

FREE SPEECH FOR PEOPLE 2023 END OF YEAR REPORT

With your critical support, Free Speech For People (FSFP) has made unprecedented progress this year in the fight to ensure all people have an equal voice and an equal vote in our democracy. FSFP serves as a leader in the movement **to challenge big money in politics**, by advancing landmark legislation prohibiting multinational corporate spending in our elections; to develop bold litigation **to protect the right to vote** and to ensure a democracy that is representative, diverse, and inclusive and that works for all people, not just the elite few; and **to take on corruption at the highest levels of government**, holding elected officials accountable to their constituents and restoring political power to we, the people.

Free Speech For People tackles the most pressing issues facing our democracy with a pioneering and tenacious approach. We are unafraid to develop and advance innovative solutions to create bold change. We are thrilled to share with you our progress—made possible with your support—over the prior year.

- **Victory in Minnesota! Restoring our elections and our democracy to we, the people:** Multinational corporations with significant foreign investment have exploited a loophole created by the *Citizens United* decision by flooding our elections and our democracy with corporate cash, overriding the political will of everyday people. In response, Free Speech For People developed model legislation to end foreign-influenced corporate (FIC) spending in elections. This year, in a major victory for our democracy, Minnesota enacted Free Speech For People’s model legislation, becoming the first state in the nation to end FIC spending in elections. In addition, during the 2023 state legislative session, our model legislation was introduced and advanced in an unprecedented number of states, including California, Hawaii, New York, and Washington.
- **Leading the fight in the courts to challenge voter intimidation:** Voter intimidation presents a real and growing threat to the integrity and security of our right to vote, and yet very few organizations are challenging it in the courts. Building on our prior success in defeating voter intimidation in Minnesota prior to the November 2020 presidential election, we are prosecuting a federal lawsuit in Colorado to challenge an extremist group from carrying out an armed voter intimidation campaign in the state. Our case has received support from the US Department of Justice. We have won a series of key procedural victories in this case, including defeating counterclaims made by the defendants in a brazen attempt to intimidate our clients from pursuing the case. Our case will proceed to trial in July 2024.
- **Victory in Arizona! Challenging voter suppression laws:** Voter suppression laws enacted in Texas, Arizona and other states following the 2020 election seek to disenfranchise Black, Indigenous and Latine voters, who turned out in large numbers in 2020. Free Speech For People is pursuing litigation in those states to protect the right to vote and equal access to the ballot for targeted communities. In July 2022, we joined with The Campaign Legal Center to challenge two voter suppression laws in Arizona which impose discriminatory burdens on voters with new documentary proof of residence and citizenship requirements. In a major victory for Arizona voters, in September 2023, the court struck down key discriminatory provisions of the two laws.

- **Launching new legal actions to hold Donald Trump accountable to the Insurrectionist Disqualification Clause of the Constitution:** In 2021, we launched the groundbreaking 14Point3 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, otherwise known as the Insurrectionist Disqualification Clause. Few people had even heard about Section 3 of the 14th Amendment prior to our launch of this campaign. Now, per polling by Politico, 51% of voters support disqualifying Donald Trump from holding future public office under the Insurrectionist Disqualification Clause.

In September 2023, Free Speech For People filed a legal challenge, on behalf of a diverse group of Minnesota voters, to bar Donald Trump from appearing on the state’s presidential ballot in 2024 under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment for his role in inciting and facilitating the violent insurrection at the Capitol on January 6, 2021. We filed a similar legal challenges in Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Oregon. In addition to legal actions for accountability, Free Speech For People joined with Mi Familia Vota Education Fund to build a national grassroots movement calling on Secretaries of State across the country to declare Trump disqualified from the ballot under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment.

- **Advancing the Free and Fair Elections Amendment in Congress to get big money out of politics:** In June 2023, Congressman Jim McGovern of Massachusetts introduced the Free and Fair Elections Amendment, a constitutional amendment drafted by Free Speech For People to end the dominance of big money in our elections and to enable all people to participate equally and meaningfully in our democracy. The Free and Fair Elections Amendment would overturn Citizens United and other Supreme Court rulings, which have blocked Congress, states, and local governments from protecting our democracy and promoted growing inequality. The amendment is “self-executing”—once ratified into the Constitution, it will not depend on the whims of Congress to enact campaign finance legislation.
- **Holding Big Tech accountable:** Free Speech For People is advancing our leadership work to address the dangers posed by global internet companies utilizing their platforms to amplify disinformation and promote the use of violence to attack our democracy and our people. We have drafted and are now moving forward a model federal bill, the Big Tech Accountability Act, designed to foster accountability by online platforms and other internet service providers; 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 are now engaged in reaching out to key allies, lawmakers, and other stakeholders to build support for the bill.

Free Speech For People will continue our leadership work to defend our democracy in 2024 by advancing our key litigation to stop illegal voter intimidation and voter suppression; pursuing our pathbreaking legislation to end foreign-corporate influence in US elections and restoring democratic self-government; holding insurrectionists accountable to the law; defending voters and our elections from emerging threats during the 2024 primaries and general election; and advancing new innovative initiatives to renew our democracy and our Constitution for we, the people.

THANK YOU FOR FIGHTING FOR OUR DEMOCRACY!

Thank you for your support, which has allowed Free Speech For People's team of legal experts and dedicated organizers to create lasting and impactful change for voters and for our democracy, at this critical moment in history.

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 2023:

The Appleman Foundation

Cloud Mountain Foundation

Craig Newmark Philanthropies

The Endeavor Foundation

The Fred Gellert Family Foundation

Healthy Democracy Fund, a fund of Tides Foundation

Impact Project

Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund

The Park Foundation

The Prentice Foundation

Public Wise

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Threshold Foundation

Tides Foundation

Wallace Global Fund

WhyNot Initiative