



The **Democracy Fund** invests in organizations working to ensure that our political system is able to withstand new challenges and deliver on its promise to the American people.

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## ABOUT THE DEMOCRACY FUND

**The Democracy Fund is a bipartisan foundation established by eBay founder and philanthropist Pierre Omidyar to help ensure that the American people come first in our democracy.**

Pierre Omidyar created the Democracy Fund out of deep respect for the U.S. Constitution and our nation's core democratic values. While no democracy is perfect, the American system has endured through times of severe stress and dramatic social change. This system has proven its value and continues to hold the promise of effective, representative governance. Today, technologies and innovations offer new opportunities for public engagement in a more vibrant democracy — even as serious challenges including hyper-partisanship, money in politics, and struggling media threaten the health of our political system.

We believe the best days of American democracy lie ahead. Bipartisan solutions can modernize our elections. Digital advances can help people engage in civic life. New incentives can encourage political leaders to find principled compromise and address our country's greatest challenges.

The Democracy Fund is a resource for those who want to strengthen our nation's democracy. We invest in change makers whose ideas and energy can make a difference. We advocate for solutions that can bring lasting improvement to our political system. We build bridges that help people come together to serve the nation, moving us closer to the ideal of a government of, by, and for the people.



We operate with a belief in new possibilities — along with an appreciation for the complexity of the dynamics involved in U.S. democracy, a commitment to learning and rigor in all we do, and a desire to collaborate with people and parties across the political spectrum.

Bridge building is a cornerstone of the Democracy Fund's work. We believe that creating a vibrant, healthy political system is in the interest of all Americans and that finding achievable solutions to the complex problems facing our democracy will require voices, expertise, and ideas from across the political spectrum. Our board, staff, advisors, and grantees include Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. The Democracy Fund is affiliated with [Democracy Fund Voice](#).

The Democracy Fund is part of The Omidyar Group and is funded by Pierre and Pam Omidyar. For more information about the Omidyars' personal, professional, and philanthropic interests, visit [www.omidyargroup.com](http://www.omidyargroup.com).

## INVESTMENT CRITERIA AND GRANTMAKING

The Democracy Fund aims to play a catalytic role in improving our political system through grantmaking. We typically make a substantial investment in the success of our grantee organizations. **The Democracy Fund DOES NOT accept unsolicited proposals.** We proactively seek new grants based on strategic priorities and typically identify new grantee partners from within our network of allies and contacts. We work closely with grantee partners to help them achieve their goals. To have the greatest impact, we invest according to the following criteria:

- **Alignment.** We look for organizations aligned with our mission of making democracy work better. We seek nonprofit organizations that use innovative approaches that are in keeping with our three programs and strategic priorities.
- **Impact.** We identify organizations that produce significant outcomes by influencing practices among existing institutions, shifting incentives and behavior of political leaders, building effective sectors, and altering public attitudes and behavior.
- **Potential for Scale.** We look for organizations with significant growth potential, and the ability to scale operations to influence the lives of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people. We prefer to work with nonprofits that are on a path toward operational sustainability where possible.
- **Leadership.** We invest in management teams with a proven track record in their field of operation and an ability to articulate a clear vision and strategy, reinforced by a viable business plan. The organization must practice exemplary governance with operational efficiency and controls, transparent practices, and disciplined financial planning.
- **Innovation.** We seek organizations that employ creative, entrepreneurial strategies to accomplish their goals. Grantees may disrupt the status quo, establish a new paradigm, or pioneer services for untapped markets.

Please note that Democracy Fund policy allows up to 10 percent of university project expenses to be for indirect costs.



### Partnering for Results, and Learning

We invest in the success of our grantee partners, collaborating with them to achieve shared goals while learning together. As appropriate to each partnership, the Democracy Fund team can help:

- Provide knowledge on topics where we have expertise or experience;
- Support capacity building in key areas, such as strategy, management, operations, human resources, legal matters, and communications;
- Make introductions to relevant contacts in our network who might offer useful insights, practices, or resources;
- Connect grantee partners to help them pursue synergies, build relationships, and share ideas.

Through each partnership, we expect to generate deeper understanding of the systems we seek to influence to improve democracy. We therefore value the mutual learning opportunities inherent in each investment we make.

## THE DEMOCRACY FUND TEAM

### STAFF



**Joe Goldman**  
President



**Natalie Adona**  
Senior Research and Learning Associate



**Adam Ambrogi**  
Program Director, Elections



**Meredith Bird**  
Communications Coordinator



**Adele Cameron**  
Operations Assistant



**Isaiah Castilla**  
Senior Counsel



**Hugo Castro**  
Operations Manager



**Laura Chambers**  
Chief Operating Officer



**Sarah Cole**  
Research Fellow



**Chris Crawford**  
Program Associate,  
Governance



**Lindsay Daniels**  
Associate Director, Elections



**Nick Fabiani**  
Design Associate



**Lise Woods Fink**  
Senior Recruiter



**Nadia Firozvi**  
Assistant Director, Just and  
Inclusive Society



**Lara Flint**  
Director, Governance  
Program



**Tom Glaisyer**  
Managing Director, Public  
Square



**Anne Gleich**  
Program Assistant,  
Governance



**Srik Gopal**  
Vice President of Strategy  
and Program



**Teresa Gorman**  
Senior Program Associate  
for Local News



**Robert Griffin**  
Research Director, Voter  
Study Group



**Jessica Harris**  
Senior Associate for  
Communications



**Anna Kegler**  
Senior Communications  
Associate



**Jessica Mahone**  
Research Associate, Public  
Square Program



**Laura A. Maristany**  
Associate Director,  
Governance Program



**Tyneshia McCray**  
Executive Assistant, Chief  
People Officer and  
Managing Director of  
Operations



**Claudia Mejia**  
Executive Assistant,  
President and Vice  
President



**Arslan Muradi**  
Evaluation and Learning  
Assistant



**Chris Nehls**  
Senior Systems, Research,  
and Learning Associate,  
Governance



**Nedrin Nelson**  
Senior IT Administrator



**Trevor Ostbye**  
Program Associate,  
Elections



**Tammy Patrick**  
Senior Advisor, Elections



**Alicia Prevost**  
Director, Voter Study Group



**Sean Raymond**  
Program Associate,  
Governance



**Kelly Reed**  
Director of Grants  
Management



**Najma Roberts**  
Director of Communications



**Liz Ruedy**  
Director of Evaluation and  
Learning



**Freddie Salas**  
Senior Associate,  
Elections



**Donata Secondo**  
Senior Associate, Office of  
the President



**Josh Stearns**  
Program Director, Public  
Square



**Lauren Strayer**  
Managing Director of  
Communications and  
Network



**Robin Thompson**  
Controller



**Lea Trusty**  
Program Associate, Public Square



**Nathaniel J. Turner**  
Program Associate, Governance



**Paul Waters**  
Senior Program Associate, Public Square



**Margaret Yao**  
Chief People Officer



**Devon Ysaguirre**  
Learning and Strategy Manager



**Nina Zenni**  
Grants Associate

#### SENIOR FELLOWS AND CONSULTANTS



**Terry Ao Minnis**  
Senior Fellow & Consultant, Elections



**Daniela Gerson**  
Senior Fellow and Consultant, Public Square



**Martin Kaiser**  
Senior Fellow and Consultant, Public Square



**Tracie Powell**  
Senior Fellow & Consultant, Public Square



**Rick Shapiro**  
Senior Fellow and Consultant, Governance

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Strong

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## OUR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Democracy Fund has committed more than \$50 million to support a healthy democracy. Established by philanthropist and eBay founder Pierre Omidyar in 2011 and incubated inside [Omidyar Network](#), the Democracy Fund launched as an independent foundation in July 2014 and is a member of The Omidyar Group. These are our first financial documents as an independent organization. We also support and make our grantmaking data available to the Foundation Center's [Foundation Funding for U.S. Democracy](#) tool.

We take seriously our commitment to transparency and will continue to share additional financial information as it becomes available.

View our most recent audited financial documents, 990-PF and annual report below.

 [AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

 [990-PF](#)

 [2014 ANNUAL REPORT](#)

## HOW TO CONTACT US

**Democracy Fund**  
1200 17th Street NW  
Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
PH: 202.420.7900

### Contacts

General Inquiries: [info@democracyfund.org](mailto:info@democracyfund.org)  
Media Inquiries: [media@democracyfund.org](mailto:media@democracyfund.org)

The Democracy Fund does not accept unsolicited business plans, proposals, or personal requests. Any materials marked proprietary or confidential will be discarded.

### Employment

Please visit our [Job Opportunities](#) page. No phone calls please.



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Democracy Fund  
1200 17th Street NW Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
[info@democracyfund.org](mailto:info@democracyfund.org)  
202-420-7900

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