

# GIVING GUIDE: DEMOCRACY AND RACIAL JUSTICE

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San Francisco  
Foundation



# SFF Give Guide: Democracy and Racial Justice

There has been no shortage of crises in 2020. And one of the biggest potential crises still looms ahead of us, in just about forty days: can we have a peaceful and secure election that truly reflects the will of the people?

This is an urgent moment to act boldly in defense of democracy. Not only to save the system we've had, but to dig deep and take a strong step forward on the path to a better democracy.

## Crisis and Opportunity

**This moment of crisis is also a moment of immense opportunity:** we have reached new heights of awareness about the flaws in our existing systems, and we can now harness that awareness and energy to mobilize historic numbers of voters to exercise their political voices in this election and beyond. We can create the future that we want to live in: one that finally does provide liberty, opportunity, dignity, and justice for all people, regardless of what they look like, where they grow up, how they identify, where they come from, who they love, or how able they are.

This give guide is meant to provide a snapshot of the many organizations working to mobilize resources and people to protect and improve our democracy. It is set up to help you quickly pinpoint a few places to give, based on specific locations or populations you might want to join with in solidarity. We have recommended several "intermediary" funds in this guide, given these vehicles' helpful ability to

add a layer of coordination – powered by field-wide strategic insights – that helps to move money efficiently to where it's needed most and adds accountability through data tracking and evaluation.

Please reach out to the Donor Services team ([donorservices@sff.org](mailto:donorservices@sff.org)) or to your Philanthropic Advisor for personalized recommendations or help with the logistics of giving.

## Note About Giving Restrictions

Current SFF policy allows donor advised funds to give only to organizations designated by the IRS as having 501 (c) (3) public charity status. 501 (c) (3)s are prohibited from conducting any partisan political activities, though they may do a limited amount of lobbying with unrestricted funding. We recommend giving unrestricted funding whenever possible.

Many charities working on democracy issues have a partner 501 (c) (4) public welfare organization. A 501 (c) (4) can do extensive lobbying and some directly partisan work. If you desire to give to a 501 (c) (4) organization (or any political committee or candidate), you can do so with personal funds, but it cannot be coordinated through your donor advised fund. If you have questions about whether an organization is an eligible grantee of SFF, contact your Philanthropic Advisor. Organizations in this guide that have a known 501 (c) (4) or PAC arm are marked with an asterisk, and the associated 501 (c) (4) or PAC is noted.

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## List of Recommended Organizations

Click on an organization name below for a brief description and to learn why it is recommended or scroll through the following pages to see all recommendations.

### Local 4

- [\\*Asian Pacific Environmental Network](#)
- [Californians for Justice Education Fund](#)
- [\\*Oakland Rising \(fiscally sponsored by Movement Strategy Center\)](#)
- [\\*San Francisco Rising \(fiscally sponsored by Chinese Progressive Association\)](#)
- [\\*Silicon Valley Rising \(fiscally sponsored by Working Partnerships USA\)](#)

### California 6

- [\\*ACCE Institute](#)
- [Communities for a New California Education Fund](#)
- [\\*California Calls Education Fund, for the Million Voters Project](#)
- [\\*Power California](#)
- [\\*PICO California \(fiscally sponsored by Faith in Action\)](#)

### National: Organizing and Voter Mobilizing 8

- [Black Voters Matter Capacity Building Institute](#)
- [\\*Mi Familia Vota Education Fund](#)
- [\\*People's Action Institute](#)
- [Youth Engagement Fund \(fiscally sponsored by Neo Philanthropy\)](#)

### National: Election Crisis Response 9

- [\\*Neo Philanthropy, for support of the State Infrastructure Fund](#)

### National: Democracy Reform 9

- [NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund](#)
- [National Redistricting Foundation](#)
- [Native American Voting Rights Coalition](#)
- [Tides Foundation, for support of the Healthy Democracy Fund](#)

\*Organizations marked with an asterisk have an associated 501(c)(4) or PAC. See Note About Giving Restrictions on page 2 for more on 501(c)(4) organizations.

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## LOCAL

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### \*Asian Pacific Environmental Network

The **Asian Pacific Environmental Network** organizes multiple generations of poor and working class Asian American immigrants and refugees in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties to advocate for a Just Transition: transformation away from an extractive fossil fuel economy to a regenerative economy, yielding solutions that strengthen community resilience, improve air quality, and nurture collective models of local ownership and governance in frontline communities. APEN mobilizes low-propensity Asian American voters throughout California and provides leadership in coalitions advancing policy reforms locally and statewide. In 2020, APEN plans to contact 40,000 voters through ongoing in-language integrated voter engagement programs utilizing phone canvassing, text messaging, virtual programs, and strategic communications.

*501(c)(4) is Asian Pacific Environmental Action*

### Californians for Justice Education Fund

**Californians for Justice** (CFJ) promotes student voice on statewide and local education justice issues. With four sites across the state, their Oakland work centers youth leadership in equitable school budget campaigns. Their

Relationship Centered Schools build bridges between youth and adults to collectively fight for justice for students of color in our public schools. CFJ brings young people across California together to fight for their futures and for their communities, particularly for those of color, immigrant, low-income, LGBTQ, and other marginalized communities. This Fall, CFJ is providing leadership and education on the importance of equitable tax reform, racial justice and equity, and turning out to vote.

### \*Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth

**Coleman Advocates** is one of the premiere youth organizing groups in the Bay Area. Black-led, and youth of color focused, Coleman Advocates has run successful campaigns to improve school budgets, educate and engage voters, and develop lifelong leaders of color in San Francisco. Its intergenerational approach engages youth and their families as leaders for education justice and community transformation. Coleman Advocates is currently engaged in educating and mobilizing voters to support youth voting at 16 in municipal elections and increasing local revenue for schools and community services in this election cycle.

*501(c)(4) is Coleman Action Fund for Children*

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## \*Oakland Rising (fiscally sponsored by Movement Strategy Center)

**Oakland Rising** encourages Oakland's working-class, immigrant, and communities of color to advocate for themselves at the ballot box. Their vision for an Oakland for all is propelled through voter education and get-out-the-vote (GOTV) campaigns in support of equity policies that align with their values, vision, and an emerging progressive strategy for Oakland. Oakland Rising's current targets range from halting displacement and addressing gentrification, demanding accountability and consequences around police violence and misconduct, a major effort to build back community trust, re-entry support services for formerly incarcerated community members, violence prevention, and restorative justice programs for youth.

*501(c)(4) is Oakland Rising Action*

## \*San Francisco Rising (fiscally sponsored by Chinese Progressive Association)

**San Francisco Rising** amplifies the political voices of communities of color in San Francisco by focusing on governance and policy issues related to racial, economic, and environmental justice. As an alliance of grassroots organizations rooted in the Chinese, Latinx, Black, and Filipino communities, SF Rising has built power through deepening multiracial solidarity, educating and mobilizing voters, working closely with policymakers, organizing, and developing leaders of color including young people. This Fall, SF Rising will be educating voters on new options to

safely cast their ballot from home or in-person, especially to voters that are new to voting by mail, as well as registering and mobilizing voters from under-represented populations such as the unhoused or young people under 35. In addition to educating voters about how to safely vote this year, SF Rising will be educating voters to support expanding municipal voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds, as well as ensuring that public schools and vital local services are fully funded.

*501(c)(4) is San Francisco Rising Action*

## \*Silicon Valley Rising (fiscally sponsored by Working Partnerships USA)

**Silicon Valley Rising** addresses the wage and opportunity gaps for low wage workers who struggle to meet basic needs for themselves and their families, despite living in one of the most economically abundant regions of the world. Latinx and Black workers make up the majority of contract roles such as janitors, food service workers, maintenance workers, security guards, and shuttle bus drivers—the crucial services that operate and sustain the region's tech economy. Silicon Valley Rising is working to raise wages, secure affordable housing, and advocate for an inclusive tech economy, ultimately creating a sustainable path of growth for our middle class. SVR plans to reach 10,000 Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color this Fall, with approximately 4,000 of these contacts being new and infrequent voters.

*501(c)(4) is Silicon Valley Rising Action*

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## CALIFORNIA

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### \*ACCE Institute

#### Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Institute

improves the lives of California's traditionally underserved residents, including communities of color, low-income and working families, and the undocumented population, by carrying out work that fosters deep, indigenous leadership development, policy creation, robust civic participation, and broad community empowerment. ACCE is engaging 75,000 new and infrequent, mostly low-income Black and Latinx voters across the state from now until November 3rd to ensure they know how and where to vote safely, and to educate them on the critical equity issues on the ballot and encourage them to turn out.

*501(c)(4) is ACCE Action*

### Communities for a New California Education Fund

#### Communities for a New California Education Fund

promotes economic prosperity and community health for residents in the rural areas of California. Headquartered in Sacramento, with offices in Fresno, Indio and Merced, chapters are in constant contact with residents in 13

California counties, from Yolo to Imperial, with an emphasis on the San Joaquin, Imperial and Coachella Valleys. They bring valley residents together to champion the needs of poor and working-class families through community organizing, integrated leadership development, and mass non-partisan voter engagement. With year-round programming, they educate and motivate constituents to become consistent voters.

### \*California Calls Education Fund, for the Million Voters Project

#### California Calls Education Fund, for the Million Voters Project (MVP)

is a statewide alliance, comprised of California's strongest power building networks, that seeks to achieve a strategic shift in the electorate by engaging and mobilizing one million low propensity voters of color to align around values of inclusion, investment in schools and communities, and strengthening our democracy. MVP partners all have a track record and expertise in Integrated Voter Engagement, are leaders in state and national policy issues such as housing, immigration, criminal justice and climate justice, and engage in outreach and organizing of the rising California electorate, including faith-based communities, Latinx, Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, young people, immigrants and refugees,

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and Black Californians. Together, MVP includes 93 local affiliates, more than five hundred staff organizers, and thousands of grassroots leaders across 28 California counties.

*501(c)(4) is MVP Action*

## \*Power California

**Power California** works in over 30 counties to inform, educate, and mobilize young people of color and their families to engage in civic decision-making to transform their strength in numbers into real political power at the polls. Over the past two years, Power California has registered more than 70,000 young voters and engaged more than 300,000 voters. In Fall 2020 Power California plans to mobilize 175,000+ young voters of color with 20 plus partner organizations, focusing on a racial and economic equity and civic engagement agenda.

*501(c)(4) is PowerCA Action*

## \*PICO California (fiscally sponsored by Faith in Action)

**PICO California** is the largest multi-racial, faith-based community organizing network in the state, committed to ending structural racism and creating a California where all people can belong and thrive. Comprised of 10 community organizations and 480 congregations, schools, and neighborhood institutions, PICO California represents 450,000 families from San Diego to Del Norte. Committed to strengthening our democracy and expanding the electorate to reflect the rich diversity of our state. Its voter engagement campaigns, which have turned out over 270,000 new and infrequent voters since 2012, are driven by a deep love for our neighbors and their well-being. PICO CA is animating citizens in 2020 to vote for a fundamental restructuring of how public safety works to save Black and Brown lives; to vote for a repurposing of public funds into housing, education, health, and family-sustaining jobs; to vote for a new immigration system that welcomes, protects, and promotes our migrant and refugee siblings; and to vote for the protection of essential workers.

*501(c)(4) is PICO California Action Fund*

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## NATIONAL: ORGANIZING AND VOTER MOBILIZING

### Black Voters Matter Capacity Building Institute

\***Black Voters Matter Capacity Building Institute** increases power in marginalized, predominantly Black communities across multiple states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and South Carolina) by investing in local infrastructure where little/none exists to build enduring local political and economic power. BVM CBI engages in get-out-the-vote (GOTV) and policy advocacy such as expanding early voting, resisting voter suppression tactics, and restoration of rights.

*501(c)(4) is Black Voters Matter Fund*

### \*Mi Familia Vota Education Fund

**Mi Familia Vota Education Fund** has offices in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, and Texas working to unite the Latinx community and its allies to promote social and economic justice through increased civic participation. It works to expand the electorate through its citizenship, voter registration, census education, GOTV and issue organizing, while embedded in local communities building Latinx leadership and engagement year-round.

*501(c)(4) is Mi Familia Vota*

### \*People's Action Institute

**People's Action Institute** is a national network of state and local grassroots organizations building a progressive populist movement among poor and working people in rural and urban areas to win change through issue campaigns and elections. The mission of People's Action Institute is to advance a long-term agenda of racial, economic, and gender justice. They fill a critical infrastructure void left by the dramatic decline of organized labor in the past several decades.

*501(c)(4) is People's Action*

### Youth Engagement Fund (fiscally sponsored by Neo Philanthropy)

**Youth Engagement Fund** is led by young women of color former organizers under the age of 35 and is the only donor collaborative dedicated to increasing the civic participation and electoral power of young people. YEF moves resources to state-based youth-focused social justice organizations – mainly in the South and Southwest – that engage youth in civic engagement, including non-partisan voter engagement, and issue and electoral campaigns. YEF also supports the advancement and leadership development of Black, Indigenous, and youth of color and builds local infrastructure in geographic areas with the largest and growing numbers of communities of color.

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## NATIONAL: ELECTION CRISIS RESPONSE

### \*Neo Philanthropy, for support of the State Infrastructure Fund

**State Infrastructure Fund** invests in organizations that mobilize voters and promote voting rights through advocacy, organizing, and litigation. The Fund seeks to build organizational infrastructure in states that promotes collaboration, builds capacity, reduces duplication, and increases collective impact. In 2020, they are funding in Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin. SIF's Election Protection Program is focused on identifying and responding to election administration issues and voter suppression. The program gathers evidence of malfeasance for potential legal challenges.

*501(c)(4) is the NEO Philanthropy Action Fund*

## NATIONAL: DEMOCRACY REFORM

### NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund's **Prepared to Vote and Voting Rights Defender** projects work to protect voting rights and support Black political engagement. Through advocacy, legislation, and litigation, they are fighting against voter suppression and also working for a fair and accurate Census and redistricting process.

### National Redistricting Foundation

**National Redistricting Foundation** has a mission to dismantle unfair electoral maps and create a redistricting system based on democratic values in advance of the 2021 redistricting cycle. By helping to create more just and representative electoral districts across the country, they aim to restore the public's faith in a true representative democracy.

*Note: Eric H. Holder, Jr., is the Chairman of the National Democratic Redistricting PAC, which has a complementary mission that it pursues via partisan political means*

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## Native American Voting Rights Coalition

The [Native American Voting Rights Coalition](#) gathers voting rights advocates, lawyers, civil rights experts, and tribal advocates to discuss and develop solutions to problems with voting in Indian Country. The coalition includes Native American Rights Fund, National Congress of American Indians, American Civil Liberties Union's Voting Rights Project, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, Fair Elections Center, Western Native Voice, and Four Directions. The coalition takes a proactive approach that combines legislation, litigation, capacity building, and education.

## Tides Foundation, for support of the Healthy Democracy Fund

[Tides Healthy Democracy Fund](#) works to defend and protect the voting rights of communities of color, young voters, and the economically disadvantaged; help close the voter turnout gap; and create momentum for stronger pro-voter policies. Tides works closely with veteran movement leaders to respond quickly to community needs, identify emerging solutions, and scale programs with a proven track record in priority areas of year-round organizing, election security, voter registration and turnout, voter protection, and democracy reform.

