

A Message from our Executive Director

In recent years, North Carolina has faced some of the nation's most comprehensive attacks on voting access, fair redistricting, and governmental checks and balances. But it's also a period when North Carolinians have fought back to protect our democracy and build meaningful long-term power.

In 2018, alongside our local advocates, statewide partners, and national allies, Democracy North Carolina made meaningful progress on a variety of fronts. We opposed anti-voter amendments and shifted public opinion; played an important role in prodemocracy litigation; waged a winning defense to mitigate harmful legislation; deployed hundreds of vote protectors

and millions of resources; provided vital research to support voter advocacy and education; and built tremendous capacity for the fights ahead. Thanks to our work last year, we're ready to face the many challenges and opportunities ahead in the years to come.

Tomas Lopez Executive Director

2018 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1.6 million

of people Democracy NC helped mobilize against voter ID in North Carolina

1) OPPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Democracy NC took a leadership role as plaintiffs alongside other nonpartisan groups in opposing constitutional amendments placed on the statewide general election ballot. Three amendments directly implicated our democracy: proposals regarding judicial vacancies, the composition of the state elections board, and a photo ID requirement to vote. Voters rejected the judicial and elections board proposals by wide margins, and 1.6 million people voted against the ID proposal, which narrowly passed after a dramatic increase in opposition to voter ID over the course of the election season.

2) WINNING DEFENSE IN THE NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Democracy NC was part of strategic campaigns yielding important victories against harmful legislative proposals. Our Fair Courts initiative educated and mobilized the public in response to legislative attempts to remake the judicial selection process and gerrymander judicial districts. As a result of our coalition work, legislators narrowed their redistricting plans and instead placed a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to alter the process for filling judicial vacancies, which ultimately failed. Our research and advocacy also helped restore the last Saturday of early voting in 2018 — removed as part of a new law that restricts counties' latitude to set voting hours and sites.



1.8 million

of voter guides Democracy NC distributed

3) ELECTION PROTECTION & VOTER GUIDES

During the high-turnout general election, Democracy NC recruited, trained, and placed more than 800 volunteer poll monitors at 279 precincts in 55 counties; Democracy NC poll monitors were present at 1 in 10 polling places for all or part of Election Day. Democracy NC has also become a respected producer of nonpartisan voter guides, which have a proven impact in increasing turnout. This year, we coordinated the creation and distribution of 1.8 million guides in 13 regional editions, 12 county-specific editions, statewide English and Spanish editions, and a faith community-specific election information brochure.

4) SUCCESSFUL LITIGATION OUTCOMES

Alongside attorneys and allies, Democracy NC played an important role in litigation critical to upholding democratic principles and practices. In 2018, we settled a long-running National Voter Registration Act lawsuit allowing voters to more effectively register to vote through DMV offices; we won a lawsuit challenging Wake County legislative districts that violated the state's constitutional prohibition on middecade redistricting; and we partnered in an amicus brief in the North Carolina governor's lawsuit challenging the legality of proposed constitutional amendments.



1,047

of poll monitors deployed in the 2018 Primary and General Elections to help address voting problems and assess the overall voting experience

5) RESEARCH TO SUPPORT ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

We published "From the Voter's View: Lessons from the 2016 Election," a report that reviewed key trends and offered recommendations for improving the voting experience; the findings informed testimony to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in its investigation into the current state of federal voting rights enforcement. We also interpreted data on the use of early voting — which helped win back the final Saturday of early voting for 2018, as well as achieve expansive early voting plans in counties where those plans were disputed. We ended the year with a series of analyses on early voting turnout data, which helped media frame its reporting, shaped outreach and organizing strategies, and informed our coalition work.



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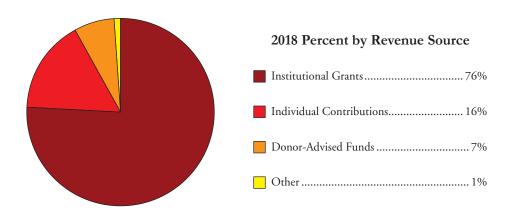
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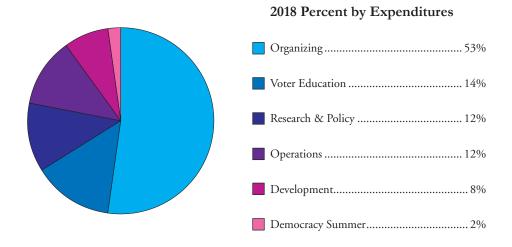
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