

A YEAR OF IMPACT

Defending & Advancing Democracy

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Campaign Legal Center (CLC) is a nonpartisan nonprofit legal organization dedicated to solving the wide range of challenges facing American democracy.

We fight for every American's freedom to vote and participate meaningfully in the democratic process, particularly Americans who have faced political barriers because of race, ethnicity or economic status.

CLC's unparalleled expertise and impact span our key issue areas, which encompass promoting the freedom to vote, the right to have every vote counted, fair redistricting, campaign finance reform and ethical rules for officeholders. To protect and improve the democratic system, we use tactics such as litigation, policy advocacy and strategic communication.

CLC pursues strategies to prevent democracy abuses at the federal and state levels, informed by our values, organizational goals and past successes. The American people are our clients — and they are counting on us now more than ever.



Photo by United Photography

Table of Contents

2

Areas of Focus

3

From the President

4

Safeguarding the Election

8

Protecting the
Freedom to Vote

10

Exposing Illegal
Election Spending

12

Winning the Fight
for Fair Maps

14

Standing Up for Ethics
in Government

17

Support Our Work

18

Staff

19

Financials

20

Board of Trustees

Areas of Focus



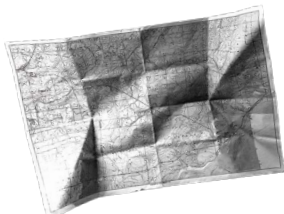
CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Voters have a right to know which wealthy special interests are spending big money to influence our votes and our government.



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.



REDISTRICTING

Elections should be determined by voters, but when politicians rig our voting maps, they can pick their own voters instead of voters picking their representatives. By creating fair voting maps, every vote can count equally.



VOTING AND ELECTIONS

Voting should be accessible for all citizens, and our laws should promote participation in our democracy and instill trust in our elections.

From the President

In 2024, our electoral process survived threats of disruption and challenges to its legitimacy — while also producing a presidential election winner whose actions now pose a grave threat to democracy and our constitutional system of self-government.

Campaign Legal Center played a critical role in ensuring Americans could make their voices heard at the ballot box in 2024. We were also fully prepared to repel any efforts aimed at undermining the will of the voters after Election Day — a scenario that did not occur.

Today, we are focused on holding the current administration accountable and fighting for the freedoms and values that make representative self-government possible. These include preserving the constitutional separation of powers, the rule of law, the freedom to vote and the right to know who is trying to influence our votes and our elected representatives.

I am immensely proud of CLC's work in 2024, made possible by the generosity of dedicated supporters nationwide:

- ▶ Our attorneys and policy experts, working closely with a wide network of trusted allies, helped preserve the freedom to vote for tens of thousands of Americans.
- ▶ We protected the electoral process by pursuing a comprehensive strategy to ensure states could administer their elections without interference or unlawful delays.
- ▶ CLC executed a groundbreaking campaign to fight misinformation by building trust in elections among voters in key battleground states.
- ▶ We repeatedly sought accountability for political candidates and special interest groups who violated campaign finance and ethics laws, targeting wrongdoing on both sides of the political aisle.
- ▶ In an election year filled with twists and turns, the media came to rely heavily on CLC experts to explain the implications of ground-shaking developments like former President Biden's decision to end his reelection bid.

- ▶ We also saw the impact of previous redistricting wins in places like Wisconsin and North Dakota, where state and municipal election results better reflected the will of the people. And CLC's clients in Utah won multiple court victories last year in their fight to end partisan gerrymandering.

It is important to note that the victories detailed in the pages that follow represent a fraction of the work done last year by CLC's dedicated staff of over 90 individuals.

Despite our achievements, the 2024 election result showed us that millions of Americans are disillusioned by a political system in need of systemic reform. Clear threats to the freedom to vote remain. Our elections are distorted by torrents of secret money, much of it flowing from a small group of billionaires. Gerrymandering remains a major problem in many states, and we are confronting massive ethics challenges at nearly every level of government.

Campaign Legal Center works to advance solutions to these problems because we know our government cannot meet its obligation to be representative, responsive and accountable to the American people without a functional democracy. I thank everyone who stands with us during these unprecedented times in pursuit of a more perfect union.



Sincerely,

TREVOR POTTER
President & Founder

Subscribe to Trevor Potter's newsletter at TrevorPotter.com or on LinkedIn.

Photo by Julia Davis/
UVA Law School



SAFEGUARDING THE ELECTION

The 2024 U.S. election proceeded without any major instances of interference or delay. CLC executed a multipronged strategy to help ensure this outcome, including the final phase of a yearslong campaign to avoid repeating the events of January 6, 2021.

Ensuring the Peaceful Transfer of Power

The 2024 election was the first with the Electoral Count Reform Act (ECRA) in effect — a law enacted by Congress in 2022 establishing well-defined rules and procedures for certifying the presidential election. Certification is a ceremonial but crucially important step in affirming the will of the voters. CLC has played a major leadership role in advocating for the ECRA from the start. That role continued in 2024 as we worked to ensure key states were ready to comply with the law.

CLC HAS PLAYED A MAJOR LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ADVOCATING FOR THE ELECTORAL COUNT REFORM ACT FROM ENACTMENT TO IMPLEMENTATION.

ARIZONA



CLC played an important role in a successful coalition effort supporting a rare bipartisan bill updating the state's election laws to comply with the ECRA. The legislation significantly limits bad actors' ability to interfere with Arizona's electoral process.

GEORGIA



A partisan majority on the State Election Board threatened the will of the state's voters with new rules passed less than three months before Election Day that sought to interfere with and delay the certification process. CLC joined our state partners in opposing these rules, which were ultimately struck down in state court.



... In September 2024, CLC published a report explaining the presidential election certification process in compliance with the ECRA.

CLC also authored detailed guidance for states, in partnership with our allies, explaining how officials can protect the election certification process from unlawful delays. Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin all received guidance.

Building Trust in Elections

Our elections rest upon a strong foundation of tested systems and checks and balances to ensure accurate results. To combat widespread misinformation and disinformation about our elections, CLC executed a groundbreaking strategic communications campaign in 2024 aimed at helping skeptical independent and conservative-leaning voters in the battleground states of Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin understand what happens to ballots after they are cast.

CLC worked closely with partners in each of these states to elevate the voices of local Republican election officials, conservatives and other trusted messengers, producing approximately 100 media placements, including prominent appearances on national outlets such as the CBS program "60 Minutes".

Post-election polling found overwhelming majorities of Democrats and Republicans expressing trust in the electoral process, a dramatic improvement since the 2020 presidential election.

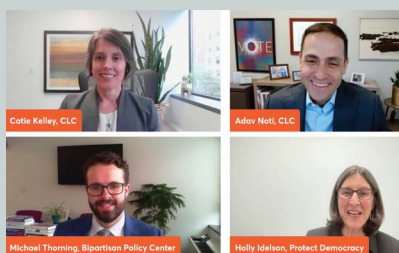


A trusted source for election information

President Biden's decision to end his bid for reelection in July 2024 prompted many questions about who would take his place and what would happen to the money raised by his campaign. CLC election experts fanned out across the media and were featured in more than 60 different news stories during this critical period of the election. This was just a small portion of the more than 600 election-related stories mentioning CLC or quoting CLC staff in 2024.



CLC's award-winning podcast "Democracy Decoded" returned for a fourth season in 2024, educating listeners about the many systems in place to ensure that our elections are safe, secure and accurate.



CLC hosted live-streaming events throughout 2024, including several forums dedicated solely to answering viewer questions about the election.



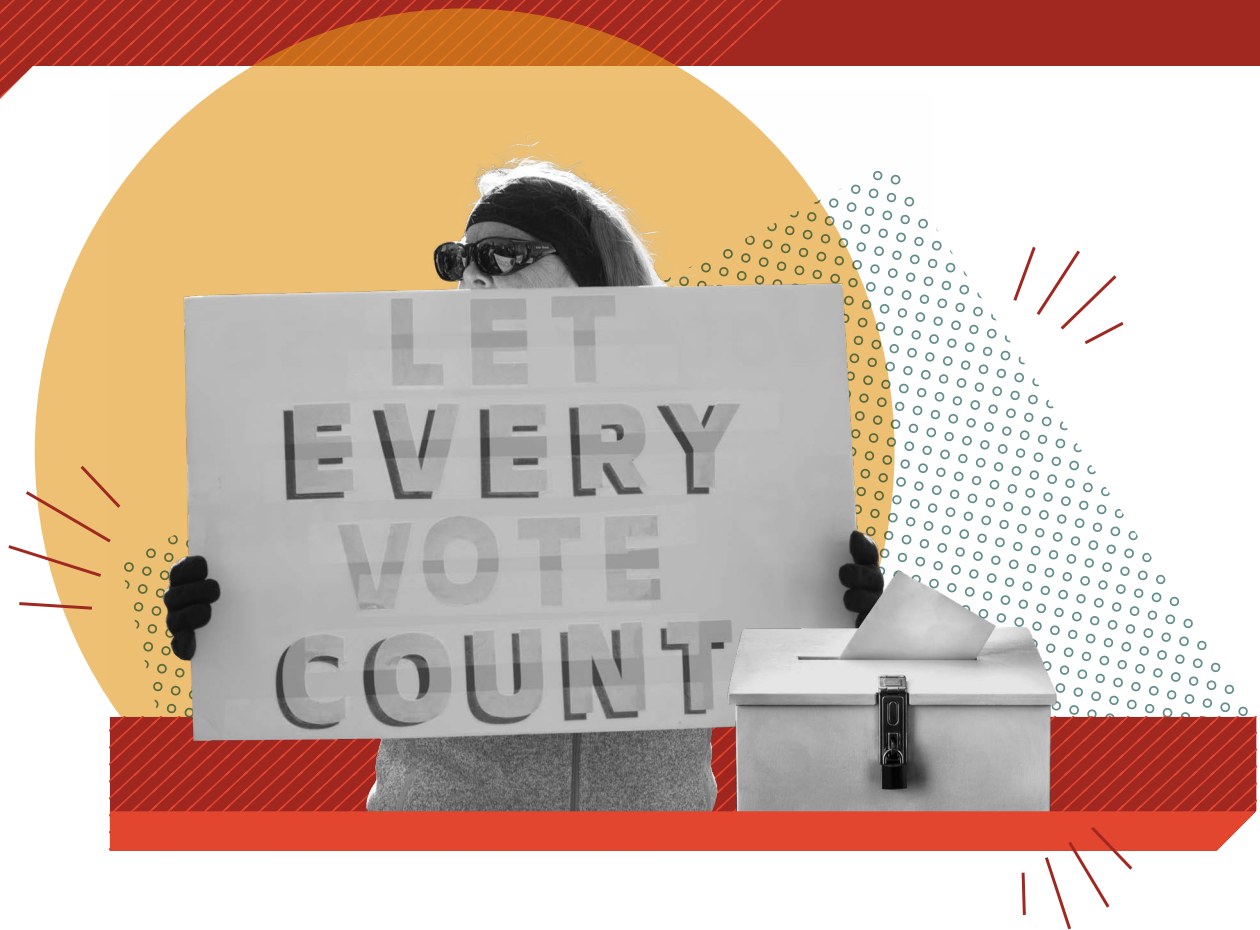
"MY FAMILY AND I HAVE BEEN PROUD TO SUPPORT CAMPAIGN LEGAL CENTER FOR THE PAST DECADE THROUGH OUR FAMILY FOUNDATION AND DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS. WE'VE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE ORGANIZATION AND THEIR RESULTS. CLC HAS A LONG TRACK RECORD OF VICTORIES TO EXPAND VOTING RIGHTS, END GERRYMANDERING, AND STRENGTHEN CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ETHICS LAW — THEY HAVE ENORMOUS CREDIBILITY ON ALL THESE ISSUES."

— Sandra Hughes Waddell, Los Angeles, CA,
CLC Donor since 2017



Top: The CLC trial team for the case League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund v. Moody.

Bottom: CLC's Legal Counsel for Restore Your Vote, Reginald Thedford, speaking at a congressional briefing for the Inclusive Democracy Act.



PROTECTING THE FREEDOM TO VOTE

In 2024, our voting rights attorneys were on the front lines, defending the freedom to vote from baseless challenges and purges of registered voters.



ALABAMA

Voters represented by CLC won a big victory against the state's illegal purge of registered voters with a court ruling putting it on hold until after the November election. The program, run by Alabama election officials, particularly targets naturalized citizens, who have the same freedom to vote as voters born in the United States.



.....
Roald Hazelhoff is a father, a grandfather, a U.S. citizen and one of the many qualified voters swept up by Alabama's illegal voter purge.



NEW MEXICO

CLC is dedicated to fighting for elections in which every voice is heard and every vote is counted, including Americans with a previous felony conviction. In 2024, CLC's client, Millions for Prisoners New Mexico, won a court victory that paved the way for more than 11,000 residents with a previous felony conviction to have their voting rights restored before Election Day.

"WE WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS WITHOUT CLC'S SUPPORT FOR OUR LITIGATION AGAINST THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO. CLC IS DIFFERENT FROM MANY OTHER NONPROFITS BECAUSE THEY PRIORITIZE WORKING DIRECTLY WITH IMPACTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN AN AUTHENTIC WAY THAT LIFTS THE AUTONOMY AND SELF-DETERMINATION OF OUR PEOPLE."

— Selinda Guerrero, Community Organizer,
Millions for Prisoners New Mexico



TENNESSEE

CLC and a coalition of pro-democracy organizations successfully opposed a purge program that threatened the freedom to vote for more than 14,000 state residents, many of whom are naturalized citizens.

MINNESOTA: Victory achieved with passage of state Voting Rights Act



CLC celebrated progress in the fight to end racial discrimination in voting with the enactment in May 2024 of comprehensive legislation in Minnesota. The state Voting Rights Act solidifies and expands upon the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA), helping ensure that Minnesotans of color can continue to make their voices heard at the ballot box and elect representatives of their choice.

.....
CLC Senior Legal Counsel for Voting Rights, Lata Nott, testifying before the Minnesota House of Representatives in March 2024.



EXPOSING ILLEGAL ELECTION SPENDING

Election spending on the presidential and congressional races in the last cycle set records for outside spending and ad spending. CLC's campaign finance experts maintained a watchful eye throughout 2024, filing 13 formal complaints after uncovering evidence of wrongdoing on both sides of the political aisle.

CLC's complaints targeted a range of illegal campaign finance activities, including schemes to hide the true sources of election spending and efforts to coordinate spending between candidates and outside special interest groups, which are not bound by any limits on how much they can raise and spend.

"IN A TIME WHEN THE INTEGRITY OF OUR ELECTIONS FACES UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES, CLC'S WORK IS MORE CRITICAL THAN EVER. THEIR NONPARTISAN APPROACH AND LEGAL EXPERTISE ARE VITAL IN UPHOLDING THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR DEMOCRACY. I AM PROUD TO SUPPORT CLC AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO SUPPORT THIS REMARKABLE ORGANIZATION."

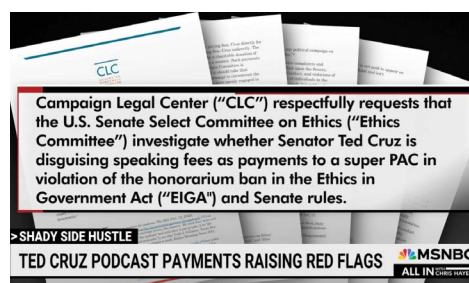
— Marnie Pillsbury, New York, New York, CLC Donor since 2018



- CLC Director of Federal Campaign Finance Reform, Saurav Ghosh, appearing on C-SPAN's "Washington Journal" call-in program, June 10, 2024.



- Last April during his opening monologue, talk show host Jimmy Kimmel talked about CLC's efforts to hold Texas Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) accountable for allegedly violating the ban on candidates raising and spending corporate money in connection with a federal election. In this instance, the money came via ad revenues from the podcast "Verdict with Ted Cruz", funneled to a supportive super PAC.



ARIZONA: Major progress in defense of election spending transparency



Arizonans fighting for the right to know who is spending huge sums on election ads in their state won several important court victories in 2024. Represented by CLC Action in both state and federal court, Arizona voters successfully defended Proposition 211, an innovative election spending transparency law crafted in close consultation with CLC's campaign finance experts.

Each successful defense of Proposition 211 makes it more likely that other states will consider adopting similar laws, imposing disclosure requirements that prevent wealthy special interests from secretly influencing our elections.

Photo by Olivier Tournon



WINNING THE FIGHT FOR FAIR MAPS

When Americans vote under fair maps, they have an equal say on the issues that matter to them and an opportunity to elect representatives who better reflect their views.

Voters in Wisconsin and North Dakota went to the polls in 2024 under fair legislative maps, thanks to previous legal victories by CLC clients in those two states.



NORTH DAKOTA

CLC is part of the legal team representing Native voters in a challenge to voting maps that prevented fair representation.

In a victory for North Dakota voters in 2024, newly redrawn maps helped candidates from tribal communities win seats to represent those communities in state government.



WISCONSIN

CLC's long-standing partnership with anti-gerrymandering advocates produced a big win in 2023 when the Wisconsin Supreme Court required state legislative districts to be redrawn. Wisconsin voters reaped the benefits of that victory in 2024. In a state split down the middle politically, the balance of power in the state Senate and House shifted from a decade-long artificial partisan super-majority to something much closer to 50/50.

UTAH: Preserving the opportunity for fair maps

In the midst of ongoing litigation to stop partisan gerrymandering, Utah lawmakers in 2024 tried to bypass the legal process through a last-minute, misleading ballot measure, Amendment D.

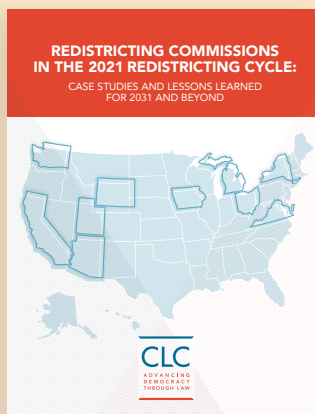
CLC and our clients stopped this attempted power grab when the state Supreme Court ruled Amendment D unconstitutional. If enacted, the measure would have given Utah's legislature the power to override citizen-passed ballot initiatives — initiatives like 2018's "Better Boundaries," known as Proposition 4, which banned partisan gerrymandering but

was unlawfully repealed by the state legislature. As a result of this action, the fight for fair maps in Utah continues in state court.



CLC clients Malcolm Reid (left) and Vicki Reid (right) speak to a reporter after a victory in the ongoing lawsuit.

Photo by Jerrad Strand



CLC released a comprehensive report in 2024 detailing the best practices for establishing an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC). IRCs like the one adopted by Michigan put decisions about voting map boundaries in the hands of ordinary citizens, effectively preventing partisan politicians from choosing their voters through the map-drawing process.

"THIS WORK CAN BE INCREDIBLY CHALLENGING AND DISHEARTENING AS WE FACE THE CONTINUAL CHAOS CREATED BY ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ACTORS. WORKING ALONGSIDE CLC GIVES US HOPE AND BUILDS RESILIENCE FOR FUTURE WORK. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR CLC'S EFFORTS."

— Emma Petty Addams, Co-Executive Director, Mormon Women for Ethical Government



STANDING UP FOR ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT

Trump's electoral victory in 2024 did not give him a free pass to ignore ethical standards and practices that prevent government officials from serving their own interests as opposed to the interests of voters who put them into office.

"CLC UNDER TREVOR POTTER'S STRONG LEADERSHIP IS KEENLY FOCUSED ON SUPPORTING AMERICAN VALUES OF FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY. THEY ARE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT AND NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER."

— Fred P. Hochberg and Tom Healy,
Miami Beach, Florida, CLC Donors
since 2017

FOLLOWING THE 2024 ELECTION, CLC LAUNCHED INTO ACTION, CALLING OUT THE TRUMP TRANSITION TEAM FOR NUMEROUS ETHICAL FAILURES, INCLUDING:



Announcing multiple nominees for Cabinet-level positions whose chief qualification is loyalty to the president and who present obvious conflicts of interest.



Announcing the creation of an unaccountable new entity, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), to be headed by Trump's biggest financial backer, Elon Musk.



Submitting an ethics plan that does not explain how the president will deal with personal conflicts of interest while in office.



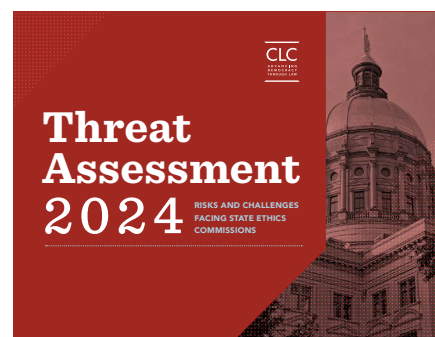
Threatening to revive a controversial Executive Order, known as Schedule F, that would allow the president to replace career civil servants with partisan loyalists across government agencies.



CLC Vice President Kedric Payne commenting on ethics troubles facing Trump nominee Matt Gaetz.



CLC President Trevor Potter in conversation with law professor Rick Hasen at the 2024 conference hosted by the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL).



CLC released a report on the challenges facing state ethics commissions, bodies that have been a staple of American democratic accountability for more than 50 years.



"CLC'S RECORD OF VICTORIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY PROVES THE EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY OF ITS LEGAL STAFF AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS. THEY BRING UNMATCHED EXPERTISE TO ISSUES FROM VOTER REGISTRATION AND GERRYMANDERING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS."

— J. Dinsmore Adams, Bronx, New York,
CLC Donor since 2020



*Top: The CLC trial team for
Voter Participation Center v.
Raffensperger in Atlanta Georgia.*

*Bottom: CLC Executive Director
Adav Noti at Fordham University
in October 2024.*

Support Our Work

SUPPORT CLC'S MISSION TO FIGHT FOR A MORE ACCOUNTABLE AND REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY!



Donate to CLC: campaignlegal.org/donate

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

If you wish to make a gift via wire or stock, please contact us for information on how to do so:
info@campaignlegalcenter.org

Stay informed about our work:

- ▶ Subscribe to CLC email updates and Trevor Potter's newsletter: campaignlegal.org
- ▶ Attend our virtual discussions on issues of critical importance: campaignlegal.org/events

"CAMPAIGN LEGAL CENTER IS A GUARDIAN OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY. CLC CONSISTENTLY PERFORMS AN OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF THE RULE OF LAW."

— Chris Angell, New York, New York,
CLC Donor since 2017

"CAMPAIGN LEGAL CENTER IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TODAY. AS SOMEONE WHO CARES DEEPLY ABOUT THE RULE OF LAW AND THE INTEGRITY OF OUR DEMOCRACY, SUPPORTING CLC IS DEEPLY MEANINGFUL TO ME. TREVOR POTTER PROVIDES EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP, AND I AM CONTINUALLY IMPRESSED!"

— Marie Ridder, McLean, Virginia,
CLC Donor since 2019

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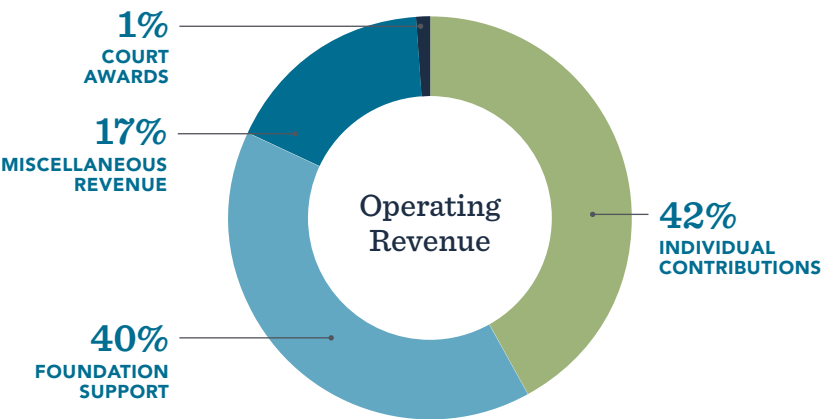
Senior Researcher,
Campaign Finance & Ethics

Marisa Wright

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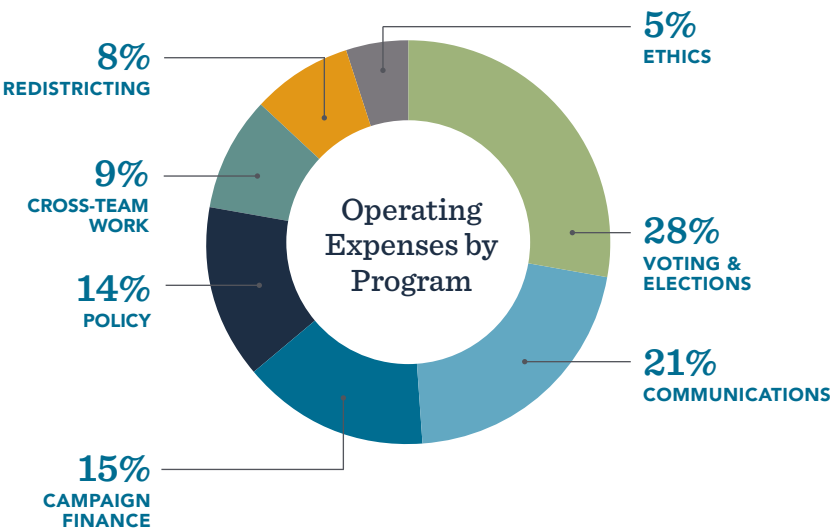
HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS CLC STRENGTHEN AND PROTECT OUR DEMOCRACY



OPERATING REVENUE*

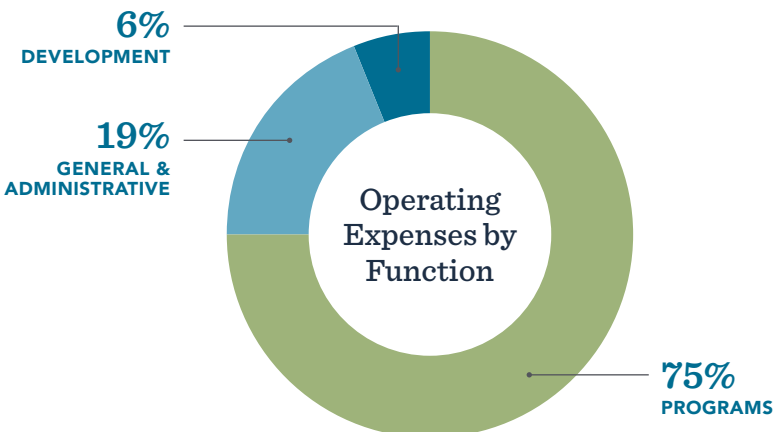
Individual Contributions	\$6,247,173
Foundation Support	\$5,984,800
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$2,463,692
Court Awards	\$83,216
TOTAL	\$14,778,881

**In addition to this 2024 operating revenue, CLC's resources in 2024 were supplemented by multiyear grants received in previous years and designated for use in 2024, as well as by unrestricted cash on hand.*



OPERATING EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

Voting & Elections	\$4,446,546
Communications	\$3,464,752
Campaign Finance	\$2,421,854
Policy	\$2,265,731
Cross-Team Work	\$1,411,030
Redistricting	\$1,276,097
Ethics	\$832,158
TOTAL	\$16,118,168



OPERATING EXPENSES BY FUNCTION

Programs	\$16,118,168
General & Administrative	\$3,969,836
Development	\$1,331,006
TOTAL	\$21,419,010

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"I'M HONORED TO CHAIR THIS EXTRAORDINARY BOARD. WE ARE A DIVERSE GROUP FROM ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM: LITIGATORS, CONSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARS, CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS, FORMER JUDGES, PUBLIC SERVANTS, AND OTHERS. BUT WE ARE ALL UNITED IN OUR DEEP COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW, OUR RECOGNITION THAT OUR PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY IS UNDER THREAT, AND OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS IS AN ESSENTIAL MOMENT FOR THE WORK OF CLC."

— Paul Klingenstein, CLC Board Chair,
Cody, Wyoming, CLC Donor since 2012



Top: CLC Senior Director of Redistricting, Mark Gaber, speaking to a reporter about the FAIR MAPS Act.

Bottom: CLC Legal Counsel, Valencia Richardson (center), attending an event to honor her and others for their participation in the Equal Justice Works Fellowship program. Also pictured are CLC's Rachel Appel (left) and Marisa Wright (right).

Photo by Joy Asico-Smith.



CLC
ADVANCING
DEMOCRACY
THROUGH LAW

CAMPAIGN LEGAL CENTER

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