

# 2019 END OF YEAR UPDATE

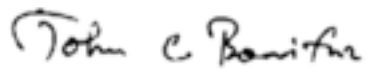
Free Speech For People



**In January 2020, Free Speech For People will celebrate ten years of defending our democracy.** We have achieved great progress in the past decade in our work to protect our democracy and our Constitution. From taking on super PACs, challenging foreign-corporate money in our elections, fighting corruption in the White House, launching a new program to secure our elections, and much more, Free Speech For People is helping to lead the movement to reclaim our democracy for we, the people.

**We can save our democracy.** And, with your support, we will. Thank you for all that you do for this fight. We truly appreciate your support of Free Speech For People.

Together, we will defend our democracy and our Constitution.



John Bonifaz

## **WE ARE CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF VICTORIES FOR OUR DEMOCRACY!**

Since our founding on the day of the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*, we have advocated for a democracy in which all people can participate equally and meaningfully in the political process. We have worked to uphold and defend our core democratic principles and our Constitution. Through innovative and bold legal action, we have sought to end the big money dominance in our elections and advance political equality for all. And, we have provided public education and organized in communities across the country to help build a nationwide democracy movement.

To learn more about our work over the past decade, please visit:

[www.freespeechforpeople.org/anniversary](http://www.freespeechforpeople.org/anniversary)

## **WE ARE CONTINUING TO DEFEND OUR DEMOCRACY AND OUR CONSTITUTION**

Building on our progress and achievements over the past decade, we are continuing to defend our democracy and our Constitution at this critical moment in our history. This includes advancing our case to abolish super PACs; introducing our model law to end super PACs and foreign-corporate spending in our elections in cities and state across the country; safeguarding state reform laws and advancing innovative new legal arguments on campaign finance reform efforts; challenging the unprecedented corruption of the White House; and launching a critical new campaign to advocate for secure, verifiable, and auditable elections in advance of the upcoming 2020 election.

## **WE SERVE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE MOVEMENT TO RECLAIM OUR DEMOCRACY**

Free Speech For People is a recognized leader of the movement to challenge big money in politics and unchecked corporate power, and to reclaim our democracy. We are proud to share the following progress we have achieved in 2019.

## **CHALLENGING SUPER PACS AND FOREIGN CORPORATE MONEY IN US ELECTIONS**

Following the successful passage in October 2017 of a model ordinance challenging foreign corporate money and super PAC spending in local elections in St. Petersburg, Florida, the first of its kind in the nation, we are now advancing similar legislation in Maryland, Massachusetts, Los Angeles, and Seattle.

## **ADVANCING THE CASE TO END SUPER PACS**

In June 2019, we filed a petition for initial hearing en banc to allow our case to be heard by the full D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, which, like the US Supreme Court, has the authority to overturn the *SpeechNow* ruling - a decision which has led to the explosion of super PAC spending in elections. While the DC Circuit has denied our petition for this initial en banc review and a three-judge panel of appeals court, as expected, has followed *SpeechNow*, we are now preparing to present this case to a full en banc panel of the court or to the US Supreme Court.

## **DEFENDING STATE AND LOCAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM LAWS**

We continue to provide key legal support in the defense of state reform laws. In Seattle, we filed in May 2018 and March 2019, amicus briefs with Demos in defense of a newly enacted public campaign financing program for city elections. In July 2019, the Washington Supreme Court issued a ruling, upholding Seattle's new "Democracy Voucher Program." And, in Massachusetts, we participated in a successful defense of a state law banning corporate contributions to political candidates.

## **CONFRONTING THE CORRUPTION OF THE PRESIDENCY**

In January 2017, we launched a new program to challenge the unprecedented corruption of the White House. The movement we have helped to build has led to the US House of Representatives formally launching an impeachment investigation of the president. Following the launch of the impeachment inquiry, in July 2019 we issued, with coalition partners, a letter to the House Judiciary Committee calling for an expedited, comprehensive, and transparent process for the impeachment inquiry.

## PROTECTING ELECTION SECURITY


We have launched a new project, with the National Election Defense Coalition (NEDC), to challenge the use of unreliable and insecure electronic voting systems in the United States. In June 2019, we filed a lawsuit in Indiana on behalf of NEDC to access election security communications regarding the reliability and security of voting machines. And, in July 2019, we filed, with coalition partners, a petition with the PA Secretary of State seeking a re-examination of new voting machines which have now been purchased by Philadelphia and other counties in Pennsylvania, and which raise new election security concerns.

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### **WE HAVE REACHED AN INFLECTION POINT FOR OUR DEMOCRACY**

Over the past several years, the core principles of our democracy have been tested like never before. We are rising to the challenge of this moment with our bold and innovative leadership. In 2020, we will continue to advance our legal challenges to get big money out of politics. We will expand our new program to secure our elections. We will continue our work to challenge corruption at the highest levels of government. And, we will ensure our democracy works for all people, not the wealthy few.

**Thank you for standing with us as we face this critical moment in history.  
Together, we will defend our democracy and our Constitution!**



**THANK YOU FOR STANDING UP FOR OUR DEMOCRACY!** In addition to gifts received from individual donors throughout the year, Free Speech For People is proud to have received support from the following foundations and organizations in 2019:

The Clements Foundation

CREDO

Endeavor Foundation

Gaia Fund

Need to Impeach

Park Foundation

Proteus Fund

WhyNot Initiative

**Free Speech For People is grateful for all who supported our work in 2019!**