

CLC

ADVANCING
DEMOCRACY
THROUGH LAW



A CAMPAIGN TO SAVE DEMOCRACY

CAMPAIGN LEGAL CENTER | 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Campaign Legal Center (CLC) is a nonpartisan 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 high ethics standards for officeholders. To protect and improve the democratic system, we use tactics such as litigation, policy advocacy and strategic communication. We fight to preserve the rule of law and oppose unconstitutional government actions.

“**Campaign Legal Center is an indispensable nonpartisan force dedicated to ensuring the integrity of our democratic process, from challenging laws that restrict the right to vote to strengthening the core rules that secure our elections. They are champions for the fundamental promise that every eligible citizen has the right to vote.**”

—HEATHER GERKEN, PRESIDENT,
FORD FOUNDATION





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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Decades from now, when books are written about this period in our history, this is how I hope it will be recorded: a time when the champions of American democracy successfully fought back against an unprecedented threat from an authoritarian president, mindless of constitutional restraints, ushering in a new era of reform to preserve and strengthen our system of government for all.

2025 marked the beginning of the fight, which Campaign Legal Center (CLC) began preparing for well before Election Day 2024. As the Trump administration unleashed an expansive effort last year to concentrate power in the executive branch of government, CLC responded with targeted, strategic legal actions and by expanding our capacity, adding even more talent to our roster of dedicated attorneys, advocates and researchers.

When the administration began abusing the power of the federal government to intimidate perceived opponents, we did not falter in our resolve to stand up for the rule of law, the separation of powers and the freedom to vote.

During the first few weeks of Trump 2.0, Campaign Legal Center mounted an early challenge to Elon Musk's so-called U.S. DOGE Service and sued the administration to stop the implementation of an unlawful and unconstitutional executive order asserting sweeping powers over our elections — an order that has now largely been blocked by the courts. In an effort to fight corruption, CLC also began filing the first of many complaints exposing the administration's failure to adhere to basic rules and laws around ethics in government.


*Above: Photo by Julia Davis/
UVA Law School*

The pro-democracy coalition of today must continue this battle against an authoritarian government to preserve hope for a better future.



Our campaign opposing the administration's anti-voter agenda expanded throughout the year. In the midst of the administration's push to gerrymander multiple states, we achieved a major redistricting victory in Utah, while launching a lawsuit challenging a new congressional map in Missouri. We partnered with the League of Women Voters to challenge a rule put in place by the administration that makes it harder for newly naturalized citizens to register to vote. In addition, Campaign Legal Center took action in multiple states to stop the U.S. Department of Justice from abusing sensitive data stored in states' voter registration rolls.

These actions and so much more are detailed in the pages that follow. During the 250th anniversary of this nation's independence from a tyrannical empire, it is worth remembering that Americans of goodwill banding together to demand change at various points in our



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or on LinkedIn.

history enabled the progress that has allowed our democracy to endure. This struggle is passed from one generation to the next. The pro-democracy coalition of today, which includes every Campaign Legal Center supporter, must continue this battle against an authoritarian government to preserve hope for a better future.

Sincerely,

Trevor Potter
PRESIDENT & FOUNDER



Photo by Carey Wagner

DEFENDING THE RULE OF LAW & FIGHTING ABUSES OF POWER

Confronting Unprecedented Presidential Overreach



Among the dozens of lawless executive orders signed by President Trump last year was a March 25 order asserting sweeping presidential power over our elections. At its core, the order is an illegal attempt to prevent millions of Americans from registering to vote or having their ballots counted.

Campaign Legal Center, joined by Democracy Defenders Fund, filed the first lawsuit opposing this executive order, winning significant court rulings on behalf of our clients, blocking major portions of the order and preserving the freedom to vote for countless Americans.

We are proud to represent the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Arizona Students' Association and the Secure Families Initiative, an organization that advocates on behalf of military families.

Above: Official White House
Photo by Tia Dufour



“Our Constitution entrusts Congress and the States — not the President — with the authority to regulate federal elections.”

—OPINION OF THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN *LULAC, ET AL. V. EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT*

Opposing the Poster Child for Corruption

In so many ways, Elon Musk is the embodiment of systemic problems ailing our political system. After using his massive wealth and influence during the 2024 election to gain a powerful position inside the federal government, he launched the U.S. DOGE Service at the start of the second Trump term, engaging in a reckless campaign of federal spending cuts and mass firings, in open defiance of the Constitution's separation of powers.

At the same time, Musk sought to steer federal government contracts to his businesses and rewarded members of Congress who agreed to support his calls for the impeachment or sanction of federal judges.

Campaign Legal Center responded by moving quickly to sue DOGE on behalf of Americans harmed by its actions. CLC also filed an ethics complaint exposing Musk's corrupt practices with respect to his business interests



and filed complaints against members of Congress, alleging they accepted contributions from Musk linked to their official actions — in violation of congressional ethics laws.

Below, at center: Sejal Jhaveri, CLC Senior Legal Counsel for Strategic Litigation on Capitol Hill.

Photo courtesy of Rep. John Larson



Fighting Abuses of the Public Trust

From day one, the Trump administration has utterly failed to uphold the standards of ethical conduct expected of government officials entrusted with serving the public. Campaign Legal Center worked tirelessly throughout 2025 to expose corrupt actions by filing the most ethics complaints in a single year in organizational history, as well as meticulously documenting the exchange of financial contributions for official government actions or favor.

ETHICS COMPLAINTS FILED IN 2025 AGAINST SENIOR TRUMP ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS INCLUDED:

TREASURY SECRETARY

Scott Bessent

For maintaining ownership of various financial investments, including private equity funds, private companies, cryptocurrency products and farmland investments that violate his ethics agreement and present conflicts of interest.

BORDER CZAR

Tom Homan

For knowingly and willfully failing to report \$50,000 of income on his financial disclosure statement — a sum that he reportedly took as a bribe prior to joining the Trump administration.

COMMERCE SECRETARY

Howard Lutnick

For promoting the financial interests of President Trump's biggest campaign donor, Elon Musk, by encouraging viewers of Fox News to buy stock in Tesla.

"SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE"

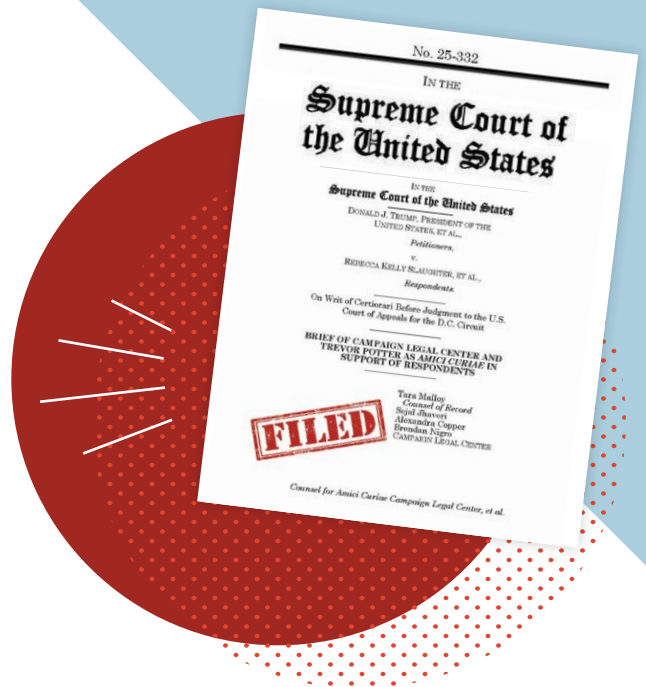
Elon Musk

For criminal conflict of interest with the Federal Aviation Administration's business transactions with his satellite internet company.



Standing Up for the Constitution & Separation of Powers

The onslaught of lawless and unconstitutional actions by the Trump administration in 2025 prompted more than 500 lawsuits filed by Americans across the country. In addition to serving as lead counsel in numerous impactful legal actions, Campaign Legal Center filed compelling amicus briefs in support of Americans opposing the administration's authoritarian agenda. Those briefs addressed numerous issues, including:



BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

Explaining that the Constitution's guarantee of citizenship for those born in the U.S., regardless of who their parents are, is essential to maintaining a government that is representative of all Americans.

INDEPENDENT FEDERAL AGENCIES

Asserting the importance of insulating agencies that play a role in our elections, particularly the Federal Election Commission and Election Assistance Commission, from undue political influence by the president of the United States.

MAINTAINING A NONPARTISAN CIVIL SERVICE

In support of the First Amendment rights of federal employees who sued the Trump administration after it altered out-of-office replies during the 2025 government shutdown to include a partisan message. The court opinion declaring these actions unconstitutional echoed arguments made in Campaign Legal Center's brief.

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the same Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Section 3. Senators shall be chosen in the manner which shall have been determined to the time of the meeting of the first Congress, and there may be chosen a Senator or Senators in each State, who shall have the same Qualifications as the Electors in that State.

Article II

Section 1. The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America.

Section 2. The President shall, in addition to the powers vested in him by the foregoing Article, have the following Powers, which shall extend to all Cases unless otherwise provided in this Constitution.

Section 3. The President shall, in addition to the powers vested in him by the foregoing Article, have the following Powers, which shall extend to all Cases unless otherwise provided in this Constitution.

PROTECTING VOTERS & FUTURE ELECTIONS



In 2025, the Trump administration launched an aggressive, multistate, mid-decade redistricting campaign, with President Trump publicly acknowledging the goal of maintaining a Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. In the midst of this political conflict, Campaign Legal Center scored significant wins affirming the importance of fair maps in our democracy and stepped up to protect Americans facing the threat of having their voting power unlawfully weakened by unfair maps.



**VOTE
HERE**



UTAH

Fair Congressional Map Ordered for 2026!

Campaign Legal Center’s battle to stop gerrymandering in the Beehive State reached a critical juncture in November 2025, with a ruling that reinstated a ban on partisan gerrymandering and mandated a fair congressional map for the 2026 midterm elections. The Utah state court overseeing this case selected a map submitted by Campaign Legal Center’s clients — the League of Women Voters of Utah, Mormon Women for Ethical Government and individual voters.

This victory for Utah voters came after nearly four years of intense litigation, which began after state lawmakers gerrymandered the congressional map in defiance of a law passed by Utah voters in 2018 that included a partisan gerrymandering ban and established an independent redistricting commission.



Left: Mark Gaber, Campaign Legal Center Senior Director of Redistricting.

Photo by Peter Watkins



Above, from left to right: Ben Phillips, Redistricting Legal Counsel; Simone Leeper, Senior Redistricting Legal Counsel; Annabelle Harless, Redistricting Litigation Director; Isaac DeSanto, Redistricting Legal Counsel; Mark Gaber, Redistricting Senior Director.

Below: Campaign Legal Center clients outside the Utah Third District Court.





NORTH DAKOTA

Fair Map & Right to Sue Over Discriminatory Maps Preserved!

Campaign Legal Center made a successful appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court to block a disastrous ruling by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, preserving a fair state legislative district map for our clients — Native American tribes and individual voters in North Dakota. The Supreme Court’s stay of the appeals court ruling also preserved the long-standing right of Americans to challenge discriminatory voting maps in court.



MISSOURI

Congressional Map Splitting Kansas City Communities Challenged!

Responding to pressure from the Trump administration, Missouri lawmakers in 2025 passed a gerrymandered map that violates the state constitution. The rushed redistricting process produced a map that unlawfully splices Kansas City into multiple sprawling districts. Campaign Legal Center is representing a group of Missouri voters in a lawsuit challenging the congressional map.



Protecting America's Newest Citizens

It has become clear that a key aspect of the Trump administration's political strategy is to control who votes in our elections. Campaign Legal Center actions in 2025 opposing this strategy included multiple lawsuits to protect the freedom to vote, especially for naturalized citizens.

For decades, civic engagement groups like the League of Women Voters have attended naturalization ceremonies at federal buildings, helping new Americans to register to vote as one of their first acts of citizenship. In 2025, the Trump administration began enforcing an illegal and unconstitutional rule barring the League and similar groups from conducting voter registration drives at naturalization ceremonies in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services facilities.

Campaign Legal Center represents the League in a lawsuit seeking to block this rule, so that the work of registering tens of thousands of newly naturalized American citizens by civic and community organizations can continue.



From left to right: Anna Baldwin, Voting Rights Litigation Director; Danielle Lang, Senior Voting Rights Director; Rachel Appel, Voting Rights Legal Counsel; Daniel Brophy, Law Clerk; Bruce Spiva, Senior Vice President; Renata O'Donnell, Senior Legal Counsel for Strategic Litigation.

Protecting Voters' Private Data

The Trump administration's obsession with discredited conspiracy theories about fraudulent voting can be seen in its dogged efforts to sweep up as much data as it can about American voters. The U.S. Department of Justice has sued nearly 30 states and Washington, D.C., to obtain unredacted voter registration lists, which contain sensitive data, including dates of birth, driver's license numbers and partial Social Security numbers.

Working with a national coalition of partners, Campaign Legal Center launched an effort last year to stop the Trump administration from using and abusing this data, representing the League of Women Voters in motions to intervene in DOJ lawsuits against New York, Michigan and Maine, while filing amicus briefs in other states. CLC also partnered with American Oversight on three lawsuits demanding greater transparency from the Trump administration about the use of voter information stored in federal databases.



FIGHTING BIG MONEY IN POLITICS

Powerful special interests are always looking for ways to use their vast wealth to influence the political process, drowning out the voices of everyday voters in our democracy. Campaign Legal Center's campaign finance attorneys made substantive progress in opposing these efforts throughout 2025, confronting emerging threats while advancing broader goals of greater transparency and accountability.



Campaign Legal Center attorneys at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit following a rare oral argument before the full panel of Circuit Court judges in a lawsuit against the FEC. (February 25, 2025)

From left to right: Lauren Sutherland, Paralegal; Kristen Roehrig, Legal Fellow; Kunal Dixit, Legal Fellow; Kevin Hancock, Campaign Finance Litigation Director; Megan McAllen, Campaign Finance Litigation Director; Tara Malloy, Senior Litigation Strategist; Erin Chlopak, Senior Campaign Finance Director; Adav Noti, Executive Director.

Opposing Efforts to Open a Dark Money Loophole

A provision in the tax code known as the Johnson Amendment forbids tax-exempt nonprofit organizations, including religious organizations, from endorsing or opposing political candidates. Campaign Legal Center has been fighting to protect this law since 2017, when President Trump first vowed to “destroy” the Johnson Amendment.

In 2025, CLC vigorously opposed new efforts to remove the electioneering prohibition for religious organizations because doing so would allow religious nonprofits to operate as unregulated, tax-deductible vehicles for wealthy donors to secretly influence elections.

Defending Laws That Limit Special Interest Influence

In one of several briefs filed with the U.S. Supreme Court last year, Campaign Legal Center focused on the need to maintain long-standing limits on how much political parties can spend in “coordination” with federal candidates.



Our brief explains that for more than 50 years, these limits on party-coordinated spending have served as an important anticorruption tool, ensuring that party committees do not serve as a mechanism for wealthy donors to circumvent individual contribution limits and direct large contributions to candidates.

Moving Forward on Federal Election Commission (FEC) Accountability

When the FEC fails to carry out its mission of enforcing campaign finance laws, Campaign Legal Center takes the agency to court. In a win for transparency, a federal court in July 2025 rejected the FEC’s inadequate explanation for dismissing CLC’s complaint against a super PAC that spent millions to influence a Senate race in Montana without following disclosure laws. This important victory builds upon rulings in other lawsuits filed by CLC mandating greater accountability and transparency by the FEC.

We are also one of the only organizations in the country that has sued campaign finance law violators directly when the FEC refuses to act. This action is known as a “citizen suit” — a lawsuit brought by a private citizen or organization to enforce a statute.

Efforts to hold violators accountable through citizen suits took an important step forward in 2025 in a case called *Campaign Legal Center v. Iowa Values*. This is the first citizen suit filed by CLC or anyone else to proceed all the way to a trial on the merits.

A ruling in CLC’s favor would ensure accountability for a major campaign finance violation while also sending a powerful message to the FEC about its obligation to enforce the law and to would-be violators that it will not be so easy to escape accountability in the future.



THE VOICE OF VOTERS ON CAPITOL HILL

Bad Things Buried in a “Big, Beautiful Bill”

When Campaign Legal Center’s federal policy team identified dangerous provisions deep inside massive tax and spending legislation in the summer of 2025, it kicked off an all-hands-on-deck effort to make sure those provisions did not become law.

One proposal would have made it easier for government officials to avoid accountability for breaking the law by making it extremely difficult for federal judges to hold officials in contempt of court. Another would have imposed a decade-long ban on enforcing state and local laws regulating artificial intelligence (AI), including rules around the use of AI in political campaigns and elections.

Campaign Legal Center succeeded in making lawmakers aware of these provisions and their implications, resulting in both being removed from the final version of the bill before it passed Congress.

Above: Jo Deutsch, CLC Director of Federal Advocacy and Eric Kashdan, Senior Legal Counsel for Federal Advocacy.



Reporting on the “big, beautiful bill” in 2025, former NBC News Anchor Katie Couric cited Campaign Legal Center.

Progress Toward a Stock Trading Ban

In 2025, Campaign Legal Center came closer than ever to realizing a federal policy goal years in the making: legislation banning members of Congress and their families from trading individual stocks.

There is a clear need for such legislation. In the absence of real penalties for stock trading, members of Congress have repeatedly undermined public trust by leveraging their positions of power to enrich themselves. Last year saw more bipartisan support for a stock trading ban than any previous year, with strong legislation passing a key Senate committee and a similar proposal gaining supporters from both sides of the aisle in the House.

Kedric Payne,
CLC Senior
Director for
Ethics and
General Counsel.

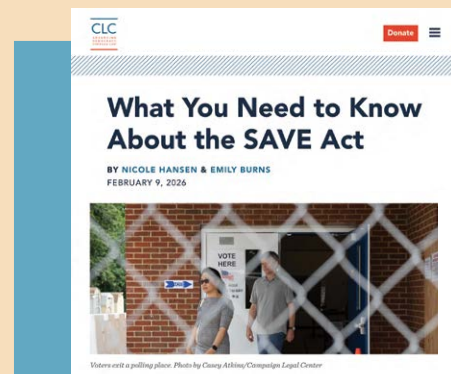


Preserving Independent Ethics Enforcement

2025 began with congressional leadership attempting to sabotage the only independent ethics body overseeing the actions of Congress: The Office of Congressional Conduct (OCC). Campaign Legal Center mounted a vigorous lobbying campaign, and, in May 2025, congressional leaders announced the appointment of a full OCC governing board, which is necessary for the office to carry out its mission of investigating ethics complaints against members of the House of Representatives.

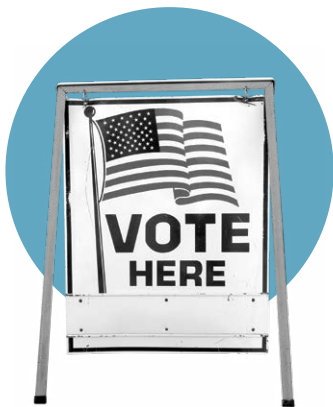
Stopping Anti-Voter Legislation

The fight to block burdensome documentary proof of citizenship laws notched a big win in 2025 when the SAVE Act failed to advance in the U.S. Senate. Campaign Legal Center's federal policy team continues to work closely with national and state partners to mobilize public opposition, lobby members of Congress and grow the coalition opposing this type of anti-voter legislation.





RECOGNITION FOR RESTORE YOUR VOTE



Campaign Legal Center has been working in Alabama for more than a decade to protect the freedom to vote. In 2025, those efforts were recognized by the League of Women Voters of Alabama, which presented CLC with the Jane Katz Public Service Award, named after the organization's longtime State Legislative Chairperson.

Above: Valencia Richardson, Voting Rights Legal Counsel (left) and Gicola Lane, Restore Your Vote Senior Community Partnership Manager (right), accepting the Jane Katz Public Service Award from Kathy Jones, President of the League of Women Voters of Alabama.

“ The dedicated Campaign Legal Center team has been instrumental in ensuring that every Alabamian has access to their constitutional right to vote through CLC’s Restore Your Vote project, litigation against voting rights violations, ongoing citizen education and election protection support activities.”

—STATEMENT BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALABAMA



For years, Campaign Legal Center has worked side by side with local pro-democracy advocates in Alabama to help thousands of voters navigate a complex and punitive system for restoring the freedom to vote. Our efforts also include successfully challenging illegal voter purges in Alabama and going to court to block laws aimed at suppressing the League’s critically important voter-engagement activities.

In March 2025, Campaign Legal Center staff attended events in Selma, Alabama, marking the 60th anniversary of “Bloody Sunday,” a march for voting rights during which 600 people were attacked on the Edmund Pettus Bridge by state law enforcement officers. The Federal Voting Rights Act was signed into law on August 6, 1965.

Bottom, from left to right: Valencia Richardson; Danielle Lang, Senior Voting Rights Director; Jonathan Diaz, Voting Advocacy and Partnerships Director; Emily Burns, Communications Associate.

SUPPORT CLC

Support Campaign Legal Center in our fight for democracy!

Donate: 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

The work of building a more perfect union is carried forward from one generation to the next. Please consider a planned gift to Campaign Legal Center:

campaignlegal.org/plannedgiving

Stay informed about our work:

- Subscribe to Campaign Legal Center email updates and Trevor Potter's newsletter: campaignlegal.org
- Listen to CLC's award-winning podcast, Democracy Decoded: democracydecoded.org


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“The great musician Pablo Casals said music will save the world. We also need lawyers, especially in this moment. The courts are our most effective tool to protect democracy, and the attorneys at Campaign Legal Center are unmatched in their legal expertise and impact.”

—ROSANNE CASH, GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING MUSICIAN

STAFF

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Mandi Baldwin

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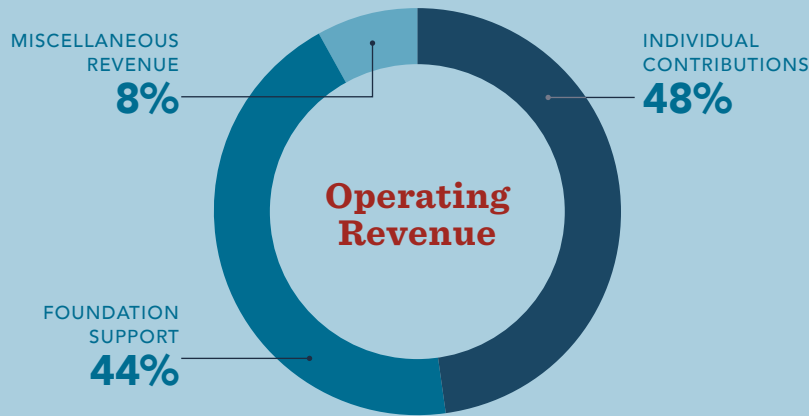
Roger Wieand

Senior Researcher, Campaign Finance and Ethics

Marisa Wright

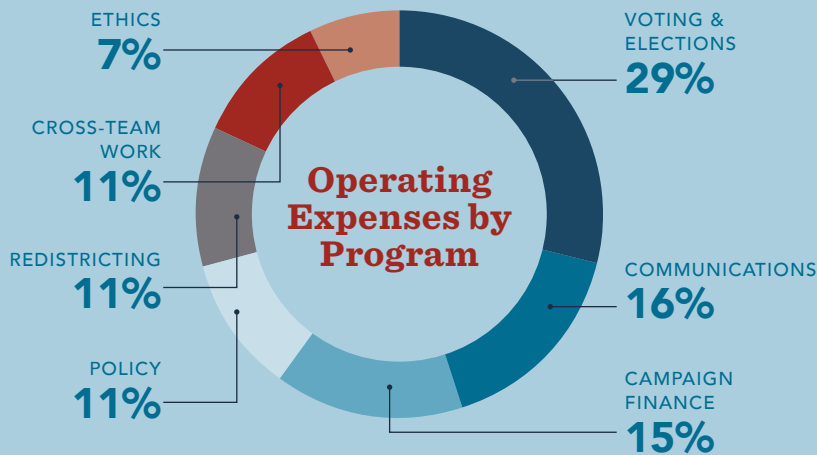
Legal Fellow

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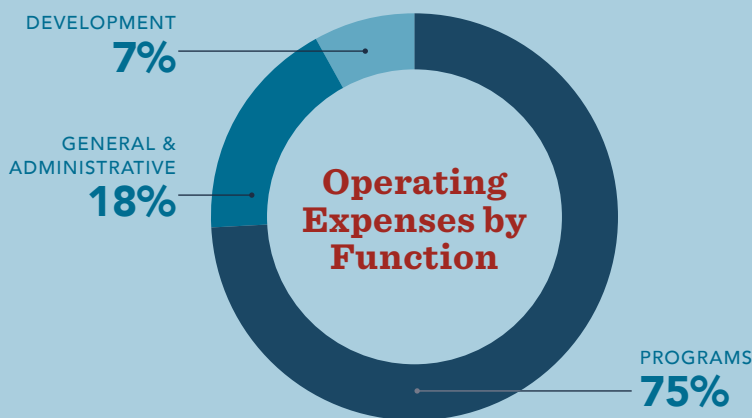


OPERATING REVENUE*	
Individual Contributions	\$19,228,583
Foundation Support	\$17,788,599
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$3,103,468
TOTAL	\$40,120,650

*CLC raised significant revenue in 2025 that is designated to support our work in 2026 and beyond.



OPERATING EXPENSES BY PROGRAM	
Voting & Elections	\$4,683,233
Communications	\$2,573,120
Campaign Finance	\$2,385,041
Policy	\$1,800,708
Redistricting	\$1,762,157
Cross-Team Work	\$1,677,744
Ethics	\$1,040,561
TOTAL	\$15,922,564



OPERATING EXPENSES BY FUNCTION	
Programs	\$15,922,564
General & Administrative	\$3,800,212
Development	\$1,612,498
TOTAL	\$21,335,274

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Trevor Potter at the Society for the Rule of Law summit in Washington, D.C.

Photo by Hannah Yoest/
Society for the Rule of Law





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