



2018

# ANNUAL REPORT

# DEAR FRIEND,

2018 was a year that showcased all of what we do here at the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

Because it was such an important election year, news outlets relied more heavily on us than ever to give them the goods on campaign donations and outside spending, and we gladly obliged.

We noted, for instance, that the Koch Brothers' group, Americans for Prosperity, spent about \$7.4 million on express advocacy during the election.

We testified several times at the state capitol, including helping to defeat the effort by Governor Walker and Majority Leader Fitzgerald to delay the calling of special elections when there were vacancies in the legislature.

And we advocated for crucial reforms that would make our democracy work for all of us.

One of those reforms is to ban gerrymandering in Wisconsin. We gathered hundreds and hundreds of signatures at the Dane County Farmers' Market on our fair maps petition, and we worked with allies across the state to push this issue forward. Now 41 county boards have passed resolutions calling on the legislature to give us fair maps!

We didn't hunker down in our office in Madison. We went all over the state to spread the pro-democracy word, giving 30 talks from Menomonie to New Glarus and from Green Bay to Kenosha, and many points in between.

But what I'm most excited about is our outreach to students. I spoke on several college campuses and at a local high school. It's crucial that we get another generation or two involved in our issue!

Thanks to you for supporting all of our urgent work.

*Matt*

Matt Rothschild  
Executive Director

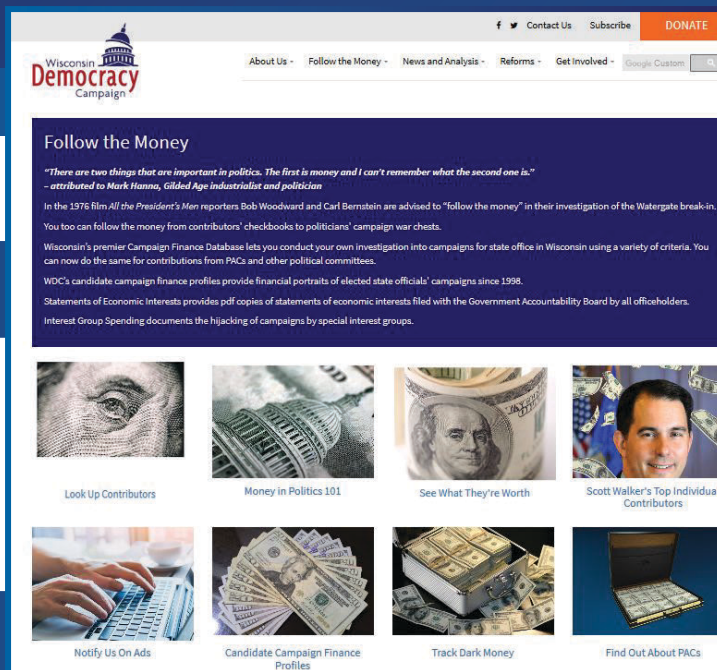




# 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## 1 TRACKING THE MONEY

Our data analyst, David Julseth, continued to collect and process data for our invaluable online searchable database of all the election campaign money that flowed into Wisconsin.



## 2 EXPOSING THE INFLUENCE PEDDLERS

Our research director, Michael Buelow, anointed an "Influence Peddler" every month, profiling the powerful groups that work in the shadows.

## 3 FEEDING THE MEDIA

Our staff fielded dozens and dozens of inquiries from the media – including *Mother Jones*, *Associated Press*, *New York Times*, *Governing Magazine*, and *Washington Post* – and helped get them what they needed.

## 4 POSTING ORIGINAL STORIES

On our newly redesigned website, we posted more than 100 original news stories and commentaries on money in politics and the need for pro-democracy reforms.

## 5 RIDING THE AIRWAVES

We appeared on radio and TV more than 70 times, including on Wisconsin Public Radio and on stations from Eau Claire to Fond du Lac, and from Hayward to Milwaukee.



Fair Maps Coalition's "Maps Madness People v. Politicians" rigged basketball game outside the State Capitol Building.

# 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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## ADVOCATING FOR FAIR VOTING MAPS

Our outreach and advocacy director, Beverly Speer, played a pivotal role in helping the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition move the ball forward on banning gerrymandering in Wisconsin.

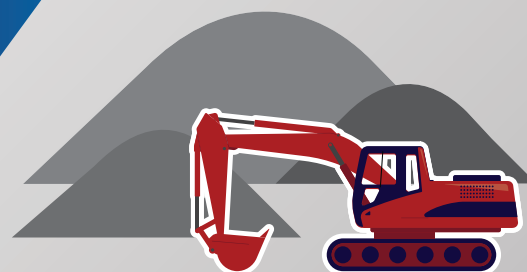


Lindsay Dorff, Citizen Action of Wisconsin Organizing Cooperative member in Green Bay, speaks at a Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition press event at the State Capitol following the court decision on Wisconsin's 2011 partisan gerrymander lawsuit.

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## CALLING OUT POLLUTERS

We exposed the toxic nexus between big donations from the factory farms and frac sand mines and the changes in the laws and policies in Wisconsin that have led to more pollution.



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## PROMOTING LOCAL CONTROL

We highlighted the eight-year assault on local control in Wisconsin in our postings and in three talks we gave in Vernon County over the summer.



Matt Rothschild provides testimony before State Senate committee public hearing on AB947.

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## TESTIFYING

We testified several times at the State Capitol on a variety of subjects, including the smearing of staff members at the Ethics and Elections Commissions, the need to hold special elections as required by law when there are vacancies, and the need to protect our constitutional rights.

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## SPEAKING AT SCHOOLS

We spoke at UW-Madison, UW-Parkside, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-Stout. And we also gave a talk to seniors at Mt. Horeb High School, and to college seniors who were touring the Capitol.



# 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 Brookby Foundation, the Buck Foundation, the Craig Newmark Philanthropic Fund, the Evjue Foundation, and the Joyce Foundation.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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David S. Julseth, Data Analyst  
Barb Kneer, Financial Manager  
Matthew Rothschild, Executive Director  
Beverly Speer, Outreach and Advocacy Director

## 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!

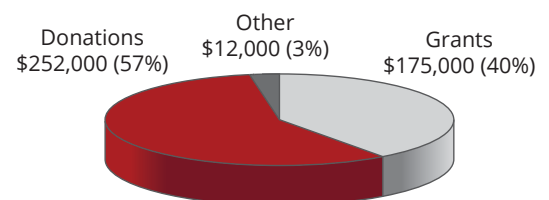
Fair maps... Automatic voter registration... Felon reenfranchisement... Dark money disclosure... Public financing of elections... Please send us a generous tax-deductible gift so we can push this urgent pro-democracy agenda forward.

## WAYS TO DONATE

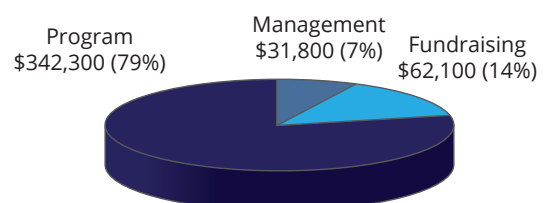
The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, a 501(c)(3) organization, accepts cash, checks, credit card donations, and bequests. Automatic monthly or quarterly donations can be made via electronic funds transfer or by credit card. Secure online donations can be made at [www.wisd.org](http://www.wisd.org). If you 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!**

### Income - \$439,000



### Expense - \$436,200



*\*In addition to the income shown above, \$200,000 carried over from the prior year is available for current and future year expenses.*



# 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.



*Erin Grunze, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin's executive director, and Beverly Speer, WDC's outreach and advocacy director, take a moment to celebrate years of social justice collaboration and the good work of Community Shares at the federation's annual awards gathering.*

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