Democracy Depends on All of Us

ANNUAL REPORT 2022
Those who would restrict claims of right to the values of 1789 ... turn a blind eye to social progress.

JUSTICE WILLIAM J. BRENNAN JR.
Last year the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law expanded its reach and strengthened its grasp — showing up as an incredibly effective machine for change in this critical moment for democracy.

At a time of unparalleled challenge, we are proud to report that Brennan Center has grown into a significant force in the nation’s political and legal life. It has a distinct approach: Nonpartisan. Expert. Part think tank. Part legal advocacy group. Part communications hub. We are an engine of reform ideas — committed to winning, above all, in the court of public opinion.

The Center brings peerless institutional strength to this work. It has an annual budget of $45 million, long-term financial stability through dedicated reserve funds, and a fundraising base of 39,000 generous supporters. Its staff of 158 includes attorneys, social scientists, writers, researchers, and many others — working together in person in offices in New York and Washington, DC, for maximum impact. In 2022 our social media campaigns drove more than 20 million impressions, and more than 5 million unique visitors came to our website. We work closely with students and faculty at NYU School of Law, one of the nation’s top law schools.

This strength has allowed us to launch exciting new initiatives. Last July we introduced Brennan en español, which ensures that our work is an effective resource for Spanish-speaking allies and media. You can read more about this work in an interview with Editor in Chief Mireya Navarro, a Pulitzer Prize–winning former New York Times journalist, on page 42. (And if you speak Spanish, flip this annual report over to read a special Spanish-language section.)

We launched State Court Report, an up-to-date resource (and soon to be a new website) for context and commentary about notable cases and legal trends. The development, we are sure, would be applauded by our namesake, Justice William J. Brennan Jr., who wrote: “State courts no less than federal are and ought to be the guardians of our liberties.” For more on this work, turn to page 38.

Finally, audiences for all our work are finding us thanks to our content-rich newsletters The Insider and The Briefing, which now reach more than 300,000 readers. If you aren’t getting them yet, we encourage you to take a look: you can sign up by scanning the QR code on page 23 with the camera on your phone.

As the board chairs for this extraordinary organization, we want to thank all of you for your passion for democracy, and for your commitment. Your support is more important than ever for the fights ahead. And on behalf of the board of the Brennan Center, we are so grateful we can count on you.

Robert A. Atkins
Co-chair, Board of Directors
Patricia Bauman
Co-chair, Board of Directors
We have launched a major new strategic initiative to respond to the Court’s hard-right turn. We will enlist historians to critique extreme originalism. We will publish a major new book, The Super-majority, showing how this Court’s extremism will provoke a massive backlash. We will press for term limits for justices and a Supreme Court code of ethics. We will forge arguments for an enduring, flexible Constitution. And we will expand our advocacy for democratic safeguards in state courts — for example, every state constitution but one has a stronger protection for the right to vote than the U.S. Constitution does. This summer we will launch an exciting new website, statecourtreport.org, to serve as an intellectual and strategic hub.

Another challenge: rising violence since the pandemic has created an opening for demagoguery and regressive policies. We fight fear with facts to show that public safety and fairness go hand in hand – with innovative policies that continue the path of bipartisan criminal justice reform.

We will address big money’s growing role in American politics. A decade after Citizens United, the 100 biggest federal donors now give more than all small donors combined. A ray of hope: New York State just implemented its statewide small donor public financing system, the most important response to Citizens United anywhere in the country.

We will hold the flag high for the next wave of democracy reforms. Our country needs innovative approaches and fresh thinking. We will host a major symposium on new ways to ensure representation in a changing nation.

We will work to get ready for 2024. We know that antidemocracy forces will try to: sabotage free and fair elections in that crucial year. Each year there are new and ominous ways to suppress the vote, such as Florida’s election police squad, which has targeted voters of color who accidentally cast illegal ballots.

Above all, we will work to shape the next generation of reform ideas, in areas ranging from how the Department of Homeland Security protects against terrorism to new approaches to voting, such as ranked-choice voting.

In all this, the Brennan Center is a national leader. We take seriously our obligation to serve as a creative nexus for strategy, scholarship, legal advocacy, and public education. We know that much depends on our work.

Throughout most of the country’s history, candidates have debated these very issues of power and voice. In the age of Trump, those who want to tear down our democracy had been on the march. Now citizens of all parties who want to defend our democracy and make it work for all are on the march too.

The fight for democracy, justice, and the Constitution are at the center of American politics, where they belong. In 2023 let’s keep them there.
Following a year of unprecedented attacks on our democratic system, pro-democracy forces rallied in 2022. The Brennan Center supplied the intellectual, tactical, and communications resources that fueled the movement.
How the Brennan Center undercut a bogus constitutional theory on its way to the Supreme Court.

BY BRIAN PALMER

Regardless of political affiliation, geography, or demographics, checks and balances are sacred to all Americans.

M ore v. Harper, now before the U.S. Supreme Court, has been called “the most important case, since the founding, for American democracy.” The supermajority of conservative justices agreed to hear an outlier claim that the Constitution provides state legislatures, without checks and balances, unlimited power over federal elections—what we've called “independent state legislature theory.”

The Brennan Center convened a group of scholars for a public event in May 2022 to explain the problems associated with the independent state legislature theory. In June Thomas Wolf and Ethan Herenstein of the Democracy Program wrote a widely read explanation on the theory for the Brennan Center’s website. And, in anticipation of the Supreme Court’s decision, Brennan Center experts saw this threat coming, armed with this simple yet effective message, the Brennan Center’s full advocacy machinery shifted into gear. We called together more than 100 organizations to coordinate messaging. Analysts on our website and graphics, checks and balances are sacred to all Americans. Regardless of political affiliation, geography, or demographics, checks and balances are sacred to all Americans.

The Supreme Court has heard oral arguments but isn’t likely to announce its decision before June. Meanwhile, the Brennan Center’s tireless work on this issue is not. Our experts also published a law review article in 2019 setting out the constitutional history. (James Madison demanded the relevant constitutional clause because it prevented “abuses” by state legislatures, not to give them untrammeled power.) The Brennan Center convened a group of scholars for a public event in May 2022 to explain the problems associated with the independent state legislature theory. In June Thomas Wolf and Ethan Herenstein of the Democracy Program wrote a widely read explanation on the theory for the Brennan Center’s website. And, in anticipation of the Supreme Court’s decision, Brennan Center experts saw this threat coming, armed with this simple yet effective message, the Brennan Center’s full advocacy machinery shifted into gear. We called together more than 100 organizations to coordinate messaging. Analysts on our website and graphics, checks and balances are sacred to all Americans.

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Election Denial Is Down, but Not Out

Voters across the country rejected election deniers in 2022, but the threat such candidates pose ahead of 2024 persists.

BY KENDALL KARSON

Election deniers sat out for a hostile take-over of our elections in 2022. Dozens of candidates who embraced Donald Trump’s claim of a stolen 2020 election tried to gain control of elections in states across the country and to set the rules for 2024 and beyond. November, in a major setback for the election denial movement, voters in the most crucial battleground states had narrowly rejected these extreme candidates. Our democracy weathered the storm in elections across the range of Brennan Center experts contributed. Our advocates, litigators, and communications specialists combatted false claims, protected individuals’ rights to vote, and ensured that the votes were counted accurately. But this antidemocratic movement is far from defeated.

The 2022 midterms were a success. Still, election denial isn’t消ing with the candidates that propped it up, and the movement that he fomented toward an inclusive democracy. The election deniers set out for a hostile take-over of our elections in 2022. Dozens of candidates who embraced Donald Trump’s claim of a stolen 2020 election tried to gain control of elections in states across the country and to set the rules for 2024 and beyond. November, in a major setback for the election denial movement, voters in the most crucial battleground states had narrowly rejected these extreme candidates. Our democracy weathered the storm in elections across the range of Brennan Center experts contributed. Our advocates, litigators, and communications specialists combatted false claims, protected individuals’ rights to vote, and ensured that the votes were counted accurately. But this antidemocratic movement is far from defeated.

After the January 6 insurrection, Trump’s effort seemed shattered and discredited. But his allies sought to systematically remove the obstacles to stealing the next election. Thousands of election deniers were recruited to work the polls, forcing election officials to vouch for disruptions from the inside. Vigilantes, in some sort of tactic, patrolled and filmed polling places to spot those seeking to cheat. State legislatures continued to concoct voting legislation that made it harder to vote and easier to interfere in elections based on conspiracy theories about voter fraud. And many conspiracy theorists appeared poised to win state-level positions with sweeping authority over the same electoral process that they claimed, without evidence, was stolen in 2020. Election denial showed up as an orthogonal to the entire election cycle, according to Ian Vandewalker, senior counsel for the Democracy Program, who tracked the influence of money in state-level races throughout the midterm elections. Election Day was smooth and calm — normal, in fact. But the levers of power over elections still has a home in some of our country’s most extreme states. The movement that he fomented toward an inclusive democracy.

The antidote to election denial isn’t averting an election crisis with one smooth midterm election. The 2022 election was only a test run for 2024. Blunting this multipronged assault on our democracy will continue to shape our work. Ensuring the future of fair and free elections requires national baseline standards, a robust restoration of the Voting Rights Act, and the future of fair and free elections.

For years, the Brennan Center has made the point that American elections are secure and accurate. Our widely quoted research shows that you are more likely to be hit by lightning than commit voter fraud. Our work in nearly a dozen states that sought to restrict voting access, open the door to partisan interference in elections, or threaten the votes of people of color — accused of illegally registering to vote, and ensured that the votes were counted accurately. But this antidemocratic movement is far from defeated.

In Michigan, for example, the Trump-aligned candidate for governor garnered more than 100,000 votes more than the prominent election denier candidate for secretary of state, an office with outsized authority over the state’s elections. “It seems like there’s evidence that election denial is a losing strategy,” concluded voting-rights experts, explained Vandewalker.

And voters showed they care. Across Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin election denier candidates for governor, attorney general, and secretary of state — offices that play a significant role in administering our elections — suffered punishing losses. George-Patrick primary voters already had rejected an election denier seeking the secretary of state job. The night wasn’t a complete rout. Many members of Congress still spout false claims of fraud, for example. But the losers of power over elections remained in sounder hands. “Notably, election deniers running in secretary of state contests in battleground states faced worse than other statewide candidates from the same party. In Michigan, for example, the Trump-aligned candidate for governor garnered more than 100,000 votes more than the prominent election denier candidate for secretary of state, an office with outsized authority over the state’s elections. “It seems like there’s evidence that election denial is a losing strategy,” concluded voting-rights experts, explained Vandewalker.

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After the 2020 election, millions of Americans embraced Trump’s Big Lie. Voters’ faith in the integrity of U.S. elections was at risk. In response, the Brennan Center devised a multi-pronged effort to counter the lies and help ensure that the midterms would take place safely and securely, using research, analysis, policy recommendations, and strategic partnerships to educate and reassure voters.

Brennan Center experts partnered with the German Marshall Fund of the United States to create the Midterm Monitor, an interactive tool that tracked trends in how misinformation spreads on social media platforms. Election deniers, it was found, rarely stray from their playbook: they recycle the same false claims about voting machines, voter fraud, and mail voting, and they point to breaking news events, such as temporary technical glitches on Election Day and normal delays in vote counting, as “evidence.” The data also indicated that factual, timely information from trusted sources is a powerful antidote to misinformation. These findings allowed the Brennan Center and partner groups to refute conspiracy theories ahead of the midterms.

In August 2022, we published a report identifying gaps in the public’s knowledge of elections and ways to prevent misinformation from filling the void, and we disseminated that work to our network of election officials and reporters. We also presented the report at a panel hosted by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. A month before the election, we published a piece highlighting seven myths about voting and the facts that disprove them, which was shared by the New York Times, used by ally organizations, and translated into Spanish by Univision to reach Latino voters, who are at increased risk of being targeted by misinformation.

As Election Day approached, we worked to reach Latino voters in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, and Texas who had significant exposure to election misinformation. We analyzed social media posts to prepare falsehoods these voters were encountering, then conducted English- and Spanish-language tests to determine what countermessaging would most effectively boost their trust in elections. Using micro-influencers — people with 20,000 to 100,000 followers on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, and other platforms — we deployed a social media campaign to share our messaging. The campaign generated more than 1.2 million impressions among our target audiences. Twenty-seven percent of those who saw the trusted messengers’ content said they were more likely to vote, leading to at least a 5 percent increase in the number of people who voted compared with the number who originally planned to vote.

The success of these countermessaging campaigns is an encouraging sign in the fight against misinformation. Perhaps the most significant reason for optimism, however, is the outcome of the midterms. Elections unfolded safely, and the anticipated violence didn’t materialize. Many election deniers were defeated, especially candidates seeking to control election administration.

Because of misinformation around the reliability of election security, 26 percent of people do not believe that their vote “really counts.” Misinformation, however, is not going away. Artificial intelligence and machine learning will automate misinformation campaigns and make them more difficult to trace. The increasing precision of micro-targeted misinformation makes individuals more vulnerable to the tactic. Polling data shows conclusively that misinformation is eroding public trust in the system. Nearly two out of three Americans believe that U.S. democracy is at risk of failing. And because of misinformation around the reliability of election security, 26 percent of people do not believe that their vote “really counts.”

Combating these trends is among the greatest challenges facing the Brennan Center, and our democratic system, in the coming years. Our work will focus on messaging to break through and counter proliferating falsehoods by using cutting-edge polling and social listening techniques. We will also continue to expose the role that social media platforms play and explain how imposing transparency rules on those platforms would shine a light on misinformation.

Gabriella Sanchez is a staff writer and editor in the Department of Communications and Strategy.
Securing the safety of local election officials was a top Brennan Center priority heading into the 2022 midterms. Civil servants who make our democracy function faced a deluge of specific and terrifying threats during the 2020 cycle, threats that in some cases forced them and their families from their homes. According to a 2021 Brennan Center survey, one-third of election officials feel unsafe because of their job, and nearly one-fifth list threats to their lives as a job-related concern.

The Brennan Center has amassed a squad of former top election officials to work to strengthen this community. Senior Counsel Elizabeth Howard was a top Virginia official. Natalie Tennant was secretary of state of West Virginia. The newest member of the team: Veronica DeGraffenreid, the former secretary of state of Pennsylvania and longtime director of elections for North Carolina. They work with Lawrence Norden, Senior Director of our Elections and Governance Program.

In 2022 it turned out that election officials from both parties wanted one thing above all: help from law enforcement. The Brennan Center led an effort to ensure the safety of election officials before the 2022 midterms.

“We brought together law enforcement and election officials from across the country to identify obstacles and solutions,” says Howard. “Bringing together a diverse group of community members enabled us to develop practical resources and guidance that helped communities keep both our election officials and voters safe.” The election administrators, police, and prosecutors met at gatherings organized by the Brennan Center and partners at Microsoft in Orlando, Florida and Washington, D.C. The committee drafted a five-step approach to safer elections, starting with a simple but critical step: connect. In many locales, simply identifying the correct point person in a community and meeting with other stakeholders in the area were important first actions. Once that connection was established, election officials and law enforcement were encouraged to share the jurisdiction’s experiences and important election administration information, agree on roles and responsibilities in the effort, plan a coordinated response to potential incidents, and practice that response. The committee also produced state-specific reference guides so that all parties understood the laws protecting election officials and voters.

Committee members fanned out across the media to spread this message, earning coverage in numerous national and local outlets from Reuters to Good Morning America to the trade magazine Sheriff and Deputy. Howard testified before the House Committee on Homeland Security about the danger that threats against election officials pose to our democracy and the role of false information about election administration in fueling these threats. The Brennan Center used its powerful platforms and public outreach to assure the public that our elections are free, fair, and secure, emphasizing the existing election security measures that research had demonstrated were most effective. Sheriffs Justin Smith of Larimer County, Colorado, and Peter J. Koutoujian from Middlesex, Massachusetts, co-authored an op-ed calling on their colleagues to join the effort to keep our election officials and voters safe. These messages have been shown to be effective in swaying election skeptics: in October, the Brennan Center and R Street Institute released a poll, conducted by Benenson Strategy Group, showing that Republicans’ confidence in elections increased by 21 percentage points when they were informed about existing election safeguards. This messaging helped immunize citizens against disinformation and sapped support for violent responses to the 2022 election.
The creation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2002 marked the largest shakeup of the federal government in a half century. Reeling from the 9/11 attacks, Congress sought a new model for homeland security. It brought together nearly two dozen agencies under the new department, whose staff became the federal government’s third largest. Once under the DHS umbrella, these agencies — which cover a range of activities from immigration and customs enforcement to intelligence gathering to protecting federal government facilities — were meant to prioritize and contribute to counterterrorism efforts. That reorganization, however, has carried significant costs. In 2022, the 20th anniversary of DHS’s founding, the Brennan Center’s Liberty and National Security Program launched a series of reports taking a holistic approach to DHS reform. That series, which will conclude in 2023, identifies the structural causes of recurrent counterterrorism abuses and proposes innovative solutions. “Two decades after its creation, it is time to take stock of how DHS has executed its counterterrorism mission so we can build mechanisms for better protecting Americans’ rights and to ensure that the department’s broad ranging efforts are actually successful,” says Faiza Patel, senior director of the Liberty and National Security Program.

Since the department’s establishment, for example, abuses of civil rights and civil liberties have become endemic. Muslim Americans are consistently singled out, including being pulled aside when entering the U.S. and questioned about their religious beliefs and practices. More recently, DHS has turned its focus to Black Lives Matter protesters, environmental activists, and others exercising their First Amendment right to dissent. In 2020, as racial justice protests erupted across the country, the department used its counterterrorism authorities to gather intelligence about protesters, supporting the Trump administration’s efforts to portray protests as the work of mysterious anti-fascists. Many counterterrorism initiatives have been based on dubious science. So-called “countering violent extremism” programs purport to identify people prone to engaging in terrorist acts and refer them for intervention. But the criteria relied upon to suggest terrorist proclivities — such as feelings of alienation and discrimination — are common experiences rather than credible indicators of criminal activity. The Biden administration has acknowledged the biases inherent in the programs, yet rather than dismantle them, the administration rebranded and expanded them.

Moreover, through its multitude of activities and programs — both at the border and inside the United States — DHS has accumulated a vast store of data about Americans not suspected of criminal activity. Little is understood about how this information is used or how it is protected from hostile governments. Oversight of DHS is piecemeal and inadequate. Congress has endeavored to circumscribe the agency’s extensive and wide-ranging authorities by establishing internal watchdog offices to protect Americans’ privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. Alongside the department’s general counsel and inspector general, these offices have occasionally curbed some of DHS’s abuses, but they have lacked the type of leadership support needed to rein in broader violations. In Congress, meanwhile, more than 100 committees and others exercising their First Amendment right to dissent. In 2020, as racial justice protests erupted across the country, the department used its counterterrorism authorities to gather intelligence about protesters, supporting the Trump administration’s efforts to portray protests as the work of mysterious anti-fascists. Many counterterrorism initiatives have been based on dubious science. So-called “countering violent extremism” programs purport to identify people prone to engaging in terrorist acts and refer them for intervention. But the criteria relied upon to suggest terrorist proclivities — such as feelings of alienation and discrimination — are common experiences rather than credible indicators of criminal activity. The Biden administration has acknowledged the biases inherent in the programs, yet rather than dismantle them, the administration rebranded and expanded them. Costly initiatives to track and assess travelers have likewise been undertaken, even though DHS’s own inspector general found that they were of questionable utility.

The behemoth agency has long evaded comprehensive oversight. The Brennan Center is proposing actionable reforms. Through its multitude of activities and programs — both at the border and inside the U.S. — DHS has accumulated a vast store of data about Americans not suspected of criminal activity.
and subcommittees claim jurisdiction over some of DHS’s multibillion-dollar programs. The Brennan Center’s reports have identified gaps in the agency’s spending and made recommendations to improve it. The Brennan Center’s Liberty and National Security Program has carried out cutting-edge research on civil liberties and national security issues, as well as the Trump administration’s ban on travel from predominantly Muslim countries and the administration’s so-called extreme vetting initiatives.

The program’s April 2022 report, A Course Correction: For Homeland Security, unpacked the broad authorities, weak safeguards, and insufficient oversight that have enabled the Department of Homeland Security to receive its law enforcement powers. Amid their review, Sen. Ben Cardin and a dozen of his colleagues wrote to Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas urging them to incorporate our recommendations for nonproliferation policy. Senior DHS officials, meanwhile, have invited Brennan Center experts to speak to headquarters for substantive policy discussions. Meanwhile, our experts are getting the word out to policymakers, journalists, civil society, and public officials, as well.

In September the center proposed a model nondiscrimination policy and in our society at large.

Researchers rely on several sources of information when analyzing crime data, and among the most important is the FBI’s compilation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Reports. The agency has long been considered an invaluable resource for identifying trends and matching them to shifts in criminal behavior. The FBI annually conducts surveys to measure crime trends in the United States, or the number of people who have been arrested, convicted, or sentenced, as well as the number of reported crimes. The surveys cover a wide range of crimes, from murder to fraud and drug violations. The data are used to track crime trends over time and to inform policy decisions.
In 2022 the Brennan Center countered waves of election disinformation with cutting-edge research, strategic expansion of our digital platforms, and media outreach.
In just 5 years, Brennan Center has vastly expanded its reach.

We’ve Got Mail

In 2019, the Brennan Center launched a digital newsletter strategy aimed at bringing new audiences to our website and delivering critical thinking on our core issues. From just over 6,000 subscribers in our first year, we now reach over 300,000.
**Motion for Change**

Millions of Americans watched Brennan Center videos in 2022, three of which won Anthem awards for excellence in mission-driven communications.

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**3.5M VIDEO VIEWS**

Across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and LinkedIn.

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**We Diversified Our Community**

To hedge against turbulence at Twitter, the Brennan Center launched new platforms on Mastodon, Substack, and TikTok and expanded video content across existing social channels.

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**COUNTERING DISINFORMATION IN THE MIDTERMS**

We worked with local influencers to mount a voter education campaign in key battleground states. Among those who saw the content:

- 36% were reminded to turn in their ballots
- 27% were more likely to vote
- >5% increase in voter turnout*

*compared with the number who originally planned to vote

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**35.2M IMPRESSIONS**

Across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and other platforms.
“Decade after decade [the census] has failed to count communities of color.”

“Child care, their job.”

“[People] running our elections refused to bend to the lie, and told the truth.”

“The Brennan Center was featured or cited in 273 news broadcasts.”
Expert Testimony

Brennan Center advocates shared their expertise with policymakers around the country, at both the federal and the state level.

FEBRUARY 15
Gowri Ramachandran
On the risks posed by threats to election officials*

FEBRUARY 4
Daniel Weiner
Advocating for maintaining and expanding campaign disclosure laws*

JUNE 7
Michael German
On the rise of white supremacist and far-right domestic terrorism

JUNE 22
Edgardo Cortés
Advocating for the upgrading and securing of voting infrastructure

JULY 19
Daniel Weiner
In support of the DISCLOSE Act

JULY 20
Elizabeth Howard
Advocating for protections for election officials

JULY 19
Elizabeth Gotein
In support of the Fourth Amendment Is Not for Sale Act

JULY 22
Elizabeth Howard
Advocating for protections for election officials

AUGUST 10
Eliza Sweren-Becker
On the dangers of the independent state legislature theory

SEPTEMBER 6
Gowri Ramachandran
Advocating for the bolstering of the Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act

SEPTEMBER 20
Eliza Sweren-Becker
On the dangers of the independent state legislature theory

DECEMBER 8
Caroline Fredrickson
Advocating for the bolstering of the Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act

NOVEMBER 22
Ames Grawert
In support of the Clean Slate Act

* Testimony before state legislatures
**Brennan Center Live**

We hosted 29 thought-provoking events in 2022.

**30K RSVPS IN 2022**

“**If people don’t believe that our system works, then we’ve lost it.**”

**SEAN MORALES-DOYLE**

**Democracy on the Brink/ Nuestra democracia en la cuerda floja**

Clockwise from left: Carolina Peguero, reporter/anchor Noticias 24/7; Roberta Braga, Director of Counter-disinformation Strategies, Equis Institute; Esosa Osa, Deputy Executive Director, Fair Fight Action; Moderator: Sean Morales-Doyle, Director, Brennan Center Voting Rights Program

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**The Midterms: What Happened — and Where Do We Go from Here?**

From left: David Plouffe, former Senior Adviser to President Obama, New York Times bestselling author, political analyst for NBC News, and host of the Campaign HQ podcast; Bob Jesmer, Managing Partner of FP1 Strategies; Elise Jordan, political analyst and writer, MSNBC/NBC News; Sewell Chan, Editor in Chief of the Texas Tribune

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“**There were some big things going on. Inflation ... democracy at risk ... abortion ... This was a big election and voters behaved differently than we might be accustomed to.**”

**DAVID PLOUFFE**

**The Fight to Vote: A Conversation with Michael Waldman and Melissa Murray**

Moderator: Melissa Murray (left), Frederick I. and Grace Stokes Professor of Law, NYU School of Law; Michael Waldman (right), President, Brennan Center for Justice; author of The Fight to Vote and The Second Amendment: A Biography
Drawing the Line: How Redistricting Impacts Latino Communities in Florida
Produced in partnership with Hispanic Federation
Moderator: Mireya Navarro (pictured), Editor in Chief, Brennan en español; Laudi Campo, Florida Director, Hispanic Federation; Miranda Galindo, Senior Counsel, LatinosJusticia. PRIDEF; Thomas Kennedy, Policy Advisor, Florida Immigrant Coalition; Jackie Collins, Southwestern Regional Director, NALEO Educational Fund; Joel Flores, Mayor, City of Greenacres

“This isn’t the end of the story of the Trump Republican Party. I don’t know where in that story we are. I don’t think we’re at the beginning anymore. But we might be just at the middle of that story, not the end.”

JEREMY PETERS

The Party of Trump

“The Independent State Legislature Theory’s Radical Threat to Democracy
From left: Kate Shaw, Professor of Law and Co-director of Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy, Cardozo Law; Vikram D. Amar, Dean and Iwan Foundation Professor of Law, University of Illinois School of Law; Carolyn Shapiro, Professor and Co-director of the Institute on the Supreme Court of the United States, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Tech; Moderator: Wilfred U. Codrington III, Fellow, Brennan Center; Assistant Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School; Leah Litman, Assistant Professor of Law, Michigan Law

“How January 6 Is Poisoning Politics
Jonathan Martin (left), Senior Political Correspondent, New York Times; political analyst, CNN; co-author, New York Times bestseller This Will Not Pass: Trump, Biden and the Battle for America’s Future; Moderator: Betsy Fischer Martin, Executive Director, Women & Politics Institute at American University, former Executive Producer, Meet the Press with Tim Russert

“Don’t take democracy for granted. It can happen here.”
JONATHAN MARTIN

How January 6 Is Poisoning Politics
Jonathan Martin (left), Senior Political Correspondent, New York Times; political analyst, CNN; co-author, New York Times bestseller This Will Not Pass: Trump, Biden and the Battle for America’s Future; Moderator: Betsy Fischer Martin, Executive Director, Women & Politics Institute at American University, former Executive Producer, Meet the Press with Tim Russert

“Don’t take democracy for granted. It can happen here.”
JONATHAN MARTIN
Serious challenges remain for our democracy, from a broken campaign finance system to a regressive and activist Supreme Court. The Brennan Center has big ideas to meet the moment.
A Regressive Court Turns Activist


The Supreme Court has long been conservative. The conservative legal movement has been building toward a moment for decades—a new conservative supermajority. The numbers matter. A single justice’s views can make a difference at the Supreme Court toward a more moderate approach. We saw that clearly: three decades of social change—on abortion, guns, and environmental regulation—crammed into three days in June 2022. This is a big moment for the Brennan Center too, as we assess our own future role. The book begins with a history of the Supreme Court, focusing on major inflection points—Marbury v. Madison, Dred Scott, the Lochner era, and the Warren Court. Why are these critical to understanding the current Court? The U.S. Supreme Court is a singular institution. In no other democracy do nine unelected officials have so much power. Over the country’s history, the Supreme Court has largely aligned with the country’s political consensus. But on a few occasions, it has been extreme, partisan, or very activist. When that happens, there is a massive backlash and sometimes even a political realignment. Dred Scott, which legalized slavery throughout the country, propelled the rise of the Republican Party and helped ignite the Civil War. In the Lochner era, the Court responded to social and economic upheaval by blocking progressive government regulation. If it had to decades of backlash, including Theodore Roosevelt’s 1912 third-party run for president, and of course the conflict between Abraham Lincoln and the “Nine Old Men.” We are living through the backlash against the Warren Court to this very day. There is a regular cycle of Supreme Court overreach and backlash. So it’s entirely appropriate for Americans to debate the Supreme Court in explicitly political terms, as we have all through our history.

The Supermajority: This new “activist” — or activist Supreme Courts are usually regressive — and it’s important for progressives to shed their illusions. Courts are usually regressive — and it’s important for Americans to debate the Supreme Court in explicitly political terms, as we have all through our history. Why did you decide to write this book now? You write that Chief Justice John Roberts is central to protecting the Court’s legitimacy, except when it comes to one issue. On civil liberties, Roberts has taken a more activist approach. He moved the Court rightward with the activist enthusiasm of a Warren Court in explicitly political terms. The enacting of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. The refusal to adjudicate partisan gerrymandering in 2019. The convulsive changes to our campaign finance system in Citizens United. All of them created the deeply unfurl political system we have right now. What can we do to stop the originalist movement, other than via a major change in the Court’s composition? The Supermajor Court did not rely on originalism through most of its history. The party was important, but the Court’s decisions were to some extent and country needed and how it evolved. The rise of originalism as the dominant approach only really happened in this past year. There are only four major originalist decisions. The party for us was so notorious that it built around originalism for a long time. How do the Court’s recent opinions reflect the jurisprudence of Justice Clarence Thomas? Thomas has long argued that stare decisis, respect for precedent, is just “a mantra we don’t want to think.” He does his own analysis of original intent and ignores everything that has happened since. This jurisprudence used to be on the Court’s left, sparingly used and ignored by the Court. But now it’s on the Court’s right and is the new standard. What are the implications? He said, “I’m not an originalist and a textualist, not a nut.” You describe this past Court term as radical. It’s painful to watch confirmation hearings in which Robert Bork, Antonin Scalia was asked what the difference is between originalism and “originalist dogma. We need to articulate a new vision for the Court that is adaptable to a changing country, one that looks forward, not backward. In no other democracy do nine unelected officials have so much power.
Introducing State Court Report

The Brennan Center launches a new forum to recognize the diversity of U.S. law.

State constitutions are underrepresented in discussions about rights, especially as the U.S. Supreme Court has limited federal constitutional protections. Alicia Bannon, director of the Judicial Program, discusses the Brennan Center’s State Court Report, a new hub for news, analysis, and commentary on constitutional developments in state courts.

“We described state constitutions as sites of innovation and expansion. How can state courts and federal courts work together to recognize the diversity of U.S. law.”

State courts are the powerhouses of the judiciary: 95 percent of cases are filed there. State supreme courts have the final word in interpreting state laws. And yet they often fly under the radar. In January of this year, the South Carolina Supreme Court struck down the state’s six-week abortion ban, citing the right to privacy in its state constitution.

“State courts are the powerhouses of the judiciary: 95 percent of cases are filed there.”

In Dobbs v. Jackson, the Supreme Court ruled that there is no federally protected right to abortion. But that does not mean there can be no state-level constitutional protections for reproductive rights. In January of this year, the South Carolina Supreme Court struck down the state’s six-week abortion ban, citing the right to privacy in its state constitution.

“State courts are the powerhouses of the judiciary: 95 percent of cases are filed there.”

Alicia Bannon
Director, Judicial Program

THE WORK AHEAD

When most people think about the Constitution or the federal courts, they’re thinking about the Supreme Court. But the federal constitution is a floor, not a ceiling. State courts and state constitutions can go further than the federal constitution.

“State courts are the powerhouses of the judiciary: 95 percent of cases are filed there.”

For example, a few years ago the Supreme Court slammed the courthouse door with respect to addressing partisan gerrymandering, saying it can’t be challenged under the federal constitution. Many state courts stepped up and found that their state constitutions did address partisan redistricting.

“State courts are the powerhouses of the judiciary: 95 percent of cases are filed there.”

Since the Supreme Court’s ruling, state courts in Alaska, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania have struck down gerrymandering maps. Reproductive rights loom large in this conversation. In Dobbs v. Jackson, the Supreme Court ruled that there is no federally protected right to abortion. But that does not mean there can be no state-level constitutional protections for reproductive rights.

“State courts are the powerhouses of the judiciary: 95 percent of cases are filed there.”

In January of this year, the South Carolina Supreme Court struck down the state’s six-week abortion ban, citing the right to privacy in its state constitution. Even in Dobbs, several state supreme courts identified abortion rights within their state constitutions, separate from federal constitutional protections.

“State courts are the powerhouses of the judiciary: 95 percent of cases are filed there.”

Have state court decisions influenced the development of federal constitutional rights? There’s a gravitational pull in both directions between state courts and federal courts. The most famous example is marriage equality. Courts in states such as Massachusetts and Iowa interpreted their constitutions to recognize the diversity of U.S. law.

“State courts are the powerhouses of the judiciary: 95 percent of cases are filed there.”

State courts and state constitutions aren’t a substitute for robust federal protection of civil rights and democratic values. Unfortunately, the current conservative supermajority on the Supreme Court is not willing to play that role, instead embracing a narrow kind of egalitarianism that precludes protection of many rights.

“State courts are the powerhouses of the judiciary: 95 percent of cases are filed there.”

What we’ve seen with are state courts. Some have embraced independent interpretations of their state constitutions. Other state supreme courts have unique historic liberties; others have lost of that tradition. For example, while the South Carolina Supreme Court struck down the state’s abortion ban on the basis of a state right to privacy, the Idaho Supreme Court ruled that there was no fundamental right to abortion in its state constitution, heeding closely to the reasoning in Dobbs. Our fundamental rights are going to depend on geography in a way that they haven’t and shouldn’t.

“State courts are the powerhouses of the judiciary: 95 percent of cases are filed there.”

The Brennan Center has conducted research that shows how much the Constitution matters to people’s lives. And yet they often fly under the radar. In January of this year, the South Carolina Supreme Court struck down the state’s six-week abortion ban, citing the right to privacy in its state constitution.

“State courts are the powerhouses of the judiciary: 95 percent of cases are filed there.”

We’ve also seen troubling legislative assaults on and commentary on constitutional developments in state courts. The most famous example is marriage equality. Courts in states such as Massachusetts and Iowa interpreted their constitutions to recognize the diversity of U.S. law.

“State courts are the powerhouses of the judiciary: 95 percent of cases are filed there.”

You mentioned diversity. Do state courts have a representation problem? Across the country, state supreme courts do not reflect the diversity of the communities they serve. We collected data on diversity on state supreme courts in May 2022. Twenty-five states only had justices of one race on their high court benches, including 12 states where people of color made up less than 10 percent of the population. Men held 59 percent of state supreme court seats despite being only 49 percent of the population. There was also a lack of professional diversity. We found that 39 percent of sitting justices were former prosecutors, whereas only 7 percent were former public defenders.

“State courts are the powerhouses of the judiciary: 95 percent of cases are filed there.”

“Judges with a narrow set of life experiences are making hugely consequential decisions that affect the lives of millions of people. That lack of diversity is harmful for public confidence in the court — people who are being impacted should trust that the justices understand them and the consequences of their rulings. It’s also good for the development of law. We benefit from judges with diverse life experiences, that reflect who we are and how we interpret the law and the facts in front of them.”

The Brennan Center for Justice
How to Counter Big Money in Politics
Amplifying small donations combats the influence of megadonors.

The influence of wealthy campaign donors has been growing ever since the Supreme Court’s infamous ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, which allowed corporations and other outside groups to spend unlimited amounts in our elections. Chaun Lee, director of the Brennan Center’s Elections and Government Program, explains strategies to create a more democratically representative system.

What negative impacts are megadonors having on our democracy? Just over a decade after the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision effectively deregulated money in politics, the antidemocratic effects of unlimited big money have become painfully clear. The increasing influence of megadonors not only thwarts policy making to serve the public interest on critical issues but undermines the machinery of democracy itself. Making to serve the public interest on critical issues undermines the machinery of democracy itself.

How did the imbalance in contributions affect the 2022 midterms? In the 2022 midterms, small donors to congressional campaigns contributed at record levels. But in 2021, the 30 biggest donors gave 60 percent more than all the millions of small donors combined. And just 3.7 percent of all donations came from large donors, dwarfing those numbers. This was not the case in 2010, the year of the tea party surge. Campaigns contributed at record levels. But funds from large donors dwarfed those numbers. This was not the case in 2010, the year of the tea party surge.

What reforms did we see adopted last year? Following years of advocacy that we helped lead, New York State’s groundbreaking small donor public financing program launched in November. The program is the strongest legislative response in the nation to Citizens United. It will provide New Yorkers to push back against the influence of big money and provide candidates who choose to participate a means to raise competitive sums based on community support. With the help of the program, small-donors-to-candidate public financing programs. These cities join at least 15 states and 21 municipalities across the country with public financing programs. Existing programs continue to produce striking results. They boost candidate diversity, help individuals from historically disadvantaged groups to compete, and bring new and diverse donors into the political process.

What’s next for small donor public financing? Momentum is growing. In addition to New York’s new program, the first cycle of Denver’s program is underway. More public financing programs will soon launch in Baltimore County and Prince George’s County in Maryland. This growing demand is part of Americans’ broader desire to fix a campaign finance system that undermines their voices and their votes. In 2022 the other side’s closely divided electorate in Arizona voted by more than 70 percent to approve a ballot measure to bring greater transparency in elections.

Seven donators gave

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<th>Total spent by just seven sources on election subversion efforts.</th>
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<td>in support of candidates who cast doubt on the results of the 2020 presidential election.</td>
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<td>$71M</td>
<td>on efforts to overturn the 2020 election or manipulate election processes for the 2022 races.</td>
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What can be done about this? Public financing of campaigns, which the Brennan Center has championed through policy design and advocacy for decades, is the most powerful reform to counter the outsize influence of megadonors. Small donor public financing incentives candidates to seek support from everyday citizens, not just a few big donors. When designed well, the policy enables participating candidates to rely principally on constituent support and still raise what they need to compete in the super PAC era. It also helps reduce financial barriers to women, people of color, and other historically disadvantaged groups who seek representation in elected office.

Existing public financing programs show higher levels of participation from small donors — and among more socioeconomically diverse communities — than under traditional campaign finance. Even after Citizens United, public financing is a constitutionally valid policy. Lawmakers also need to close loopholes that allow untraceable “dark money” to proliferate and huge donors to coordinate their spending with candidates. Measures to require transparency and deter corruptive coordination not only remain constitutional after Citizens United but are features the Court assumed would keep unrelated spending from undermining democracy. The missing ingredient is the political will to strengthen these measures. We continue to advocate for these reforms at the federal and state levels.

How will reforms like this work? Should these policies continue to succeed where they have been enacted, there is every reason to expect more localities and states to adopt them. Following years of advocacy that we helped lead, New York State’s groundbreaking small donor public financing program launched in November. The program is the strongest legislative response in the nation to Citizens United. It will provide New Yorkers to push back against the influence of big money and provide candidates who choose to participate a means to raise competitive sums based on community support.
2022 the Brennan Center launched a Spanish-language website featuring news and analysis, especially relevant to Spanish-speaking and bilingual audiences. Brennan en español Editor in Chief Mireya Navarro discusses what motivated this new venture, what it has accomplished so far, and how it aims to support Latino media, organizations, and voters moving forward.

What drove the launch of Brennan en español?

Our Spanish website officially launched in April 2022. It is the only Brennan Center site that is translated into Spanish and its launch was in part to help remedy the information and other topics especially relevant to Latino audiences. I was a media strategist at the time, and the initial goal of those translations was to serve the parallel universe of Spanish-language media, the national broadcast unions and the network of hundreds of small print and online platforms and radio and TV stations operating at the regional and community levels.

In what ways are Latinos impacted by some of the Brennan Center’s core issues?

So much of the Brennan Center’s 2020 work particularly affected Latinos — for instance our research and advocacy around voter suppression at the census and presidential election when we started to translate Brennan Center publications that were particularly relevant to Latino audiences. I see a mass media strategy at the time, and the initial goal of those translations was to serve the parallel universe of Spanish-language media — the national broadcasters union and the network of hundreds of small print and online platforms and radio and TV stations operating at the regional and community levels.

We also wanted to be a resource for key organizations that serve Spanish-speaking communities in our voting rights and public policy space... We focus on translating key Brennan Center written and multimedia content that can be mined by our partners who can target those who may be less familiar with our issues. Short-form videos on TikTok and the project’s social media presence, translation of local media stories on the subject. But for our website launch, we wanted to do more. We made a humorous video that picked up on the fact that there’s no word in Spanish for gerrymandering. That video went viral, with almost 1 million views. We’ll also expand our efforts to create new kinds of content for new platforms. For instance, we know that Latino communities across the country remain shut out of real political power because of gerrymandering districts, and we’ve translated Brennan Center studies on the subject. But for our website launch, we wanted to do more. We made a humorous video that picked up on the fact that there’s no word in Spanish for gerrymandering. That video went viral with almost 1 million views. Latinos are targeted with disinformation in both English and Spanish, so we debuted a home page feature, “Falsedad–Realidad,” that debunks false- positives in a format that read and allies can easily share on social media. And we have a feature called “Los latinos y la democracia,” a kind of Latino power map that’s crucial in the fight to ensure that they can fully participate in our democracy.

How are you ensuring that Brennan en español reaches the widest possible audience, and what do you hope to do to broaden its reach in the future?

For instance, we know that Latino communities across the country remain shut out of real political power because of gerrymandering districts, and we’ve translated Brennan Center studies on the subject. But for our website launch, we wanted to do more. We made a humorous video that picked up on the fact that there’s no word in Spanish for gerrymandering. That video went viral with almost 1 million views.

In what ways are Latinos uniquely impacted by some of the Brennan Center’s core issues?

Today Latinos are driving the country’s growth, and they make up the largest share of newly registered voters. More than 40 million people in the United States speak Spanish, including millions who speak only Spanish. When the Brennan Center files a lawsuit over a restrictive voting statute in Texas that, among other things, imposes language assistance for voters, that is the population we hope to reach with our translated resources. Brennan en español provides an opportunity to target organizations, lawmakers, and government officials, among others, and building our network of Latino partners. Next year we’ll continue to grow that network, launching a Brennan en español newsletter... We also continue a strategy that worked well in the 2022 midterms: We condensed some of our expert studies on the subject. But for our website launch, we wanted to do more. We made a humorous video that picked up on the fact that there’s no word in Spanish for gerrymandering. That video went viral with almost 1 million views. We’ll also continue to grow that network, launching a Brennan en español newsletter to target organizations, lawmakers, and government officials, among others, and building our network of Latino partners.

“More than 40 million people in the United States speak Spanish.”

Mireya Navarro
Editor in Chief

We extend immense gratitude to The Diamonte- Spielvogel Foundation for its support in helping launch this initiative.
Financials

With American democracy on the line, our supporters stepped up with remarkable generosity in 2022. Thanks to their outpouring of support, we continued our efforts to provide the independent, nonpartisan, and tireless research and advocacy that make us a leading agent of reform. We are grateful and proud to be part of a strong movement for democracy.

The Brennan Center is grateful for the pro bono support provided by the law firm community (see page 57). The monetary value of those services is not included in this chart.
Our Supporters

The Brennan Center’s work is made possible through the generous financial support of our community of donors and their commitment to an America that is democratic, just, and free. We are proud to have received the highest marks on transparency and effectiveness from Charity Navigator and Candid, and we are pleased to recognize just some of our 39,000 donors for their partnership in 2022.*

Brennan Legacy Fund

Our Board-designated strategic opportunities and reserves fund, the Brennan Legacy Fund, grew to $202 million by the end of 2021, thanks to special support. We have no formal endowment. The Legacy Fund operates as a quasi-endowment. It is intended to generate income to contribute to our core work. It also protects against unanticipated budget shortfalls or sudden unbudgeted expenses. Still, we aim to raise our operating budget every year. Although affiliated with NYU School of Law, we are financially independent of it, and we receive no government funding.

Brennan Future Fund

This $25 million fund is intended to be drawn down over a limited period to spur bold new thinking to advance democracy and justice in America.

Inez Milholland Endowment for Democracy

Inez Milholland (1886–1916) was a leader for women’s suffrage, an ardent fighter for equality, and a graduate of NYU School of Law. This $1.8 million dedicated fund supports the Brennan Center’s Democracy Program.

Planned Giving

A growing cohort of leaders have included the Brennan Center for Justice in their estate planning as members of our Brennan Legacy Circle. For more information about how to contribute to the Brennan Legacy Circle, please contact Paulette Hodge at hodgep@brennan.law.nyu.edu or 646.925.8750.

Brennan Legacy Fund

The Brennan Center’s critical work has garnered extraordinary support in the past few years. This has enabled three special initiatives designed to ensure a solid, sustainable future for our organization.

Special Funds

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The Meyer Foundation
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Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation
The Overbrook Foundation
The Paul Otlet Foundation
The JPB Foundation
Salesforce
The Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust
Sudarsky Family Foundation
The Tow Foundation
Schuster Charitable Foundation
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
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The Meyer Foundation
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The Overbrook Foundation
The Paul Otlet Foundation
The JPB Foundation
Salesforce
The Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust
Sudarsky Family Foundation
The Tow Foundation
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The Brennan Center’s work is made possible through the generous financial support of our community of donors and their commitment to an America that is democratic, just, and free. We are proud to have received the highest marks on transparency and effectiveness from Charity Navigator and Candid, and we are pleased to recognize just some of our 39,000 donors for their partnership in 2022.*

Planned Giving

A growing cohort of leaders have included the Brennan Center for Justice in their estate planning as members of our Brennan Legacy Circle. For more information about how to contribute to the Brennan Legacy Circle, please contact Paulette Hodge at hodgep@brennan.law.nyu.edu or 646.925.8750.

Brennan Legacy Fund

The Brennan Center’s critical work has garnered extraordinary support in the past few years. This has enabled three special initiatives designed to ensure a solid, sustainable future for our organization.

Special Funds

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President, Ford Foundation

Institutional supporter since 1996

“There is no institution in America more important, to strengthening democracy than the Brennan Center for Justice.” – Daron Walker, President, Ford Foundation

The Brennan Center for Justice is a nonpartisan, non-lobbying organization that uses the power of law to strengthen democracy. We believe that the rule of law belongs to all the people, and that the law is most powerful when it serves the common good. We work to build a country in which the promise of justice is real for all Americans, where the law upholds the rights of each person, and where we all have a voice in shaping our laws.}

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“We’re honored to support the Brennan Center in support of its critical mission. As a Purple Heart Vietnam veteran, I’m distressed to see our core values under relentless assault.”

Houston, TX

Charles and Susan Elder

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Our supporters are critical to the Brennan Center and the organization drawing attention to issues that I consider vital to the health of American democracy.”

“Our Supporter’s” text is not visible in the image.
“I’ve been an attorney for over 40 years and have done to support our Constitution, democracy, and justice for all.”

Diane Chesley-Lahm

Supporter since 2022

Columbus, OH

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Thank you for your work the Brennan Center for Justice and for your leadership in 2022. Our work in 2022 depended on the support of legal leaders who fought alongside us for democracy, justice, and the rule of law. We are tremendously grateful for their commitment.

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Produced by the Department of Communications and Strategy, Brennan Center for Justice.  
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La democracia depende de todos nosotros

INFORME ANUAL 2022
EN 2022, el Brennan Center lanzó su sitio web en español, donde se publican noticias y análisis en torno al derecho al voto, la distribución de distritos electorales, la propagación de información errónea y otros temas de especial interés para el público hispano y bilingüe. La jefa de redacción de Brennan en español, Mireya Navarro, habla sobre qué motivó esta nueva iniciativa, qué ha logrado hasta el momento y cómo procura dar apoyo a los medios de comunicación, organizaciones y votantes de la comunidad latina.

¿Qué motivó el lanzamiento de Brennan en español?

Nuestro sitio web en español se lanzó oficialmente en abril de 2022, pero el proyecto realmente comenzó antes del censo de 2020 y las elecciones presidenciales, cuando empezamos a traducir las publicaciones del Brennan Center que eran de particular interés para el público latino. En ese momento, yo me desempeñaba como estratega de medios, y el objetivo inicial de esas traducciones era el de atender a las necesidades del universo paralelo de los medios de comunicación en español — las cadenas nacionales de televisión Univisión y Telemundo y la red de cientos de estaciones de radio y publicaciones impresas y online más pequeñas — que existen a nivel regional y local. También queríamos ser un recurso para todas las organizaciones aliadas que atienden a las necesidades de la comunidad hispanohablante. Las organizaciones latinas que forman parte de nuestro trabajo sobre el derecho al voto y las políticas públicas nos han dicho que estamos llenando un vacío porque muchos otros grupos no pueden ofrecer recursos en los dos idiomas.

¿De qué forma algunos de los temas centrales del Brennan Center afectan directamente a la comunidad latina?

La gran mayoría del trabajo del Brennan Center durante 2020 afectó muy particularmente a la comunidad latina, por ejemplo, nuestras investigaciones y nuestro trabajo de defensa y activismo para no incluir la pregunta de ciudadanía en el formulario del censo y sobre el derecho al voto. Sentíamos una urgencia El idioma no debería ser una barrera para participar en nuestra democracia.
En la actualidad, la comunidad latina está impulsando el crecimiento de una comunidad más grande de nuevos votantes registrados. Más de 40 millones de personas en los Estados Unidos hablan español, y entre ellos, millones hablan principalmente español. Cuando el Brennan Center presta atención a los enlaces hacia otras comunidades latinas, veemos cómo en español no hay una equivalente al voto y otros temas del Brennan Center.

Nos centramos en traducir el contenido escrito y multimedia clave del Brennan Center para que nuestros lectores puedan dirigir la naturaleza y alcance de la política, un aspecto particularmente importante a nivel nacional y regional.

¿Cómo hace Brennan en español para asegurarse de llegar al público más amplio posible y qué quieren hacer para ampliar su alcance en el futuro?

En 2022, el Brennan Center y la Federación Hispana organizaron en conjunto varios eventos sobre la forma en que la distribución de distritos electorales afectaba a las comunidades latinas en estados clave. Este tipo de trabajo — para contrarrestar los intentos de suprimir el voto de los latinos, elaborar perfiles raciales y dirigir campañas de desinformación en su contra — es fundamental en nuestra lucha para garantizar la participación plena de todos nosotros en nuestras elecciones.

Nuestra colaboración más reciente con la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos y contribuimos contenido al sitio Factcheck.org, un servicio de verificación de políticas actuales del sistema de justicia, del derecho laboral, el voto y otros temas del Brennan Center.

¿Qué le gustaría que lograra Brennan en español?

Hemos demostrado ser una fuente valiosa para nuestros aliados latinos. Para el próximo año, continuaremos trabajando para esa red, lanzaremos un boletín electrónico que funcionó bien durante las elecciones de 2022: ¿Cómo hacer Brennan en español para que otros aliados latinos puedan compartir con facilidad en las redes sociales. Por ejemplo, además de los paneles que organizamos sobre la distribución de distritos electorales y su manipulación junto con la Federación Hispana, también organizamos un evento sobre las elecciones legislativas en colaboración con la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos y contribuimos al sitio Factcheck.org, un servicio de verificación de información para la prensa en español.

¿Qué le gustaría que lograra Brennan en español?

Miresa Navarro
jefa de redacción

“Más de 40 millones de personas en los Estados Unidos hablan español.”

Miresa Navarro
jefa de redacción
Lanzamiento de Brennan en español

El personal del Brennan Center for Justice acudió junto a sus aliados a una fiesta de terraza del Hotel Freeland en Manhattan en mayo de 2022 para celebrar el lanzamiento oficial de Brennan en español.

Una diversa representación de la ciudad de Nueva York estuvo presente para apoyar el nuevo sitio web en español.

El presidente y CEO del Brennan Center, Michael Waldman, con algunos miembros del personal.

Frederick Velez III Burgos e Ingrid Alvarez-DiMarzo de Hispanic Federation.

Fotos: Cole Giordano
Controlamos la información errónea

A pesar de los triunfos a favor de la democracia observados en las elecciones legislativas, debemos prepararnos para combatir todos los esfuerzos futuros que buscan debilitar nuestras elecciones.

Por Gabriella Sanchez

En agosto de 2021, el Brennan Center publicó un informe donde identificamos los vacíos de información del público sobre las elecciones y las formas en que podemos evitar que la información errónea les cause daño. Nos centraremos en el papel de las redes sociales para entender y combatir las tendencias de la información errónea.

Imágenes: Twitter, Brennan Center for Justice
Protejamos a las autoridades electorales

El Brennan Center lideró un plan para garantizar la seguridad de las autoridades electorales antes de las elecciones de 2022.

Por Brian Palmer

Las amenazas recibidas por funcionarios electorales como de West Virginia, y la nueva integración del equipo por Brennan Center para garantizar la seguridad de las autoridades electorales fue una de las principales prioridades del Brennan Center de cara a las elecciones legislativas de 2022. Los funcionarios públicos que se aseguran de que nuestra democracia funcione como una preocupación laboral.

Uniformarse de un equipo de trabajo diverso de la comunidad nos permitió diseñar guías y recursos prácticos que ayudaron a las comunidades a garantizar la seguridad tanto de nuestras autoridades y funcionarios electorales como del público. Uno de los capítulos menciona las amenazas contra su vida a causa de su puesto de trabajo, y casi la quinta parte mencionan la intimidación contra nuestras democracias.

El Brennan Center ha formado un equipo de trabajo con altos funcionarios electorales de todos los partidos políticos para fortalecer esta comunidad. Entre ellos, el abogado experto Elizabeth Howard, que fue máxima autoridad electoral en Pensilvania y directora de elecciones durante años de Carolina del Norte. Todas ellas trabajan con Laurence Norden, director experto de nuestro Programa sobre Voto y Gobierno.

Al fin y al cabo, en 2022 las autoridades electorales del dos partidos políticos pasaron principalmente lo mismo: la ayuda de las fuerzas policiales y judiciales. El Brennan Center trabaja junto con la policía y las fiscalías locales, desde Reuters hasta Good Morning America, para diseminar este mensaje y recibir reacciones violentas contra las elecciones de 2022. Los funcionarios electoral y secretaria de esta comunidad. Entre ellas, el abogado experto Elizabeth Howard, que fue máxima autoridad electoral en Pensilvania y directora de elecciones durante años de Carolina del Norte. Todas ellas trabajan con Laurence Norden, director experto de nuestro Programa sobre Voto y Gobierno.

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Aquellas personas que desean restringir los reclamos de derechos según los valores de 1789... cierran los ojos ante el progreso social.

MAGISTRADO WILLIAM BRENNAN