



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018





2018 Democracy Champion Awardees Nancy Wang, Voters Not Politicians; Brandon Jessup, Promote the Vote MI, Sharon Delonte, ACLU of Michigan, and Maya Berry, Arab American Institute. Tefere Gebre, Wendy Fields and Karen Hobart Flynn also pictured.

**A**fter breaking turnout records, the 2018 midterm elections made one thing crystal clear: when democracy is on the ballot, it wins. At the Democracy Initiative, we know voters on all sides are hungry to cast their ballots for a fair, safe, and accountable political system. That’s why we’re leading the fight in states and communities across the U.S.—restoring and protecting voting rights, getting special interest money out of elections, and ridding states of gerrymandered districting. Because no matter what issue our members care about most—from good jobs and fair pay to clean water and air—none of us can win without an equitable and healthy democracy.

# FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WENDY FIELDS:



Wendy Fields

**L**et's face it: two years into the Trump administration, it's tempting to feel a kind of collective shock fatigue. Every day brings fresh stories of astonishing political malfeasance, often accompanied by sly winks at xenophobia, bigotry, and hate. All before we even get to the toxic policies coming out of Washington right now.

Today's political morass lays bare the central challenge of our time: as champions of a thriving democracy, our biggest battle is not about a single party, administration, or policy: it's to combat the crippling effects of voter apathy and disenfranchisement. In the wake of the midterm elections, we stand at a critical crossroads in this fight. The incoming congressional freshman class is the most diverse in our history—and in many cases, the most outspoken, unapologetic activists we've seen in decades. Meanwhile, strong majorities of voters in states across the country ticked box after box in support of democracy reforms: to make voting secure and accessible; to make districts fairer and less beholden to partisan interference; and to curb the influence of wealthy special interests in our political process. In fact, democracy reforms almost uniformly won stronger majorities than winning political candidates, regardless of party.

Yet these successes put us in a fragile place: for all the burgeoning energy and excitement that brought us these democracy victories, there

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In 2018, strong majorities of voters in states across the country ticked box after box in support of democracy reforms.

is an equally fierce pushback from the opposition as they see our power grow. We have clearly provoked the other side, and as a result, they are using every trick in the book to retain control. So as advocates for democracy, we must mobilize voters to redouble the fight—not to become apathetic or disengaged.

From my perch at the Democracy Initiative, with our 360-degree view of the field, I know the stakes are higher than ever. I'm clear-eyed about the nature of our challenge, but also cautiously optimistic. Here's why:

**1. Our power is growing:** and so is the demand for reform at the grassroots. With five new partner organizations—bringing our coalition total to 69—the DI now covers more than 45 million members. But this victory is about more than numbers alone: it proves we're forging intersectional alliances across more fronts, involving more groups, and transcending more issues to coalesce around our common North Star: a government of, for and by all the people—not just the wealthy few.



Democracy Initiative hosts an Intern Democracy Champions Training

**2. We are training the trainers and the activists, all while playing critical roles as mediators, provocateurs, and conveners to help bring discipline and scale to a diverse and sometimes unruly democracy movement.** As supporters of democracy advocacy, you know the acronym soup of groups out there as well as I do. At the DI, our role is to help bring coherence and muscle – to create a center of gravity where it’s needed most: among activists on the ground. That means creating the training events and curricula, drawing from the best of our members’ many assets and ingenuity. With our view of the stage and its many players, we strive to curate resources from across our broad coalition, co-creating clear, action-ready strategy.

**3. Our messages are sparking action.** I’m often asked how we’ve managed to bring together such a large and diverse coalition of members, many of whom have never been at the same tables before. The answer is simple: when we tap into our shared values around a fair democracy, we find we can fight alongside advocates from different backgrounds, different races, different fields, and different ways of life. To do this means staying fresh, edgy and relevant with our communications—developing new responses while holding fast to our core principles for why, how and what we fight to change.

**4. Where we fight, we win.** You don’t need to just take my word for it: the evidence was clear in November. In every democracy fight we picked, our allies won. Collectively, our partners helped restore voting rights to Florida’s 1.4 million retuning citizens. We helped establish sane campaign finance rules in Baltimore elections. We helped rid Missouri and Michigan of partisan, gerrymandered redistricting processes. The list goes on; because in all the places voters could choose to strengthen their democracy, they did—no matter which candidate or party topped the ticket.

**5. And each win we notch brings us closer to a democracy that does more than function—it thrives.** History has proven again and again: the answer is action, not apathy. With each policy win and every candidate willing to fight for a democracy that’s fair and just for all of us, we turn the dial one more notch. We must take the long view of sustained, collaborative action to see us toward that brighter future. And thanks to you, we’re already looking to the next hill ahead.

Friends, I close by reminding you that none of what has happened since 2016 should be enough to alienate us from our truest principles. Our opposition is focused, organized, and out in the open. We must be too. We are black, white and brown; we are well-to-do and struggling to make ends meet; we are new, first- and long-time voters; we are working and single parents and citizens returning to society after paying their debts.



Democracy Initiative Executive Director Wendy Fields at the Baltimore Election Protection Press Conference

Special interests and the wealthy few are the minority, they won't go down easily, and even a wave of policy wins won't be enough. That's why, in 2019, we will double down on creating our localized, grass-roots, 365-day demand for a strong democracy: so we can shift the culture from a traditional electoral focus to intentional year-round civic engagement. That will be how we make sustainable change, how we shift from elections to governance, and how we lift up our members' desire to win: through connecting democracy reforms to our groups' kitchen table issues. Because winning on democracy reforms—election day registration, independent redistricting commissions, limiting corporate and special interest wealth from flooding the system with money, or creating a fair election system where anyone can run regardless of their zip code, race, gender, class or sexual orientation—is not just about democracy as an end in itself. It's about increasing the odds of achieving social and economic justice for us all.

In solidarity,

**-WENDY**



Democracy Initiative Executive Director Wendy Fields leading a rally at the steps of the Supreme Court Oral Hearing on Husted vs. Randolph Institute



MI Democracy Champions training with speaker Nayyirah Shariff

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Winning on democracy reforms is not just about democracy as an end in itself; it's about increasing the odds of achieving social and economic justice for us all.

# DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Mike Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club and Tefere Gebre, Executive Vice President, AFL-CIO at DI Board retreat

## STAFF

**Wendy Fields**  
Executive Director

**Myke Bybee**  
Campaign Director

**Getachew Kassa**  
Senior Campaigner

**Elsie Guerrero**  
Program and Executive Assistant

**Jack Flynn**  
Communications Fellow

## DI ANCHOR GROUPS

**Jonathan Butler**  
Democracy Campaigner  
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**Marilyn Carpinteyro**  
Chief, Internal Operations & Strategy  
Common Cause

**Courtney Hight**  
Director, Democracy Program  
Sierra Club

**Jamal Watkins**  
Vice President of Civic Engagement  
NAACP

**Sheila Isong**  
National Political Director  
NAACP

**Shane Larson**  
Director of Legislation,  
Politics and International Affairs  
Communications Workers of America

**Peggy Shorey**  
Director, State and Local Legislation  
AFL-CIO



DI Campaign Director Mykel Bybee and Common Cause President Karen Hobert Flynn at the 2018 DI Annual Meeting

## DI AND DIF BOARD

**Karen Hobert Flynn**  
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Common Cause Co-Chair

**Tefere Gebre**  
Vice President  
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**Michael Brune**  
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**Chris Shelton**  
President  
Communications Workers of America

# FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: CO-CHAIRS

Make no mistake: democracy is a big, messy, fractious business, especially in the world we live in right now. So what better vehicle to fight for it than a big, diverse coalition of advocates and activists—each of which may have their own unique agenda, but all of whom must share in this fight to win? It is about collective action!

The fact is, our democracy is what enables all of us to pursue our piece of a better, fairer, more just and sustainable world. That is why we are part of the Democracy Initiative. We know that many of us cannot take on the power structure alone. We must build intersectional power across our issues, constituencies, and demographics is paramount, even if it means taking risks within our own organizations, our own circles, or at the tables we frequent the most.

This past year, the DI played a pivotal role in leading and strengthening the democracy movement, both in Washington, DC and at the grass-roots campaign level. In each of the DI priority campaign states, we worked to align the progressive community in support of pro-democracy initiatives: recruiting and educating new partners and allies, mobilizing our existing network of activists, and coordinating closely with local campaign leaders to identify unique, valuable roles and contributions the DI could make.

- In Maryland, Michigan, and Missouri, we partnered with Common Cause and the AFL-CIO to produce educational canvassing materials, signs, and leaflets that were hand delivered to more than 75,000 households.

- In Michigan, we were an early and vocal supporter of the Voters Not Politicians campaign, helping to lend legitimacy to the nascent effort and bring a diverse group of voices to the table.
- In Detroit, St Louis, and Baltimore, we focused on increasing voter participation among communities of color, including partnering with the NAACP to write and place joint op-eds in major news outlets.

As we look ahead to the next year of the DI, we know this coalition has its work cut out for it. We need big solutions to the big problems we face, and while incremental, state-by-state wins are critical, we can't stop there. We cannot underestimate the hunger people feel for disruption and taking democracy reform solutions to scale and full implementation. Yes, it will take trust and relationship-building to look past our own self-interest and call out our political allies, many of whom we call friends. We must show up for each other and join in one another's fights. But who better to do that than the DI?

At the end of the day, we must keep driving the holistic conversation around what a strong democracy looks like for this country, why it's never been more urgent, and why each of us must take up the banner and join the fight. Onward!

*Karen Hobert Flynn*

Karen Hobert Flynn, Common Cause President

*Tefere Gebre*

Tefere Gebre, AFL-CIO Executive Vice President



Karen Hobert Flynn



Tefere Gebre



Democracy Initiative Board Member Annie Leonard, President of Greenpeace USA, speaks at the annual meeting

# KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

## THE DI IN 2018

**The Democracy Initiative (DI) is a powerful coalition of 69 partner organizations from labor, civil rights, environmental, faith, women’s rights, democracy reform, and other sectors. Our North Star is a government that works for the people: not just in the voting booth or at election time, but 365 days a year.**

The DI’s partner organizations represent 45 million members primed for action on the issue that transcends individual interests: our democracy. We’ve come together because we know a healthy democracy is what makes change possible, whether we’re fighting for civil rights, worker protections or the environment.

Looking back on 2018, we are immensely proud of the work of our many, many partners, activists, advisors and staff—none of which would have been possible without the generous support of our funders. We credit all of them with the following successes:

### 1. New Power and Reach

In 2018, the DI added five new coalition partners, allowing us to grow more reflective of our communities and nimbler in lifting up intersectional issues for groups who may never have worked together before. This past year we worked with education arm, the Democracy Initiative Education Fund (DIEF), to coordinate partners’ participation in an array of awareness-raising activities on democracy reform, emphasizing field and grassroots action.

One major victory: the coalition was thrilled that grassroots pressure contributed to the disbanding of the Administration’s Pence-Kobach Commission on “voter fraud” in January 2018. In the months preceding,

DI worked with its affiliate, DIEF, and partners to raise awareness of Pence-Kobach, joining

the Leadership Conference and Hip-Hop Caucus to organize actions around the Commission’s meetings and generating awareness with trending hashtags #RespectMyVote and #DontMessWithOurVote.

DI played a central role in mobilizing volunteers and partner staffers for five state actions protesting the Commission, which attracted over 350 activists and leaders and generated press in the field. Together with Common Cause, Rock the Vote and New Georgia Majority, our outreach to national partners included a comprehensive messaging packet and a Facebook Live event that drew nearly 7,000 views in a week.



Reverend Yearwood, President, Hip Hop Caucus

## 2. New Mobilizing and Training Capacity

When it comes to mobilizing and training, the DI had a dual focus in 2018: 1) making clear the link between issues like voting rights or redistricting reform and building grassroots power; and 2) using educational outreach to recruit volunteers and move political will within organizations. Our Democracy Champions trainings have become a higher organizational priority, as we produce our own trainings and expand our reach by aligning with our partners' training curricula.

In 2018, the DIEF expanded the Democracy Champions trainings to create the next generation of grassroots activists from partner organizations who'll be motivated, prepared and empowered to educate and engage their communities about democracy reform. Over the course of the year, we hosted two "train the trainers" sessions and three general Democracy Champions trainings to build capacity and reach in the field.

We held our first "train the trainers" session early in 2018, laying the groundwork for common language and organizing skills among our partner organizations' staff. Sixteen staff attended from partner groups representing the labor, LGBTQ, civil rights, democracy, and environmental sectors, resulting in a new roster of trainers to deploy for future sessions. We also hosted Democracy Champions trainings in Flint, MI; at the CWA National Conference in DC; and in a special



2018 DI Democracy Champion Awards Reception. From left to right: Rev. Kobi Little (Baltimore City NAACP President), Heba Mohammad (AAI National Field Coordinator), Maya Berry (AAI Executive Director), and Haley Arata (AAI National Field Coordinator).

DC-based training for 40 college-aged young people sent to us by 20 partner organizations. These trainings grew the organizing bench and produced real results: more than two dozen CWA members took part in our specialized training at their event and in September, participants from our youth-focused training committed to 30+ volunteer shifts around National Voter Registration Day.

Finally, we sponsored a second "train the trainer" session in conjunction with the Democracy Initiative's Annual Meeting on November 26, 2018. Going forward, we are planning nine Champions trainings in 2019 to help build a cadre of activists on democracy embedded within national and state partner organizations, with a special focus on recruiting leaders of color.

This year's Annual Meeting brought together a diverse set of organizers, partners, and state, local, and national leaders. In collaboration with Common Cause, we brought in 35 young, dynamic state and local leaders of color who led and worked on 2018 reform efforts. A major highlight of the meeting was a powerful, honest discussion about the need to truly invest in our grassroots infrastructure, including investing in leaders of color to ensure they are part of decision making. Nse Ufot (New Georgia Project), Joanne Antoine (Common Cause MD), Haley Arata (AAI) and Brandon Jessup (Promote the Vote MI) led this discussion.



DI Board member and NAACP President Derrick Johnson at the 2018 DI Annual Meeting, featuring (from left to right): Joanne Antoine, Common Cause, Nse Ufot, New Georgia Project, Haley Arata, AAI, and Brandon Jessup, Promote the Vote MI.

### 3. Critical Roles: Mediators, Strategists and Provocateurs

In 2018, the DI continued to distinguish itself as the “action arm” of much of the democracy work happening at the national level. We do this by aggressively supporting local reforms and offering campaign strategy; supporting local organizing actions; staffing the field; assembling unusual bedfellows; recruiting activists; and building capacity to strengthen local organizing infrastructure. All of our program work is done through a strong race and class equity lens.

We are committed to building a center of gravity around democracy reform: one where we have one field and one message that unites us. To fulfill this mission, we routinely translate policy for the day-to-day fight and build support so we can be bolder in our asks and efforts to hold elected leaders accountable.

How do we know we’re succeeding? DI and DIFE continue to be invited to coalition partner conferences, institutions of higher learning, democracy reform convenings, and funder forums to discuss the power of building a true grassroots democracy reform movement on voting rights, redistricting, and blunting the outsized influence of money in our democratic processes. Executive Director Wendy Fields continues to be an in-demand speaker on democracy reform as a cross-cutting issue and the importance of a race and class lens in democracy advocacy. Some of 2018’s notable appearances included work to engage varied constituencies in democracy reform:



Democracy Initiative Principal 2019 Strategy Meeting with Frances Moore Lappe, Ben Monterroso, and Bob Brandon



Democracy Initiative Strategy Leadership Meeting

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Democracy is not really understood or lived in the abstract—and the work of the Democracy Initiative is a perfect example of that. When we worked with them to expand ballot access, to ensure that every vote cast was counted, to help represent the most vulnerable among us, we were building our democracy one person at a time. Our partnership with DI helped connect us to other democracy advocates, leading to the Arab American Institute’s endorsement of three successful state ballot initiatives. AAI is about the civic engagement of millions of Arab Americans and we are proud to be a DI partner because they help us empower our community by strengthening our country’s democracy for people, each and every day.

—Maya Berry,  
Arab American Institute, President



From left to right: Sheila Isong, NAACP, Marcia Johnson-Blanco, Voting Rights Project, Aunna Dennis, Stop Hate & Voting Rights Projects, Jamal Watkins, NAACP, and Nse Ufot, New Georgia Project Executive Director, at the 2018 DI Annual Meeting.

- The **SEIU annual conference**, where Wendy spoke as a panelist on the state of the democracy reform movement and the direct connections between strengthening our democracy and protecting workers' rights.
- **Hip Hop Caucus Radio**, where Wendy joined as a special guest on their weekly online streaming and radio broadcast to discuss democracy reform on the ballot and DI's Democracy 365 campaign.
- **Declaration for American Democracy (DFAD) Facebook Live Broadcasts:** after the DI's efforts to recruit new partners to this coalition in 2018, Wendy appeared on the broadcast on three separate occasions.
- **End Family Separation March:** To support the intersectionality of democracy reform and DI partners' issues, Wendy joined the End Family Separation March in solidarity with our DI partners protesting the forced separation of migrant families at the southern border, culminating in her being one of dozens arrested in the Hart Senate office building.

In the past year, Wendy and other DI and DIF staff presented on grassroots organizing for democracy reform to the leadership and rank and file of major national groups, all toward the goal of connecting democracy reform to kitchen table concerns. These included the

AFL-CIO, NAACP, the Green Group of environmental group CEOs, and the Environmental Grantmakers Association.

#### 4. Strategy in the States

At the state level, the DI has worked closely with partners on the ground to develop the coalitions and outreach needed to drive results. From communications support to grassroots action, we have leveraged one of our core strengths: bringing the right people together in the right places, and equipping them with the right tools to spark action. Some of the year's highlights include:

##### Multi-state strategic communications:

As part of our priority state campaign efforts, the DI provided strategic communication support in Maryland, Michigan, and Missouri. This meant creating a platform to introduce partners to priority democracy reform campaigns and for campaigns to share their messaging with coalition partners. In addition, we worked hand-in-hand with the state campaigns and our partners on drafting and placing statewide op-eds in the St. Louis Dispatch to inoculate against false claims from opposition messaging; in the Michigan Chronicle to reach African American votes statewide; and in the Baltimore Sun to increase earned media outreach for the campaign.

##### Missouri Signature Day of Action:

The DI coordinated with the Clean Missouri campaign to organize a day of action during the signature collection phase of their suc-



Tefere Gebre, Executive Vice President of AFL-CIO and DI Board Member speaking at the joint DI and Common Cause Blueprint Conference

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The Democracy Initiative provided the Clean Missouri coalition with an opportunity to connect with national groups who weren't yet in our campaign and supported our strategic communication work throughout the long campaign. We were and remain grateful for their support and expertise.

– Sean Nicholson,  
Clean Missouri  
Initiative Campaign



Democracy Initiative walked with the Promote the Vote (Proposal 3) team from day one; DI’s strategic support paved the way to labor and faith communities outside of the normal “safe” progressive space. With DI’s national support for Michigan’s initiative to enhance voting rights for working families we dug deeper in communities like Detroit, Flint and Grand Rapids powering the highest voter turnout in over two decades.

– **Brandon Jessup**  
 Promote the Vote,  
 Deputy Campaign Director

Successful ballot initiative effort in March of 2018. DI partners Jobs With Justice, Sierra Club and the NAACP participated with 60 people on the streets across the three cities in Missouri, collecting nearly 1,500 signatures in one day.

**MI Signature Collection:**

As part of our efforts to support Promote the Vote and Voters Not Politicians, the DI gathered partners from Flint Rising, NAACP, Sierra Club, League of Conservation Voters, MI Voice, Clean Water Action, and UAW to discuss about the two democracy reform campaigns and prompt them take part in signature collection for the ballot initiatives.

**Let NY Vote Toolkit:**

The DI supported the Let New York Vote coalition effort to pass early voting reform including funding of the program during the 2018 legislative session. DI created a Let NY Vote messaging and action toolkit that included talking points, issue framing, social media shareable content, and a sample email.

**5. Critical Policy Wins**

In 2018, 100% of the ballot initiatives supported by DI partner organizations won—many with impressive margins. Leading up to the votes, the DI provided support on coordination, strategy, message guidance, and partner engagement for educational efforts on reforms for voter participation, redistricting, and taking money out of politics. At the 2018

Democracy Initiative Annual Meeting in November 2018, the coalition announced we have already met our 20-win goal. We are now excited to announce that at the Annual Meeting we agreed to increase that number goal to 40 wins by 2020. In 2018, DI partner groups educated their members and engaged them in awareness-raising actions for the following winning efforts:

**Florida–WIN:**

*Voting rights restoration*

DI coordinated an early presentation from the Florida campaign to our partners to inspire them to get involved. We then worked with labor groups on training their members around the issue of rights restoration. Together with our partners, we drove volunteers to the Second Chances Restoration of Rights campaign, including recruiting for the national call-in day in August, and partnered with environmental partners and the AFL-CIO to sponsor a phone-banking day in September.

**Maryland – TWO WINS:**

*(1) Statewide voting rights (same day registration) and (2) Fair elections in Baltimore*

Working with local partners at USPIRG, Common Cause, CASA, Clean Water Action, and the NAACP, the DI recommended Rev. Kobi Little as Chair of the Baltimore Free Elections campaign. Rev. Little is the political action chair for the Maryland State Conference of the NAACP, marking a great example of civil rights leaders working on money in politics and voting rights. We coordinated presentations on the issues to the larger DI coalition and amplified grassroots action through social media. The DI’s leadership also participated in a live press event to generate awareness, and staff met regularly with grassroots leaders throughout the campaign. After the work of the last two years, Maryland now has four counties with fair elections laws on the books—Montgomery County, Howard County, Prince George’s County, and Baltimore—positioning us well to move a statewide fair elections campaign and putting us one year ahead of schedule in the collective statewide strategy for democracy reform.

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The Democracy Initiative’s early and strong support provided Voters Not Politicians a national platform to introduce our campaign to a wide range of national and state organizations. We are grateful to have leveraged our relationship with the DI to garner endorsements, mobilize members of their partner organizations and coordinate on strategic communications.

– Katie Fahey

Executive Director,  
Voters Not Politicians



Common Cause and Friends of the Earth staff attend the DI 2018 Annual Meeting

**Michigan–TWO WINS:**

*(1) Voting rights and (2) redistricting.*

Michigan has been a priority for DI outreach, and two strong democracy reforms passed in the state in November 2018: voting rights and redistricting. Early on, the DI provided both reform efforts a platform to connect with national groups via our Mobilizing workgroup in early spring and then again in the fall when both campaigns qualified for the ballot. The DI held weekly strategy meetings to coordinate efforts on both. We also connected democracy advocates with activists working on the statewide water crisis who had not previously been coordinating.

After consistent phone and online strategy support and multiple in-state visits through the year, DI’s staff joined organizers on the ground in state for the final weeks. We built a bridge between both the Promote the Vote and Voters Not Politicians campaigns by providing in-kind printing support for canvassing leaflets. We also provided strategic communication support by helping place an op-ed authored by Wendy Fields and the NAACP MI State Conference president. We coordinated with Common Cause to recruit volunteers for election protection poll coverage on Election Day and provided support in Flint and Detroit with nonpartisan “know your rights” cards and one-on-one outreach to voters waiting in long lines.

Michigan will remain a high priority for the DI in the coming two years. With the support of our board of directors, we are committing to continue

building a strong local mobilizing infrastructure. While the DI helped to align our partners’ engagement in democracy in the state, we developed partnerships that will help us create a mobilizing “hub” on democracy reform to ensure we have an implementation strategy for the reforms that won and plan for additional and expanding reforms.

**Missouri–WIN:**

*Ethics, campaign finance, redistricting package*

The DI organized presentations on the Missouri opportunities to our Mobilizing workgroup of partner organizations to facilitate their participation and begin coordinating engagement between national groups and state affiliates. DI partner engagement was critical in the signature collection for the ballot placement phase of the CLEAN Missouri Initiative campaign. AFSCME, Jobs with Justice, SEIU, Sierra Club, and UFCW collected over 90,000 signatures, with Jobs with Justice leading the way. We coordinated with partners Sierra Club and AFL-CIO to play a major role in turning out more than 200 volunteers for signature-gathering, voter registration, and educational canvassing. In March 2018, we organized a signature-collection day of action with partners PIRG, Common Cause, and NAACP.

A strategic communication effort was designed to push back on the opposition’s false narrative that the Clean Missouri Initiative would negatively impact African Americans; DI worked with NAACP to draft an op-ed for statewide targeted placement in the St. Louis Dispatch and organized quotes from African American leaders. The DI provided support to local partners to have hand-outs printed using a local, African American-owned print shop for use in canvassing in African American communities and prioritized outreach to infrequent voters in the St. Louis area. Affiliates of national partners were critical in this work: for example, we worked with Common Cause to recruit election protection volunteers for election day and later honored the AFL-CIO for its Missouri efforts on Right to Work at the DI Annual Meeting in November 2018. DI and partners on the ground are planning more work together in 2019 to maintain collective momentum.



**We welcome your partnership and investment in a stronger democracy!**

For more information on how you can support Democracy Initiative or to discuss how your organization can join, please contact us at:

**Democracy Initiative**

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June 2018 DI Democracy Champions Training in Flint, Michigan. Nayyirah Shariff (Flint Rising Director), Linda Ewing (DI Policy Fellow), Katie Fahey (Voters Not Politicians Executive Director), Izzy Bronstein (Common Cause National Organizer) and Getachew Kassa (DI Senior Campaigner) also pictured.

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Democracy Initiative is grateful to the many individual donors who supported our work in 2018!



Young, diverse graduates of Democracy Champions “Train the Trainer” training, during the 2018 DI Annual Meeting programming, Monday, November 26, 2018.

## Democracy Initiative Education Fund

The Democracy Initiative Education Fund (DIEF) is a 501(c)(3) charitable research and education organization dedicated to public education about the necessity of broader democracy reform so that we can fully realize the promise of American democracy; a government of, by, and for the people.

DIEF works with Democracy Initiative to implement educational and research efforts that are building a movement for democracy. DIEF has created new leadership development curriculum to increase the capacity of issue organizations to be active on democracy reforms; undertakes message research to better engage varied audiences on the importance of civic engagement; and provides thought leadership to the movement on the power of grassroots education in achieving democracy reforms.

### Thank you to the institutional funders that supported Democracy Initiative Education Fund’s work in 2018:

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Arkay Foundation          | Puffin Foundation        |
| Ford Foundation           | SLC Giving Fund          |
| Gaia Fund                 | The Overbrook Foundation |
| Johnson Family Foundation | Tides Foundation         |
| Leaves of Grass Fund      | Wallace Global Fund      |
| MacArthur Foundation      | WhyNot Initiative        |
| Mertz Gilmore Foundation  |                          |

Special thanks to the WhyNot Initiative for its additional support of stipends for bringing state, local, and young leaders to DC for the Annual Meeting and Democracy Champions training. Thanks as well to the Ford Foundation for additional support of collaborative capacity building with partner organizations.



DI’s partner, Sierra Club, Michigan state chapter in action



**DEMOCRACY**  
INITIATIVE