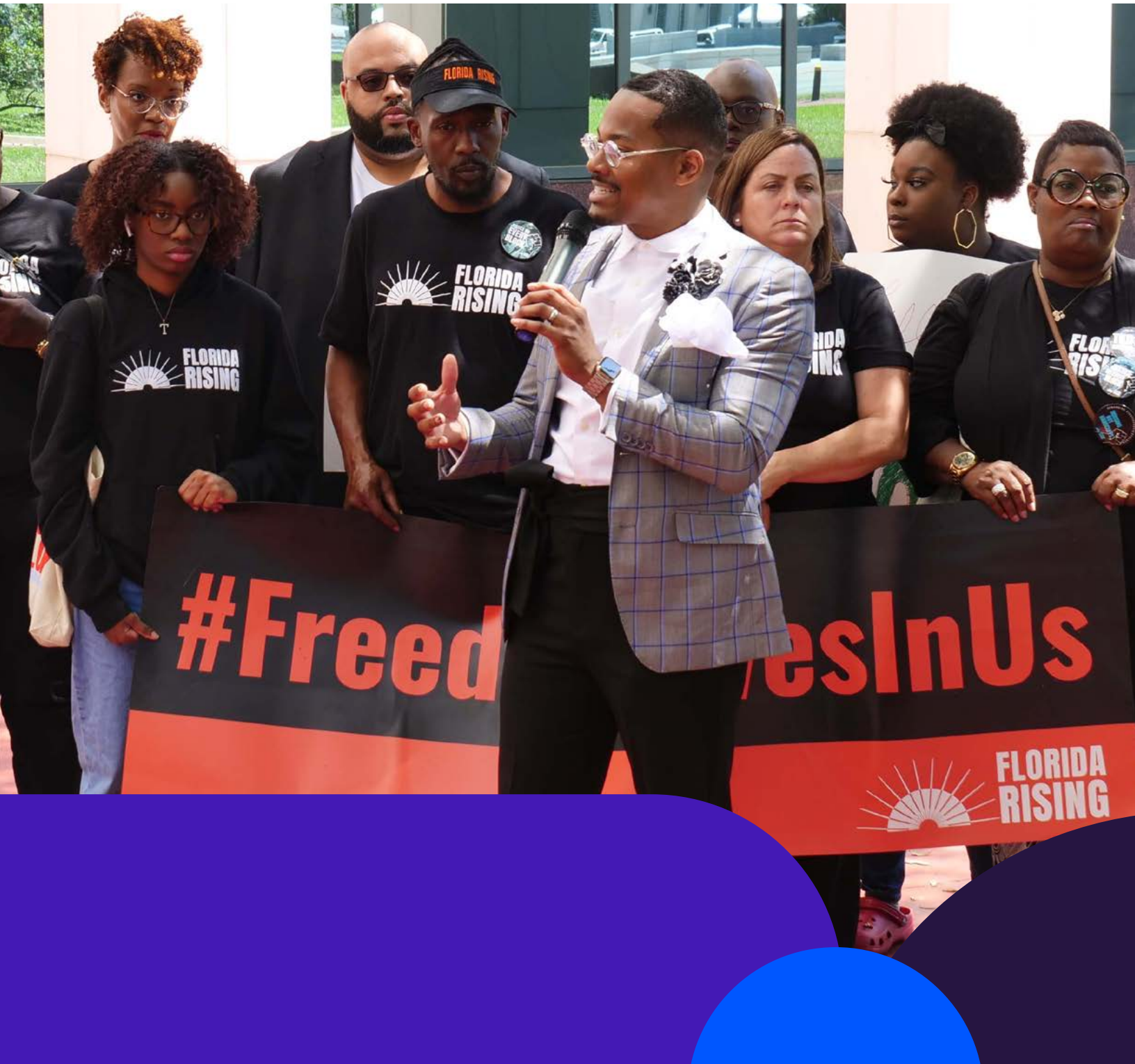


Taking Action 2024



Don't Wait to Make an Impact in November 2024

Now is the time to invest in grassroots leaders and organizations across the country to ensure that by November 2024, we have laid the groundwork for a stronger democracy. People who have been historically marginalized and underrepresented are lining up to have their voices heard. To accomplish this, it is imperative in 2024 that canvassers knock every door in local communities, youth groups register every student, and organizations mobilize every member to turnout their neighbors.

These community-based organizations require investment now. Late funding means that organizations can only buy digital ads rather than deepening relationships and building leadership within their communities, both online and in-person. Inadequate funding results in late hiring of organizers and weak volunteer recruitment. Small organizations that serve overlooked marginalized communities will lack time to build relationships and plug into coordinated plans. Leaving these opportunities on the table means that fewer people, particularly those historically disenfranchised and underrepresented, will vote, and commonsense policies to protect and advance our democracy will languish in the graveyards of unpassed legislation.

But, when we invest in organizations early and at scale, networks can coordinate organizations to play to their strengths and avoid duplication and competition. When we fund organizations year-round, organizers can identify the leaders with greatest potential to move their neighbors to take action. When we invest in ballot measure campaigns' signature collection efforts, we get in at the ground floor of guaranteeing abortion access and undoing gerrymandering.

Now is the time to invest in leaders and organizations. The Healthy Democracy Fund at the Tides Foundation invites you to join us in funding movement leaders, organizations, and infrastructure to make our largest impact in 2024. As a public charity, the Tides Foundation can support 501(c)(3) organizations - including their ballot measure and lobbying activities — as well as the charitable activities of 501(c)(4) organizations. The Healthy Democracy Fund is proud to support all of these efforts so that community leaders can access all tools for making durable social change.

The Healthy Democracy Fund at Tides Foundation

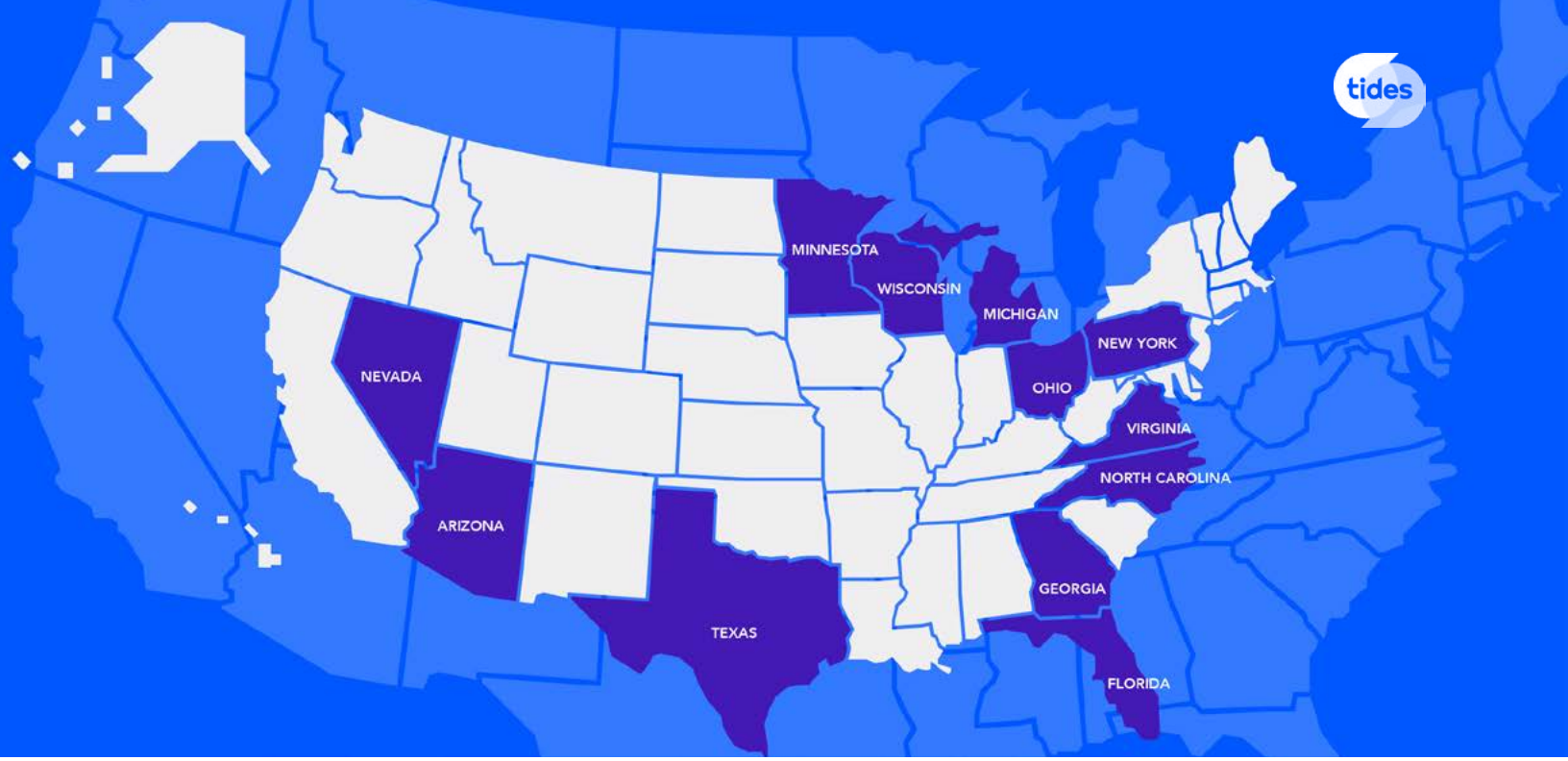
The Healthy Democracy Fund (HDF) is a Tides Foundation pooled grantmaking initiative that partners with social justice donor networks, national movements, and grassroots leaders focused on protecting voting rights, fostering a more inclusive democracy and shifting power to historically underrepresented communities. HDF invests in nonpartisan civic engagement efforts by granting funds to fill urgent gaps while simultaneously building long-term power in historically underrepresented communities, especially communities of color and young people.

Since its launch in September 2019, the fund has directed more than 370 grants totaling over \$30 million to 152 organizations nationwide. HDF is focused on opportunities for power building in states with rising numbers of people of color, young people, and low-income people. HDF prioritizes 11 states where a growing majority of people of color, youth, and economically disadvantaged people face barriers to exercising their democratic voice.

Georgia Muslim Voter Project, an HDF grantee, is committed to ensuring that Georgia Muslims have adequate access to their voting rights.

Please note: Tides Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity and can only fund activities consistent with its tax-exempt status. Tides Foundation does not fund partisan political activities.





HDF prioritizes funding multi-issue, civic engagement organizations that are community-led and community-driven, focusing on states where there are opportunities for BIPOC-led, local groups to:

- Build trust, connection, and ongoing engagement with voters of color and young voters
- Advocate on issues that build community power and improve people's lives
- Build and sustain local leadership and community capacity for the long haul
- Protect election integrity and help dismantle voter suppression
- Break down polarization and disinformation for stronger pro-voter policies

The Battleground For Democracy in 2024

Democratic norms are eroding across the country. We are entering a dangerous time for accountability and power sharing in our democracy. On-going rhetoric and proposals, including ending birthright citizenship and expanding the president's authority over the Department of Justice and Federal Elections Commission, open the door to politically-motivated prosecutions and interference with elections. On the state level, another fraught certification of the 2024 election could lead to new voter suppression policies and empower political appointees to interfere with nonpartisan election administration.

In just the first half of 2023, [11 states have passed restrictions on voting](#). In response to debunked claims about voter fraud and the Big Lie, state legislatures passed [numerous voter suppression laws](#) between 2021 and 2022. This wave of laws will take effect in 22 states ahead of the 2024 elections, making mail-in voting more difficult, creating new barriers to voter registration, and [intimidating already marginalized voters through threats of criminalization](#).

But legislatures have moved beyond voter suppression to pose new threats to democracy:

- **TENNESSEE:** State legislative leaders [expelled young Black representatives](#) in March 2023, while the state legislature [censured a young trans representative](#) in **MONTANA** months later. Historically, with extreme gerrymandering, politicians pick the voters, rather than the voters electing politicians, often to dilute the power of marginalized communities. But now, politicians are refusing to seat duly elected representatives, not just diluting the power of marginalized communities but entirely silencing them.

- **OHIO:** The legislature placed an initiative on the ballot during an August 2023 special election to [raise the threshold for passing future measures to 60 percent](#), which had the potential to allow a minority to prevent the passage of popular policies, such as abortion access. Similar strategies to limit ballot measures are likely in **MISSOURI**, **NORTH DAKOTA**, and **ARKANSAS** in 2024.
- **FLORIDA:** Legislators attempted to [criminalize voter registration by non-citizens](#) until a federal judge blocked the new law. This type of criminalization directly targets community organizations, including several Healthy Democracy Fund grantees.
- **TEXAS:** The legislature has [empowered the Secretary of State, a political appointee, to oversee day-to-day elections operations in Harris County](#), home to Houston, the most diverse city in the country.

The 2024 election cycle is already underway, and likely will last until the election is certified in early January 2025.

In addition to the enactment of new voter suppression laws, pro-democracy forces will encounter new problems along with long-running challenging trends.

- Recent layoffs at tech companies like Twitter and Meta have [downsided content moderation teams](#) since the 2022 election. The breakneck speed of evolution of artificial intelligence will lead to the production of sophisticated synthetic images and videos that can easily dupe unsuspecting viewers. This combination of lack of information literacy and unmoderated social media platforms has the potential to spread mis- and disinformation to confuse and demotivate voters while whipping up a fury about voter fraud.
- Voter intimidation and voter suppression, especially targeted at BIPOC and young voters, have long exacerbated gaps in turnout. [In 2020](#), 70.9 percent of white voters cast ballots compared with only 58.4 percent of nonwhite voters. In 2022, the [racial turnout gap between Black and white voters widened](#) in several key metropolitan areas, including Philadelphia, Atlanta, Detroit, and Milwaukee. Without interventions through organizing, litigation, and communications, the new voter suppression laws will worsen these trends.

What happens in the months after Election Day is as important as what happens in the run up to the election. Boom and bust funding for community organizations during election cycles will prevent the retention and development of talented staff and leaders. If another wave of election denial occurs, the organizations in the best position to defend the legitimacy of the election at the local and state levels may no longer have their infrastructure to mobilize their communities. In the long-term, the boom and bust funding cycle means that the infrastructure of organizations to turnout voters does not exist to engage communities year-round, leading to countless lost opportunities for advocating for policies that shift power to people who have been marginalized.

How Pro-Democracy Forces Can Prevail in 2024

Despite these numerous challenges, we can protect the integrity of our elections while advancing voter participation in 2024. If we prevail, our movement can push for structural reforms that increase democratic participation in new states and potentially at the federal level. As early as January 2025, we can take steps on the path toward victory on voting rights, abortion access, and climate policy.

In 2024, the Healthy Democracy Fund is prioritizing three key strategies:

- 1 Turning out as many people vote in the 2024 elections, particularly communities that face barriers to exercising political power
- 2 Curbing the impact of voter suppression laws by educating voters and supporting litigation
- 3 Countering mis- and disinformation targeted at BIPOC communities, youth, and low-income people



ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

ISAIAH

As a faith-based coalition in Minnesota, [ISAIAH](#) built a long-term policy agenda, including universal free lunch in public schools, drivers' licenses for all, new options for registering to vote, re-enfranchisement of returning citizens, investments in public transportation, and expansion of healthcare. ISAIAH and their

coalition partners organized thousands of urban, suburban, and rural Minnesotans over the past decade and mobilized this base in the first six months of 2023 to hold legislators accountable to passing this agenda. The passage of these policies will reshape what Minnesota will look like in the years to come.

Resourcing the Leaders Who Can Turnout Their Neighbors

Closing the voter turnout gap by race, age, and class is a necessary step for making the halls of power more representative and accountable. In 2024, HDF will prioritize funding the nonpartisan efforts of the organizations that anchor voter engagement and community organizing among people of color, youth, and low-income people in our priority states.

When candidate campaigns and political parties focus on a particular group of marginalized voters, they frequently parachute in and then leave as soon as the election is over. But more often, these campaigns completely ignore BIPOC communities, youth, and low-income voters because they vote less frequently, creating a self-fulfilling prophecy of low voter participation.

Community-based organizations are committed to achieving lasting change for their communities by educating, organizing, and engaging year-round. Trusted organizations are critical agents in increasing participation among BIPOC, young, immigrant, and low-income voters because they know which media, messages, and messengers work best to motivate their communities. They activate these same voters to stay involved as members, volunteers, and leaders after elections to hold elected officials accountable and advocate for the issues that matter most to them.





ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

FAITH IN ACTION NEVADA

Meet Jennifer Peters, a community advocate with [Faith in Action Nevada](#). Jennifer is a formerly incarcerated Nevada resident who is an outspoken champion to empower her community to vote. Through Faith in Action Nevada's training and education along with the experience of canvassing her community, Jennifer found her passion in educating other previously incarcerated individuals about their rights being restored. In 2022, Jennifer recruited and brought on 3 additional advocates who also are using their voices to transform their community. Faith in Action Nevada plans to reach about 67,000 voters in 2024 through outreach to faith communities, registering and activating formerly incarcerated people, and running bilingual programs in Spanish and English to reach immigrant voters.

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

GEORGIA MUSLIM VOTER PROJECT

A large number of refugees in Georgia are Muslim, or from Muslim-majority countries. The [Georgia Muslim Voter Project](#) registers former refugees who are now naturalized citizens to vote and become active citizens. In particular, they support nonpartisan voter registration efforts at naturalization ceremonies. GMVP runs their program in a wide array of languages, including Amharic, Arabic, Bangla, Bosnian, English, Farsi, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Tigrinya, Turkish, and Urdu. They focus on nine counties with the highest Muslim populations in the state and are actively expanding their reach to rural and coastal areas in 2024.



Impacting Direct Democracy

In 2024, voters in 21 states will have a say in the issues that impact their daily lives through a diverse array of ballot initiatives. These campaigns motivate voters to cast a ballot to improve their lives and strengthen our democracy. Community organizations registered as 501(c)(3) organizations are permitted to weigh-in in a non-partisan manner on ballot initiative campaigns. HDF will focus on the most important and impactful issues on the ballot in 2024, especially on issues related to abortion access and democracy, and work with both campaigns and community organizations to advance these issues.

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

OHIO VOICE

In 2023, with support from HDF, [Ohio Voice](#) coordinated 18 community organizations to turnout voters to reject a ballot measure that would have made passing future constitutional amendments more challenging. Legislative leaders placed an initiative on the ballot to raise the threshold for passing future amendments to 60 percent, rather than 50 percent, through a special election in August. The success of Ohio Voice and the many partners of the One Person One Vote campaign paves the way for a measure on the ballot in November 2023 to enshrine abortion access in the state constitution and likely a ballot initiative in 2024 to end gerrymandering.

**Stopping Voter Suppression**

The surge to the polls of the past couple of cycles inspired a wave of antidemocratic proposals, targeted to impact the voting rights of historically underrepresented communities. In 2024, HDF will fund grantees to fight the ongoing wave of voter suppression measures, sometimes through protracted legal battles, and to mobilize underrepresented communities to exercise their voting rights in the presidential elections and beyond.

Protecting the Integrity of Elections

The process of casting a ballot has become hotly politicized. Early preparation by organizations for a smooth operation on and after Election Day will be crucial in 2024 to respond to election denialism and potential political violence. HDF will prioritize organizations and coalitions that protect the rights of voters when casting a ballot through election protection programs, recruitment of bilingual poll workers, and outreach to newly re-enfranchised returning citizens. We will also resource organizations that remain engaged after Election Day for a fair certification of the election.



ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

SOUTHERN COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

[Southern Coalition for Social Justice](#) led the Southern Leadership for Voter Engagement (SOLVE) Network, with 130 members across AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, and VA, to share resources on advocacy, organizing, and communications to reduce barriers to voting in the South. In 2022, SCSJ leveraged early investment from HDF to raise

funds for the election protection program, including the North Carolina Election Protection Coalition. This coalition not only assisted over 500 voters in the 2022 midterm elections but also advocated for greater funding of elections departments in 5 counties for smoother elections in the future. In addition to election protection, SCSJ has created plans for non-partisan election-time litigation and post-election crisis advocacy and litigation. Although no dispute warranted the use of these plans in the 2022 midterm election, these tools may become critical in hotly contested gubernatorial and attorney general elections in North Carolina in 2024.

Building a Healthier Information Ecosystem

HDF is prioritizing the preparation to counter mis- and disinformation campaigns targeted at BIPOC communities, immigrants, and young people. In recent years, polarizing, racialized narratives have stoked fear and division in order to demotivate and confuse voters. HDF is prioritizing nonpartisan funding strategies to prepare and inoculate trusted community organizations and leaders against these mis- and disinformation campaigns, especially as artificial intelligence floods media ecosystems with synthetically produced images and video content. Investment in large-scale digital organizing programs, alongside campaigns to hold tech companies accountable, are critical to monitoring and countering false narratives if and when they begin to spread in 2024. These digital organizing programs have the potential to mobilize young voters to turnout, scale membership bases, and even flood channels with correct information to protect against efforts to steal elections.

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

FLORIDA RISING

Florida has become the laboratory for new extremist policies and practices, such as the creation of a punitive elections police that target newly enfranchised returning citizens and anti-LGBTQ laws that restrict what children can learn and who they can be in school. These new policies have passed alongside laws that worsen long-standing trends, such as those that exacerbate the housing crisis, suppress BIPOC voters, disempower immigrant workers, accelerate the climate crisis, and attack women's health. [Florida Rising](#) has responded with a vision of "Justice On Every Block." This powerful antidote includes creative research, media training sessions, and informational campaigns on disinformation, such as Miercoles Sin Mentiras, that targeted Spanish speakers. Exposing disinformation targeting Spanish speakers has shone a light onto the ways that Latinx cultural narratives are manipulated. This positive vision for Florida has created space for residents to rally successfully for needed housing policy while also laying the groundwork to combat disinformation in the 2024 election.



About Tides

Tides is a nonprofit and philanthropic organization dedicated to advancing social justice. We work across the social sector to shift power to leaders, communities of color, and other historically excluded groups who face systemic barriers. Applying our equity-centered lens and leveraging our vast network of changemakers, we work to strengthen the impact of our partners by offering services like fiscal sponsorship, donor advised funds, impact investing, and grantmaking.

Thank You

Tides Foundation's Healthy Democracy Fund works to advance and defend everyone's right to a voice and a vote, because a just and equitable society depends on it. We believe we can only solve the big issues of our time — economic inequality, racial justice, reproductive rights, and climate change — if we have a democracy that is responsive to all of its people. Your generous partnership supports this ongoing work to foster a healthier, more inclusive, and more representative democracy. **We thank you.**



Join Us

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