



2020

ANNUAL REPORT



Toward a democracy where everyone has an equal voice!

DEAR FRIEND,

2020 has been an insane year. I hope you and your loved ones managed to elude the coronavirus, which has cast such a long shadow.

We've also just been through one of the most momentous presidential elections in our nation's history.

And this summer we saw one of the largest progressive mass mobilizations in our history, as the Movement for Black Lives galvanized millions of people in the struggle against police violence and white supremacy.

On top of all that, the crisis of climate change raged on, with fires engulfing the West.

Here in Wisconsin, we saw irresponsibility reach a lethal level, as Speaker Vos and Majority Leader Fitzgerald and the conservative justices on the Wisconsin Supreme Court refused to let Governor Evers postpone the April primary and then tied his hands when he tried to take sensible measures to curb the pandemic. If they weren't shielded by immunity, they'd be facing reckless endangerment charges right now.

Amidst this challenging year, we persevered. Doing what we do best, we tracked and exposed big and dark money in our politics. We campaigned for pro-democracy reforms. We testified at the State Capitol. We spoke to groups around the state, first in person and then by Zoom. We got the word out on radio, in newspapers, and on line. We worked harmoniously with other pro-democracy groups, whether on banning gerrymandering or expanding voter rights. We published a unique report on the Wisconsin funders of our climate crisis. And we spoke out about the need for racial equity if we're ever to have a real democracy.

We couldn't do any of this crucial work without your support, for which we're very grateful. And I'm urging you once again to support the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign with a tax-deductible donation so we can keep pushing for a full democracy, where everyone, finally, has an equal voice. (I've enclosed an envelope inside for you.)

Here's to a better year for all in 2021!



Matt

Matt Rothschild
Executive Director



Matt speaking at the Wisconsin Farmer's Union conference in January

2020

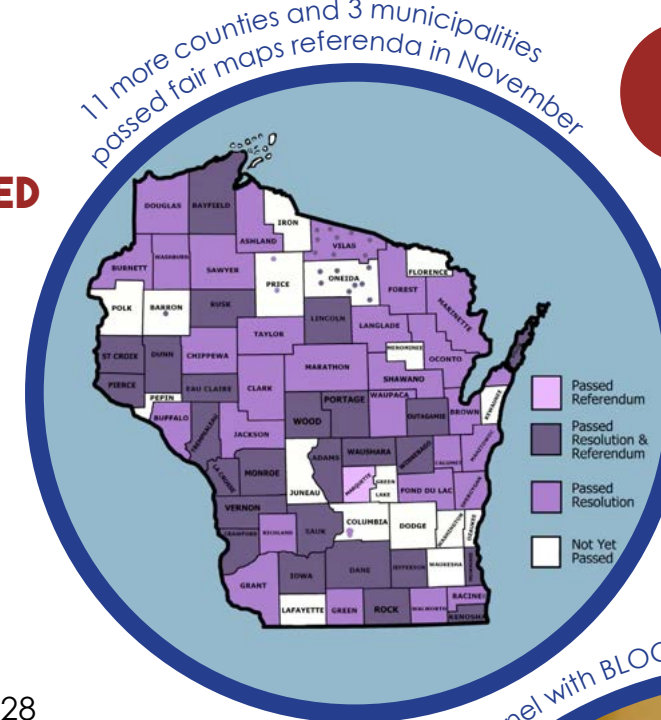
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1 WE HIGHLIGHTED THE HARM OF CITIZENS UNITED
For the tenth anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's horrendous decision in Citizens United, we published a report entitled "Citizens United in Wisconsin: A Decade of Disaster." It noted that independent expenditures in our state went up an astonishing 500% compared to the decade prior to the decision.

2 WE BOOSTED THE MOVEMENT TO BAN GERRYMANDERING
We gave speeches and ran radio ads all across the state of Wisconsin in favor of banning gerrymandering, and we played an indispensable part in the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition. All this work is bearing fruit, as 54 counties have passed resolutions in favor of nonpartisan redistricting, and 28 counties have passed advisory referendums, by overwhelming margins, in favor of banning gerrymandering.

3 WE PUBLISHED A UNIQUE REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN WISCONSIN
Entitled "The Filthy Forty," our report itemized 40 laws and policies that damaged our environment and contributed to climate change in Wisconsin over the past decade. It also noted the amounts that outside groups spent to promote this destructive agenda. For instance, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce spent \$26.2 million on electioneering over this period.

4 WE SHOWED WHY RACISM IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH DEMOCRACY
Following the horrific murder of George Floyd, we made clear that uprooting racism is crucial to saving democracy. As Matt Rothschild wrote "We cannot be a real democracy while racism persists — whether it's police brutality, voter suppression, grotesque disparities in income and wealth and health, or any other manifestation of systemic institutional racism. A real democracy is one where everyone has an equal voice, and racism deprives people of color of voice — and all too often of breath."



Matt spoke on a Zoom panel with BLOC Executive Director Angela Lang

5 WE REVEALED THE \$ BEHIND THE ASSAULT ON "SAFER AT HOME"
The Republican lawsuit to overturn Gov. Evers's "Safer at Home" order was supported by Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC), the state's largest business organization. Over the years, WMC spent more than \$3.8 million to support Chief Justice Patience Roggensack, Justice Annette Ziegler, and Justice Dan Kelly, three of the court's five conservatives, who all voted to overturn Evers.

6 WE EXPOSED THE TOP 25 SPENDERS IN WISCONSIN
For our 25th anniversary, we took a look at the top 25 individual donors in Wisconsin to statewide and legislative candidates. First on the list: Diane Hendricks, and her late husband, Kenneth: \$860,000.

7 WE CONNECTED THE DOTS BETWEEN TRUMP AND FASCISM
Back in 2015, long before almost anyone was noticing the risks Donald Trump posed to our democracy, we posted on our website an indispensable toolkit "Fascism: A Guide for Study and Resistance," which we updated right up to the November election.

8 WE GOT THE WORD OUT IN THE MEDIA
Our op-eds ran in the Wisconsin State Journal, The Capital Times, the Wisconsin Examiner, and Urban Milwaukee. We were also quoted in those papers, as well as by the Associated Press and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. We appeared often on radio stations across the state. And we fielded calls from national reporters at The New York Times and other outlets.

9 WE SPOKE TO GATHERINGS ALL ACROSS THE STATE
Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, we gave talks in person. After the pandemic hit, we took to videoconferencing by Zoom. All told, we spoke to groups in Baraboo, Cross Plains, Ft. Atkinson, Janesville, Jefferson, La Crosse, Madison, Menominee, Milwaukee, Montello, Mt. Horeb, Sauk City, Shawano, Sparta, Spring Green, Stoughton, and Whitefish Bay.

10 WE WORKED HARMONIOUSLY IN COALITION
Whether it was with the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition, Wisconsin United to Amend, the Wisconsin Voting Rights Coalition, or Community Shares of Wisconsin, we worked cooperatively together, understanding that no single individual or group can save democracy in Wisconsin. Only by working together and by building a grassroots movement can we achieve a democracy where everyone has an equal voice.

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU

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

HELP US PROMOTE A PRO-DEMOCRACY AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN!

Fair maps... Automatic voter registration... Felon re-enfranchisement... Dark money disclosure... Public financing of elections... Please send us a generous tax-deductible gift so we can push this urgent pro-democracy agenda forward.



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TRADITIONAL GIVING

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.

WORKPLACE GIVING

The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign is a member of Community Shares of Wisconsin. 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.



DIGITAL DONATIONS

Twice a year we participate in online days of giving. The first week in March we are part of Community Shares of Wisconsin's The Big Share, a friendly online community platform to raise funds and visibility for 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.

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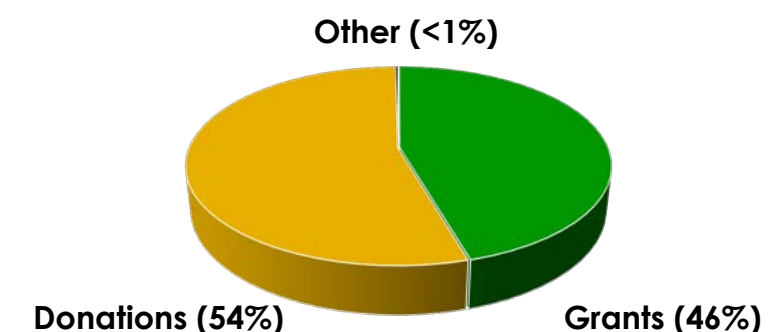
THANK YOU!

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

All contributions to the Democracy Campaign are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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INCOME – \$478,800



EXPENSES – \$425,400

