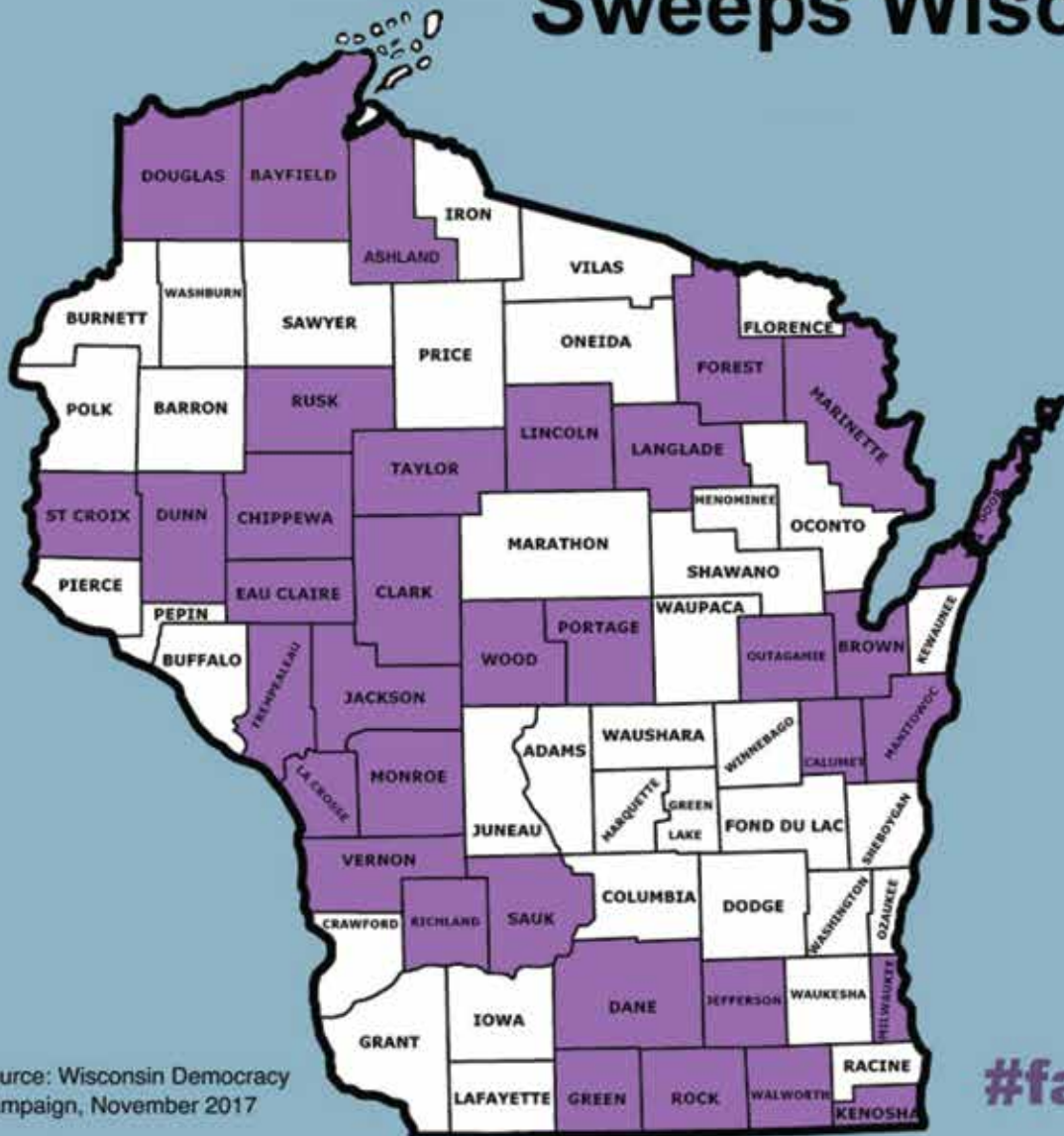


The Movement Against Gerrymandering Sweeps Wisconsin



Source: Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, November 2017

#fairmaps



ANNUAL REPORT
2016- 2017

Annual Report, 2016-2017

Dear Friend,

It's been an eventful year, to say the least.

There were some positive developments, especially on the redistricting issue here in Wisconsin.

But those who rule Wisconsin continue to degrade our environment, undermine our public schools, attack local control, and assault our rights.

By the way, I'm not referring to the governor or any legislative leaders. They don't rule Wisconsin; they are the mere water boys for the folks who rule Wisconsin.

So who actually rules Wisconsin?

Well, the Koch Brothers, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, the Dairy Business Association, the Bradley Foundation, the school voucher lobby, and the NRA.

These are the forces we spotlight. We even have a feature on our website called "Influence Peddler of the Month."

Speaking of our website, we added a valuable section to it this year in response to the grave threat that Donald Trump poses to our democracy. It's called "Fascism: A Guide for Study and Resistance," which you might find handy.

In the year ahead, we'll continue to expose who's purchasing our public policy on the cheap in Wisconsin. We'll do all we can to combat the threats to our democracy, both here in Wisconsin and nationally. And we'll point the way forward, offering reforms so we can get back on track.

As the poet W. H. Auden wrote, "All we have is our voice." And we're going to use our voice to our utmost so that we'll be able to say again, in the not too distant future, that we're proud to be from Wisconsin.

Thanks for your support for our urgent work!



Matt Rothschild
Executive Director



Making an Impact:

1. Redistricting

We not only supported the landmark court case that's at the U.S. Supreme Court, but we also helped galvanize a movement, county board by county board, to demand nonpartisan redistricting. In 2017, at least 24 county boards passed resolutions calling for fair maps. And it all began with a phone call to our office from a Lincoln County board member who wanted more information on the topic, which we provided. (We even sent him a draft of a model board resolution on the issue.) Now the total number of counties for fair voting maps stands at 35, representing more than 62 percent of the state's population.



2. "Corporate Personhood"

We promoted referendums, in community after community, in favor of amending the U.S. Constitution to proclaim, finally, that corporations are not persons and money is not speech. Some 115 communities have passed such measures – and by overwhelming margins each time – under the guidance of our ally, Wisconsin United to Amend, which did the heavy lifting. Wisconsin is now second only to Massachusetts in the number of communities that have climbed on board for this!



3. Defending Freedom of Association

We played a pivotal role in stopping an attack on a basic American freedom. The legislature was considering a "riot bill" that would have made it a felony for you to be at any public event where one member of your group did something violent or issued a threat. We testified against this, and convinced even some Republican legislators that this was guilt by association and an assault on our freedom of assembly. (They changed the bill so that only the violent person, not the whole crowd, could be found guilty.)

4. Exposing the Corrupt Wisconsin Supreme Court

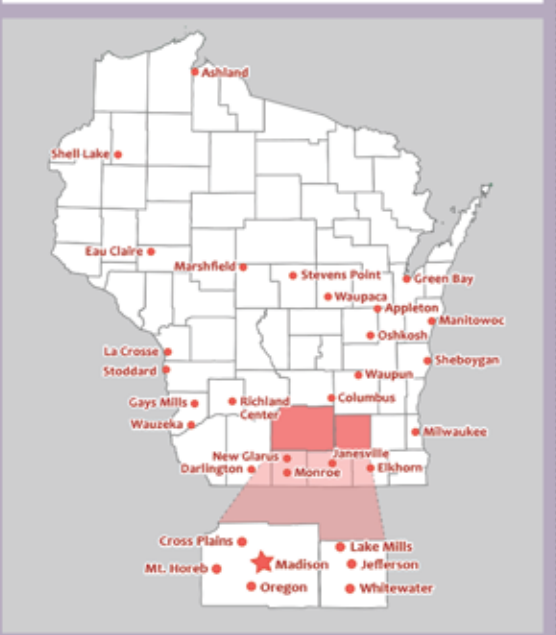
We denounced the conservative majority on the Wisconsin Supreme Court for not tightening its recusal rules. And we wrote that it has become a "corrupt, rigged, and renegade court." For this, Chief Justice Roggensack scolded us by name in public. To which we replied: "If she can't stand the heat, she should get out of the chief justice's chair — or clean up the court's act."

5. Educating the Public

We traveled all across the state, from Ashland to Elkhorn, to talk to groups large and small about money and politics and the threats to our democracy. We also appeared in the state's largest newspapers, as well as on Wisconsin Public Radio, and many local radio stations. And we spoke with reporters from *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *U.S. News & World Report*, and the *PBS NewsHour*.



Locations of Matt's Outreach - 2016-2017



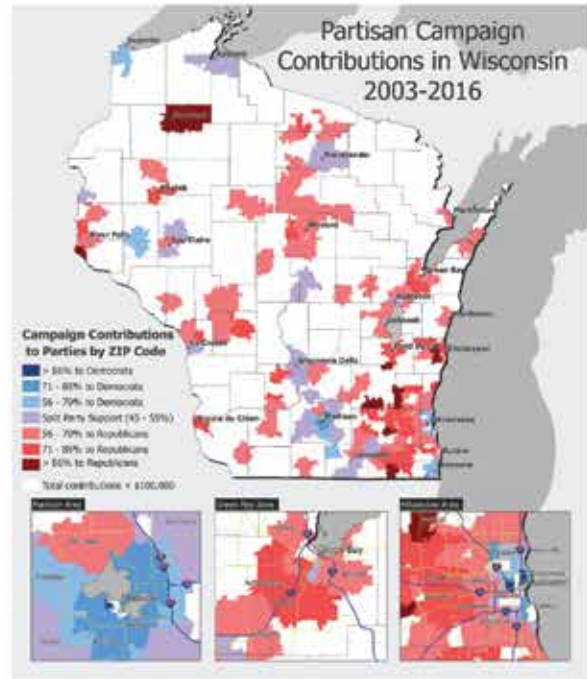
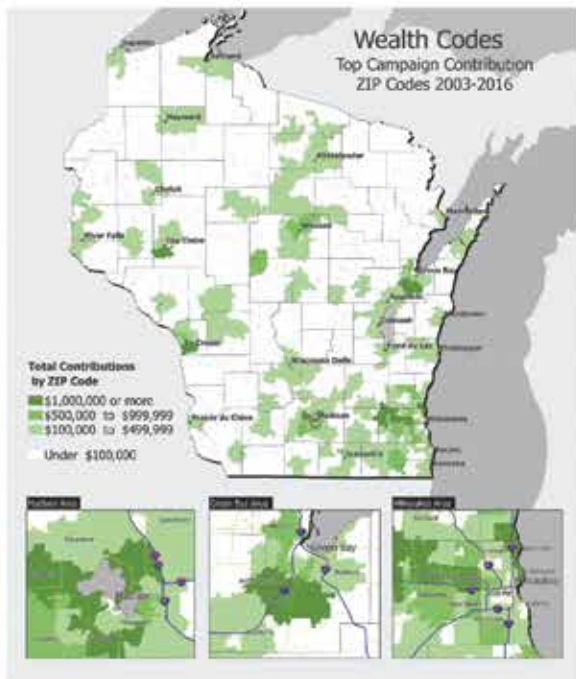


6. Running a News Bureau

We posted original reporting on our website, Mondays through Fridays, on money and politics in Wisconsin – news you can't get anywhere else.

7. Tracking Campaign Donors

We relentlessly tracked donors to and outside spending on state election campaigns in our publicly accessible database. And from this database, for instance, a student working with the State Cartographer's Office at the UW-Madison Geography Department, drew a map showing where the wealthiest donors come from. (below)



8. Working Collaboratively

We worked in coalition with more than 50 other nonprofit organizations in Wisconsin across a wide range of issues. And we supplied many of these groups with crucial information about the powerful interests that are distorting policy in their areas. And we've helped unify the pro-democracy nonprofit sector so we're all rowing in the same direction!

“The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign is essential to all of us working for clean government.”

- Kimberlee Wright, Executive Director, Midwest Environmental Advocates



Approved Sand Plant Will Destroy Rare Wetlands

May 24, 2017



A Georgia-based investment company's proposed sand mining and processing plant, which would destroy about 16 acres of pristine wetlands, was approved by the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The plant, which would be located between Tomah and Black River Falls, is sought by Manox Timber, a company owned by Atlanta, Ga.-based Timberland Investment Resources.

Midwest Environmental Advocates, a Madison-based environmental law firm, opposes the company's plans because of the wetlands loss and the potential harm to wildlife and their habitat.

State law was changed in 2012 by Walker and the GOP-controlled legislature to limit the

We're Counting on You!

As you can see, we're doing all we can to stand up for democracy and good government.

We call out the abusers and the manipulators of power, and we clamor for real reform so that all of us can have an equal say in public policy.

Basically, we want to put the "public" back in public policy because today our government policy is being designed not by the people but by the private special interests that are destroying our state.

Help us map a better future for Wisconsin!

Please send us a generous tax-deductible gift before this year is out so we can redouble our efforts to reach more and more people with our urgent message.



Thanking you in advance...and wishing you Happy Holidays!

--The staff and Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

"Matt Rothschild and the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign are an indispensable source of information on influential campaign donors, ethical conflicts, secretive legislation and other issues of concern to those who care about a functioning democracy."

-- Bruce Murphy, Editor, Urban Milwaukee



Join us on social media!

******* THANKS! *******

To all the individual donors, like you, who generously supported us this past year. And thanks to the following funders: the Brico Fund, the Buck Foundation, the Evjue Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, and the Magic Pebble Foundation.

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Beverly Speer - Outreach & Advocacy Director

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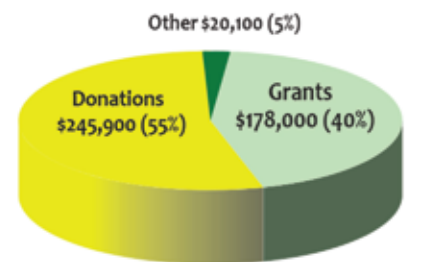
Ways to Donate



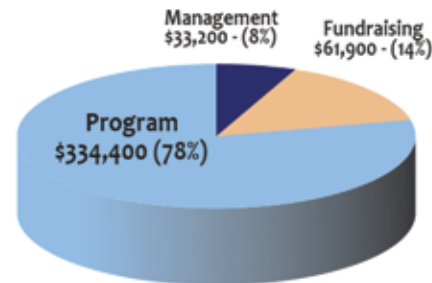
Executive Director Matt Rothschild speaks at a Fair Maps Wisconsin Town Hall in New Berlin with coalition partners including Wisconsin Voices' Shauntay Nelson

The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, a 501(c)(3) organization, accepts cash, checks, credit card donations, and bequests. 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. 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 contributions are fully tax-deductible. Thank you!**

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



Income - \$444,000*



Expense - \$429,500

** In addition to the income shown above, \$500,000 carried over from the prior year is available for current and future year expenses.