in Michigan from legal challenges.

—NANCY WANG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS



Photo by Tyler Stabile

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

CLC v. Federal Election Commission (FEC):

A lawsuit filed after the FEC deadlocked and dismissed CLC's complaint alleging a multimillion-dollar illegal coordination scheme between Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign and the super PAC Correct the Record (CTR).

- 📅 In 2022: The U.S. District Court of D.C. ruled the FEC must take action in response to CLC's complaint.

Rio Grande Foundation v. City of Santa Fe

CLC represented the City of Santa Fe in the successful defense of its political spending disclosure law, protecting voters' right to know who is behind efforts to influence their votes.

- 📅 In 2022: The U.S. Supreme Court denied a petition by challengers asking for an appeal in the case, keeping the law in place.

CLC v. FEC

A lawsuit demanding the FEC sanction a secret money group called Heritage Action for not disclosing who paid for its election advertising during the 2018 election cycle, violating federal law and depriving voters of the right to know who funded its spending to influence congressional races.

- 📅 In 2022: A district court ruled that the FEC had illegally failed to act on CLC's allegations.

Gaspee Project v. Mederos

CLC assisted in the successful defense of a Rhode Island transparency law requiring groups that spend significant amounts of money to influence state elections to disclose their spending and certain contributors to voters.

- 📅 In 2022: U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal, letting stand a lower court decision that upheld Rhode Island's transparency rules.



VOTING

Greater Birmingham Ministries v. Merrill

CLC represents the plaintiffs in this case.

A lawsuit against the Alabama Secretary of State seeking public records related to lists of purged voters, as well as Alabamians denied the right to vote due to felony convictions.

- 📅 In 2022: Alabama was forced to hand over records of purged voters following a ruling by a U.S. District Court in Alabama.

League of Women Voters Missouri & Missouri NAACP v. Missouri

CLC is one of three organizations representing the plaintiffs in this case.

A challenge to parts of Missouri's anti-voter bill that restricts civic engagement groups' ability to assist with voter registration and absentee ballot applications.

- 📅 In 2022: A preliminary injunction was granted by a Circuit Court blocking enforcement of the law.

LUCHA v. Fontes

CLC and our co-counsel represent Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA), League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Arizona Students' Association (ASA) and the Arizona Democracy Resource Center (ADRC) in this case.

- 📅 In 2022: Lawsuit filed with the U.S. District Court for Arizona.



Photo by Bonnie Cash/UPI/Alamy Live News

This lawsuit challenges an Arizona law that imposes severe, arbitrary and discriminatory burdens on voters' ability to participate in elections, in violation of federal law. The Arizona law disproportionately impacts Latino and Native voters.

FREEDOM TO VOTE RESTORED!

The story of Darius Gamble

CLC has helped thousands of citizens regain their freedom to vote, some of whom voted during the 2022 midterms for the first time in many years.



CLC's Restore Your Vote Campaign assists people with past convictions by providing direct rights restoration services, empowering community leaders to understand rights restoration laws, and breaking down the false notion that a felony conviction always means you cannot vote.

In 2009, Darius became one of hundreds of thousands of disenfranchised voters in the state of Alabama. He lost his freedom to vote due to a marijuana trafficking conviction, characterized by state law as "a crime of moral turpitude."

This designation dates to the 1901 Alabama Constitutional Convention and was openly designed to disenfranchise Black voters.

“

I had to wait 10-plus years to regain my freedom to vote, and I'm one of the lucky ones. Far too many of my fellow Alabamians remain second-class citizens because they cannot go to the polls and participate in our democracy. This is not right, and it has to change.

—DARIUS GAMBLE

Alabama law imposes additional burdens on those seeking to restore their freedom to vote in the form of exorbitant penalties and repayment requirements, which disproportionately impact Black voters.

A few years ago, Darius joined CLC's lawsuit against Alabama challenging this modern-day poll tax. In 2022, Darius won his personal fight to regain his right to vote, obtaining a pardon, which enabled him to cast a ballot for the first time in 14 years.

DEMOCRACY'S THOUGHT LEADER



CLC is an authoritative voice for pro-democracy reforms, whose experts and scholarly works play a significant role in the public debate over the best ways to bring about systemic change.



CLC REPORTS HELP STATES IMPROVE BALLOT ACCESS & ETHICS ENFORCEMENT

In 2022 CLC released the second edition of its state-by-state assessment of vote-by-mail and absentee voting laws, an invaluable guide for state lawmakers and activists working to expand access to the ballot in their states.

CLC also released a report on best enforcement practices by state and local ethics commissions, providing a detailed analysis of innovations that are helping to protect the public's trust in government. This is a companion to a 2021 report on transparency upgrades for ethics commissions.

CLC ANALYSIS: THE SUPREME COURT'S ROLE IN UNDERMINING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

CLC provided to the public a **sobering and forthright analysis** describing the harm being done to our democracy by the last two decades of cases decided by the Supreme Court related to our democracy.

The white paper concludes that the court's actions are not grounded in any principled and legitimate through-line, and have contributed to significant democratic backsliding, entrenching the interests of political incumbents and economic elites at the expense of American voters, especially voters of color.



DEBUT OF CLC'S "DEMOCRACY DECODED" PODCAST

In 2022, CLC produced and released the first two seasons of a new podcast, "Democracy Decoded," a program exploring why American democracy looks the way it does today and how we can make it more responsive to the people it was formed to serve. Season one focused on campaign finance, with season two focusing on the freedom to vote.



From left to right — "Democracy Decoded" Producer and CLC Multimedia Strategist Casey Atkins, Season 1 Producer and CLC Senior Communications Manager Brendan Quinn, "Democracy Decoded" host and CLC Redistricting Legal Counsel Simone Leeper

IN 2022, "DEMOCRACY DECODED" PODCAST EPISODES WERE DOWNLOADED NEARLY **31,000** TIMES



Season one of "Democracy Decoded" has received multiple awards, including two 2023 Webby Awards (judged and People's Voice) for excellence in the category of public service and activism.



THERE'S A BLOG FOR THAT...

CLC blog posts provide an essential online avenue for communicating with and informing the public, the media and other stakeholders.

IN 2022 CLC STAFF
PUBLISHED MORE THAN
**100 BLOG
POSTS**



CLC OR ITS SPOKESPEOPLE
WERE FEATURED IN NEARLY
**800 NEWS
STORIES** IN 2022.



CLC HOSTED
**15 VIRTUAL
CONVERSATIONS &
BOOK TALKS**

Live in-depth discussions with lawmakers, authors, advocates and others provide our supporters, the media, other stakeholders and the public with opportunities to be a part of enriching conversations on issues of importance to our democracy.

CLC PRODUCED OVER
**10 EXPLAINER
VIDEOS** IN 2022.

Explainer videos provide succinct tutorials on our pro-democracy agenda designed to appeal to today's on-the-go multimedia consumer.

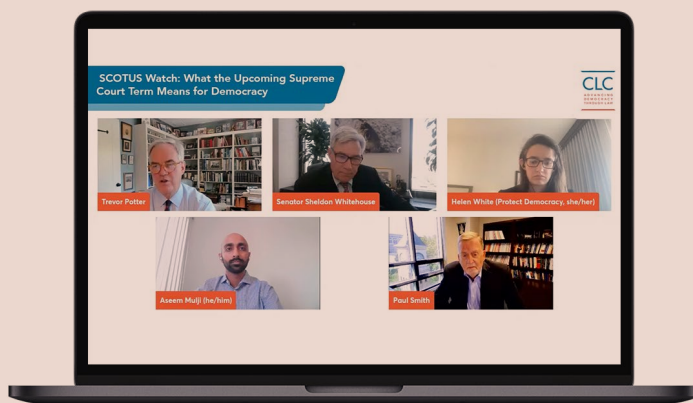
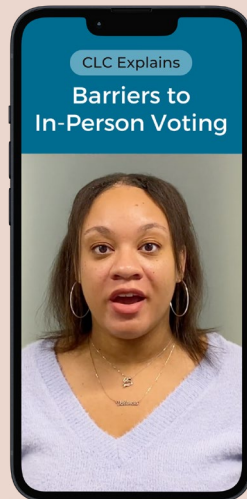
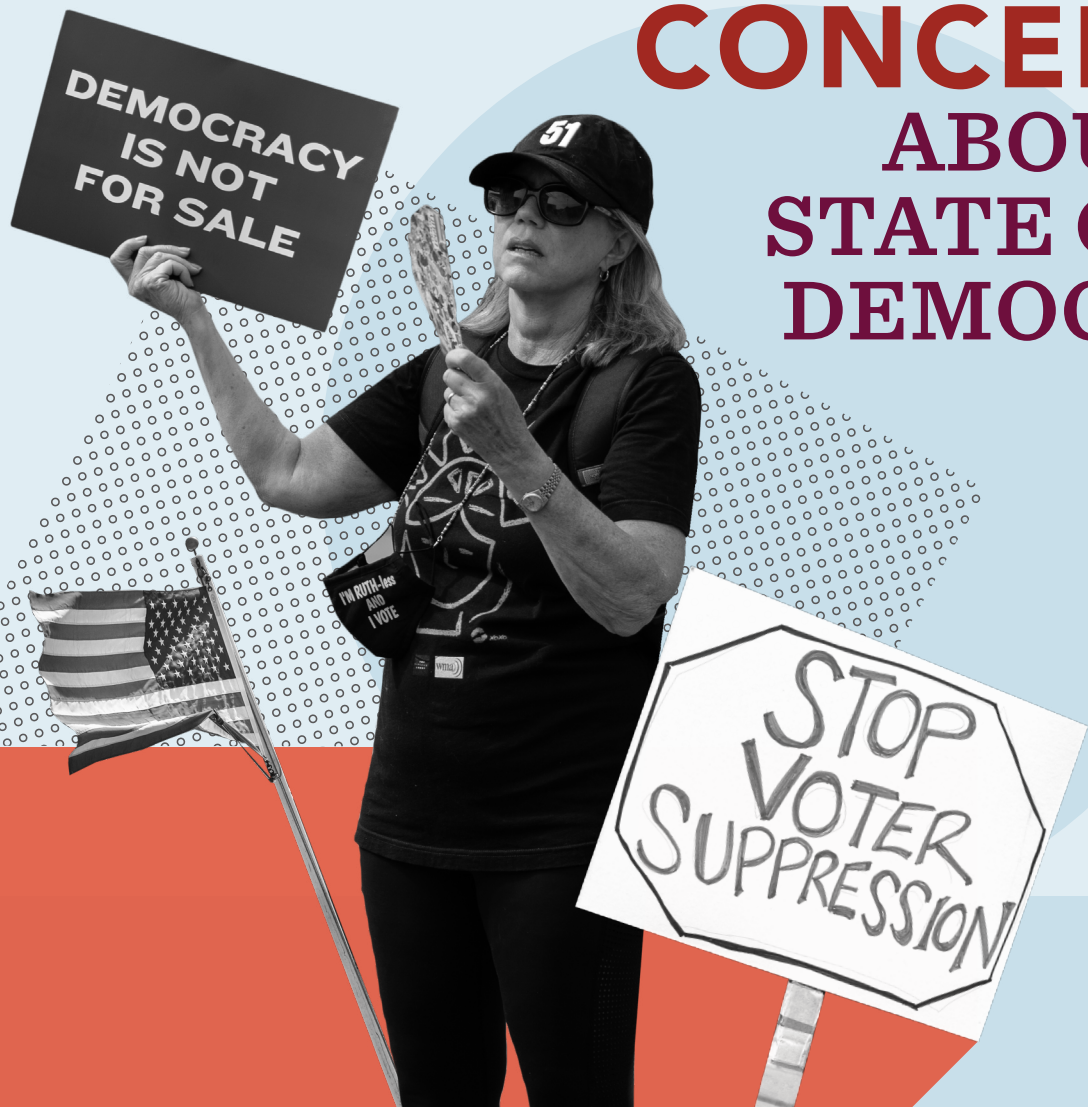


Photo by Joeleen Hubbard/
The Chautauquan Daily

Trevor Potter at the Chautauqua Institution

Trevor's speech, titled "The Crisis Facing American Democracy," took place during the Chautauqua Institution's 2022 summer lecture series. In 2022, CLC entered into a partnership with the Chautauqua Institution to provide content for the organization's online streaming channel. Trevor is regularly sought out for his views on how to strengthen and protect our democracy.

CONCERNED ABOUT THE STATE OF OUR DEMOCRACY?



HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Click here to donate to CLC

Donations by check should be mailed to:
Campaign Legal Center
1101 14th St. NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

If you wish to make a gift via wire or stock, please
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info@campaignlegalcenter.org

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Trevor Potter's newsletter.

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Roger Galvin Wieand
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The Microsoft Employee Gift Fund
Matthew Miller
Michael Miller
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Natalie Moon-Wainwright
Marian Moran
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Mousetrap Foundation
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Eric Mumpower
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Robert Mutch
NEO Philanthropy State Infrastructure Fund
Newmarket
Next Generation Foundation
James Nicoll
Sarah Nielsen
Barbara L. Niemann Charitable Foundation
Donald D. Niemann Charitable Fund
Sarah and Jed Nussdorf
Colleen O'Brien
W. Ockham Hume Fund
Odyssey Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund
John O'Farrell
Beth Ogilvie
Nigel Ogilvie
George L. Ohrstrom
Mark Ohrstrom
O'Neill Family Charitable Trust
Orange County Community Foundation
Norman Ornstein

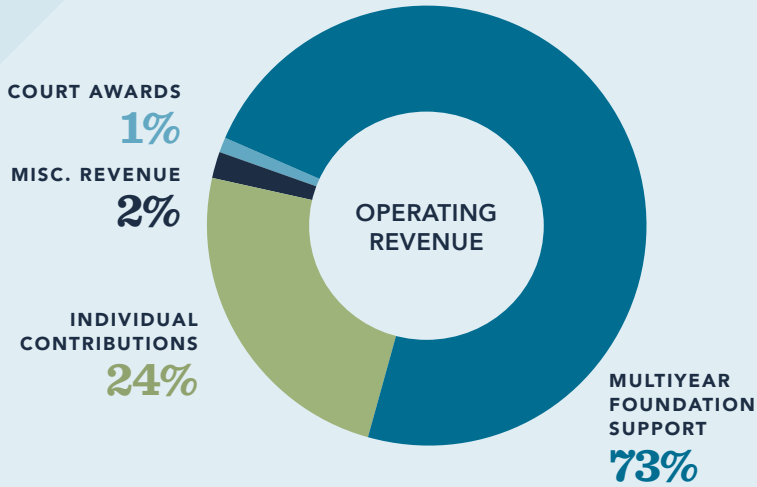
John Ortega
 Frank Pace Jr. Foundation
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 Rockefeller Brothers Fund
 Rockefeller Family Fund
 James Paul Rodell
 Cathy Roe
 Harry J. and M. Roper
 Andrea Rosen Charitable Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund
 Gareth Rosenau
 Rosenzweig Family Fund
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 Peter Sly
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 Robert Snyder
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 Sony Music Group
 Jennifer and Jonathan Allan Soros Foundation
 Barbara Spaeth
 Diann Spencer Giving Fund
 Michael Spinella and Matthew Welch
 The Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust
 Gloria St. Martin-Lowry
 Lynn and Samuel Stahl Family Philanthropic Fund
 The Standard
 Peter Staple
 David Staub
 The Steelberg Family Foundation
 Charles Stein
 William Stempel
 Margrete Stevens
 Perrin Stewart
 Terrence Stewart
 Anna Stoner
 Bente Strong
 Stupski Foundation
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 Virginia Weil
 Barry Weiner
 The Adam J. Weissman Foundation
 Nancy West
 Thacher White
 Timothy Wirth
 Elizabeth Wise
 Stephen Wolgast
 Kyu Sung Woo
 Jeffrey Wood
 Richard Woods
 Ariel Wright
 Perrin Wright
 Alan and Irene Wurtzel through the Community Foundation of Greater Richmond
 Zankel Scala Family Foundation
 Susan Zappone and Mitchell Bacharach Fund
 Zegar Family Foundation
 Brian Zeger
 David Zenoff
 Daniel Zilkha

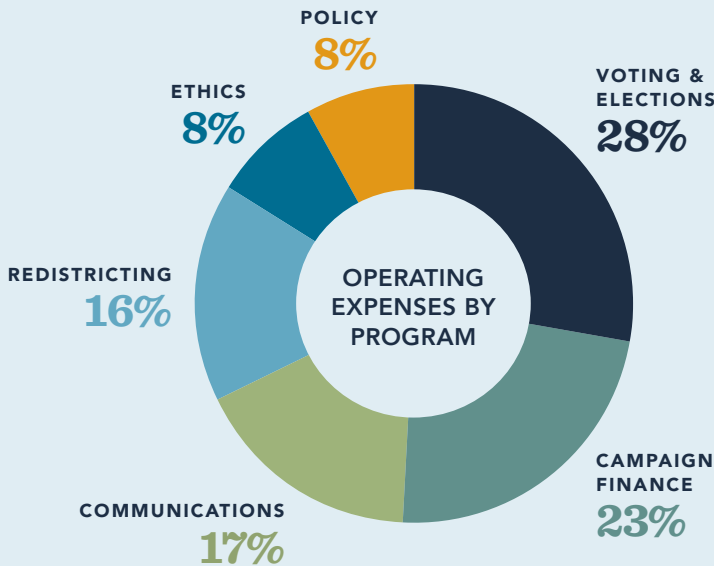
FINANCIALS



OPERATING REVENUE*

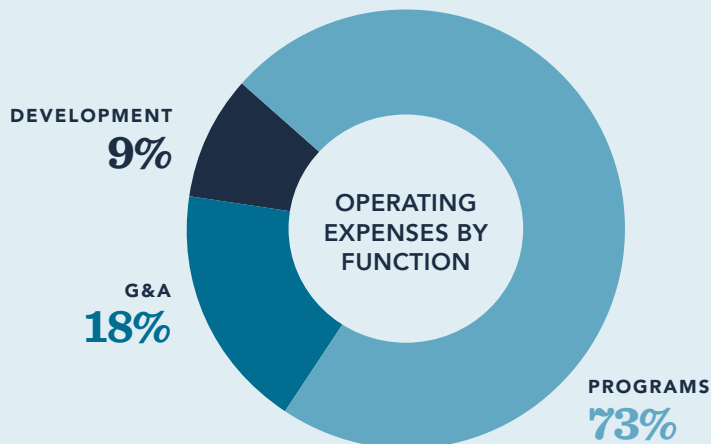
Multiyear Foundation Support	\$18,350,077
Individual Contributions	\$6,020,553
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$618,873
Court Awards	\$284,703
TOTAL	\$25,274,206

**much of this was designated for future years*



OPERATING EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

Voting & Elections	\$2,720,641
Campaign Finance	\$2,220,362
Communications	\$1,624,249
Redistricting	\$1,558,655
Policy	\$812,585
Ethics	\$789,565
TOTAL	\$9,726,057



OPERATING EXPENSES BY FUNCTION

Programs	\$9,726,057
General & Administrative	\$2,460,873
Development	\$1,155,114
TOTAL	\$13,342,044

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“

Democracy is not a state.
It is an act.

—JOHN LEWIS



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