

FREE SPEECH FOR PEOPLE

2024 Annual Report: Defending Our Democracy

THANK YOU FOR BEING A CHAMPION FOR OUR DEMOCRACY!

At this critical moment in our history, Free Speech For People is at the forefront in fighting to protect our republic, thanks to your support. From standing up to authoritarian forces to fighting foreign corporate influence in our elections to challenging voter suppression and voter intimidation on behalf of underrepresented communities, your key support has allowed Free Speech For People to wage bold and unprecedented fights to defend the fundamental promise of our democracy for we, the people.

Our democracy is worth saving. Free Speech For People is ready to meet the difficult challenges for our democracy ahead and continue with ongoing and new cutting-edge campaigns to defend our Republic. In 2025, we will advance our key litigation to stop illegal voter intimidation and voter suppression; pursue our pathbreaking legislation to end foreign-corporate influence in US elections; confront corruption at the highest levels of our government; hold the Supreme Court accountable; and advance new innovative initiatives to renew our democracy and our Constitution.

HOW FREE SPEECH FOR PEOPLE DEFENDS OUR DEMOCRACY

- We fight for the right to vote and for free and fair elections for all.
- We draft and advance key constitutional amendments to restore our democracy to we, the people.
- We develop and advance in the courts new legal arguments to challenge big money in politics and corporate abuse of power.
- We draft and move forward innovative legislation to end big money dominance in elections and restore political power to the people.
- We challenge corruption at the highest levels of government and lead bold campaigns for accountability under the law.

15 YEARS OF FREE SPEECH FOR PEOPLE

Thanks to your support, Free Speech For People will celebrate fifteen years of fighting for our democracy in January 2025. To learn more about all that we have achieved together for we, the people, please visit:

www.freespeechforpeople.org/anniversary

**FREE SPEECH
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PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND OUR ELECTIONS

CHALLENGING VOTER INTIMIDATION

Free Speech For People is a leading force in the country taking legal actions to confront voter intimidation. In March 2022, we filed a federal lawsuit against the United States Election Integrity Plan (USEIP), an extremist organization with ties to QAnon and the January 6th Capitol Insurrection, seeking to stop USEIP's illegal voter intimidation campaign in Colorado. The lawsuit seeks federal court intervention to stop USEIP from continuing a voter intimidation campaign in Colorado, where the group's agents, some of whom are armed, have used public voter lists to go door-to-door interrogating voters. Following a prior court decision, we filed an appeal brief, challenging the district court's ruling that USEIP's leaders should not be held responsible for voter intimidation. In November 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice filed an amicus brief in support of our appeal.

CHALLENGING THE USE OF AI TO DECEIVE VOTERS

In March 2024, we filed a new federal lawsuit to challenge the use of artificial intelligence in US elections following robocalls made to voters featuring a deepfake of President Joe Biden's voice urging people not to vote in the New Hampshire presidential primary. In July 2024, the Department of Justice submitted a Statement of Interest in this case defending the legal entitlement of our clients to file a challenge to enforce their rights under the law.

CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO SCHEME TO COMPROMISE THE SECURITY OF ELECTIONS

Evidence uncovered in a voting rights case has implicated several of Donald Trump's operatives for organizing a multi-state scheme to unlawfully access, copy, and share voting system software from the two largest voting system companies in an effort to overturn the 2020 election results. This action has dangerous implications for the security of future elections. We organized a coalition of security and election experts to provide details of this discovery, including the potential federal crimes committed, in a letter to national security agencies. Following significant petitioning of federal agencies to review this matter, FSFP staff met with agents of the FBI to advocate for an investigation of the unlawful actions of Trump operatives.



FIGHTING VOTER SUPPRESSION LAWS IN ARIZONA AND TEXAS

Free Speech For People works to uplift the voices and votes of everyday people to ensure our democracy works for all and not the powerful few.

In Arizona, we continue to litigate two cases challenging voter suppression laws passed by the state legislature fueled by the Big Lie of voter fraud in the 2020 presidential election. The court has ruled in favor of several of our claims, striking down key discriminatory provisions of the two voter suppression laws, including one that required county officials to investigate naturalized Arizonans' citizenship status without good cause. Following our initial victory before the district court, a portion of this law was stayed by the U.S. Supreme Court. We are now helping to defend the district court victory before the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

In Texas, we have completed the first phase of trial in a case challenging an omnibus voter suppression law passed by the state legislature and also fueled by the Big Lie. We won a great victory in this case with the court striking down a law that criminalized canvassing by voter education organizations across Texas. The court issued another ruling to protect Texas voters, striking down laws that prevent voters with disabilities, with low literacy, and with limited-English-proficiency from receiving help from assisters they choose and trust. We are now helping to defend these victories before the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

CHALLENGING ELECTION SPENDING BY MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

In response to the political influence granted to corporations as a result of Citizens United, Free Speech For People has developed pathbreaking model legislation to prohibit campaign spending by foreign-influenced corporations. Our legislation addresses some of the worst abuses of the Citizens United decision, reducing the flood of corporate money in politics and helping to reclaim our democracy for everyday people. According to new polling from Data

for Progress, 82% of voters agree that there should be new limits on U.S. corporations spending money in our elections if the corporations have any foreign ownership and 72% of voters support a proposal to ban companies that are owned or influenced by individuals from foreign countries from spending money on U.S. elections. Our model bill will bar 98% of the S&P 500 companies, including Amazon, Uber, Exxon, and more from making political expenditures, based on their levels of significant foreign ownership. The State of Minnesota and the cities of San Jose, California, and Seattle, Washington have now enacted this landmark law. In addition, we are carrying out campaigns in new states across the country to advance our model legislation in California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington State.

In July 2024, Congressman Jamie Raskin and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse re-introduced The Get Foreign Money Out of US Elections Act, our model legislation at the federal level to close the loophole that allows foreign investors to influence our elections through corporate political spending. The bill has thirty-one co-sponsors in the US House and six co-sponsors in the Senate, including Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders. FSFP is proud to have provided legal expertise to Congressman Raskin's office to assist with drafting the bill.



- Lee Raymond, CEO, ExxonMobil

FREE SPEECH FOR PEOPLE'S PROJECT TO ABOLISH SUPER PACS

In 2015, FSFP launched a bold campaign to abolish super PACs in our elections. Since the emergence of super PACs in 2010, the nation has witnessed a new explosion of campaign spending, fueled largely by unlimited donations from billionaires and corporate interests. From questions of climate change to economic justice, healthcare to a sustainable economy, big money forces are dominating the discussion and undermining the promise of political equality for all. FSFP is fighting back against this threat by bringing innovative legal challenges before the courts and by advancing legislation in the states and in Congress to abolish super PACs.

FSFP is proud to have endorsed and supported a 2024 citizen's initiative effort to abolish super PAC spending in state elections in Maine. The ballot initiative committee, led by Maine Citizens to End Super PACs and catalyzed by Lawrence Lessig, Harvard Law School professor, collected over 76,000 signatures in support of a referendum to limit annual contributions to super PACs. The measure appeared on the November 2024 statewide ballot, and Maine voters overwhelmingly passed it with 74% in support. **Maine has now become the first state to eliminate super PACs.**

FIGHTING THE CORRUPTION OF THE SUPREME COURT

In April 2024, Free Speech For People launched SCOTUS Reform Now, a new campaign demanding accountability and reform within the United States Supreme Court to restore its legitimacy and integrity. The Supreme Court has faced a wide range of scandals over the last several years that have tarnished the Court's reputation. This rampant corruption and lack of ethical standards correspond with Court decisions that have disproportionately harmed vulnerable communities. SCOTUS Reform Now calls for a multi-pronged approach to restore the Court's balance and legitimacy, including investigating corruption; holding Justices accountable through impeachment proceedings; expanding the court and enacting term limits; and enforcing ethical standards.

ACTIONS TO HOLD SUPREME COURT JUSTICES ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LAW

- In April 2023, we launched a new campaign calling for the House Judiciary Committee to begin an impeachment inquiry of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas for using his position on the Court to advance his own personal interests and for abusing the power of his position on the Court.
- In May 2024, The New York Times reported that Justice Alito flew an upside-down American flag outside his house days before President Biden's inauguration, a symbol of support for the January 6th insurrection and the "Stop the Steal" movement. Days after that first report, The New York Times revealed that Justice Alito flew outside another of his homes a Christian Nationalist flag similarly recognized as a symbol of support for the insurrection. Following these revelations, we called for Justice Alito to recuse himself from Trump v. United States and resign from the Court and we demanded that Congress begin an impeachment investigation of Justice Alito.
- In July 2024, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez introduced articles of impeachment in the US House of Representatives against Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito. Free Speech For People is proud to have worked with Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's office to help draft these articles.



HOLDING BIG TECH ACCOUNTABLE

Free Speech For People has launched new actions to challenge social media companies that place profits over people and our democracy. We have drafted and are now advancing a model federal bill, the Big Tech Accountability Act, designed to hold social media companies accountable when they engage in targeted amplification of disinformation and threats of violence on their platforms. FSFP is reaching out to key allies and lawmakers to build support and identify a congressional champion for the bill.

NEW DEMOCRACY AMENDMENTS

For more than a decade, Free Speech For People has led the movement calling for a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United v. FEC and reclaim our democracy. Congressman Jim McGovern has introduced the Free and Fair Elections Amendment, drafted by FSFP, to end the big-money dominance in our democracy. In addition, we are working to advance additional key amendments to ensure all people can meaningfully participate in our democracy, including the Equal Rights Amendment and the Right to Vote Amendment.

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 2024:

The Alphawood Foundation

The Appleman Foundation

Cloud Mountain Foundation

Craig Newmark Philanthropies

The Defense Against Thought Control Foundation

Endeavor Foundation

The Fred Gellert Family Foundation

Panonica Foundation

Park Foundation

Possibility Labs

Ralph E. Ogden Foundation

Tides Health Democracy Fund

Wallace Global Fund

WhyNot Initiative

To stay updated on Free Speech For People's latest work to defend our democracy, visit our website at FreeSpeechForPeople.org.



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