





# DEMOCRACY DEPENDS ON A GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS FOR **ALL PEOPLE.**

At Democracy Forward, we use the law to fight for the promise of democracy on behalf of all Americans.

In statehouses, courtrooms, and communities across the country, we see threats to democracy and its promise every day. Our effective legal strategies have stopped abuses of power, propelled social progress, and positively impacted the lives and wellbeing of millions.

Since our founding in 2017, Democracy Forward has filed more than 650 legal actions, investigatory demands, and records requests challenging unlawful acts, fought vigorously in court on behalf of those harmed, and notched victories that have improved lives, strengthened communities, and protected the rule of law.

*The future of our democracy depends on the actions that we take today. To meet this critical moment, Democracy Forward is expanding the scope and reach of its work.*

*Join our community.*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



Four years ago, a dedicated and spirited group of people left coveted jobs and beloved colleagues to build something new: Democracy Forward. In the wake of the 2016 election, we knew the basic foundations of our democracy and the wellbeing of all

Americans were at risk. We went to court for democracy on behalf of clients that represent the very fabric of our country -- workers, educators, students, health care professionals, veterans, cities, counties, small businesses, conservationists, scientists, researchers, immigrants, voters, the press, community-based advocates, national organizations, and many others. We exposed wrongdoing, stopped abuses of power, and blocked attempts to undermine the well-being of people and communities.

It isn't over. On January 6, 2021, violent rioters and insurrectionists executed a planned siege on our nation's Capitol. A number of troubling events in the months since lends urgency to our work. Building on our strong record of challenging unlawful and harmful activity of the forty-fifth Presidential Administration, we are expanding the scope and reach of our work to meet this pivotal moment in American democracy.

I hope these pages provide you insights into our mission, strategy, and impact. We will do our part to ensure that democracy is not nearing its last days. And we welcome you to contact us to learn how to be engaged in our work. Together, we can ensure that America's best days are ahead. Join us for what's next.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Skye".

**SKYE PERRYMAN, JD**

President & Chief Executive Officer  
Democracy Forward Foundation

## BY THE NUMBERS

**650+**  
**ACTIONS**

**145+**  
**CASES**

**30+**  
**REVERSALS OF  
UNLAWFUL ACTION**

**130+**  
**CLIENTS**

# WE TAKE ON CRITICAL FIGHTS — AND WIN.

Democracy Forward took the Trump administration to court more than 100 times. We brought high-stakes cases exposing often under-the-radar lawlessness and secured victories that improved the lives of people, families, and communities. Our record of success shows what is possible when *creativity* and *skill* meet an *unyielding commitment to the promise of democracy*.

## HEALTHCARE

- Blocked four Trump-era policies that undercut the ACA's success.
- Restored more than \$100 million in funding for evidence-based reproductive health programs discontinued by Trump.
- Stopped Trump's last-minute attempt to destabilize the health care system by suspending 18,000 HHS regulations.

## WORKERS' RIGHTS

- Challenged Trump's delay of workplace standards protecting frontline health care workers
- Forced withdrawal of unlawful policy undermining protections for immigrant victims of workplace abuse and crimes

## GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

- Forced Trump to release the War Powers Transparency Report as required by law
- Exposed Trump official Wilbur Ross' use of personal email to discuss government business

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH

- Blocked USDA's rollback of school nutrition standards, affecting 30+ million children
- Successfully ended the Trump-era FDA's unlawful delay in regulating e-cigarette and cigar products attractive to children

## EQUAL PAY

- Won court victory compelling collection of equal pay data Trump officials unlawfully halted

## CIVIL RIGHTS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

- Halted enforcement of Trump rule, which misconstrued religious liberty as a license to discriminate against LGBTQ+ and other marginalized people
- Uncovered communications between Trump's DHS and right-wing media outlets to drive racist narratives, prompting the development of new civil rights training protocols

## FAIR LENDING

- Compelled data collection stalled by Trump of information on lending to women-owned, minority-owned, and small businesses.

## VOTING RIGHTS

- Challenged the Pence-Kobach Voter Commission's attempt to collect private information about individual voters in series of litigation challenges that ultimately led to disbandment of the Commission

## IMMIGRATION

- Invalidated Trump's unlawful appointment of a DHS official, reversing policies harmful to asylum seekers

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Shut down unlawful advisory group tapped by Trump officials to advise on trophy hunting of threatened wildlife
- Secured reversal of Trump DOJ's unlawful ban of enforcement mechanism against polluters

## PUBLIC WATER ACCESS

- Won court order forcing the US Coast Guard to reopen access to the Potomac waterways that were routinely closed to accommodate Trump's golf schedule

# We are meeting this **MOMENT.**

## **IN THE STATES**

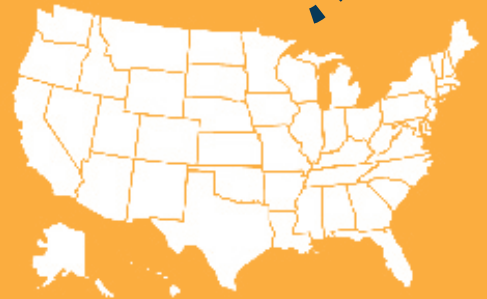
As an increasing number of state and local officials pose threats to democracy and social progress, we are in court holding them accountable. We've challenged harmful actions by Trump-like governors, opposed attempts to undermine science and the public health, and amplified the voices of the communities most harmed.

## **IN WASHINGTON**

People-centered policies implemented in just and equitable ways are essential to achieving the promise of democracy for all Americans. Our team supports the development of lawful, ethical, and positive federal regulations by ensuring that the voices of communities impacted the most by governmental action are represented in the regulatory process. We've achieved reversals of unlawful policies and have encouraged new, positive action across a range of federal agencies.

## **IN THE COURTS**

The law should be a catalyst for justice but is too often misused by those seeking to undermine an inclusive, sustainable, and equitable vision for America. Our team is scrutinizing governmental actions, cases filed by regressive actors, and jurisprudential trends, deploying innovative legal strategies to challenge threats to democracy and social progress.



# OUR STRATEGY.

## LITIGATE

**Government derives its power from the people.** So, when those who abuse their power undermine the ability of the government to work for the people who need it most, we take them to court. Our team is agile and deploys creative and effective legal strategies across a range of issues. We choose our cases based on both rigorous monitoring of the policy landscape at the local, state, and federal levels and an assessment of where there is the greatest need. We deter bad actors through vigorous challenge, achieve positive results for people and communities through court victories, and leverage our lawsuits to create accountability. Our approach is highly collaborative and we often work alongside organizations and on behalf of clients that call upon us for our expertise, creativity, and commitment to impact.



## AMPLIFY

**All too often, those with the most at stake are the least heard.** Our strategies are specifically focused on amplifying the perspectives and voices of people and communities who have and continue to be marginalized. We scrutinize governmental action and pending litigation from the perspective of those who have the most at stake and use legal representation, regulatory engagement, and effective communication strategies to ensure that voices and perspectives that need to be heard, are heard.

## RAISING AWARENESS

We **expose** overlooked, often under-the-radar **threats** to democracy and social progress by raising public **awareness** on behalf of the people and communities **most harmed**. Our work has spurred numerous Congressional and federal agency investigations and forced policy changes through public **accountability**.





# OUR CLIENTS.

Our clients **reflect** the very **fabric of our country** and include voters, veterans, workers, health care professionals, civil servants, immigrants, students, the press, scientists, researchers, teachers, Tribes, advocates, cities, counties, community organizations, and so many others. **We represent our clients free of charge.**



A BROAD RANGE  
OF MORE THAN

# 100 CLIENTS

HAVE TURNED TO  
**DEMOCRACY FORWARD**  
FOR OUR  
IMPACT-ORIENTED  
APPROACH

# OUR TEAM.

Our deep bench of **talent** has been on the front lines of some of the nation's most **significant** legal battles and includes those who have held senior positions across a range of institutions and government agencies. From our most senior lawyers to those just beginning their careers, our team's commitment to achieving **the promise of democracy for all people is unwavering.**



MEET THE PEOPLE BEHIND  
OUR WORK BY VISITING:  
[WWW.DEMOCRACYFORWARD.ORG](http://WWW.DEMOCRACYFORWARD.ORG)



# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

WEBSITE: [www.democracyforward.org](http://www.democracyforward.org)

E-MAIL: [president@democracyforward.org](mailto:president@democracyforward.org)

FACEBOOK: [@DemocracyFwd](https://www.facebook.com/DemocracyFwd)

TWITTER: [@DemocracyFwd](https://twitter.com/DemocracyFwd)

INSTAGRAM: [@democracyforward](https://www.instagram.com/democracyforward)

