THANK YOU HDF PARTNERS  Tides and the Healthy Democracy Fund (HDF) team want to thank each of our donor partners for generously supporting thousands of Black, Indigenous, and other voters of color as well as young voters across the United States in reclaiming a democracy that is reflective, vibrant, and responsive to the needs of historically marginalized populations.
Over the past year, our close partnership and coordination with national movement leaders like the Center for Popular Democracy, Alliance for Youth Organizing, and United We Dream; donor networks like Solidaire and Way to Win; and Tides partners like the Movement Voter Project have led to historically disenfranchised communities making their voices heard.

“While the COVID-19 crisis has put a lid on door knocking and other in-person strategies, if you talk to enough young organizers, you get the idea they aren’t going to let a global pandemic stand in the way of their work.

DAVONTE JOHNSON, DETROIT ACTION, A PROJECT OF TIDES ADVOCACY | HDF GRANTEE

This year Americans voted in record numbers and continue the fight to ensure that their votes are counted. Yet we still continue to battle monumental odds of voter suppression and disinformation and the reality of a continuing pandemic that has taken more than 300,000 lives—impacting Black and brown communities at a disproportionately higher rate than white communities. The 2020 general election is not the end of our partnership with you. We still have so much work to do to heal historical wrongs, create a just and equitable society, and foster inclusive democracy that meets the needs of our marginalized and oppressed populations.
CIVIC PARTICIPATION TOTAL GRANTMAKING

Since September 2019, Tides Foundation has been a central hub of civic engagement funding in the social justice sector, facilitating $128 million in grants that reflected the core priorities of HDF, including year-round grassroots organizing, voter registration, voter turnout, voter protection, election security, and pro-voter reforms. The HDF team—working in close collaboration with our donor-advised fund partners—provided strategic advice and guidance on more than $40 million from Tides donor advised funds. And, via HDF itself, we directed 70 grants totaling over $4.5 million to 50 organizations. Whether you donated to HDF or partnered with us on direct grants from your donor-advised fund, we are grateful for your trust and confidence.

Your unwavering support throughout 2020 made it possible for Black, brown, and youth-led organizations to mobilize coalitions, communities, and movements during an unprecedented period. We were able to address urgent state and local gaps with national impact—from tackling basic needs and work-around canvassing when the pandemic hit to supporting tactical infrastructure and voter protections that expanded vote-by-mail, early voting, and automatic voter registration.

SOME OF THE WORK HDF HAS SUPPORTED

- **PUSHBLACK/PULSO**
  - AZ, FL, MI, MN, NC, NV, PA, WI
  - Accelerate Change/PushBlack/Pulso
- **FOUR DIRECTIONS**
  - **ARIZONA**
    - Rural communities/Navajo Nation
- **TAKE ACTION MINNESOTA**
  - Women of Color Squad
- **NAKASEC PENNSYLVANIA**
  - Mobilized API voters in 5 Asian languages
- **BLACK VOTERS MATTER**
  - Ran a 15 state Black voters outreach campaign
- **FRRC FLORIDA**
  - Restoring voting rights to formerly incarcerated persons
2020 GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS | YOUR VITAL DONATIONS AT WORK

Voter suppression, voter purges, disinformation campaigns, and foreign interference are not new. But the pandemic gives the opponents of pro-voter policies the cover to ramp up their efforts to undermine the democratic process.

DERRICK POUNCEY, BLACK LEADERS ORGANIZING FOR COMMUNITIES (BLOC) | A PROJECT OF TIDES ADVOCACY

——Voter Registration. After several intense months of voter registration and outreach efforts, including radio ads, digital PSAs, and virtual events, Black Voters Matter ran a national bus tour as part of its “WE GOT THE POWER” campaign to register and engage Black voters in the weeks leading up to Election Day. “The Blackest Bus in America” made stops in at least 15 states across the South and Midwest to canvass, educate, register, and engage Black voters on the issues that most impacted their communities.

——Voter Turnout. In 2020, the Native vote was larger than ever before, despite Indigenous people being hard hit by the pandemic. HDF grantee Four Directions led an unprecedented voter turnout effort—including thousands of first-time voters while tackling the spread of COVID-19. Their efforts were made more difficult by inadequate translations of COVID-19 resources and delays in financial relief to tribal governments.

Similarly, in Pennsylvania, the NAKASEC Action Fund received funding to partner with the Woori Center to organize multi-generational Korean and Asian Americans to engage and provide a forum to educate Asian and Pacific Islander (API) voters in at least five Asian languages (Hindi, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and English). This funding also enabled the Woori Center to build strong coalitions with other immigrant and people-of-color organizations to drive early voting and turnout on Election Day.

——Voter Protection. HDF partner Alliance for Youth Organizing and its affiliates launched Democracy Done Right—a campaign based on a simple idea: All citizens should be automatically registered to vote; be able to cast their ballot in a secure, accessible way that fits their needs; and never ever have their right to vote taken away. HDF also funded more than a dozen locally affiliated organizations, including New Era Colorado, Asian Community Development Council, and Detroit Action, to increase voter engagement and protections.
——Election Integrity. To counter malicious actors intent on undermining the integrity of our election, HDF funded Accelerate Change, Project Pulso, and PushBlack—all important groups that mobilize voters of color, including Black and Latinx voters. Collectively, they focused on reaching out to voters on Facebook Messenger, Instagram, and other social media platforms. Millions of culturally competent messages increased informed voter turnout, pushed back against disinformation and misinformation intent on suppressing turnout, encouraged online voter registration, and tested new ways of digital organizing in the light of COVID-19.

——Year-Round Organizing. Dedicated to realizing gender, racial, and economic justice, Take Action Minnesota is one example of a network of organizations that invested and cultivated powerful leaders in their communities. Their accomplishments included developing a Women of Color Table to build both long-term leadership and a powerful outreach strategy among Black and brown women and girls, as well as organizing people impacted by our broken incarceration and immigration systems.

VOTER ANALYSIS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The HDF team at Tides can say with confidence that we achieved our 2020 goal: To expand the electorate by supporting efforts that drove voter turnout of under-represented communities, especially communities of color and young voters.

The voters have spoken, and they are undeterred by both the pandemic and all efforts to undermine the credibility of the vote, achieving the highest turnout rate in more than a century—with approximately 65% of the voting-eligible population casting a ballot.

Americans surged to the polls this year. Turnout was the highest in 120 years. It was the biggest share of the vote for a presidential challenger since FDR in 1932 (higher than Ronald Reagan in 1980). President-elect Joe Biden has surpassed a five million vote lead over Trump. All in the middle of a pandemic. And despite an astonishing drive to restrict the vote and sow disinformation—from our own sitting president.

BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE, A TIDES FOUNDATION GRANTEE
THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION TURNOUT WAS THE RESULT OF A MASSIVE COORDINATED EFFORT. Grassroots organizers, labor, the legal community, philanthropists, business leaders, and faith leaders — all came together to defend our democracy.

—Native American voter turnout increase. Among Native Americans in Arizona, voters in precincts on two Navajo and Hopi reservations cast nearly 60,000 ballots in the 2020 election, compared with just under 42,500 in 2016. Turnout in two of the larger precincts on the reservations, rose by 12% and 13% —compared with a 4% increase among all Arizona voters. On the Havasupai reservation off the Grand Canyon, twice as many voters cast ballots in 2020 than in 2016.

—Voters under 30 turned out to vote at a rate 10% above 2016

—Youth voters contributed a full 21% of Georgia’s votes. Nationally, the average was 17% this year, compared to 16% in 2016, making Georgia’s youth contributions the highest in the country.

—AAPI early and absentee voting rose nearly 300% from 2016 in contested states — the fastest growth rate among all racial groups.

—Asian American and Pacific Islanders turnout in Georgia increased by 91% (vs 2016) while Latino turnout grew by 72%, and turnout among Black voters increased by 20%

NEXT STEPS: PLEASE JOIN US!

Instead of parachuting in with one-time election-year grants every two or four years, this work has to be supported year in and year out.

TIDES PARTNER, ANONYMOUS

Starting in 2021, we expect to continue to face unprecedented challenges of disinformation, gerrymandering efforts, and barriers and restrictions on a range of important policy decisions impacting youth, immigrants, LGBTQ+, Native, Black and brown and economically disadvantaged communities. To address these challenges, we need to continue to provide flexible support that allows our community partners to hire and retain community organizers, trained staff, and those working in temporary roles specializing in tech, data, and digital media. We need to counter head on the boom-to-bust cycle that typically emerges after every major election.
To help us lean into these broad goals, the HDF team will be focusing on:

—— **Georgia special election.** Providing timely and targeted support to cover unmet needs in the Georgia special election to support nonpartisan Get Out the Vote efforts

—— **Evaluation.** Completing an evaluation on our inaugural HDF year and our broader civic engagement grant portfolio

—— **Sharing knowledge.** Convening grantees and donor partners to share key learnings and to refine our 2021 priorities

—— **Finalizing our grantmaking priorities likely to include:**

    — **Redistricting fights.** Engaging in state-level redistricting efforts ensuring they are fair and inclusive.

    — **Fighting disinformation.** Supporting the most effective counters to disinformation campaigns aimed at underrepresented populations

    — **Advancing pro-voter policies.** Investing in state-level efforts to make pandemic-related pro-voter policies permanent

    — **Supporting our partners.** Providing flexible support for our community partners to retain already trained community organizers, build their leadership ranks, incorporate lessons learned into 2021 planning, and ensure more robust outcomes in years to come

Let’s celebrate the successes of our 2020 efforts and remind ourselves that when we work together on a well-resourced campaign, anything is possible.

**SAVE THE DATE**

January 21, 2021 | *Advancing Democracy from the Frontlines*, a webinar by the Healthy Democracy Fund team

**We wish you Season's Greetings and Joyous and Healthy Holidays.** We hope you’ll continue to support the Healthy Democracy Fund as part of your year-end giving. If you need further guidance, please email us at [healthydemocracy@tides.org](mailto:healthydemocracy@tides.org).