



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

HONORING

Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

30TH ANNIVERSARY

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, I AM PLEASED TO COMMEND THE WISCONSIN DEMOCRACY CAMPAIGN (WDC) FOR ITS 30 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE STATE.

SINCE 1995, WDC HAS WORKED TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND INTEGRITY THROUGHOUT WISCONSIN'S POLITICAL LANDSCAPE, AND HAS HELPED ADVANCE FAIR ELECTORAL PROCESSES AND LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE ACTION TOWARD NONPARTISAN REDISTRICTING.

EVERY DAY, WDC LEADERS, SUPPORTERS, AND STAFF WORK TO EMPOWER AND ENCOURAGE WISCONSINITES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

ON THIS OCCASION, I EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WISCONSIN DEMOCRACY CAMPAIGN UPON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY, AND I WISH EVERYONE INVOLVED MANY MORE YEARS OF SERVICE AND SUCCESS.

DONE ON THIS 15TH DAY OF MAY 2025.

*Tony Evers*  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR



# Wisconsin Democracy Campaign 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends of Democracy,

Across the country, people are anxious. They see growing threats to truth, fairness, and freedom. Democracy can grow and endure in Wisconsin if we unite our efforts. Wisconsin Democracy Campaign spent 2025 proving that even when power is abused, people still fight back and win.

This year, we met authoritarian abuse of power with action. We filed a landmark lawsuit against Elon Musk and his political action committee after they funneled two \$1 million checks into Wisconsin's Supreme Court race — a direct challenge to dark money influence in our state.

We were victorious before the Wausau Ethics Board on behalf of residents who stood up to their mayor, who removed a ballot drop box outside City Hall, showing that ethics and accountability still prevail. And we continued our relentless work exposing corruption, tracking campaign money, and fighting for reforms that address big and dark money in politics.

We also built hope. As leaders in the Fair Maps Coalition, we hosted more than 30 town halls across Wisconsin, empowering communities to demand fair representation. We expanded our capacity by hiring a Fair Maps Volunteer and Relational Organizer and a new Communications and Digital Director to strengthen our digital reach, rapid response efforts, and statewide narrative-building. These additions position us to meet this political moment with clarity and power.

We completed a four-city statewide tour on Wisconsin's Constitution and constitutional amendments, helping voters understand how the amendment process has been weaponized — and how they can reclaim it. This work bridges education and action as we prepare to advance direct democracy reforms next year.

**Through it all, our North Star has remained clear: people over money.** From the volunteers showing up in small towns to the coalitions challenging billionaires and corruption, we are reminding the nation that democracy isn't an institution — it's an action.

Thank you for standing with us.

In solidarity,

Nicholas Ramos  
Executive Director

*"Thank you for your Fair Maps work. I marveled at the comprehensive attention to process and detail exhibited by everyone who worked on it. It's a master class in effective organization and implementation of any ideal, and as close to perfection as anything I've ever seen. It exemplifies in its processes the fairness it seeks to ensure for Wisconsin voters"*

**- Fair Maps Coalition event participant**

## REFORMING MONEY IN POLITICS AND EXPOSING CORRUPTION

- **Filed a landmark campaign finance lawsuit** against Elon Musk and his political action committee for funneling two \$1 million checks into Wisconsin's Supreme Court race — a bold stand against unchecked billionaire influence.
- **Secured a victory before the Wausau Ethics Board**, which ruled in favor of community members represented by WDC who filed an ethics complaint against Mayor Doug Diny — reaffirming accountability and integrity in public office.
- **Working to modernize our one-of-a-kind campaign finance database** to improve public transparency and give journalists, researchers, and voters better tools to track who funds our elections.
- **Elevated national visibility** on campaign finance abuses through WDC's research and public communications, earning coverage in *Washington Post*, *Associated Press*, and *ABC News*.
- **Continued to challenge the legacy of Citizens United** and fight for reforms that return power to everyday voters.

## MOVEMENT BUILDING AND COALITION LEADERSHIP

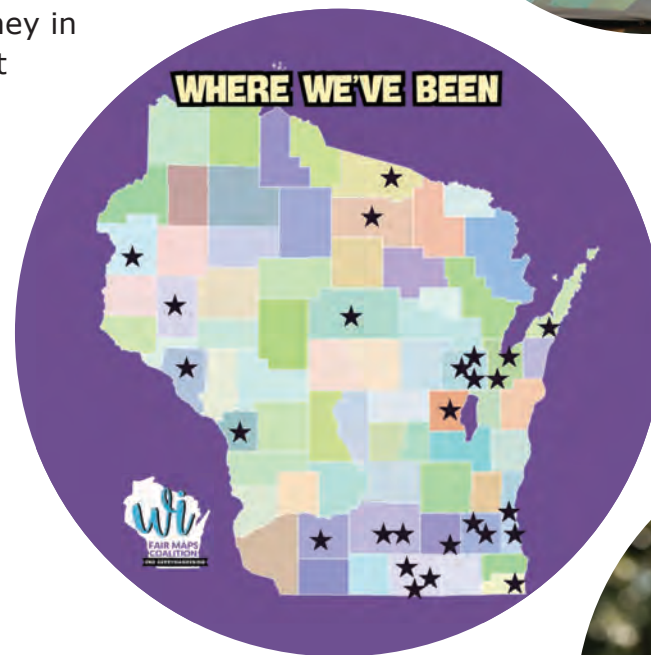
- Convened a statewide coalition to advance bipartisan money in politics reforms.

Conducted a statewide poll during the 2025 state Supreme Court race showing overwhelming concern about money in politics. 88 percent are highly concerned, 86 percent oppose unlimited campaign spending, and 83 percent support spending limits — confirming strong support for WDC's reform agenda.

- Coordinated digital communications, turnout messaging, and nonpartisan voter engagement during the April 2025 Supreme Court race — helping Wisconsin residents access accurate information amid record spending and misinformation.
- Strengthened collaboration across voting-rights, ethics, faith, and civic groups, uniting the state's pro-democracy infrastructure around a shared vision of accountability and fairness.

## FAIR MAPS AND REDISTRICTING REFORM

- As a leader of the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition, we helped organize more than 30 town halls across Wisconsin, educating thousands on the need for an Independent Redistricting Commission.
- Expanded our grassroots infrastructure by hiring a Fair Maps Volunteer and Relational Organizer, deepening relationships between rural and urban communities and increasing volunteer leadership capacity statewide.
- Supported public education and coalition coordination following the passage of fairer voting maps by Gov. Tony Evers, ensuring the fight for fair representation remains active and visible into 2026.



## DEFENDING JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND RULE OF LAW

- When Judge Hannah Dugan was arrested in April 2025 — a case that raised national questions about judicial independence — WDC swiftly organized a coalition of 21 nonprofit and voting-rights organizations to issue a joint statement condemning the politicization of the judiciary and reaffirming the importance of due process.
- WDC also played an instrumental role in the rallies and public events held in support of Judge Dugan, helping mobilize hundreds of Wisconsin residents to stand up for fairness, accountability, and separation of powers.
- This rapid-response leadership underscored WDC's reputation as both a policy watchdog and trusted convener during moments when democracy and the rule of law are under attack.

## SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

- Broadened WDC's democracy-building efforts to include direct support for immigrant and mixed-status families in Wisconsin.
- Assisted with DACA renewals, provided mutual-aid resources, and connected residents to legal-aid partners statewide.
- Framed immigrant inclusion as a core democracy issue, ensuring every Wisconsin resident — regardless of birthplace — can live with dignity and participate in shaping our shared future.

## CONSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION AND DIRECT DEMOCRACY

- We completed a four-city statewide tour on Wisconsin's Constitution and constitutional amendments — part of our "Our Wisconsin, Our Constitution" initiative — helping voters understand how the amendment process has been misused for partisan gain.
- Partnered with dozens of 501(c)(3) organizations to unify messaging around constitutional integrity and civic education, reaching communities through interactive events.
- This work has laid the foundation for Phase 2 of our campaign in 2026, which will transition from education to advocacy around direct democracy reforms like citizen-led ballot initiatives.

## LOOKING AHEAD

As we enter 2026, WDC is channeling this year's progress into a renewed phase of action.

We will launch the Direct Democracy campaign to turn civic education into organized advocacy, continue to pursue accountability in campaign finance through ongoing litigation, and unite reform movements under a single statewide banner for transparent and representative government.

Across every front, our mission remains clear: to make Wisconsin a model for what government can look like when people matter more than money.

## WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU

As you can see, we're doing all we can to stand up for good government and a democracy where everyone has an equal voice.

**Help us promote a pro-democracy agenda for Wisconsin!**

Fair maps, the freedom to vote, a ban on corporate donations to political parties, racial equity, and economic justice. Please send us a generous gift today so we can advance this urgent pro-democracy agenda.

**Scan here  
to support  
WDC now**



## WAYS TO GIVE

### Traditional Giving

The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, accepts cash, checks, PayPal, and credit card donations as well as bequests. Automatic monthly or quarterly donations can be made by credit card or PayPal. Secure online donations can be made at [www.wisdc.org](http://www.wisdc.org). If you have any questions, or if you'd prefer to call in your donation, please give us a ring at (608) 255-4260. All donations to the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

### Workplace Giving

The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign is a member of Community Shares of Wisconsin. Workplace giving with Community Shares allows businesses and member nonprofits to work together to build fair, just and sustainable communities. We receive 100 percent of all designated donations through Community Shares of Wisconsin's workplace giving programs.



### Online Giving

Twice a year we participate in online days of giving. The first week in March, we're part of Community Shares of Wisconsin's The Big Share, a friendly online community platform to raise funds and visibility for nearly 70 nonprofit organizations advancing social and environmental justice in Wisconsin. Giving Tuesday is a nationwide day of giving the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. This digital presence allows us to reach a new and more diversified pool of donor supporters.

**Thanks to all the individual donors, like you, who generously supported us this past year! And special thanks to the following funders:**

**Brico Fund, Brookby Foundation, Joyce Foundation, Movement Voter Project, Pro-Democracy Center, Wisconsin Civic Power Table, Tides Foundation, Trusted Elections Fund / Moxie Fund, VoteRiders, Pilot House, All Voting Is Local.**



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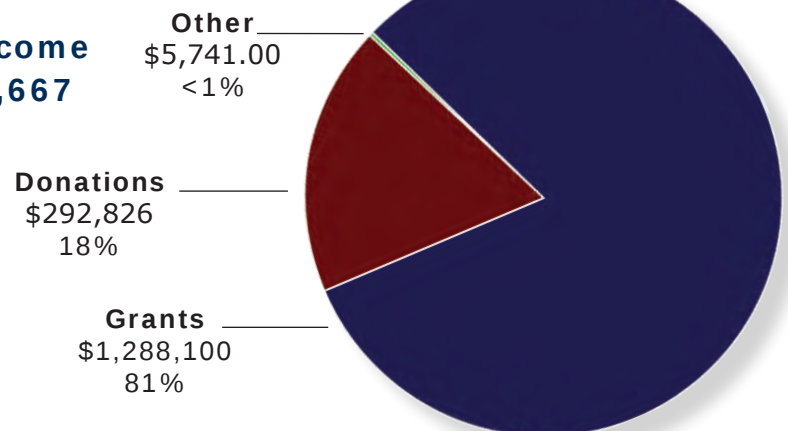
## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## STAFF

**Evan Arnold**, *Development Assistant*  
**Molly Carmichael**, *Communications & Digital Director*  
**Samantha De Forest-Davis**, *Research & Campaign Finance Director*  
**Iuscely Flores**, *Organizing Director for Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition*  
**Nicole Gabrail**, *Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition Volunteer & Relational Organizer (NEW June!)*  
**David Julseth**, *Data Analyst*  
**Barb Kneer**, *Financial Manager (RETIRED July!)*  
**Nick Ramos**, *Executive Director*  
**Beverly Speer**, *Operations & Policy Director*

**Total Income**  
**\$1,586,667**



**Total Expenses**  
**\$1,628,990**

