



Public  
Rights  
Project

2022 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

# We Are Seeking Justice

Across the country, we partnered with local governments and communities to fight back against the companies, people, and institutions that threaten our civil rights.

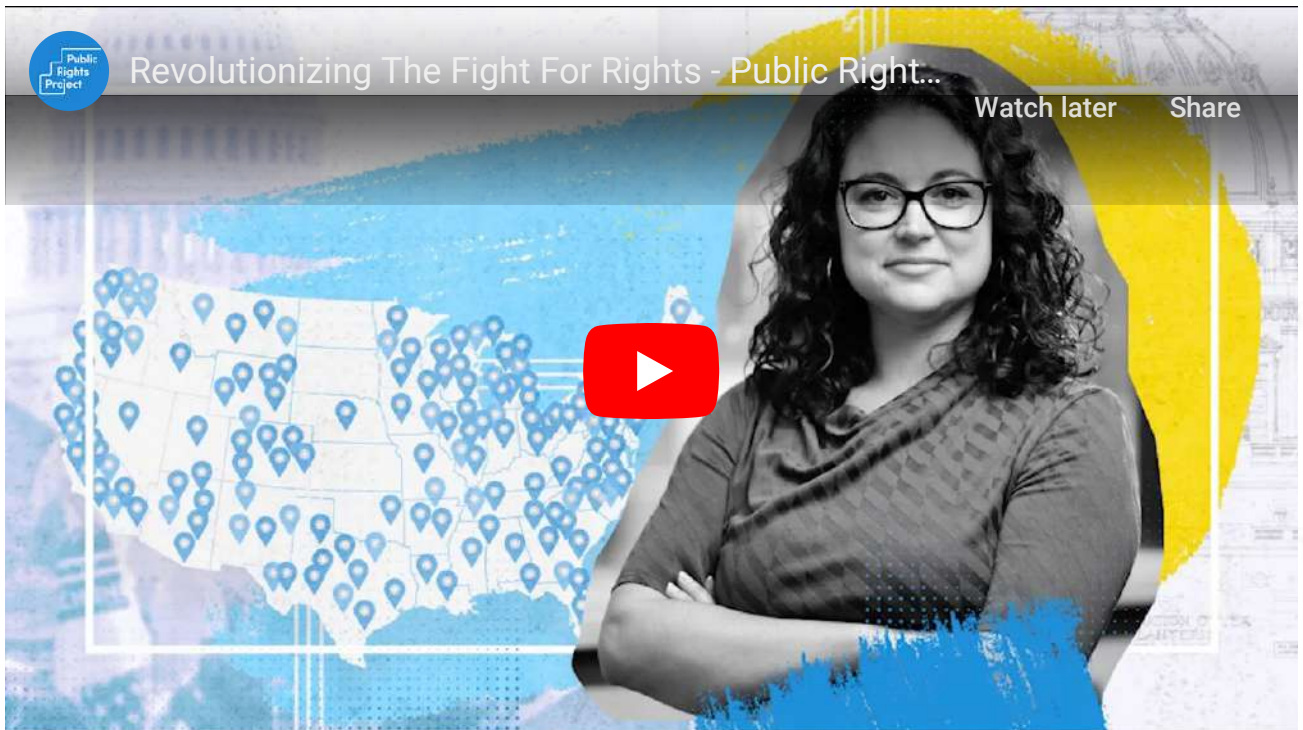
**SCROLL TO DIVE IN**

# Revolutionizing The Fight For Rights

PUBLIC RIGHTS PROJECT IS COMMITTED TO THE FIGHT FOR CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS—FOR THIS GENERATION AND THE NEXT.

In 2022, we doubled down on our partnerships from coast to coast.

We ensured autonomy over our bodies, provided protections for workers, access to the ballot and fair elections to voters, and defended against egregious abuses of power on behalf of greedy corporations and authoritarian government officials—and so much more.



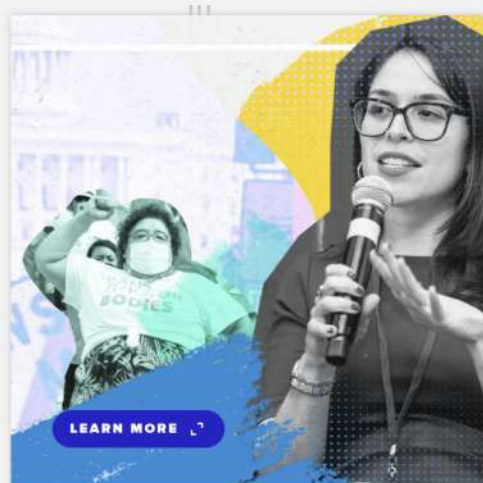
# Protected Civil Rights For 23 Million Americans

PRESS PLAY TO HEAR FROM MADISON ABOUT PRP'S IMPACT



**Chief Marketing Officer, Madison Jacobs**

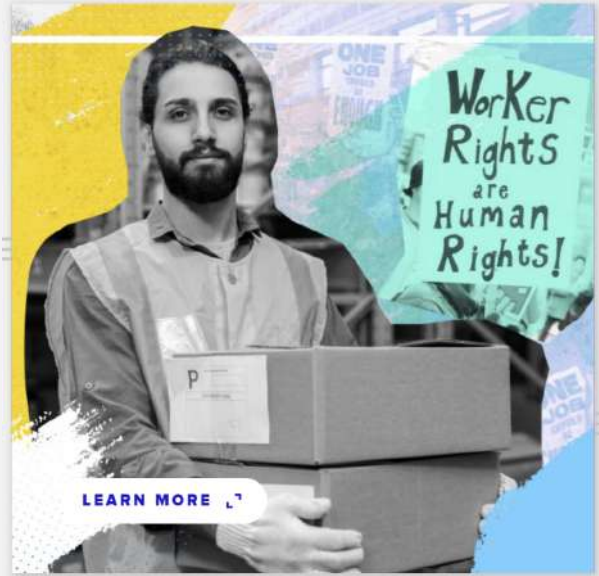
We'd love to take you on a journey of stories about the impact PRP has across the country. You'll learn how we empower governments and community-based organizations to work in concert, protecting our civil rights through equitable enforcement.





**PROTECTED  
1 MILLION  
WORKING PEOPLE  
FROM CORPORATE  
ABUSE**

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[LEARN MORE](#)

**ENSURED  
VOTING RIGHTS  
FOR 10 MILLION  
PEOPLE**

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**PROTECTED  
CIVIL RIGHTS FOR  
3 MILLION BLACK  
PEOPLE**

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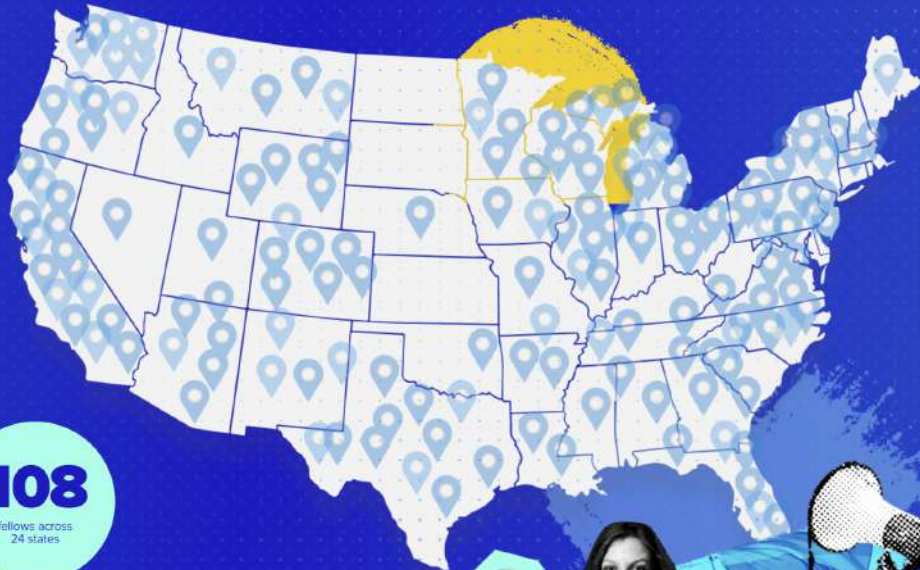
## Bringing Justice To Communities From Coast To Coast

With hundreds of local governments and community-based partners, Public Rights Project has built a powerful engine for civil rights across America.

And our impact continues to grow with our network—working with more public officials, prosecutors, workers’ rights organizers, and racial justice advocates each year.

Our two fellowship programs—Affirmative Leaders and Justice Catalyst—are a vital piece of outreach and change-making, showcased in all of the facts and figures to follow. Here, you can see the power of equitable enforcement.





**311**

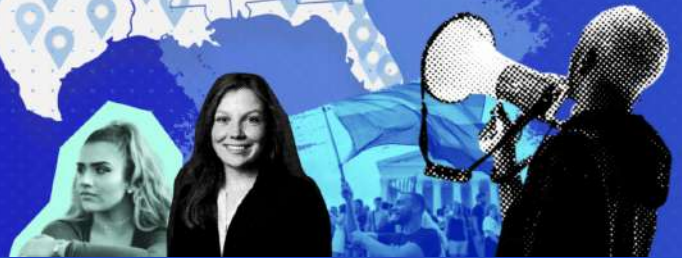
government and community partners in 41 states

**108**

fellows across 24 states

**88%**

win rate for all PRP-led litigation



# 2022 WINS



**23.4 MILLION**

people served by our work



**\$18.9 MILLION**

in relief recovered, 4 times our annual budget



**9 AMICUS BRIEFS**

authored, with a total of 105 partnership sign-ons



**100% WIN RATE**

on all 9 PRP-Authored Amicus Briefs



**2 CIVIL RIGHTS UNITS**

established in government offices



**21 NEW FELLOWS**

trained in 12 states

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

## Kim Foxx

STATE'S ATTORNEY,  
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

"You are like bright beacons in American history that have pushed and moved us forward even in what seemed like the darkest of times.

And in those times it has been the champions of justice, the seekers of justice that have propelled us to the moment that we stand today."



GOVERNMENT PARTNER

## Eli Savit

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY,  
WASHTENAW COUNTY,  
MICHIGAN

"The health and safety of thousands of people in my county is on the line. And I'll be damned if I'm not going to do everything within my power to help protect that."







PRP FELLOW

## Seema Rupani

LAWYER, OAKLAND CITY  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OF  
COMMUNITY LAWYERING AND CIVIL  
RIGHTS

"I was motivated to work towards a more healed and just world in part by my family's experiences with oppression, and in part by empathy and hope. I went to law school to equip myself with more tools to affect systemic change. This fellowship really has been one of the communities that has kept me going this past year. These connections keep us righteous and accountable in this work."



COMMUNITY PARTNER

## Jeremy Hendricks

POLITICAL DIRECTOR, SOUTHWEST  
LABORERS' UNION

"In the construction industry, people are looked at like commodities. Everyone loves a ribbon-cutting—no one wants to know about the people that got injured in building those tall, shiny buildings downtown."





COMMUNITY PARTNER

## Jenna Hanes

POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR,  
AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

“The Grace Act is the most urgent work we’re doing. So the decision that we had to make was, ‘Are we going to prevent ourselves from doing good things just because the Texas legislature isn’t gonna like it?’ The answer to that has got to be ‘no.’ The only thing we can do is try to have strength in numbers.”



GOVERNMENT PARTNER

## Berbeth Foster

SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY,  
COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROJECT

“We see litigation as a vital aspect to protecting the rights of all the community organizers we work with, ensuring they have the right to protest in the streets of Florida, but also the right to appeal to their local governments as they seek to re-imagine public safety.”



# **Demanding Anti-Racist Practices. Prioritizing Inclusion. Celebrating Intersectionality.**

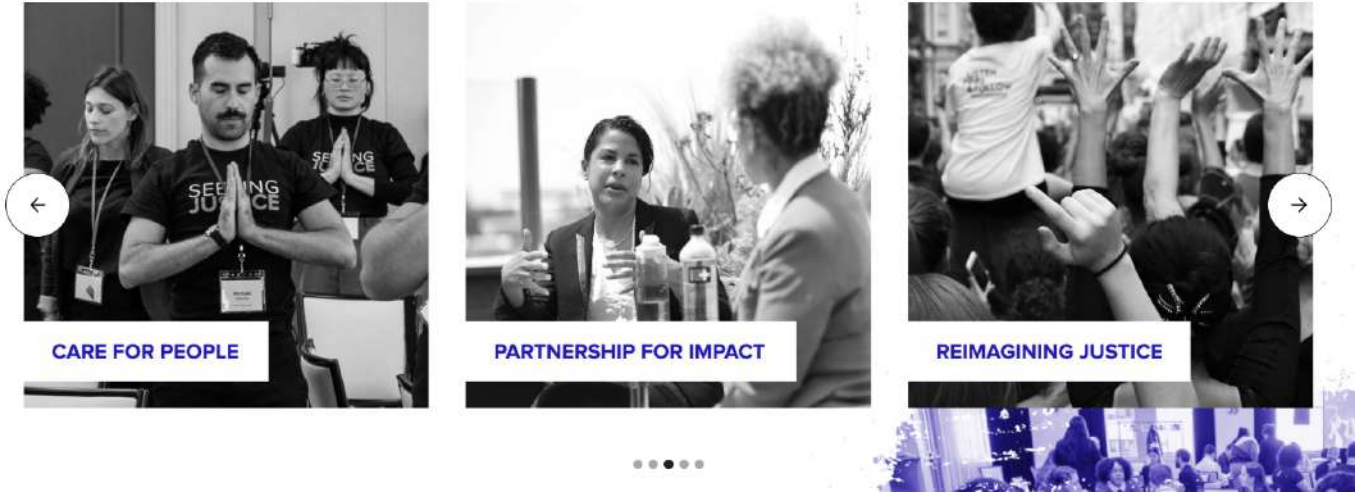
Since its inception in 2021, Public Rights Project’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Working Group (DEIB WG) has ensured PRP lives up to the Core Values of our organization.

The DEIB WG prioritizes advancing the rights of BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized people—for example, this past year the working group led a significant effort to bring anti-racism training and education to the entire staff.

In 2022 the Operations Team also led an effort to bring increased transparency and equity to PRP’s recruitment and hiring practices. Together we’re building a culture that meets the challenges—and hard, necessary conversations—around justice head-on.







## **Our Funders Make Justice Possible**

Thank you to everyone who has continually supported our mission since our founding.

We also want to offer a special thank you to the following individuals and organizations who generously donated gifts of \$1,000 or greater in 2022.

Every dollar donated supports our fight for racial justice, workers' rights, reproductive justice, and underserved communities.

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Anonymous

Quinn Delaney &  
Wayne Jordan

Brian and Leslie Baker

Kelly Dermody and  
Billie Mizell

Juan Rodriguez

Sarita Schoenebeck

Elise Martin

Lane Dilg and Brian  
Nelson

Heather Gerken and  
David Simon

Anne and John Karl

David Roe

Genna Dick

Jill Habig

Linda & John Kahle

Matthew Lawlor

Melissa Murray

Dan Newman

Jane Okpala

Jenn Schultheis

Jenny Netzer and Ellis  
Seidman

Jillian Stillman



Future Justice Fund

GROUP HEALTH  
FOUNDATION



WALTER & ELISE  
HAAS FUND

Chan  
Zuckerberg  
Initiative®



Bloomberg  
Philanthropies



COLLABORATIVE  
ON GENDER +  
REPRODUCTIVE  
EQUITY

CRANKSTART



THE  
ANDREW W.  
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FOUNDATION

YELLOW CHAIR FOUNDATION



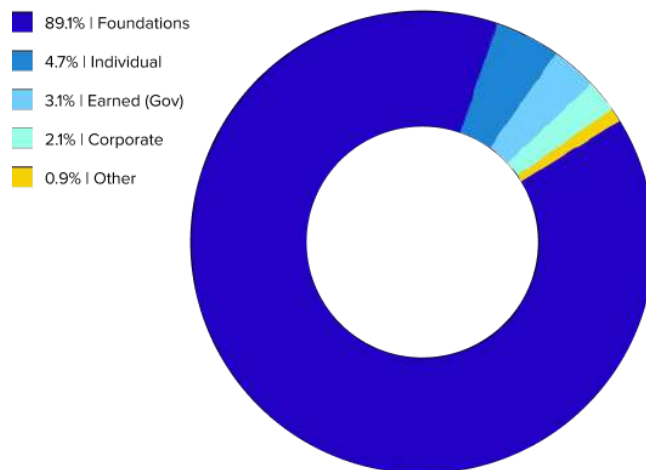


# 2022 Financial Summary

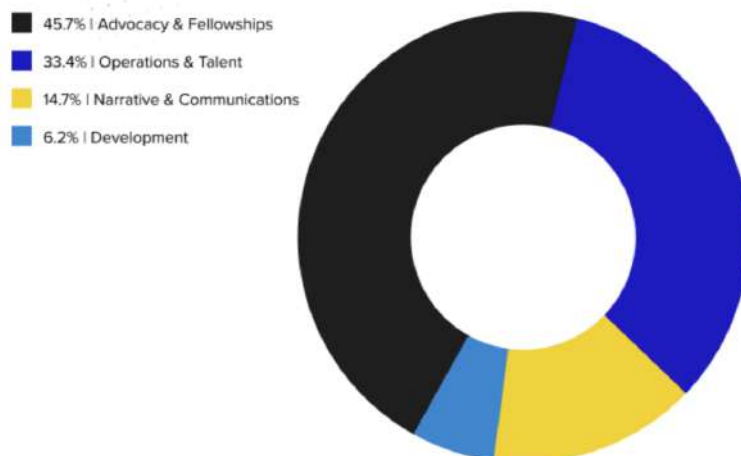
Public Rights Project is proud of the financial growth we experienced over the past year—every grant and donation makes our litigation, organizing, and storytelling possible.

We've grown from a \$750,000 budget in 2018 to a projected 2023 operating budget of \$6.3 million. The following charts represent our 2022 revenue and expense breakdown.

## REVENUE: 4.7 MILLION



## EXPENSES: 4.4 MILLION



# Many Thanks To Our Board Of Directors!

We deeply appreciate the commitment of the Public Rights Project Board, who continue to offer their insight and support to our team and our vision. They help us work toward a democracy built by the people that delivers equity and justice.

Their collective expertise across everything from law, government leadership, and civil rights to organizational strategy, development, and communications has enabled us to maximize our impact, grow our ecosystem of partners, and take the educated, necessary risks to evolve our organization.

We are honored to have their support and know PRP wouldn't be where we are without their many contributions. Thank you!



**Margo Drakos**  
Managing Director, Draper Richards Kaplan;  
Founder, ArtistYear



**Heather Gerken**  
Dean and Sol & Lillian Goldman Professor of  
Law, Yale Law School



**Peter Harvey**  
Partner, Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP



**Bachul Koul**  
Director, Value Creation, Warburg Pincus



**Ken Zimmerman**  
CEO of Fountain House, Inc.



# Meet The PRP Team

These are the faces that make so much of our impact possible.

Here at PRP, we've built a talented team from all kinds of backgrounds, ethnicities, identities, and lived experiences—our people are different in so many ways, but we share a collective vision for justice and keep our eyes on the horizon. We believe in the power of change and leverage our unique perspectives and skill sets daily to advance equity within our organization and in the world around us.

Civil rights work is not easy—in fact, it's often daunting and frightening. The world is riddled with many cruelties and inequities, and sometimes it feels like too big a system to fundamentally change. But together, we take each day step by step and watch with tenacity and hope as our litigation and training, our fellowships and our advocacy, and the stories of our communities all move the needle towards a future and society we can all be proud to be a part of.



[Michael Adame](#)  
Staff Attorney

[Lida Azim](#)  
Fellowship and Events  
Coordinator

[Larissa Briley](#)  
Operations Associate

[Hilary Burke Chan](#)  
Legal Fellow

[Christina Schuler da Costa Ferro](#)  
Paralegal

[Nicolette Del Palacio](#)  
Senior Community Organizer

[Shanta Farrington](#)  
Digital and Social Media Senior  
Manager

[Tiana Franenberg](#)  
Director of Operations

[Jill Habig](#)  
President & CEO



Jocelyn Harmon  
Chief Development Officer

Madison Jacobs  
Chief Marketing and  
Communications Officer

Kristen Janson  
Communications Manager

Vicki Krajewski  
Director of Training and Digital  
Learning

Abby Lawlor  
Legal Fellow

Jon Miller  
Chief Program Officer

Harumi Miura  
Data Analyst

Kennedy Reese  
Transition Project Manager

Ananda Robie  
Salesforce Platform Manager

Josh Rosenthal  
Legal Director

Marissa Roy  
Staff Attorney

Jake Seidman  
Staff Legal Fellow

Aadika Singh  
Staff Attorney

Emma Speiser  
Development Manager

Katie Tandy  
Editor-in-Chief

Cristian Torres

Legal Fellow

[Avni Wadhvani](#)

Fellowship Coordinator

[Kamri Williams](#)

Fellowships & Learning  
Coordinator

[Stephanie Yang](#)

Chief of Staff

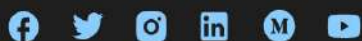
[Sara Zollner](#)

Legal Fellow

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PRP Staff and Fellows - Chicago Oct. 2022

# Calling All Justice Seekers!



Share: [impact.publicrightspj.org](https://impact.publicrightspj.org)



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[Request](#) A Donor Meeting



[Inquire](#) About Our Partnerships



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WORKERS' RIGHTS →



### 4 MIN LISTEN

Hear how our work protects abortion access and the right to choose, narrated by our Chief Marketing Officer, Madison Jacobs.

▶ 0:00 / 0:00



REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE



# Winning The Abortion Courtroom Battle In Michigan

PRP led America's first live witness testimony on abortion post-Roe in Pontiac, Michigan to determine whether a preliminary injunction would be ordered against the state's criminal abortion ban, a zombie law from 1931 that made no exception for rape or incest.

Over two days, members of our legal team, including Michael Adame and Jon Miller, made their case to Judge Cunningham, proving the abortion ban was a devastating blow to a person's livelihood, health, and personal dignity.

Michigan doctors and senior public health officials took the stand to fight for abortion rights and help determine the future of state power in America.

THE **19th**\*

by Candice Norwood  
AUGUST, 2022

## MICHIGAN COURT EXTENDS BLOCK ON 1931 ABORTION BAN

In granting the preliminary injunction sought by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, the court prevents prosecutors from enforcing the restrictions – for now.

The evidence presented was clear and convincing. Those challenging the abortion ban had public health data, the deep experience of medical professionals, and extensive studies to back their arguments. Those on the other side offered almost nothing, and the court gave no weight to what they did present because it was unreliable at best, and erroneous at worst. As a result, and backed by popular sentiment across the state, Judge Cunningham ordered a preliminary injunction blocking Michigan's abortion ban.

PRP succeeded in holding the line for abortion until the November Midterms when The Reproductive Freedom for All initiative headed to the ballot, and voters—once and for all—codified the right to choose, securing abortion access for 1.9 million people in Michigan.

“Women are upset and angry because our bodies are regulated and they are politicized in ways that men’s bodies are never politicized or regulated. And women are upset and angry because some people suggest that our rights are subject to popular vote while a man’s rights are bestowed upon him at birth.”

**Christina Grossi,**  
Michigan Deputy Attorney General



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FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS →



### 4 MIN LISTEN

Press play to hear about our efforts to protect workers from malicious corporations, narrated by our Chief Marketing Officer, Madison Jacobs.



WORKERS' RIGHTS

# Defending Workers From Corporate Abuse From The Southwest To The East Coast

Encompassing the city of Austin in south-central Texas, about 1.2 million people call Travis County home. And District Attorney José Garza is busy holding businesses accountable for failing to respect the rights of Texas workers.

Garza began his political journey as a community organizer, bringing a human-centric vision to government—this vision attracted PRP Fellow Stephanie Gharakhanian to join the Travis County office in September 2021.

As a community-based advocate coming into government service, Stephanie keenly understood the need to separate immigration status from an individual's ability to give voice to a violation of their rights. Fear was ruling workers' lives—they were afraid to speak up against the companies exploiting them for fear of retaliation.



JUNE, 2022

## MA HIGH COURT DELIVERS WIN FOR GIG DRIVERS, DUMPS BALLOTS AIMED TO ENSHRINE EXPLOITATION INTO LAW

Voters shouldn't get to choose whether drivers have rights because those rights are protected by law."

"I just wanna make it really loud and clear that your rights to receive wages that you are promised are not dependent on your status. Our office is committed to investigating and prosecuting all sorts of wage theft cases, regardless of the status of the victim." —**Stephanie Gharakhanian**, PRP Fellow

Similarly, in Massachusetts, gig drivers have been battling wage theft from rideshare companies for years. Tech giants like Uber and Lyft have been trying to buy new laws classifying drivers as contractors instead of employees, stripping drivers of vital rights.

Lyft alone donated \$14.4 million to a committee supporting the Massachusetts ballot measure aimed at preserving this exploitation. But instead—through collaboration between local government and community organizing—the potential law was removed from the fall ballot.

Because the community shouldn't be voting on workers' rights that **already exist**.



Our work in Texas and Massachusetts is a proven—and successful!—model of government, community, and storytelling working hand-in-hand to equitably enforce the law and empower those who have been silenced to speak up.

# LABOR RIGHTS & PROTECTIONS FOR THE AMERICAN WORKER

	INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR	EMPLOYEE
Right to organize and bargain collectively	X	✓
Minimum wage and overtime protections	X	✓
Access to unemployment insurance	X	✓
Access to workers' compensation	X	✓
Employer contributions to Social Security, retirement	X	✓
Anti-harassment, discrimination protections	X	✓

Courtesy of the National Employment Law Project

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← BACK TO IMPACT REPORT

LOCAL PROTECTIONS →



## 2 MIN LISTEN

Press play to hear about our work to ensure voting rights across the country, narrated by our Chief Marketing Officer, Madison Jacobs.

▶ 0:00 / 0:00



FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS



# Making Sure Every Vote Counts In A Swing State

Free and fair elections mean that everyone can vote and every vote is counted. But voting laws aren't always that simple to implement. Take Pennsylvania for example. Due to ambiguous laws, and incomplete guidance from state officials, Bucks County election officials had some uncertainty about exactly which votes should count.

Amy Fitzpatrick is a Public Rights Project Affirmative Leaders Fellow and First Assistant County Solicitor for Bucks County. She was concerned when Department of State guidance seemed to conflict with federal law aimed at protecting elderly and disabled voters.

An antiquated state law generally prohibits people from depositing ballots of other voters in either a mailbox or dropbox. Guidance from the Pennsylvania Secretary of State provided that ballots could be delivered by a designated agent so long as the voters resided in the same "household." In a modern context of congregate housing, Fitzpatrick wasn't sure how the county could comply with this guidance without violating federal law and other commands under state law to answer the will of the voters.

## NC POLICY WATCH

### MEDICAID AND MOORE V. HARPER: TWO ISSUES THAT DOMINATED NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS IN 2022

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by Lynn Bonner  
DECEMBER, 2022

*North Carolina legislators essentially asked the court to grant them unfettered power on voting and election rules — with no regard for state constitutional limits. [Read PRP's amicus brief in Moore v. Harper.](#)*

And the stakes were high. At the time, the state representative race was close; the two candidates were separated by a few votes, so the decision to count or discard these ballots could have swung an election and, potentially, control of the state house.

So Fitzpatrick called Public Rights Project to get some technical assistance. Just what were her legal options when it came to counting these ballots?

After presenting PRP's findings and an extensive factual investigation, the Elections Board followed Fitzpatrick's legal advice and decided to count the votes, winning a vital battle against voter disenfranchisement.

Ultimately, some of the most meaningful protections to voter access are arming local officials like Fitzpatrick with the resources they need to protect the rights of their constituents. Each individual case might involve dozens or hundreds of votes, but together they can impact election outcomes and uphold the will of the voters.

“Having a representative democratic system in the United States is not guaranteed. The system that we have now was not inevitable, and it isn’t inevitable that it will continue. It depends on the choices people make to get organized and get active.”

**Joshua Clark,**  
Senior Researcher and Political  
Participation Analyst at the Othering &  
Belonging Institute of Berkeley



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← BACK TO IMPACT REPORT

THE PUBLIC MAGAZINE →



### 2 MIN LISTEN

Listen first! Press play to hear more about our work demanding racial justice and protecting prosecutorial discretion in the South.

▶ 0:00 / 0:00



LOCAL PROTECTIONS

# Fighting State Abuses Of Power

The cases of Andrew Warren and HB 1 are part of the growing trend of abusive preemption across the country. Preemption occurs when a higher level of government passes a law or takes an action that overrides authority at a lower level; the Federal Government can trump the state, and the state can trump its cities—you get the idea.

It can be a positive political tool—like a state banning its cities from providing funds to crisis pregnancy centers—but this power can also be misused...

Together with the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), [Community Justice Project](#), [Jenner & Block](#), and a coalition of six cities across Florida, we are fighting back against Governor DeSantis and HB 1. We filed a lawsuit and for now? We are winning. The court determined the case must proceed because we illustrated the sweeping harms of HB 1 if it remains in effect. The fight continues in court.

The Salon logo consists of the word "salon" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, set against a black rectangular background. The background of the entire graphic is a bright yellow color with a fine, repeating dot pattern.

by Jonathan Miller

FEBRUARY, 2022

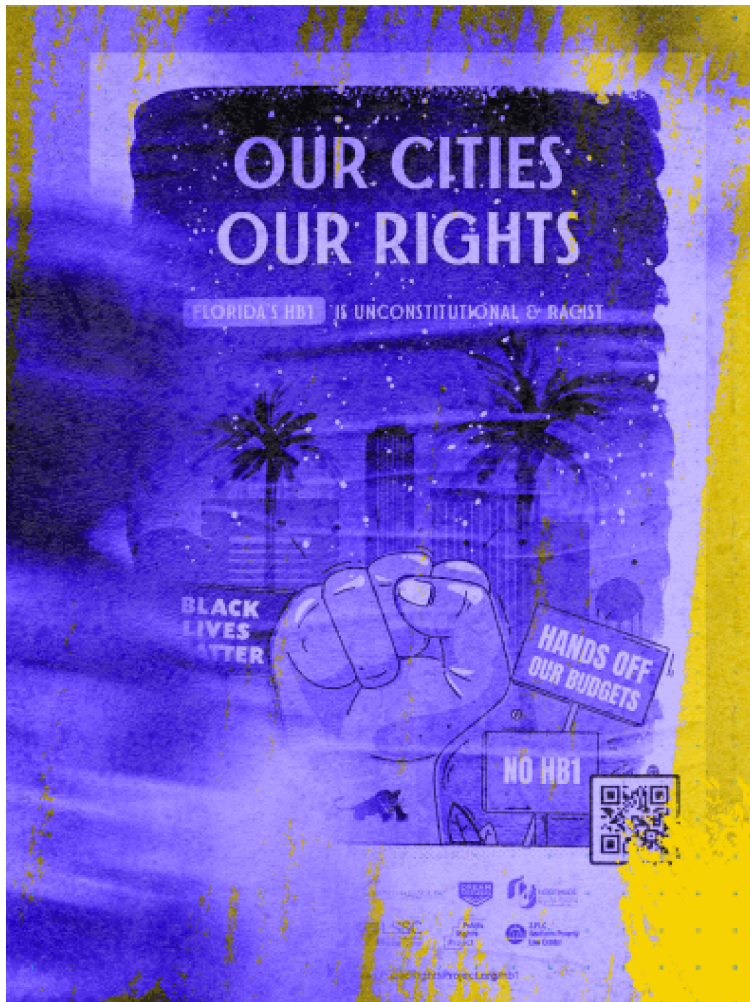
## RON DESANTIS' WAR AGAINST FREE SPEECH IS REALLY ALL ABOUT ABORTION

DeSantis' "win" in Florida is an ominous sign for pro-choice prosecutors everywhere.

And as for Andrew Warren, he is pursuing his case in both state and federal courts, and we are right there beside him.

Because these fights are not confined to Florida. We must push back against this dangerous precedent and let abusive administrations like DeSantis' know they can't get away with flagrant power grabs.





"... the lawless actions of a few rogue individuals could effectively criminalize the protected speech of hundreds, if not thousands, of law-abiding Floridians. I can't think of anything more important to the people of this state, to their elected leaders, both at the local and state level."

**Mark Walker on HB 1**  
U.S. District Court Judge

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REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE →



EQUAL RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS

THE PUBLIC



2 MIN LISTEN

Press play to hear about the power of storytelling to protect our civil rights, narrated by our Chief Marketing Officer, Madison Jacobs.

▶ 0:00 / 0:00



THE PUBLIC MAGAZINE

# Building The Bridge Between Community And Government With

# Narrative Change

[THE PUBLIC](#) is an online legal rights magazine designed as a platform to amplify voices from the frontlines of:

- workers' rights
- racial discrimination
- economic justice
- reproductive rights
- environmental justice
- tribal sovereignty
- housing discrimination
- ...and every one of our civil rights in between.

THE PUBLIC takes the “I to the Universal”—leveraging the power of an individual story to illustrate a larger societal problem, inspire a dialogue, and actualize progressive policy wins.



by Jamaica Sarah

NOVEMBER 2022

## LOUISIANA'S LONG HISTORY OF PEOPLE AS PROPERTY

Louisiana votes “No” on removing constitutional language allowing forced labor as punishment. How long will slavery plague the state?



THE PUBLIC serves as a core component of how Public Rights Project builds bridges between community and government —so governments can take the stories we tell and convert them into real cases that change lives.



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