

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

# FAIR ELECTIONS CENTER



**FAIR ELECTIONS CENTER**



# INTRODUCTION

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As election deniers continue to denigrate the U.S. electoral system and intimidate exhausted election officials, the threat to our democracy hasn't decreased since 2020. The seemingly daily bombardment of attacks has only served to steel Fair Elections Center's resolve to fight for the right to vote. This report catalogs our 2022 efforts to counter these anti-democratic forces, protect access to the ballot box for all citizens, and expand the franchise for historically marginalized communities and the next generation of younger voters.



I'm voting  
for my  
future.

VOTE



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## A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Friends,

In the last couple of years, the assault on our democracy has been extraordinary. In that time, state legislatures introduced hundreds of anti-voter bills across the country and enacted dozens of new laws to make voting more difficult for students, people of color, and other marginalized communities. But instead of being overwhelmed by these anti-democratic measures, we are energized to confront the attack on voting rights with every device at our disposal, and that's precisely what we did in 2022.

One of the new tools we employed this year is the Know Your Voting Rights guides we compiled for the 10 states where we focus our campus work. Leading up to Election Day, voters were facing threats of intimidation and harassment at the polls, so we put together these guides to help in-person voters. Three of these guides were translated into Spanish to help Latinx voters in Arizona, Florida, and Texas. While most voters have a smooth voting experience, we wanted to make sure that voters understand what to do if they run into challenges or other hurdles at the polls.

In these pages, you'll learn about the actions we took in our advocacy work, our litigation clashes in the courts, and our continued collaboration with partners across the spectrum to strengthen our democracy. Those collaborations include our ongoing co-leadership and support of Power the Polls, the poll worker recruitment initiative we launched with MTV, Comedy Central, The Civic Alliance, and a small group of other businesses and nonprofit organizations back in 2020.

In February, our Campus Vote Project (CVP) celebrated its 10th Anniversary. For the last decade, we have been fighting to protect and expand student voting rights, while working alongside campus administrators to institutionalize voter education and voting practices for their students. In those ten years, we've grown exponentially.





Summer Staff Retreat - GWU School of Law - August 2022

This year, we worked with 320 partner campuses, offered over 500 stipended Democracy Fellow positions, and hosted statewide Student Voter Summits in ten key states. CVP conducted a survey of more than 1,000 college and university students to identify their concerns about the voting process and ascertain which issues are most important to them.

CVP's HBCU Legacy Initiative added a dozen more colleges and universities to its roster. And following the November 8 general election, CVP conducted an aggressive outreach campaign in Georgia's U.S. Senate runoff election to ensure students and other young voters had the info they needed to make their voices heard in that critical contest.

Over three days this summer, when the acute phase of the Covid pandemic receded, our entire staff joined CVP's Student Advisory Board at George Washington University's Law School to finally spend some time together and get deep into planning for the work ahead in the fall. Along with team building exercises, there were numerous presentations and discussions on our history and mission, our legal and policy teams' view of the current voting rights landscape in our 10 states, and a substantive discussion of ongoing efforts there and in a half dozen other states where our legal team supports voting rights coalitions. It was refreshing for a staff that is scattered across the country to be in the same room and interact face-to-face for the first time in years.

We welcomed two new members to our Board this year. **Clarissa Martinez-de-Castro** is [Deputy Vice President at UnidosUS](#), where she leads efforts to advance fair and effective immigration policies and to expand Latino civic engagement by helping immigrants become citizens, citizens become voters, and the community overall become an active participant in policy debates. **Rebecca Green** is an [Associate Professor of the Practice of Law at William & Mary Law School](#) where she co-directs the Election Law Program, a joint project of the Law School and the National Center for State Courts. In that role, Green oversees its annual symposia and speaker series, and undertakes a series of projects designed to educate judges about election law topics.



Our legal team, along with partners at the Southern Poverty Law Center, scored a major victory in Florida, beating back one of the voter suppression laws passed in 2021. Our client, the Harriet Tubman Freedom Fighters—a group that conducts registration drives in the Black community and with returning citizens—challenged the part of the law that interfered with their ability to register new voters.

We saw the media reach out to FEC staff for our take on voting rights issues and other topics. Our VP, Rebekah Caruthers, appeared on [Roland Martin's "Unfiltered" program](#) on the day Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson was confirmed as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. She spoke on the significance of Brown's confirmation, what it means for the country, and what it could mean for the future of voting rights. Rebekah was also invited by NBC News to author [a piece for its Think opinion page](#) on the crucial role election workers play in our democracy.

Fortunately, the election was not as problematic as many had expected, thanks to the commendable work of thousands of volunteer poll workers and dedicated election officials across the country and a very large turnout of voters determined to show their vote mattered.

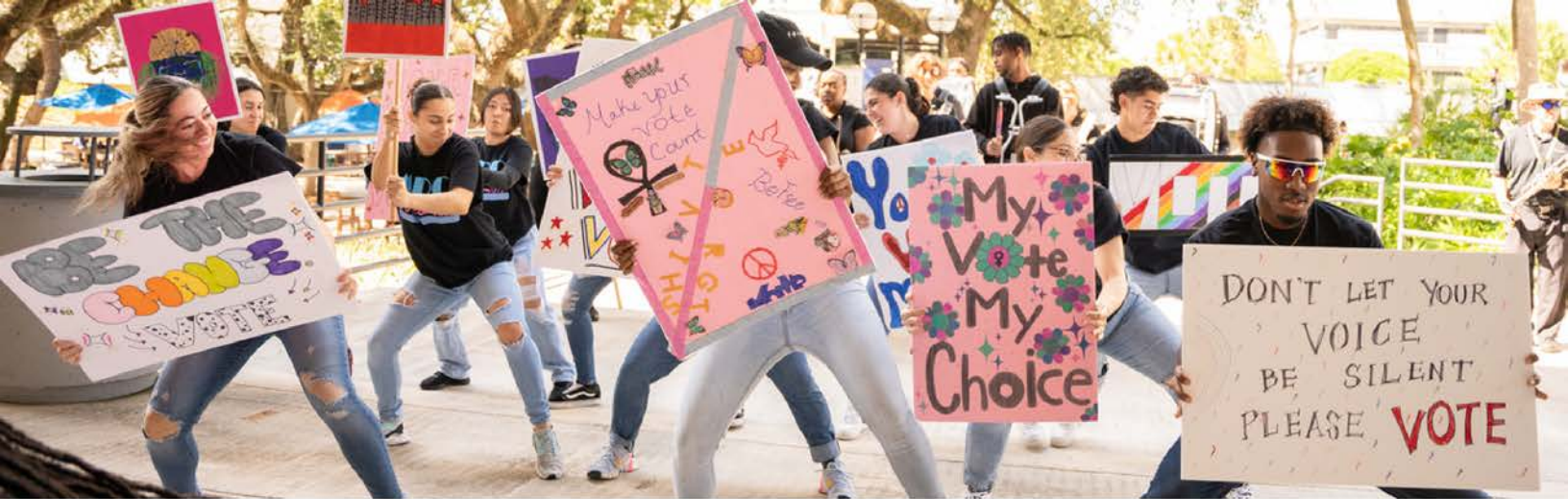
Young voters especially turned out to vote. Exit poll analysis by the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University estimates that 27% of young people (ages 18-29) voted in November 2022, making it the second-highest youth turnout rate for a midterm election in the past 30 years.

This election was a huge win for our democracy, as numerous election deniers (including many competing to run elections as Secretaries of State) were rejected by the voters.

We're pleased that overall the 2022 midterm elections were secure, fair, and without a major incident at the polls. But we know that anti-democratic forces will not abandon their efforts to shrink the electorate and benefit their preferred candidates. And so we are geared up and ready for new challenges and the evolving threats in 2023 and beyond.



Robert M. Brandon  
President and CEO



# ADVOCACY

## Youth Voting Rights Act

Introduced by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and U.S. Rep. Nikema Williams (D-GA-05) in July, the Youth Voting Rights Act includes major proposals to significantly expand registration and voting access for college students and other young people. Based on CVP's 10 years of work with young voters, school administrators, and our Policy Director Michelle Kanter Cohen's expertise with the National Voter Registration Act, she and CVP National Director Mike Burns provided feedback, and Fair Elections Center endorsed the bill when it was introduced.

If passed, this bill would remove barriers and restrictions by:

- Expanding legal enforcement of the 26th Amendment, which granted 18-year-olds the right to vote
- Requiring public colleges and universities to provide voter registration services
- Requiring states to create a pre-registration process for federal elections starting at age 16, allowing states to optionally implement pre-registration for people younger than 16
- Codifying students' rights to vote from their campus addresses
- Requiring public colleges and universities to set up a polling place for all federal elections
- Guaranteeing that student ID is accepted as voter ID where required
- Creating a \$26 million grant program for youth involvement in elections

## State Legislative Advocacy

Fair Elections Center works with twelve civic engagement tables, where we work with partners to defend against legislation that curtails voting rights and support their efforts in offering positive reforms. Our team works in conjunction with these voting rights coalitions to improve election administration and support grassroots mobilization groups in election protection efforts. We provide testimony, draft talking points, draft opinion pieces and write letters advocating administrative changes.

Our litigation and policy team [provided testimony](#) to state legislatures in Florida, Louisiana, New Hampshire, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin in opposition to bills that would make voting more difficult. In some instances, we supported bills to expand the franchise.



## Support for Voting Rights Initiatives

We promoted a pair of ballot initiatives in Arizona and Michigan to make voting more fair and accessible. In both states, CVP educated students about the initiatives, what they meant for voters, and recruited students to volunteer to collect signatures. The Arizona Democracy Resource Center launched an initiative that would have expanded access to the ballot by protecting the state's popular, bipartisan permanent early voting list, expanding in-person early voting, and safeguarding the rights of tribal voters and voters with disabilities. More than 475,000 signatures were turned in, but the Arizona Supreme Court brazenly rejected hundreds of thousands of them, rendering it ineligible for the November ballot.

In Michigan, Promote The Vote launched an initiative to make voting more accessible and protect election outcomes from partisan interference. It would allow nine days of early voting, allow voters to register for absentee ballots for all future elections, require ballot drop boxes for every 15,000 voters in a municipality, and establish that post-election audits can only be conducted by state and local officials. It was placed on the November ballot and was approved by 60% of voters.





# LITIGATION

## Florida Voter Registration and Assistance

In Florida, we filed a lawsuit with the Southern Poverty Law Center in June 2021 on behalf of the Harriet Tubman Freedom Fighters (HTFF), challenging provisions of a Florida law known as SB 90. Under one provision, the state would have forced community organizations to warn voter applicants that the organization “might not” submit their registration on time, even though these organizations and their volunteers make every effort to submit applications on time in compliance with state deadlines. The new requirement made it less likely potential voter applicants would submit registrations through community groups, whose drives have historically raised participation in many communities of color.

In March 2022, a federal court sided with the HTFF by ruling that forcing an organization to make false claims to potential voters while trying to help them register to vote infringed on the organization’s right to free speech. U.S. District Court Judge Mark E. Walker’s ruling drew a straight line between this voter suppression and the Jim Crow policies of the segregated South in the early 1960s. Faced with that ruling, the Florida legislature repealed the restriction, removing the requirement from the statute in a victory for voters and voter registration groups. Walker also ruled in three cases consolidated with our case HTFF v. Lee, mandating that Florida seek pre-clearance from the court for changes to voting laws that would restrict dropboxes, voting by mail, third-party voter registration organizations, or assisting other voters in the next 10 years under Section 3c of the Voting Rights Act. The ruling in those three cases is on appeal. We were joined in the case by the firm Baker McKenzie.

See more about the case [here](#).

## Arizona Voter Registration Restrictions

In June, Fair Elections Center, the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest, and the law firm of Arnold & Porter filed a complaint on behalf of civic engagement organization Poder Latinx in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, seeking to block two new state laws’ arbitrary and vague procedures for investigating the citizenship status of Arizona registration applicants and registered voters. Poder Latinx works to register and engage Latinx voters in Arizona, and its efforts, along with those of an additional client organization, Chicanos Por La Causa, will be hampered by a voter registration system that is ever-changing and complicated, and that will baselessly harass naturalized voters.

HB 2492 and HB 2243 (which will go into effect in January 2023) require Arizona election officials to conduct open-ended investigations of registration applicants’ and registered voters’ citizenship status by searching all available federal, state, and local databases. County recorders are also instructed to reject registration forms and cancel voter registrations based on “information” that the applicant or registered voter “is not a U.S. citizen.” This vague phrase invites rejection or cancellation of voter registration based on any “information” that someone is a noncitizen, regardless of accuracy, and can result in disenfranchisement based on old or obsolete information, or nothing more than a private citizen’s verbal accusation. Additionally, HB 2243 subjects registered voters to extra scrutiny if a county recorder’s staff member merely suspects that a voter lacks U.S. citizenship.

See more about the case [here](#).



## Wisconsin Absentee Voting Restrictions

Fair Elections Center, along with Wisconsin-based Law Forward, filed a complaint on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin in Dane County Circuit Court, seeking both clarity and protection for absentee voters whose ballots have technical defects. Following a September 7 ruling in Waukesha County Circuit Court in *White v. Wisconsin Elections Commission*, the Wisconsin Election Commission's long-standing guidance on curing minor witness address defects has been barred and withdrawn. This ruling left absentee voters vulnerable to disenfranchisement.

We intervened on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin in this lawsuit brought by the Waukesha County Republican Party, which sought to strike down a process for curing incomplete and missing witness addresses on absentee ballot certificate envelopes. Under Wisconsin law, the witness address is required for the ballots to count.

Ultimately, we failed to persuade the Court, and a temporary injunction was issued. Importantly though, the injunction bars the "curing" of a ballot, but the Court expressly declined to reach the federal constitutional and statutory arguments we made and, further, expressly stated that it was not changing the Commission's definition of what constitutes an "address" under the Wisconsin statute. The cure policy that was struck down had been in place for six years because of our advocacy—and threat to sue—before the 2016 general election. Now, the sole method of curing a ballot will be a clerk's purely discretionary, arbitrary decision as to whether to return a ballot with a defective witness certification to the voter. This method is intolerable under the U.S. Constitution and federal statutes.

See more [here](#).

## Kentucky Voting Rights Restoration

Our First Amendment challenge to Kentucky's arbitrary restoration system for people with felony convictions seeking to regain their voting rights is up on appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit for the second time. After nearly four years of litigation in district court and the Sixth Circuit (having won a unanimous reversal on the first appeal and a remand), Judge Karen Caldwell has dismissed our case once again, this time citing a lack of injury and standing. The Court concluded that an arbitrary restoration system is not an administrative licensing scheme but rather a system of executive clemency and, therefore, the First Amendment precedents we cite do not apply. We disagree with the decision as it creates a system of selectively granting or denying voting rights. Restoration is an administrative licensing scheme in all material respects under the First Amendment unfettered discretion doctrine. We have appealed again.

See more [here](#).





## Tennessee Voter Registration Drive Restrictions

In 2019, Fair Elections Center and its partners successfully obtained a preliminary injunction against a Tennessee statute that made Tennessee's voter registration drive laws among the strictest and most confusing in the country. Because of that ruling, the law never went into effect and voter registration drives were able to continue their work in Tennessee. Ultimately in the spring of 2020, because of the litigation and court ruling, the Tennessee legislature repealed the 2019 law. As counsel for successful civil rights plaintiffs, Fair Elections Center and its allies in the litigation were granted their legal fees by the court. Tennessee appealed the ruling, and this fall, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit affirmed the district court's ruling, agreeing that the plaintiff civic engagement organizations were prevailing parties in the litigation. This ruling vindicates not only voting rights plaintiffs, but also other civil rights plaintiffs whose success in the courts is followed by a legislative repeal of unconstitutional laws. Additionally this ruling increases accountability for legislatures by penalizing the passing and repealing of bad laws in the form of fees, ultimately creating greater accountability and deterrence for state legislatures and state officials.

## Supreme Court Filing on Behalf of the League of Women Voters

Fair Elections Center joined the League of Women Voters of the United States, League chapters from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers in filing an amicus brief in the Moore v. Harper case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The case concerns the so-called "independent state legislature theory" (ISLT) which, if adopted, would have far-reaching implications for the future of American democracy.

A ruling adopting ISLT would give state legislatures nearly unrestricted authority to set the rules for federal elections. It's difficult to overstate the implications of this case. If the Supreme Court allows this, it will undermine the role of state courts to protect voters when politicians create unconstitutional barriers to voting, draw unlawful voting maps, and invalidate direct democracy efforts like ballot initiatives.

We (along with O'Melveny & Myers) represented the League and all of its state affiliates in the court filing, which focused on the real-world consequences for election administration, voter education, and voters' experience that would result from adopting the radical ISLT. Litigation Director Jon Sherman spearheaded the effort to draft the brief and get it filed with the Supreme Court. Regarding the case he said, "The theory advanced in Moore calls for a legal revolution that would chop up and alternate rules by type of election, ushering in chaos and confusion for poll workers and voters. In this dangerous moment for our democracy, the Supreme Court must be a steady hand."

Read the brief [here](#).



Litigation Director Jon Sherman (L) and Legal Fellow Helen Brewer (R) at the Supreme Court rally for safe and fair elections prior to the Moore V. Harper hearing.



# WORKELECTIONS/POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT

In 2020, we partnered with Civic Alliance, Comedy Central, MTV, Pizza to the Polls, and We Can Vote to form [Power the Polls](#), a massive effort during the COVID pandemic to recruit a new generation of poll workers. We continued that work in 2022 to help build a pool of poll workers who are younger, more diverse, and more representative of the communities they serve. The Power the Polls (PtP) website is powered by data from our [WorkElections.org](#) database, using our unique application program interface (API). The WorkElections database contains individual webpages for more than 5,200 election jurisdictions located in 47 states (Washington, Oregon and Hawaii are all mail ballot states and therefore do not recruit poll workers).

Prior to this year's crucial midterm election, that database needed updating, so we assembled a research staff and a rotating group of volunteers from WeTheAction to collect information and refresh the website. Surveys were sent to nearly every jurisdiction in the database, asking them to confirm the accuracy of their WorkElections.org page and/or submit any necessary updates. Unresponsive jurisdictions were contacted via email and/or phone. During this process, the WorkElections team sent more than 4,500 emails and made more than 2,400 phone calls to local election jurisdictions.



CVP Midwest Regional Manager Chuck Black (L) and Power the Polls Program Manager Jane Slusser (R) recruiting poll workers at a Philadelphia Eagles game.



By October, the focus shifted from database work to identifying jurisdictions facing staffing shortages. We worked with PtP staff to identify poll worker recruitment needs nationwide and shared backup lists accordingly. As Election Day drew closer, we joined PtP staff to triage and mitigate late-breaking staffing shortages.

Fair Elections Center and the Power the Polls team reached out to more than 550 jurisdictions to ensure that they had adequate poll worker numbers leading up to November and provided more than 1,200 lists of potential poll workers directly to election administrators across 103 jurisdictions and 31 states.

The six years we have spent perfecting poll worker recruitment, including the last three years helping to create a bigger effort through Power the Polls, has really helped elections officials. One NC election official the project helped declared: “..your list is awesome! I sent emails this morning and **the phone has been ringing all day**. Thank you again!”

Between January 1 and November 8, 2022, more than 69,000 users visited WorkElections.org. “Apply Now” and “Contact Your Local Election Office” buttons were clicked more than 16,000 times. PtP recruited 167,980 new prospective poll workers and reengaged 35% of our active 2020 poll workers for a total of 277,210 prospective poll workers in 2022. PtP enlisted more than 300 partner organizations from the corporate and nonprofit sectors.





# CAMPUS VOTE PROJECT



Campus Vote Project spent 2022 broadening its work and deepening its insight into what are successful strategies for students to fully engage in our democracy. In the post-pandemic environment, we were able to do more on the ground than we have since 2020, and beefed up leadership development training for fellows.

## New Staff Joins the Fight for Voting Rights

- The CVP staff expanded to increase its reach and capacity by adding deputy coordinators in the core states where our campus work is focused.
- We also added Arizona to our list of staffed states, joining Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin.
- Our HBCU Legacy Initiative was bolstered by the addition of a coordinator to help expand voting access on HBCUs across the country.
- CVP added a communications assistant and a curriculum and research associate.

## Survey Gathers Student Views on Voting and Major Policy Concerns

From August 6-11, CVP conducted a survey of 1,000 college and university students to understand student perspectives about voting and the issues that matter most to them. The findings were a roadmap for CVP, its Fellows, and college and university faculty and staff across the country to help students become participants in our democracy and have their voices heard. See [more about the survey here](#).

Key findings:

- Students are motivated to vote, but lack belief that their vote matters.
- Students want more interaction with their elected officials.
- Students want more logistical information on the voting process.
- Students want voting to be convenient.
- Collective power and recent issues are top motivators for voting.

## In-person Voting Summits Inform Students

We were very happy to return to in-person student voting summits this year. Our coordinators organized 14 gatherings for administrators, faculty, and students in our core states. Two were HBCU-specific (in Louisiana and Florida). More than 1,300 individuals signed up, representing more than 250 college and university campuses. Notable guest speakers included Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) of Ohio, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, and CNN political analyst and former advisor to President Bill Clinton, Paul Begala.



Southwest Regional Manager - Rachel Clay (L) and North Carolina State Coordinator - Amanda LaRoche (R) at the North Carolina College Voter Summit



## Midterm Election Student Advocacy and Education

- This year, over the spring and fall semesters, we hired 473 student [Democracy Fellows](#) on 165 campuses across 14 states. These students organized administrators, faculty and peers to institutionalize registration and voting on their campuses. Through their efforts they completed more than 55,678 combined hours of work.
- The 2022-2023 Student Advisory Board has 16 members from schools across 12 states.
- Through our Voter Friendly Campus program, we worked with students, administrators, and faculty to educate and engage students to register and vote on more than 300 colleges and universities with a combined enrollment of over three million students in over 40 states.
- We are on track to designate our largest cohort in the 2023-2024 Voter Friendly Campus cycle.
- In total, all 320+ CVP partner institutions have a combined enrollment of more than four million students in 41 states.
- CVP's digital outreach to young potential voters this year consisted of six different video ads that ran on news and other high-audience websites delivered through YouTube, TikTok and SnapChat. The ads garnered 31,738,401 impressions and received more than 93,000 clicks to voting information from respondents.



Students at Alabama A&M University

## Student Advocates Lead in Georgia Runoff Engagement

Our focus turned to Georgia and its U.S. Senate runoff following the November general election. Youth voting had a big impact on the midterm and a similar impact was possible in the runoff. CVP staff in Georgia worked diligently with our student Fellows and campus allies to get important information into students' hands, and to energize them to vote and make a difference.



Panel discussion at the 2022 Georgia Student Summit



In the four weeks between the general election and the runoff, 37 Runoff Fellows logged over 543 hours of work in order to support voter turnout efforts in Georgia. Our Georgia based staff and Fellows worked with many other orgs on the ground, and participated in many voter engagement efforts including:

- Phone and text banking.
- Organizing early vote campus events, which we supported with mini-grants to schools and student organizations working on generating voter participation.
- Tabling to distribute student voter information on their campuses. Materials distributed included a Georgia Runoff voting guide created by CVP, which contained helpful info on voting and links to official election websites where voters could make a plan to vote.

Through these efforts our fellows reached out to an impressive 38,341 voters.

As during the general election, we reached students via extensive digital advertising and social media. CVP's digital ads specifically targeted more than 376,000 18–24-year-olds living in or near the zip codes where our campus partners are located. The ads were seen more than 3.6 million times.

### **Student Voting Research Network Launched**

A new collaborative program kicked off this year, based on the Research Collective, initiated by CVP Research Manager Kassie Phebillo. The Campus Vote Project Research Network is an inclusive, collaborative space for scholars, students, advocacy organizations, and community practitioners to share information to increase college student voter engagement through research and programming. Having better insights on what motivates young people to vote and what barriers to fuller participation they are facing, is crucial to expanding the franchise to younger voters. We plan to use the conclusions to aid campuses in the institutionalization process.

The research focuses on:

- Identifying barriers to civic engagement and political participation for marginalized communities.
- Identifying what institutionalization means on each campus and better understanding why differences exist.
- Defining what nonpartisanship means for higher education institutions and understanding how that definition impacts support of students' civic engagement efforts.
- Better extrapolating the relationship between civic engagement and political participation with standard measurements of student success.
- Identifying the roles of different actors on campuses and providing informed recommendations on how they can be better supported or incorporated into the political process.



## MTV Partnership Continues

CVP continued its working partnership with MTV, as the popular channel launched its 2022 election program, “Voting Early is Easier” in the summer. The program was designed to help expand access to voting options for young people on college campuses. It aimed to empower students to bring new early voting options to campuses, focusing primarily on community colleges, HBCUs, Minority Serving Institutions and large public universities. In total, we did this work on 39 campuses across 10 states.



## Engaging High School Students to Register to Vote

### INTRODUCING STUDENTS TO OUR DEMOCRACY

A case study of compliance with youth voter registration laws in Georgia and North Carolina

By Marina Pino & Vicki Shapiro

FAIR ELECTIONS CENTER

THE CIVICS CENTER

CVP also partnered with [The Civics Center](#) with its “Ready To Vote Challenge” campaign to pre-register high schoolers by using high school graduation as an opportunity to ask the senior class to register to vote. The Civics Center program builds “the foundations of youth civic engagement and voter participation in high schools through education, organizing, and advocacy.” Like CVP, it supports administration and student-led, voter registration efforts.

Additionally, Fair Elections Center released a joint report with The Civics Center entitled “[Introducing Students to Our Democracy](#),” evaluating how public high schools in Georgia and North Carolina are complying with their states’ youth voter registration laws. While citizens in most states can register to vote before the age of 18, very little infrastructure exists to support and promote voter registration in high schools. The report provides insight into

how public schools in Georgia and North Carolina are complying with state laws that require public schools in those states to make voter registration applications available to eligible students. The topline: In both states, public high schools’ compliance with state law is positively correlated to 18-year-olds’ registration rates.

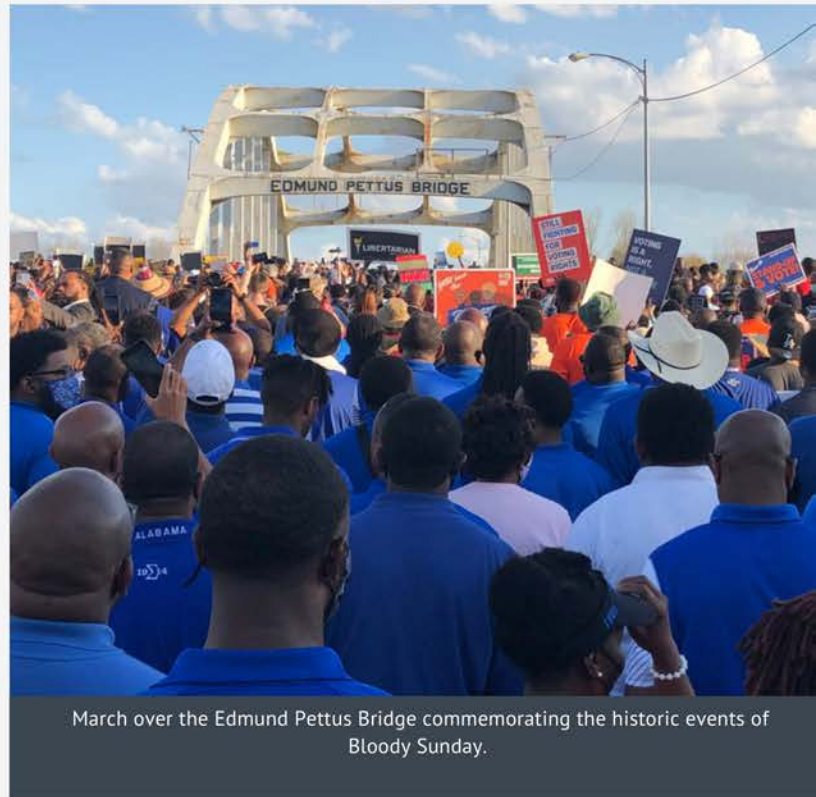


## HBCU Program Expansion

Earlier this year, CVP's [HBCU Legacy Initiative](#) updated its Insights Brief to include input from college and university faculty and administrators. Hour-long interviews were conducted with individuals representing a wide range of the HBCU experiences, from large public institutions to small private schools, from those that are well-funded to schools dealing with systemic underfunding, and from schools that have well-established voter engagement programming to those who are in the process of rebuilding.



National HBCU Manager Dylan Sellers (L), Georgia State Coordinator Ciarra Malone (M), and Florida State Coordinator Arielle Mizrahi (R) following a presentation at the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, Alabama



March over the Edmund Pettus Bridge commemorating the historic events of Bloody Sunday.

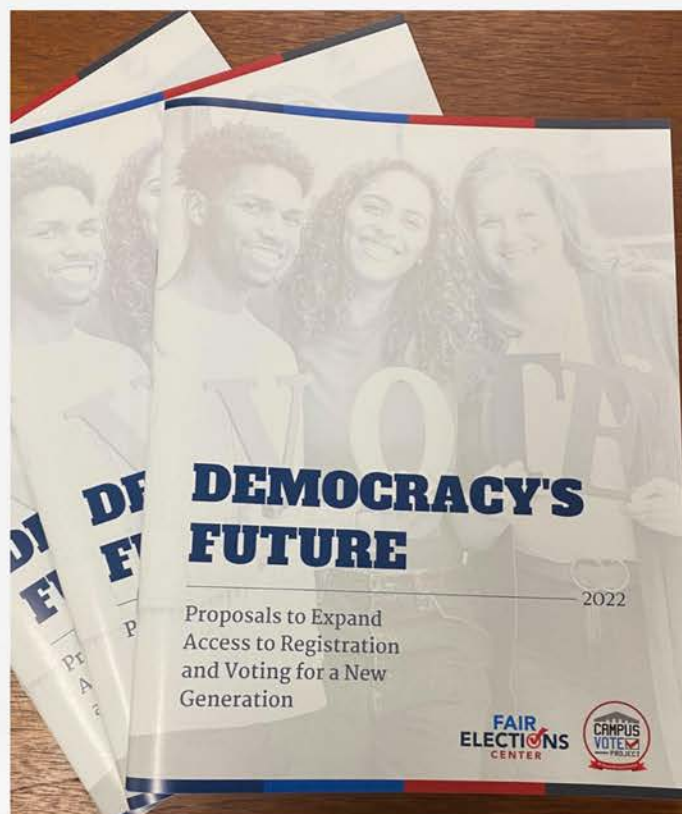
In March, VP Rebekah Caruthers was joined by HBCU National Manager Dylan Sellers, Florida State Coordinator Arielle Mizrahi, and Georgia State Coordinator Ciarra Malone on a trip to Alabama in support of a student workshop on voting rights and to commemorate the historic events of Bloody Sunday in Selma (today known as the Selma Jubilee). The trip also involved recruiting more HBCU partner schools for the Legacy Initiative. The group met with campus administrators from Alabama State University and Tuskegee University to discuss Campus Vote Project activities in the state. They also met with Alabama State Representative Anthony Daniels, an Alabama A&M grad, who also serves as Minority House Leader in the legislature. This year, we've developed partnerships with 40 HBCUs across our staffed states, along with Maryland, Louisiana, and Alabama.



## Additional Guidance on Student Engagement

In March, Fair Elections Center released an updated version of our “Democracy’s Future: Proposals to Expand Access to Registration and Voting for a New Generation” report, which provides a blueprint for lawmakers to make it easier for younger voters to participate in the electoral process.

The report identifies key barriers to youth registration and voting and opportunities to expand access. It provides best practices, useful background info, and concrete solutions including legislation and policies to expand access to a new generation of voters. It’s based on our successful work with hundreds of college and university campuses from Texas to Georgia and from North Carolina to Michigan, to engage millions of students in becoming regular participants in a bedrock enterprise of American Democracy.



Key policy areas include:

- Pre-registration of 16- and 17-year olds
- On-campus voter registration and voter information opportunities
- Residency rules affecting students
- Same day voter registration
- Student ID as voter ID
- On-campus polling places
- Pre-Election Day voting opportunities
- Students as poll workers

You can read the full report [here](#).

## A Return to In-person Advocacy and Voter Education

The reduction of the Covid pandemic's severity allowed CVP staff to resume their work at public events and the staff made good use of the opportunity. We conducted three sessions at this year's Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (CLDE) conference in Minneapolis. The team hosted a listening and information session for the Voter Friendly Campus program, which connected experienced VFC campuses with folks new to the work. The team also gave presentations on researching student voting trends and on CVP's work with HBCU campuses.

Convened by American Association of State Colleges and Universities' American Democracy Project and NASPA (the student affairs administrators in higher education association), the CLDE conference brought together more than 350 faculty, student affairs professionals, students, senior campus administrators, and community partners to facilitate exchanges of knowledge and develop a sense of community.



L-R: CVP National Director Mike Burns; NASPA Director for Research, Policy, & Civic Engagement Jill Dunlap; CVP Deputy Director Raaheela Ahmed; CVP Midwest Regional Manager Chuck Black; CVP Virginia State Coordinator Madeline Doane; and CVP Curriculum & Research Manager Kassie Phebillio



## Civic Holidays to Promote Registration and Voting

Once again we were active in promoting important civic engagement holidays. For **National Voter Registration Day**, we partnered with organizers to share our 50-state Voter Registration Drive guides on its website. We also vigorously promoted **High School Voter Education Week**, **Disability Voter Education Week**, and **Election Hero Day**, the latter of which celebrates the important role of election administrators and poll workers.

For **National Voter Education Week**, Fair Elections Center and Campus Vote Project kicked off the week of activities with the first two events. On the first day, Fair Elections Center hosted a live #VoteReady Twitter Space event titled, "Registration is Step One in Empowering Young Voters." It featured Senior Counsel and Policy Director and voter registration expert Michelle Kanter Cohen and Sebastian Canales, a senior at Cleveland State University and a member of our Campus Vote Project's Student Advisory Board. Sebastian spoke about his experiences as a student organizer and the importance of students registering and voting. On the second day, CVP hosted the #MailReady event, a coordinated social media push on TikTok to answer questions about voting by mail and encouraging voters to look up their mail voting options and request their ballots.

**Vote Early Day** was a huge success for Campus Vote Project. Through our partnership with MTV on the "Voting Early is Easier" program we were able to support campuses across the country in hosting in person early voting engagement events. Campus Vote Project provided campuses with thousands of dollars in grants, in person staff support and even photography and videography support to some campuses in order to further promotional efforts in the future.





# ESSENTIAL VOTING MATERIALS

Each year, Fair Elections Center updates the concise, user-friendly resources that we have created to help voters understand how to register, vote, and assist others to register to vote. Because laws change and courts weigh in throughout the year, our legal staff continually make updates to the materials, so our partners and anyone visiting our website have the correct information to better participate in the nation's elections.



Michigan State University students lining up at an on-campus voting location on Election Day, Nov. 8, 2022.

Voter [registration drive guides](#) contain requirements for third parties conducting voter registration drives. They include instructions for gathering forms, where to return them, deadlines, and links for forms or other information. Once again, versions of these state guides were co-branded with the National Voter Registration Day logo and shared on the NVRD website.

Our [state-specific voting guides](#) include links to official voting websites as well as important registration deadlines and election dates, voter registration requirements, voter ID requirements, links to forms, and options on how to cast a ballot. We also provide answers to common questions for students and guidance on where students can register to vote, be it their campus address or back home.



In the run-up to the general election, concerns grew about partisan poll watchers possibly interfering with voters casting their ballot, so we created "[Know Your Voting Rights](#)" for the ten states where we focus our campus work. These guides helped give in-person voters the tools to assert their rights and protect their freedom to vote. Three of these guides – for Arizona, Florida and Texas – were translated into Spanish.

Following the general election, the CVP team created a [special voting guide](#) for Georgia's U.S. Senate runoff election and made a big push to get it in the hands of voters. We shared this guide with allies in Georgia, our 16 campus partners and their students, and nearly two million young people who we targeted with digital ads.



# EARNED MEDIA

We continued our work with the communications firm BerlinRosen on our media outreach in 2022. By year's end, Fair Elections Center and its programs garnered more than 400 earned media hits in numerous major news outlets, as well as in many regional newspapers and news websites. Additionally, we placed op-eds in several key publications.





## SELECT PRESS COVERAGE



October 10

[Young Black voters are dominating the Georgia midterms one student at a time](#)



October 6

[Voting rights advocate explains how voter suppression tactics hurt democracy, skew elections](#)



October 13

[Voter groups worry about access for students](#)



November 17

[Georgia runoffs were inspired by racism – how Black voters can still overcome](#)



November 9

[Small error in Arabic ballots points to bigger voting issues](#)



October 13

[Everything you need to know about voting in the 2022 midterm elections](#)



May 3

[Florida's new election police unit is the scariest voter suppression effort yet](#)



November 3

[Florida voters are heading to the polls. What to know about voting and ballot access in 2022](#)



May 31

[The fight against voter suppression with Bob Brandon \(with audio\)](#)



October 13

[Voter groups worry about access for students](#)



March 3

[Youth turnout could save, or sink, Democrats in 2022](#)



October 11

[Voters in some key swing states to decide on voting access](#)

## [NEWSNATION]

October 14

[Shortage of poll workers straining polling locations](#)

## TPM

April 6

[Arizona is daring SCOTUS to revisit proof of citizenship to register to vote](#)

## EducationWeek®

October 17

[Most states require schools to help register young voters. Many fail to do it.](#)

## San Francisco Chronicle

November 6

[Black voters already know the GOP wants to take their rights away. Do other voters?](#)

## PUBLISHED OP-EDS

### NBC NEWS

#### THINK

July 4

[Election workers are one of the backbones of our democracy](#) (by Rebekah Caruthers)

### PENNLIVE Patriot-News

June 28

[Voting rights are key to LGBTQ+ equality](#)  
(by Ricardo Almodovar)

### LGBTQ NATION

June 25

[What we need this Pride Month is access to the ballot](#) (by Chuck Black)

### Tallahassee Democrat.

June 19 Junteenth:

[Who does America still leave behind?](#)  
(by Chauncy Whaley)

### ARIZONA CAPITOL TIMES

March 2

[HB 2492, other extreme voting bills must be stopped](#) (by Jon Sherman)



## A NOTE OF THANKS...

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of foundations and individual donors across the country.

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**Fair Elections Center**  
**P.O. Box 66**  
**Marietta, OH 45750**

Should you wish to make a gift by another method or have any questions or concerns, please contact our Development Director Mary Anne Walker, at 202.248.5348 or [mwalker@fairelectionscenter.org](mailto:mwalker@fairelectionscenter.org).

Thank  
you

