

# STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

We realize the full promise of democracy when people have fair and equal access to institutions of government and meaningful opportunities to participate in the decision-making processes that shape their lives.

In 1983, a group of forward-thinking grantmakers created what is now the Funders' Committee for Civic Participation (FCCP), a national philanthropic community that learns together, challenges each other, and is dedicated to building a vibrant and inclusive democracy for all.

Today, our country is more diverse than ever and FCCP continues the challenging and rewarding work of ensuring that every community is actively engaged in all aspects of civic engagement. We work vigilantly to raise all voices and remove the barriers that force some to the sidelines. And we nurture a funding community – and field – that values working together.

## Join us.

## Starting with Fundamentals

At FCCP we envision a fair and functional democracy that values access, equity and full participation. Making progress on this vision requires patient, long-term investment in the structural foundations that make a democracy work. And it requires immediate intervention when those principles are threatened.

### A Fair & Functional Democracy

Protects the right to vote and streamlines registration

Safeguards access to the polls

Modernizes its election systems



Reduces the corrupting influence of money in politics

Ensures an accurate and inclusive census count

Empowers voters through fair and impartial redistricting



# Integrated Voter Engagement

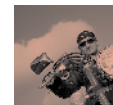
strengthens organizational infrastructure and builds resources – in and out of election cycles – that can be mobilized to win effective public policies, making voter participation relevant and meaningful.



# Lead with Vision

A robust democracy must actively engage all people. Fair elections are an important part of this work, but to create lasting change for under-represented communities, civic engagement must be about more than elections. FCCP is leading the shift toward a full spectrum of strategies that integrate year-round nonpartisan voter engagement efforts with community organizing activities. This approach builds a strong base of support that strengthens an organization’s ability to hold elected officials accountable, impact public policy, and build long-term power. We see that power mobilized when people organize to take on polluters, advance immigrant rights, and advocate for healthy communities.

Regardless of the issues you fund, nonpartisan civic engagement can – and should – serve as the “secret sauce” that helps your foundation and your grantees achieve impact on the things you care about.



# Connecting and Collaborating

FCCP supports meaningful collaboration among funders and in the field. We break down issue, geographic and funding silos so the field of civic participation can become smarter and more effective.

Across the country, grantmakers are working to build strong, state-based civic infrastructure that helps voter engagement and community organizing groups more effectively mobilize their supporters and advance their policy priorities.

Catalytic funding from FCCP members and others has expanded grantee efforts to build capacity, access new technologies, and share information and analysis. Within philanthropy, FCCP

provides a place where funders can connect to share data, assessments, and evaluations that help fine-tune grantmaking strategies and create a greater impact than any one foundation could achieve alone.

Through extensive learning and engagement programs, FCCP supports the collaborative work of funders through working groups and initiatives on issues like money in politics, the census, and redistricting. FCCP also works closely with fellow affinity groups to connect the importance of civic engagement to work in their issue areas.



When you participate in FCCP you become part of a national network of grantmakers committed to ensuring that our democracy works.

Regardless of the size of your institution, there's room for you within the FCCP learning community. At FCCP you can build connections, showcase innovative ideas, highlight best practices and collaborate with other funders.

We work alongside our members to develop topics for "First Monday" funder briefings, program our spring and winter convenings, and advance the efforts of FCCP working groups focused on money in politics, state-based infrastructure, the census and redistricting.

Connect with our staff and programs online at [www.funderscommittee.org](http://www.funderscommittee.org).



# Learn. Connect. Engage.

FCCP helps you be smarter, more impactful and effective.  
{And you may even have a little fun.}

FCCP has created a vital, can't-miss space for learning and sharing.



The lively discourse at FCCP strengthens all of our work.

As an "elder" I love the new energy at FCCP.



Great place for our small foundation to be exposed to big ideas relevant to our work.

FCCP has helped me to become more informed and strategic

FCCP is a key place for me because civic engagement is a pathway to advancing social justice.

FCCP gets out in front of the issues and trends, helping to make us all smarter and more effective.



FCCP has created mentorship that has proven invaluable to my work.

Best convening I've been to. Not a moment wasted!