

FOR FREE SPEECH PEOPLE

● ORG

DEFENDING OUR DEMOCRACY IN 2025 & BEYOND

Our democracy is worth saving.

Since our founding in January 2010, on the day of the US Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*, Free Speech For People (FSFP) has waged a determined and fearless fight to defend our democracy. We stand up to authoritarian forces. We challenge big money in politics. We protect the right to vote and our elections. We take on unchecked corporate power. We hold insurrectionists accountable. We confront corruption at the highest levels of our government. We work every day to uphold the fundamental promise of our democracy for we, the people.

Now marking fifteen years of leadership, Free Speech For People intends to meet the difficult challenges for our democracy ahead and to continue leading ongoing and new cutting-edge campaigns to defend our Republic.

OUR APPROACH

Free Speech For People combines a powerful in-house legal and campaign organizing team with an expansive network of partnering organizations and law firms with the boldness to adapt and respond quickly to emerging threats to democracy.

FSFP specializes in the following areas (click links below for more information):



Protecting the Right to Vote and our Elections



Challenging Big Money in Politics



Challenging Corporate Abuse of Power



Challenging Corruption at the Highest Levels of Government



Money in Politics: Ending Foreign Corporate Money in Elections

Free Speech For People is advancing innovative legislation across the country to end foreign-influenced corporate spending in our elections. Our legislation has been introduced and is advancing before state legislatures in Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania.

In May 2023, the State of Minnesota enacted our model legislation. We are now helping to defend the law against a legal challenge filed by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, which represents corporate interests in the state. We have also won the passage of this law in Seattle (2020) and San Jose (2024).

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.



M. Lorena González
Former Seattle City Council President

Free Speech For People is not afraid to take on the tough challenges facing our democracy. In my work alongside Free Speech For People, I saw firsthand how its bold and innovative legal advocacy, grassroots engagement, and public education work serves to restore and protect democracy for we, the people."

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. FSFP is proud to have provided legal expertise to Congressman Raskin's office to assist with drafting the bill. Congressman Raskin and Senator Whitehouse will soon reintroduce this bill in the new Congress.

KEY LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES



MINNESOTA



**SAN JOSE,
CALIFORNIA**



**SEATTLE,
WASHINGTON**

Ian Simmons
Co-Founder & Principal of Blue Haven Initiative



"When I first learned of **Free Speech For People** fifteen years ago, I was immediately impressed by their courage and integrity in taking on big money in politics. In particular, I have been impressed with the strong strategy, action, and determination of their work to end multinational corporate spending in elections. This approach is why I have supported their work and invested in their vision and impact for over a decade, notching critical wins at the local, state, and federal levels along the way. Our democracy is made better by the bold work of Free Speech For People and I am proud to be a supporter."

**Money in Politics:
Abolishing Super PACS**

Fighting to Abolish Super PACs

In 2015, Free Speech For People launched a bold campaign to abolish super PACs in our elections by bringing innovative legal challenges before the courts and by advancing legislation in the states and in Congress.

Maine Ballot Initiative to End Super PACs

In 2024, we were proud to endorse and support a citizen initiative to abolish super PAC spending in state elections in Maine, which built on the legal arguments we have been making for a decade on why the 2010 DC Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in *SpeechNow v FEC*, which created super PACs, was wrongly decided. More than 74% of Maine voters passed this ballot measure in November 2024. In December 2024, two super PACs filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the law. FSFP has filed an amicus brief on behalf of Mainers for Working Families in defense of the law and has offered legal expertise to the Maine Attorney General's Office to defend the law, as needed.

**SNAPSHOT OF
SUPER PAC SPENDING
in the 2024
GENERAL ELECTION**

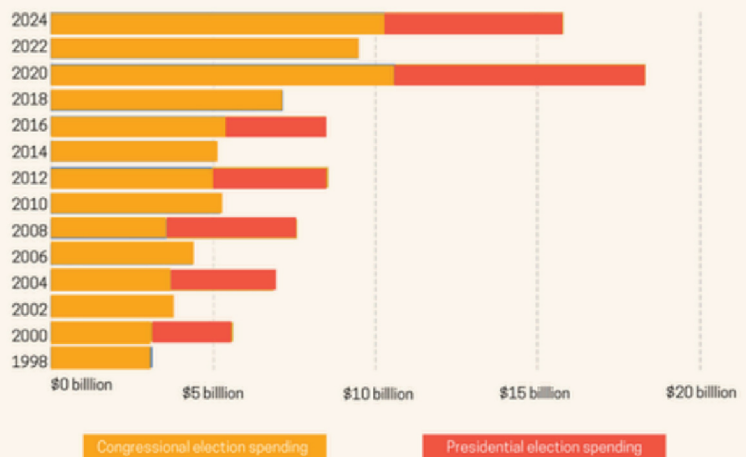
As of January 15, 2025, **2,485** groups organized as super PACs have reported total receipts of \$5,020,526,654 and total independent expenditures of \$2,724,943,073 in the 2023-2024 cycle (Open Secrets, January 2025).

2,485 NUMBER OF SUPER PACS
\$5 bil TOTAL RAISED BY SUPER PACS
\$2.7 bil TOTAL SPENT BY SUPER PACS

In 2024, over \$10 billion was spent on Congressional elections.

In 2010 - the year Citizens United was decided - it was \$5.2 billion

In just 15 years, the cost of running for Congress has doubled.





“ Over the last five years, the League of Women Voters has taken on more litigation than ever. As our work swelled, it was critical to partner with organizations that understood the unique value of the League as a client.

Free Speech For People serves as a trusted partner for the League in our litigation to protect the right to vote and our elections. Their talent, litigation prowess, and focus on centering the client are top-notch, and they have delivered WINS multiple times for the League. We are unequivocally grateful for their outstanding service.”

Celina Stewart

CEO, League of Women
Voters of the US

Voter intimidation presents a real and growing threat to the safety and security of the right to vote, and yet very few organizations are challenging this threat in the courts.

Underrepresented voters, including voters of color, are most often the target of such dangerous voter intimidation schemes.

CHALLENGING THE USE OF A.I. IN U.S. ELECTIONS TO UNDERMINE VOTING RIGHTS

N.H.

League of Women Voters of New Hampshire and Others v. Kramer

Two days before the 2024 New Hampshire presidential primary, Steve Kramer, a political operative, paid to create a recorded message using artificial intelligence to mimic President Joe Biden’s voice. Posing as President Biden, the messages falsely implied that voters could not vote in both the primary and general elections and urged voters to “save” their vote for November. Corporate entities enlisted by Kramer then distributed the message via robocalls to thousands of New Hampshire voters without disclosing the source of the calls. The calls “spoofed” a phone number associated with a former chair of the New Hampshire Democratic Party and included her personal cell number in the message itself.

In March 2024, Free Speech For People, on behalf of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWV-US), the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire (LWV-NH), and several individual New Hampshire voters filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court of New Hampshire against Steve Kramer and the corporate entities. The lawsuit argues that the robocalls violated federal and state laws that protect voters from intimidation, threats, coercion, and deception, and it sought a motion for preliminary injunction to prevent further harm to voters from the use of AI to influence elections. FSFP serves as co-counsel in this lawsuit with Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and local counsel Preti, Flaherty, Beliveau, & Pachios, Chartered, LLP.

In July 2024, the US 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. We are now awaiting a ruling from the district court.

CHALLENGING UNLAWFUL REMOVAL OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS FROM NEVADA'S REGISTRATION LIST

NEVADA

*RNC, Trump For President,
and Others v. Aguilar, et al.*

In October 2024, Free Speech For People filed, on behalf of the NAACP Tri-State Conference of Idaho-Nevada-Utah, a motion to intervene in a Nevada case brought by the Trump Campaign, Republican National Committee, and others to unlawfully and unconstitutionally purge the voter rolls based on the false and repeatedly debunked claims that non-citizens are casting ballots in elections. If granted, the lawsuit will result in the broad removal of thousands of eligible voters in Nevada and will disproportionately impact newly naturalized citizens and new voters. Further, the lawsuits, fueled by anti-immigrant and racist rhetoric, will force ongoing purges based on inaccurate data and serve to intimidate election officials who are carrying out their duties by enabling naturalized citizens and other eligible adults to register and vote.

In December 2024, a Nevada state court ruled that our clients had "significant, probable interests" in the outcome of this lawsuit and granted our motion. And, on January 17, 2025, FSFP, with Mayer Brown LLP, and local counsel Woodburn and Wedge, filed a motion to dismiss this lawsuit.



The NAACP values Free Speech For People's bold legal actions, grassroots organizing efforts, and public education work to protect the right to vote and our elections and to fight for the rights of communities that have been historically underrepresented in our democracy. Free Speech For People is a steadfast partner to the NAACP, as we work to advance political equality for all."

Janette McCarthy Wallace
General Counsel, NAACP

CHALLENGING VOTER INTIMIDATION IN COLORADO

*Colorado NAACP, League of Women Voters
of Colorado, and Mi Familia Vota v. USEIP*

United States Election Integrity Plan (USEIP) an extremist organization with ties to QAnon and the January 6th Capitol Insurrection, used voter lists in Colorado to identify and target voters on their own doorsteps to interrogate them regarding how they cast their ballot in the 2020 election. USEIP agents questioned voters about their method of vote, interrogated them about so-called fraudulent ballots, levied baseless accusations of fraud against voters, took photographs of voters' homes, encouraged armed members to join their door-to-door campaign, and reported their purported findings to local prosecutors.

In March 2022, Free Speech For People filed a [federal lawsuit](#) against USEIP, seeking to stop USEIP's illegal voter intimidation campaign in Colorado. FSFP is honored to represent the NAACP of Colorado, Mi Familia Vota, and the League of Women Voters of Colorado in this case. We were joined on the legal team for this lawsuit at the federal district court level by our pro bono partner law firm partner, Lathrop GPM. On January 3, 2023, the US Department of Justice submitted a legal brief, known as a "[Statement of Interest](#)," declaring support for our legal arguments in the case.

Following trial in July 2024, the federal district court ruled in favor of the defendants, making incorrect legal conclusions and erroneous factual findings. In November 2024, we filed an [appeal brief](#) before the US Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, challenging the district court's ruling that USEIP's leaders should not be held responsible for voter intimidation and that USEIP could not be held liable as an unincorporated organization. FSFP is joined on the legal team for this appellate work by Bryan Sells, a longtime and respected voting rights lawyer. On November 14, 2024, the [U.S. Department of Justice filed an amicus brief](#) in support of our appeal. We have now filed our reply brief and we are preparing for oral argument before a three-judge panel of the appellate court.

NAACP



CHALLENGING VOTER SUPPRESSION LAW IN TEXAS

Texas has a history of discriminating against Latino and Black voters. In 2021, the Texas Legislature passed SB 1, a voter suppression law, in response to the increased voter turnout by these communities in the 2020 election. FSFP represents Mi Familia Vota in a legal challenge to SB 1 to protect the right to vote in Texas. Free Speech For People is pleased to partner with the law firms of Stoel Rives and Lyons & Lyons in this litigation.

In September 2024, we won a great victory in this case with the federal district court in San Antonio striking down a law that criminalized canvassing by voter education organizations across Texas. The ruling, if upheld by the federal appeals court where the defendants

Mi Familia Vota v. Abbott II

have filed an expedited appeal, will protect civic engagement organization employees from criminal sanctions, and will ensure that voters have access to information about their elections and their rights from trusted organizations in their communities.

Further, in October 2024, 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 and we are awaiting a decision from the district court regarding additional pending claims in this case.



Mi Familia Vota is a proud long-time partner of **Free Speech For People** on initiatives critical to our democracy. We see firsthand the impact of Free Speech For People's innovative legal advocacy, actions to safeguard access to the ballot, and bold movement building on the communities served and empowered by Mi Familia Vota.

As with all of Free Speech For People's collaborations, together, we are working to create a stronger and more equitable democracy for all."

Héctor Sánchez Barba
President and CEO, Mi Familia Vota



CHALLENGING VOTER SUPPRESSION IN ARIZONA

In August 2021, Free Speech For People filed a federal lawsuit to challenge two voter suppression laws passed in Arizona, which disproportionately impact and disenfranchise Black, Native American, and Latino voters in the state. We are proud to represent Mi Familia Vota, Arizona Coalition for Change, Chispa Arizona, and LUCHA in this litigation. Further, in July 2022, we joined with The Campaign Legal Center in challenging two additional voter suppression laws in Arizona passed by the state legislature in 2022, which impose discriminatory burdens on voters with new documentary proof of residence and citizenship requirements and require local election officials to remove voters from registration rolls using unreliable data about a voters' residency and citizenship status. This law disproportionately impacts Native American voters residing on reservations with residences that may not have numbered street addresses.

Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA) v. Hobbs

In September 2023, in a major victory for Arizona voters, the court ruled in favor of five of our claims, striking down key discriminatory provisions of the two new voter suppression laws, and in February 2024, additional provisions of the law were struck down 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 – which never before has been implemented – is now in effect because of an eleventh-hour stay of the district court's decision by the US Supreme Court. The Supreme Court's stay goes against nearly two decades of precedent. In September 2024, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held oral arguments in this case. We are now awaiting a ruling from the appellate court.



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**Challenging Corruption
at the Highest Levels
of Government**

CALLING FOR AN END TO CORRUPTION AT THE US SUPREME COURT

In April 2024, FSFP 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. 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; enacting term limits; and enforcing ethical standards.



CALLING FOR AN IMPEACHMENT INVESTIGATION OF PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

On January 20, 2025, FSFP launched **Impeach Trump Again**, a new campaign calling on the U.S. Congress to initiate an immediate impeachment investigation into Donald Trump's abuses of power, starting with his violations of the Emoluments Clauses and his unlawful and corrupt campaign practices leading up to the 2024 election.

The campaign now cites new impeachable offenses committed by Trump since assuming the office, including: abusing the pardon power; unconstitutionally stripping U.S. citizens of citizenship; dismantling independent government oversight; unlawfully firing Inspector Generals; unlawfully firing members of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the National Labor Relations Board; abusing his power to seek retributions against perceived adversaries; abusing emergency powers; unconstitutionally usurping local and state authority; unconstitutionally usurping legislative powers; unlawfully and corruptly empowering and enriching Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency; and unlawfully threatening the displacement of Palestinians and the occupation of Gaza.

More than 250,000 people, and counting, across the country have signed our petition in support of this important mandate for accountability.

Advancing New Democracy Amendments

For more than a decade, Free Speech For People has led the movement calling for a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* and reclaim our democracy. The decision overturned a century of precedent, unleashing unlimited corporate political spending in our elections, and overwhelming the voices and votes of everyday people. In June 2023, Congressman Jim McGovern introduced the **Free and Fair Elections Amendment**, drafted by Free Speech For People, 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**.

Free Speech For People is a catalyzing leader in the country fighting big money in politics, protecting our right to vote and our elections, challenging corruption at the highest levels of government, and advancing a new jurisprudence grounded in the promises of political equality and democratic self-government. Through our cutting-edge legal advocacy, public education, and organizing work, we serve at the forefront of the movement to reclaim our democracy for we, the people.

Free Speech For People's Work Has Been Featured in the Following News Media Outlets and More:

The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, The Boston Globe, Associated Press, Reuters, Politico, ABC News, CBS News, NBC News, MSNBC, CNN, USA Today, The New Yorker, and The Guardian.



AP: Lawsuit seeks to stop group's door-to-door voter fraud hunt

PBS: Voting experts warn of 'serious threats' for 2024 from election equipment software breaches



ABC News: 14th Amendment challenges to Trump's candidacy are likely Supreme Court bound

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

(For a full list of Free Speech For People's Partners, please visit www.freespeechforpeople.org/about)

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& Pachios
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Organizational Partners

Center for American Progress
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League of
Women Voters
Mi Familia Vota
NAACP
Women's March
Young Feminist Party

Please consider making a special gift to support **Free Speech For People's work defending our democracy.**

To learn more about how to support our programs, please visit us at www.freespeechforpeople.org/support-us.

**Thank you for being a champion
for our democracy!**

www.freespeechforpeople.org

