

# Free Speech For People 2021 End of Year Report

**In 2021, Free Speech For People continued to serve as a bold and catalyzing leader in the movement to restore our democracy, following unprecedented attempts to undermine and overturn the fundamental democratic principles of our republic.**

This year, with your support, we won key victories for we, the people. We are proud to share all that we achieved, together, in this report. As we look ahead to the challenges facing our democracy, Free Speech For People remains unafraid to take on the tough fights and to pursue innovative actions in the courts and in legislatures across the country to ensure all people have an equal voice and an equal vote in our democracy.

## WE FIGHT TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND OUR ELECTIONS

**In November 2020, a record number of people cast a ballot in the presidential election.** While this civic participation represents a great victory for our democracy, select legislators have sought to perpetuate the 'Big Lie' claiming voter fraud and a stolen election. As a result, legislation designed to suppress the votes of underrepresented communities has passed in nineteen states and hundreds more bills have been introduced in states across the country. Free Speech For People has launched legal actions to challenge efforts to suppress the vote and other emerging threats to our fundamental voting rights.



### Challenging Voter Suppression

Free Speech For People is fighting back against the blatant attempt to disenfranchise voters of color and other underrepresented voters. This year, we filed two new cases in Arizona and Texas to challenge voter suppression laws passed in the respective states. We are honored to represent leading voting rights organizations, including Mi Familia Vota, and individual voter plaintiffs for these cases.

### Challenging Voter Intimidation

In October 2020, Free Speech For People launched a federal lawsuit to stop a private mercenary contractor from deploying armed ex-soldiers to polling locations in Minnesota during the November 2020 election. Following an initial ruling in our favor, we won a court-ordered consent decree prohibiting the private mercenary company from engaging in any voter intimidation activities through the 2024 election.

With this program, we have also called on the Senate to eliminate the filibuster to allow passage of critical voting rights legislation; challenged changes to federal voting systems guidelines that resulted in weakened security standards for electronic voting systems; and prevented the adoption of insecure internet voting.



**EQUAL VOTE. EQUAL VOICE. FOR ALL.**

Follow us!  

## WE FIGHT TO END FOREIGN CORPORATE INFLUENCE IN ELECTIONS AND TO ABOLISH SUPER PACS

In June 2021, the New York State Senate passed, with bipartisan support, the Democracy Preservation Act, Free Speech For People's model bill to end campaign spending by foreign-influenced corporations in New York elections. In February 2021, our model legislation and legislation which would abolish super PACs in state elections, which we helped to draft, was introduced before the Massachusetts state legislature. And, in December 2021, Congressman Jamie Raskin introduced federal legislation to challenge foreign-corporate spending in elections. This bill is premised on our model legislation and we were proud to provide legal expertise to Congressman Raskin's office to assist with drafting this legislation.



## WE HOLD ELECTED OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE

- In June 2021, we launched a new campaign calling on the chief election officials in all fifty states and the District of Columbia to uphold Section 3 of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution **disqualifying certain elected officials from holding future public office due to the role they played in the January 6th insurrection.**
- In 2021, we led a new initiative, with a coalition of national organizations, calling on Attorney General Merrick Garland to create an independent task force in the Department of Justice **to investigate potential federal criminal or civil violations that may have been committed by former President Trump and his associates.**



To read more about our work, please visit [www.freespeechforpeople.org](http://www.freespeechforpeople.org).

## WE FIGHT UNCHECKED CORPORATE POWER

We are leading a bold new fight to address the dangerous spread of disinformation and threats of violence to attack our democracy and our people on social media platforms. We have introduced and are advancing our model legislation, the Digital Accountability Act, to hold social media companies accountable; protect internet users, voters, and the broader community from the dangers of rampant amplification of disinformation and violence; and protect online personal privacy and autonomy against commercial exploitation.

## WE FIGHT FOR NEW DEMOCRACY AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Free Speech For People has helped to catalyze the movement in support of a constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United* and we have played a key role in many of the victories to date. We drafted and are now advancing the Free and Fair Elections Amendment to end big money dominance of our elections. We continue to advocate for the Democracy For All Amendment and the People's Rights Amendment. In addition, we have endorsed the Right to Vote Amendment; an amendment to abolish the Electoral College; and the Equal Rights Amendment.

ANNOUNCING

—NEW—

DEMOCRACY

AMENDMENTS

FREE SPEECH  
FOR PEOPLE  
ORG

# THANK YOU FOR FIGHTING FOR OUR DEMOCRACY!

**Thanks to your support, Free Speech For People will continue to take bold action in defense of our democracy and our Constitution.**

We are honored to be in this fight with you. Thank you so much for your support and we look forward to sharing more victories in the year ahead.

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 in 2021:

**Arkay Foundation**

**Craig Newmark Philanthropies**

**CREDO**

**The Fred Gellert Family Foundation**

**Gaia Fund**

**The Kohlberg Foundation**

**Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund**

**Park Foundation**

**Ralph E. Ogden Foundation**

**Threshold Foundation**

**WhyNot Initiative**