



2013-2014 Annual Report

WISCONSIN DEMOCRACY CAMPAIGN



Couldn't Do It Without You



At the end of this year, the Democracy Campaign will be turning 20 years old and I will have been director for 15 of those years. I will be departing and a new director will take my place. The Democracy Campaign will be as important and indispensable as ever. WDC will be tracking the money in Wisconsin politics and enabling the public to follow all that money. This marvelous organization will be telling the unvarnished truth about what's happening to our democracy and our state . . . and showing the way to a better place. Just as we did this past year, and just as we've done for two decades now.

As I move on to new personal and professional challenges and new battles in the fight for democracy, I do so comforted by the knowledge that I will be replaced by an able successor who will take the Democracy Campaign to new heights. But most comforting of all is my faith and expectation that WDC will continue to have you in its corner.

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you've done to make my time as WDC's director a sheer joy and distinct honor. It has been immeasurably rewarding to have been entrusted to lead such an invaluable and essential enterprise. I thank you for the faith you've had in me. I thank you for your loyal support. I thank you for your ideas and constructive criticisms that inspired me to do better than I could have done on my own. I owe you an enormous debt.

In this report I hope you will find many reasons why your investment in the Democracy Campaign has been and continues to be a worthwhile one. And I hope you will continue to stand with WDC, through thick and thin. It is so very important that you do. The Democracy Campaign can't do what it does without you.



Something for our stocking?



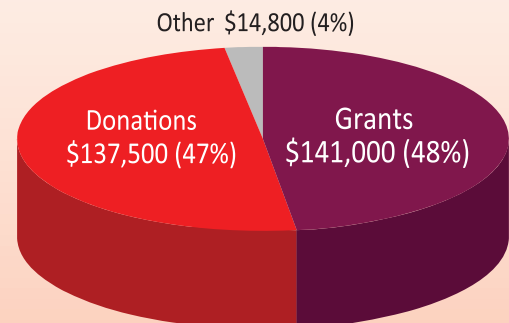
The threats to democracy are real and they are many. The forces seeking to subvert democracy and thwart the will of the people are formidable and growing in strength.

The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign has never been needed more than it is today. And with the challenging fundraising landscape, the Democracy Campaign has never needed your support more than we do now. The holiday season is crucial. Nearly half of charitable donations nationally come in the last few weeks of the year. WDC is no exception to this rule. Holiday season fundraising basically makes or breaks our budget for the year.

Please consider making a generous year-end gift to help keep the Democracy Campaign strong. You can use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible gift. Thank you for your support . . . and happy holidays from the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign!

WDC Board of Directors

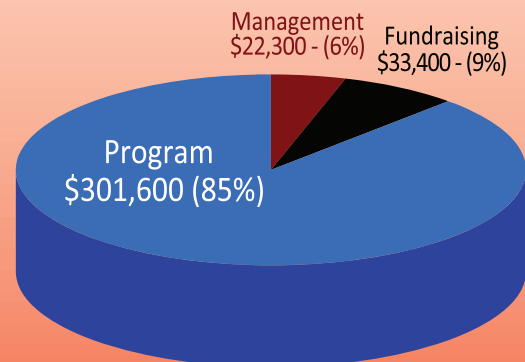
Nino Amato - Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups
Peter Cannon, Secretary
Sarah Eskrich
Mark Evenson - AFT Wisconsin
Sheila Guilfoyle - Progressive Dane
Kyle Hartman
Susan Lloyd - League of Women Voters of Wisconsin
Brynne McBride, President - ABC for Health
David Pauly, Treasurer
Bruce Speight, Vice President - WISPIRG
Morgan Young



Income - \$293,300

WDC Staff

Mike Buelow - Research Director
David S. Julseth - Data Analyst
Barb Kneer - Financial Manager
Mike McCabe - Executive Director
Beverly Speer - Outreach & Advocacy Director



Expense - \$357,300

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1995



Wisconsin Democracy Campaign founded

1996

- To kickstart organizing WDC holds **“Democracy Day”** event attended by 135 people in March
- WDC launches Wisconsin’s first and only searchable online donor database in June

1997

- **WDC wins its first victory** as state budget is signed into law with \$100,000 earmarked for electronic filing of campaign finance reports

1999

- WDC issues report showing how taxpayer-funded state offices were being used for private election campaigning

1998

- **Citizens Right to Know** law requiring electronic disclosure of campaign finances signed into law



2002

- **Four-year-long battle by WDC finally ends** with the implementation of the Citizens Right to Know law

2003

- **“Pay to play” ban pushed by WDC signed into law**, making it a felony for public officials to trade votes and other official actions for campaign donations

2005

- **WDC-sponsored “People’s Legislature”** citizen assembly draws more than 1,100 people
- The Democracy Campaign files lawsuit challenging the state’s outsourcing contract with Accenture to privatize voter registration
- **Five legislative leaders charged in caucus scandal** convicted of criminal misconduct in public office and sentenced. One of the five later is granted a new trial before reaching plea agreement on reduced charges.

2009

- WDC-backed rule banning Assembly members from soliciting or accepting campaign donations during the state budget process approved
- Number of records in searchable database of campaign donors passes the half-million mark
- **WDC starts its Judicial Independence Project and launches impartialjustice.org** website. The Democracy Campaign holds over 20 forums and town hall meetings across Wisconsin on the need for judicial election reform.



2010

- WDC rallies opposition to U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United election spending case by **forming United Citizens Against Citizens United** and organizing protest march and petition drive
- New campaign finance disclosure rules sought by WDC approved by state Government Accountability Board

2007

- Special session is convened and landmark **ethics reform legislation backed by WDC is passed and signed into law** by the governor
- WDC files ethics complaint against Supreme Court candidate Annette Ziegler that triggers investigation resulting in Ziegler becoming the first member of the court to be found guilty of judicial misconduct
- State of Wisconsin cancels voter registration privatization contract with Accenture

2006

- **Governor signs into law “paper trail” bill** backed by WDC requiring all electronic voting machines to produce verifiable paper record
- WDC supporters picket in front of Assembly chamber in the Capitol demanding passage of ethics reform legislation. Assembly leaders refuse to allow vote, but seven months later agree to WDC’s call for special session on ethics.



2011

- Over WDC’s protests, the Impartial Justice Act and other WDC-backed campaign finance reforms are repealed

2012

- Democracy Campaign loses major support from the Joyce Foundation that had amounted to more than half of WDC’s income but manages to fill the funding gap without having to lay off any staff or curtailing any of its operations.

2013

- **Democracy Campaign’s work featured in four documentary films**, including Citizen Koch, Pay 2 Play, Wisconsin Rising and Wisconsin’s Mining Standoff
- WDC succeeds in blocking legislation backed by leaders in both parties to double the limits on campaign contributions as well as a bill sponsored by a top Republican leader aiming to eliminate disclosure of the financial interests of nearly all campaign donors.



2014

- A key limit on overall campaign contributions in Wisconsin and the state’s 2010 disclosure rules are invalidated in court
- **One millionth campaign donation** to a Wisconsin politician added to WDC’s online contributor database
- WDC director Mike McCabe’s book *Blue Jeans in High Places: The Coming Makeover of American Politics* is published





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2013 - 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



WAYS TO DONATE

DONATIONS • The Democracy Campaign accepts cash, checks and credit card donations. Automatic monthly or quarterly donations can be made via electronic funds transfer or by credit card. Secure online donations can be made at www.wisdc.org.

WORKPLACE GIVING • WDC is a member of Community Shares of Wisconsin and receives donations through CSW's workplace giving programs. The Democracy Campaign receives 100% of gifts given through Community Shares. If your employer does not have a workplace giving program contact CSW at (608) 256-1066 to set one up or donate on their secure website at www.communityshares.com.



PLANNED GIVING • A bequest or estate gift can be made to the "Keep Democracy Alive" Legacy Fund at WDC. A planned gift will keep democracy alive and well in Wisconsin for this and future generations.

**All contributions are fully
tax-deductible. THANK YOU!**