



Healthy Democracy Fund



2022 PRIORITIES

Who We Are

The Healthy Democracy Fund is a Tides Foundation grantmaking initiative committed to fostering a more inclusive democracy and shifting power to historically underrepresented communities.

With rampant voter suppression, racially tinged gerrymandering, rising authoritarian extremists, coordinated disinformation campaigns, and other threats continuing to undermine the vibrancy and health of our democracy, the Healthy Democracy Fund is supporting movement groups and proximate grassroots leaders to organize a powerful and aligned response.

Our focus for 2022: investing in long-term movement infrastructure, grassroots organizing, voter registration and turnout, and, where needed, litigation, all aimed at closing the voter turnout gap and protecting the voting rights of communities of color and young people.

At a time when so much is at stake for our democracy, we're calling on donors, especially those not already investing in civic engagement efforts, to "get off your assets" in 2022 and support the essential work of assuring an equal voice and a reflective, responsive government for all communities, especially those that have been marginalized and underrepresented in the halls of power.

As a pooled grantmaking initiative, the Healthy Democracy Fund is more than a pooled fund. We are a partnership of donors, professional program strategists, and movement leaders all committed to creating a healthier, more inclusive democracy. With expert, community-informed management and a focus on strengthening organizations and movements for the long haul — in and out of election cycles — the Healthy Democracy Fund is a key partner in building long-term power for marginalized and underrepresented communities in America.

Whether you have a donor advised fund (DAF) at Tides or contribute through other vehicles, HDF welcomes your partnership and support. In addition, we have the ability to give to 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations for charitable activities through HDF, which increases the impact of your charitable dollars.





Funding Priorities for 2022

—Voter Registration, Engagement and Turnout.

The HDF team at Tides continues to support building resilience and the enduring strength of community-informed, multi-issue organizing and advocacy so community groups can build long-term power that lasts beyond any election cycle.

HDF is funding community-based organizations that will be around for the long haul: educating, organizing, and engaging year-round, and achieving lasting gains in power and representation for their communities. Key to power and representation is participation — mobilizing underrepresented and low-propensity communities to register and turn out to vote. As an example, HDF supports community groups restoring the voting rights of formerly incarcerated persons, including assisting with court fees and litigation to help create a more simplified voting restoration process.

In 2022, Healthy Democracy Fund grantees are engaging with their communities through voter education, nonpartisan voter registration, increasing voter turnout through door-to-door, relational organizing, and closing the digital divide through multi-language texting, neighbor-to-neighbor phone banks, culturally relevant social media messaging, and other digital platforms. All this work is absolutely essential to inspire and re-engage first-time voters from 2020, many of whom have been disengaged and dispirited since the historic turnout numbers achieved in the last election. In short, there is a major enthusiasm gap that we need to close.

—Advancing and Protecting Voting Rights.

There's a long and ugly history of voter suppression in communities of color. The undeniable surge to the polls of the past couple of cycles, especially in Georgia and Arizona in 2020, inspired a wave of anti-democratic proposals that could significantly impact the voting rights of historically underrepresented communities. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, at least 19 states enacted 34 laws restricting access to voting in 2021. Based in part on the "Big Lie" that the 2020 election was somehow rigged, the new restrictive voting laws mark a deliberate effort to reduce the voting power of communities of color, young voters, and other groups that demonstrated their burgeoning political power by voting in record numbers in 2020.

In 2022, the Healthy Democracy Fund is supporting 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 midterm elections and beyond.

—Assuring Fair Redistricting.

Racial gerrymandering, or the drawing of political district lines to dilute the voting power of people of color, has been around for decades. In the wake of the 2020 census, however, politicians at the state and local levels have supercharged their efforts to use the post-census redistricting process to undermine the political power of Black and brown communities.

In 2022, the Healthy Democracy Fund is supporting community-based, people of color-led groups to lead the fight for fair political maps and equal representation through litigation, organizing and advocacy, and continuous community education.

—Fighting Disinformation.

In 2021, the United States experienced an insurrection driven by disinformation, a falsehood-fueled rebellion against basic public health measures, and spurious attacks on fundamental voting rights. The lies and distortions continue to pollute social media and the national political conversation in 2022, with the deliberate effect of undermining fundamental rights and opportunities for underrepresented communities.

In 2022, the Healthy Democracy Fund is supporting community-based organizations and national support groups that are providing communities of color and young people with creative, accurate content and messaging on key issues while holding elected officials and media companies more accountable for the information they spread.

—**Emerging Threats.**

HDF program managers will respond rapidly to other threats as warranted. For example, the right to protest recently came under threat in Florida. More than just marches, protests are places where advocates are organizing, networking, strategizing, and building movements. Since the murder of George Floyd, however, lawmakers across the country have sought to limit the rights of people and activists to protest and speak out against oppression and police violence. Florida lawmakers, for instance, passed an “anti-riot” law in 2021 that increased penalties for crimes committed during a riot or violent protest while decreasing penalties for individuals who injure or kill a demonstrator. While the Florida law was subsequently declared unconstitutional, its passage sparked a wave of copycat measures in other states targeting the right to protest. In 2021, HDF supported efforts in Florida to beat back the anti-protest laws.

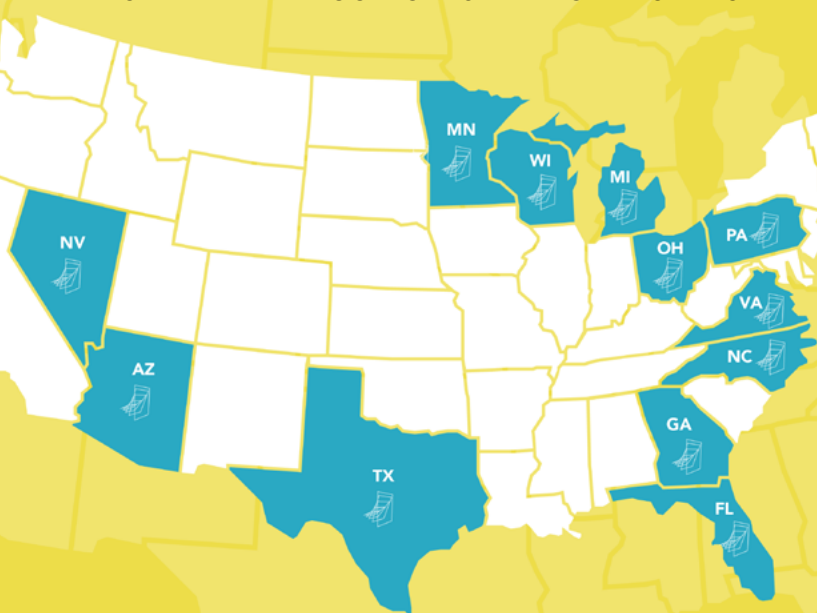
In 2022, the Healthy Democracy Fund will stay attuned to emerging threats to our democracy and make targeted grants as appropriate that will aid in efforts to close the voter turnout gap and protect the voting rights of people of color and young voters.

Priority States

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:

- / Protect election integrity and help dismantle voter suppression
- / Create momentum and breakdown polarization and disinformation for stronger pro-voter policies
- / Build and sustain local leadership and community capacity for the long haul

TIDES HEALTHY DEMOCRACY FUND PRIORITY STATES



HDF Grantee Highlights

The Tides Healthy Democracy Fund is asking our philanthropic partners to step up in this fraught and critical moment to protect the United States' core democratic systems and to create a healthier, more reflective democracy. The organizations highlighted below are just a few of the fund's grantees. They are part of an inspiring and growing ecosystem of groups across the country that are mobilizing communities of color to vote and exercise their other democratic rights while fighting voter suppression, racist gerrymandering, and disinformation.

NAKASEC. Asian Americans are the fastest-growing immigrant and people of color community in the United States. National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC) is a leading advocate and voice for the community and is working to expand its voting power while developing and supporting a new generation of youth and immigrant leaders. In 2022, NAKASEC is supporting a robust civic engagement program that will educate, inspire, and mobilize Korean and Asian American Voters in five Asian languages.

Black Voters Matter. Black Voters Matter is focused on raising awareness, driving action against voter suppression, and mobilizing Black residents to expand their civic engagement. With a relentless focus on building Black power, the organization is organizing a Freedom Ride bus tour from Washington, D.C., across the South in 2022 to highlight the continuing struggle to protect and advance Black voting rights.

Ohio Organizing Collaborative. Ohio Organizing Collaborative is an anchor partner in the fight for fair political maps and for Black people's full participation in democracy in the state. The collaborative organizes everyday Ohioans to work for social, racial, and economic justice, while building political power through the engagement and mobilization of low-propensity voters, especially young voters and voters of color.

Detroit Action. Detroit Action is a union of Black and brown, low- and no-income, homeless and housing-insecure Detroiters fighting for housing and economic justice. The organization prioritizes year-round civic engagement, cultural and relational organizing, and leadership development and training, with a focus on youth. In 2022, Detroit Action aims to speak with 100,000 Black and brown Detroiters about their vision for a better Michigan through deep-canvassing conversations.



As of July 2022, HDF had made 62 grants to frontline civic engagement groups to help close the voter turnout gap and protect voting rights. Several more grantmaking rounds are anticipated in late summer and fall.

Explore our grantees at tides.org/hdf-grantees.

Arizona Democracy Resource Center. The Arizona Democracy Resource Center is a key partner in Election Protection Arizona, a nonpartisan coalition to ensure voter access, information accuracy and freedom from intimidation for all voters in the state. In 2022, the center is: working alongside election administrators to ensure accessible polling sites; training residents for poll site monitoring and de-escalation; recruiting poll workers to ensure sites are reflective of surrounding communities; and staffing an election protection hotline for tribal communities.

Silver State Voices. Silver State Voices creates a more robust democracy by increasing the civic participation of the New American Majority in Nevada. The organization develops infrastructure and employs new tools and technology to equalize civic engagement, access, and representation among these communities. Its recent signature activities: setting up shop in front of State Parole and Probation locations to make sure formerly incarcerated persons understand their eligibility to vote; and People Powered, an energetic, call to action to celebrate organizers on the ground through culture and educate underrepresented communities on voter registration, election security, voter access, vote by mail, and building electoral power for a healthy democracy.



“HDF was instrumental in helping our organizing efforts build organizational capacity, promote inclusion and language access, and expand awareness around redistricting, SB 202 and the stakes challenging Asian American communities.”

AISHA YAQOUB MAHMOOD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASIAN AMERICAN ADVOCACY FUND

We Are Down Home. We Are Down Home is a growing statewide organization of rural and small-town communities that advocates for economic, gender, and racial justice across North Carolina. The organization’s priorities include: leadership development, strategic campaigning, multiracial movement building, and civic engagement. To counter disinformation in the communities at the heart of its work, We Are Down Home tracks disinformation and trains community members to recognize it and respond.

Free Speech for People. Since its founding in January 2010, Free Speech for People has launched innovative and groundbreaking legal actions to ensure that people can participate equally and meaningfully in American democracy — including a lawsuit in Colorado challenging voter intimidation by a known extremist organization.

In 2022, we are calling on Tides donor advised fund holders and other donors who care deeply about the future of our democracy to “get off your assets” to help us close the voter turnout gap and protect the voting rights of communities of color and young voters. This is the highest leverage investment you can make to ensure that we have a democracy that is reflective of and responsive to all people. Our goal is to raise and spend \$20 million in support of HDF’s funding priorities. **Join us.**



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