A woman with dark hair, wearing a dark top and suspenders, is shown in profile, focused on writing on a document. The background is a blurred office or meeting room. The entire image has a blue color overlay with a subtle pattern of white dots.

2024 Impact Report



A message from our CEO and Board Chair



Reflecting on last year's achievements always brings me back to 2017. This was the year we launched Public Rights Project, with your support, to advance our rights in the face of federal and state attacks. The outcome of the presidential election just a few months before had driven home the importance of state and local power as a crucial tool for civil rights.

Our origin story is what makes us ready to meet the moment. And in 2024, it became clear to us all how progress on the issues we fight for — including local authority, reproductive rights,

and workers' rights — depends on a healthy democracy and a trusted election system. That's why we established the Election Protection Hub last year, filling a critical gap in the field.

And mayors need more backup to be bold as they stand up for the people and communities they were elected to serve and protect. Today, as unprecedented and relentless attacks keep coming from the federal government, our mission is more important than ever.

With your help, we will continue to defend local power, civil rights, and democracy itself.

Jill Habig
Founder and CEO, Public Rights Project



For many of us, we're seeing our civil rights being stripped away in real time because of what we look like, where we came from, how we identify, and who we love. As a transgender, queer immigrant who always thought America was the land of the free and the home of the brave, this fight is deeply personal for me.

When you take in what is happening to different communities across the U.S. (and the world), it's easy to feel hopeless and helpless. It can feel like most are giving in and giving up but I urge you to "look for the helpers."

Getting involved with Public Rights Project and its community of changemakers — its network, staff, and supporters — has felt like a tangible way for me to support those who are on the front lines of this fight in the courts.

Having witnessed Public Rights Project's impact over the years, I am incredibly proud of the work that this organization does and admire the unrelenting commitment to helping build a better future for all.

Please enjoy the read!

Bachul Koul
Board Chair

Building a better democracy – one community at a time

Right now, basic rights and freedoms are at risk.

The Trump administration and anti-voting groups are trying to weaken elections and at times overturn election results. They're making it harder for local election officials to do their jobs — and for people to cast their vote.

And when it comes to protecting election integrity, even impartial local election clerks are encountering unprecedented scrutiny and unwarranted attacks as election deniers attempt to sow chaos and mistrust.

Public Rights Project was built for times like this.

We help local government officials in cities and counties across the country fight for civil rights through litigation, legal advice, and training.

A national network of pro-civil rights leaders, acting locally, can be the first and last line of defense against authoritarianism.

While the state of democracy has shifted dramatically between 2024 and the present day, many of the wins we achieved last year show us the path forward for achieving impact.

We're stronger when we speak with one voice and take collective action. With hundreds of partners nationwide, Public Rights Project helps local government leaders build a democracy that truly delivers for everyone.





Neil Makhija

Montgomery County Commissioner
and Chair of the Board of Elections

“

From housing to public safety, people count on their counties and cities to help them thrive. As federal policy puts our communities at risk, local leaders need to serve while representing the values that make us stronger together.

That’s where Public Rights Project comes in. They offer legal assistance and convene elected officials to share innovative solutions. The power of collective action in local governments can make a difference.”

Equipping local election officials to protect election integrity

While the January 6 insurrection laid bare the immediate threat to our democracy, efforts to undermine it are growing, from voter suppression to direct political interference. The authoritarian playbook aims to weaken free and fair elections. We can't let that happen.

Local election officials are a crucial line of defense for free, fair, and safe elections. Ensuring they can

do their jobs effectively — and serve the public free of harassment and political interference — is crucial to protecting our democracy.

In 2024, Public Rights Project launched the Election Protection Hub to serve local election administrators through legal support, training, and technical assistance.

In just the first year of the hub, we served over **200 local election officials.**

The Election Protection Hub's impact

The hub collaborated with local election officials to pursue legal actions to safeguard election integrity, including lawsuits and amicus briefs. This work led to or contributed to **14 legal wins** in 2024.

In 2024, the hub provided legal services to election officials in **25 states** and Washington, D.C., including the battleground states of Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Through the hub, we also provided technical assistance to election officials on questions such as increasing first-time voter turnout and disseminating information for voters. We provided advice to election officials to set up a satellite elections office to allow citizens to register to vote, request mail ballots, and return them on the spot.

Another part of the hub's work included centering election officials as expert spokespeople on the

importance of free and fair elections. In 2024, the hub provided communication training, engaged in media outreach, and published op-eds authored by local election officials, resulting in over **70 media placements.**

Read about our work

The Guardian:

[New program to help US local elections officials who face 'death by 1,000 cuts'](#)

Vanity Fair:

[Election Workers Are Bracing for Another Barrage of Trump Threats](#)

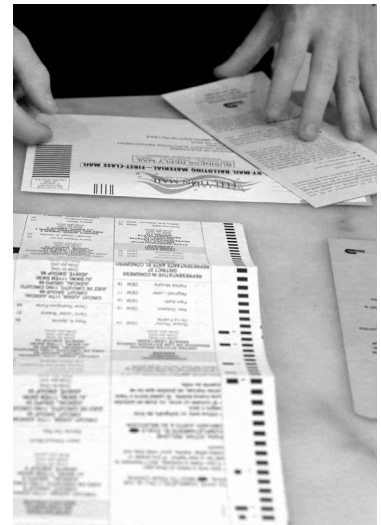
[Learn more about the Election Protection Hub](#)

GEORGIA

Hand-count requirement from politically-stacked election board: **BLOCKED**

The Muscogee County Board of Elections and Registration brought a lawsuit filed by Public Rights Project against Georgia's state election board, opposing a hand-count measure that would create uncertainty and disorder in the 2024 election. The Fulton County Superior Court permanently blocked the hand-count rule before election day, along with six other anti-vote proposals.

[Read more](#)

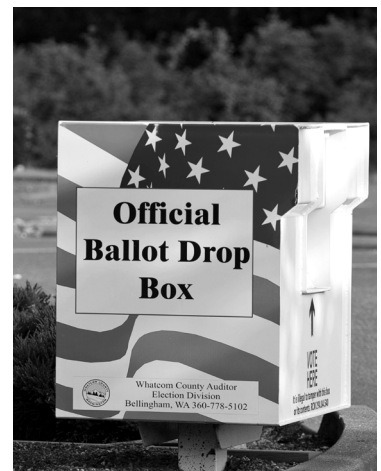


WISCONSIN

Drop boxes for absentee ballots: **REINSTATED**

In this case to reinstate the use of drop boxes for absentee ballots, Public Rights Project was the only organization to bring the perspective of local election clerks in an amicus brief. In July 2024, the Wisconsin Supreme Court overturned the drop box ban, giving clerks the authority to decide whether to use drop boxes locally, citing from our brief.

[Read more](#)



MICHIGAN

Bipartisan coalition of election clerks voices concerns on accountability for election misconduct: **UNITED IN ACTION**

Last year, an appeals court in Michigan dismissed election fraud charges against election inspector James Holkeboer, who downloaded a voters list to a flash drive. Two dozen election clerks signed on to a brief filed by Public Rights Project in favor of strong legal guardrails to deter election misconduct.

[Read more](#)



Read coverage in the New York Times:

[Why Trump Supporters Keep Avoiding Convictions on Election Charges](#)



Laura Conover

Pima County Attorney

“Public Rights Project has been invaluable during my first and now second term at the Pima County Attorney’s Office. With PRP’s support, we’ve been able to navigate some of the most complex and controversial legal issues of the day here in Arizona and nationally. We look forward to building on our collaborative relationship in the years to come.”

Defending reproductive freedoms

Since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, anti-choice lawmakers across the country have stripped people of comprehensive reproductive health care by banning or heavily restricting abortion access.

Public Rights Project fought to safeguard abortion access in Arizona and Missouri. We served as legal counsel to Pima County Attorney Laura Conover to keep an abortion ban tied up in the courts and filed an amicus brief in Missouri on behalf of elected officials to bring a ballot measure to a vote.

In Arizona, the fight to protect legal abortion led to no gap in access until a state ballot measure enshrined it as a constitutional right. While the ballot measure to expand abortion rights passed in Missouri, the fight continues to overturn the ban that was reinstated after the vote by the Missouri Supreme Court.

Public Rights Project has improved access to reproductive rights for **25 million people**.

We also filed dozens of amicus briefs in key reproductive rights cases throughout 2024, including on behalf of:



A coalition of over a dozen **local elected officials** who requested clarity on exceptions to Texas's restrictive abortion ban.



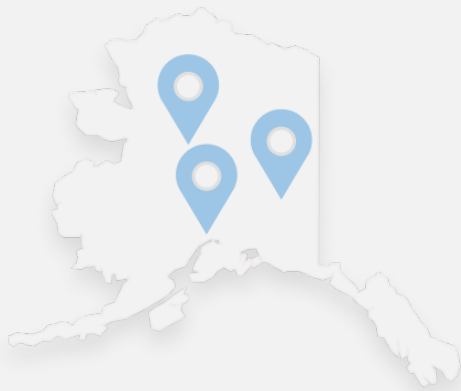
Over 100 **local governments and local elected leaders** who intervened in a U.S. Supreme Court case to support the Food and Drug Administration's position that mifepristone is a safe and effective drug.



Local prosecutors who argued that Idaho's near-total abortion ban violates the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA), in a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Read this op-ed by our CEO Jill Habig in Time Magazine:
[How SCOTUS Gave Prosecutors Incredible Power Over Abortion Access](#)

Building a strong network of civil rights defenders since 2017

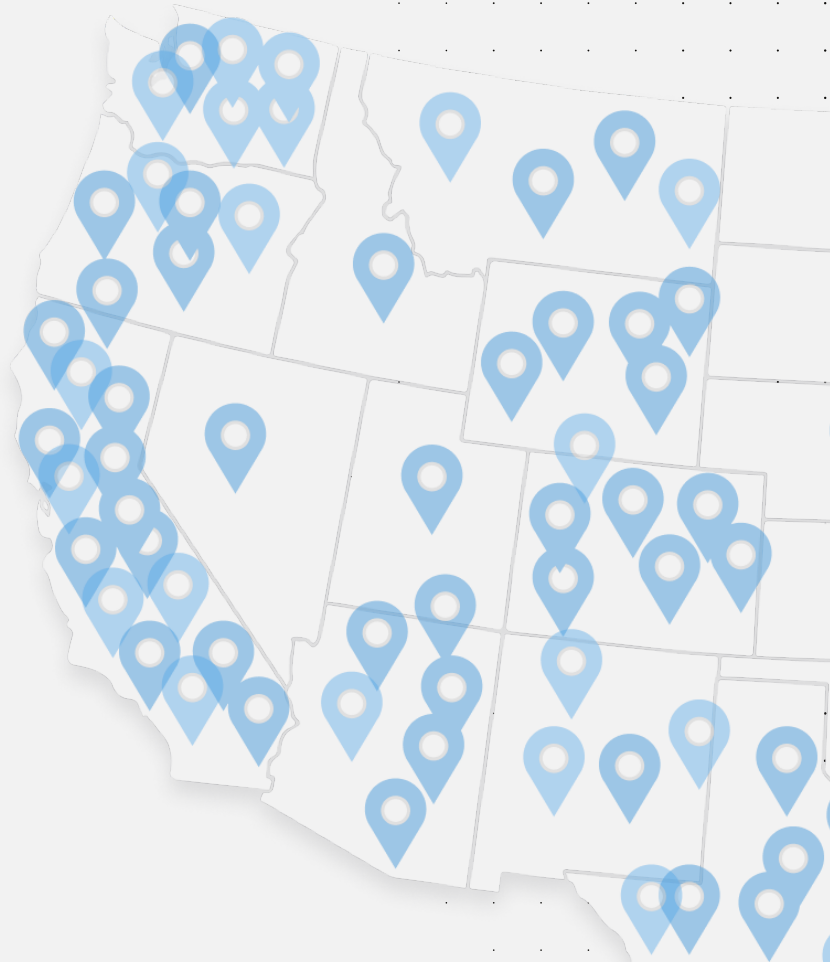


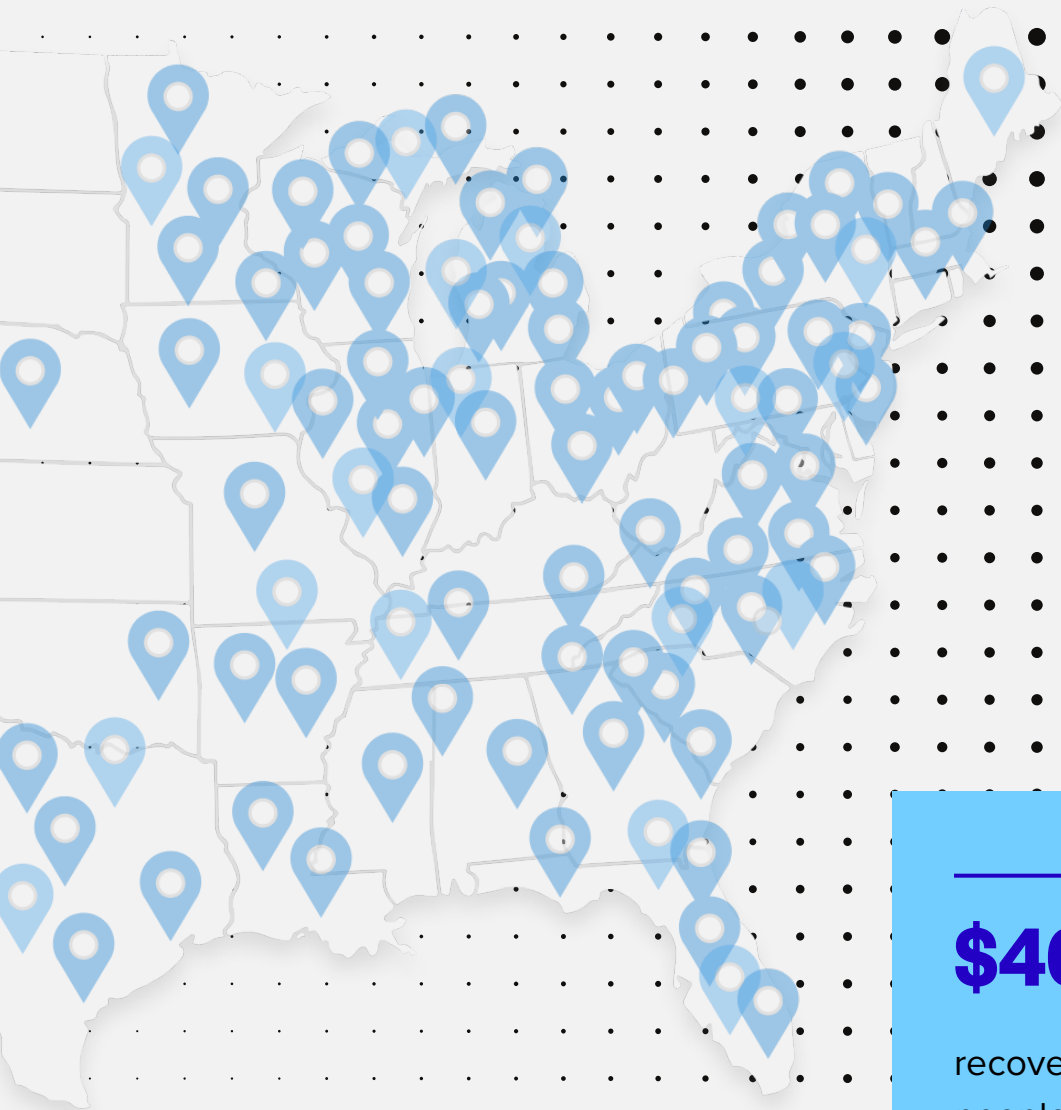
43.5 million

million individuals with
advanced voting access

646

total government and
community partners in
47 states





\$46 million

recovered in relief for
people impacted by
our cases

Training government attorneys to be leaders in affirmative litigation

Public Rights Project isn't just convening networks — we're also building up those who can effect real local change.

As of 2024, PRP has trained and supported **234 local government attorneys** across **26 states** through fellowship programs that build litigation skills in protecting and advancing civil rights.

participants to its Affirmative Leaders Fellowship and newly-launched Democracy Fellowship. We also launched PRP U, an online portal for professional development courses, resources, and networking.

In 2024, Public Rights Project accepted 30

[Learn about our trainings and fellowships](#)



Alexis Piazza

Deputy Attorney General, California Department of Justice, Civil Rights Enforcement Section, Bureau of Children's Justice

“Being an Affirmative Leaders Fellow has been a big part of how I show up as a leader today. The fellowship gave me the confidence I needed to step up and take proactive action to protect civil rights. It has equipped me with many skills I use today to continue advocating for educational equity in California.”

Curtailing abuses of power

In 2024, Public Rights Project also supported efforts to stand up against state abuses of power and ensure that prosecutors have broad authority and discretion.

We took action to safeguard local prosecutorial independence and defend the right of communities to elect their district attorneys

In 2024, Public Rights Project pursued legal battles in Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin. This included:



Representing a **bipartisan group of Georgia district attorneys** in a lawsuit against Georgia's Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission, or PAQC, a politically-driven commission with powers to investigate and remove local prosecutors.



Drawing attention to the use of **judicial gerrymandering** to manipulate the rules for selecting, retaining, or replacing judges, prosecutors, and other judicial actors.



Publishing a white paper with **Local Solutions Support Center** cataloging attempts to curtail local prosecutors' discretion and highlighting successful efforts to protect their authority. Read the report [Update to preempting progress: States take aim at local prosecutors.](#)



Submitting an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court arguing that **Donald Trump's candidacy should be disqualified** due to his role in the January 6 insurrection.



Filing a brief on behalf of 20 elected officials of color arguing that **unfair redistricting in Alabama** would reduce the electoral power of Black voters.

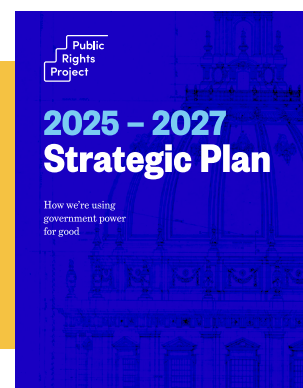


Our 2022-2024 strategic plan included the following goals.

Here's how we delivered during that period:

 Ensure free and fair elections and ensure access to the ballot	PRP advanced voting access for 33.2 million individuals and served over 200 local election officials across 25 states to advance voting access and protection, including in Georgia, Michigan, and Pennsylvania.
 Secure universal, legal access to abortion	PRP improved access to abortion for 78 million people across 10 states , including Arizona, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin.
 Defeat abuses of state government power that threaten civil rights	PRP won 8 battles to stop state abuses of power. PRP empowered and emboldened 50 local elected officials and community leaders in 29 jurisdictions with strategies to counter abusive preemption, including Florida, North Carolina, and Texas.
 Stop the exploitation of low-wage workers	PRP secured \$4.8 million for exploited workers through worker-centered enforcement actions. PRP engaged in community-connected campaigns to build worker power in 18 jurisdictions , including Austin, Chicago, and Denver.

[Read our 2025-2027 strategic plan](#) to learn about our bold vision for the next several years.



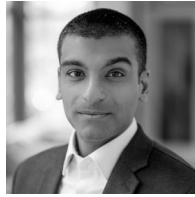
2024 board members



Bachul Koul

Chair

Board and
Executive Advisory



Chiraag Bains

Nonresident
Senior Fellow, The
Brookings Institution



Veena Dubal

Professor of Law,
University of California,
Irvine



Jill Habig

Founder & CEO,
Public Rights Project



Andy Sommer

Secretary & Treasurer

Retired Partner,
Debevoise & Plimpton



Brynne Craig

Senior Advisor,
Bloomberg
Philanthropies



Alida Garcia

Founder,
Twin Impact



Louise P. King, MD, JD

Assistant Professor of
Obstetrics, Gynecology,
and Reproductive Biology,
Harvard Medical School

Executive leadership team



**Jill
Habig**

Founder & CEO



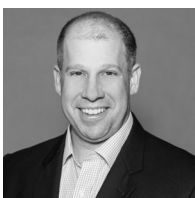
**Tiana
Franenberg**

Chief
Operating Officer



**Jocelyn
Harmon**

Chief
Development
Officer



**Jonathan
Miller**

Chief
Program Officer



**Dawn
Raftery**

Chief
Communications &
Marketing Officer

Our funders

Brian and Leslie Baker

Golden Peacock Foundation

Jill Habig and

Addisu Demissie

Laura and Gary Lauder Family
Venture Philanthropy Fund

Quinn Delaney and
Wayne Jordan

**Bloomberg
Philanthropies**

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Kaitlyn and Mike Krieger

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Wayne Jordan

Gretchen Sisson and
Andrew McCollum

Louise P. King and
Alan Penzias

Deepa Shiva & Harry Pottash

Golden Peacock Foundation

“

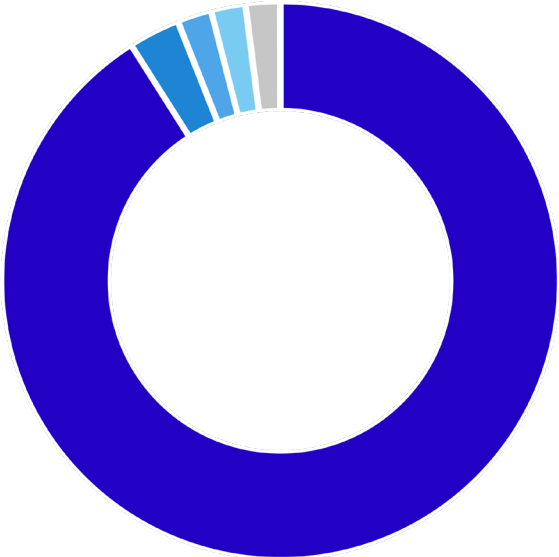
As our rights and values were being constantly tested, we searched for a meaningful way to act. Public Rights Project showed us that with the right support, local leaders can truly deliver for their communities.

That’s why we support PRP — it gives us both hope and purpose for the future.”

Financials

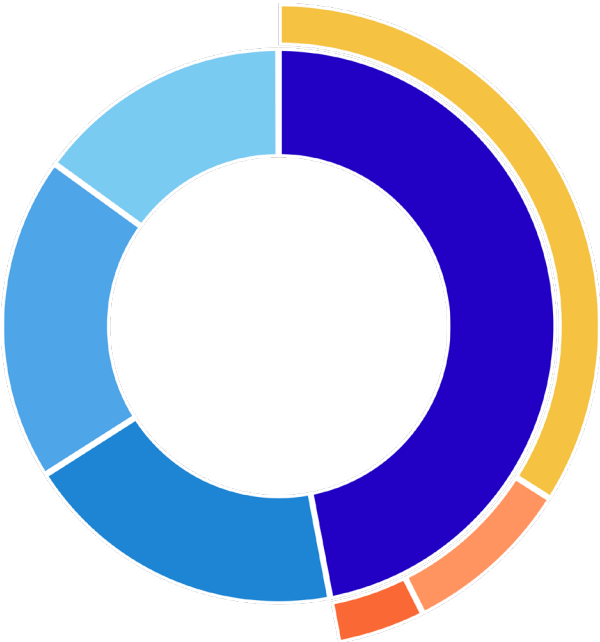
Total revenue – \$8,811,096

- 91% – Grants
- 3% – Individuals
- 2% – Events
- 2% – Earned
- 2% – Other



Total expenses – \$6,830,439

- 47% – Advocacy & fellowships
- 34% – Legal advocacy
- 8% – Training & fellowships
- 4% – Organizing
- 19% – Operations & talent
- 19% – Narrative & communications
- 15% – Development







About Public Rights Project

As a nonpartisan nonprofit organization, Public Rights Project helps local government officials fight for civil rights. We do this by building their capacity to protect and advance civil rights, convening and connecting them on issues of civil rights, and providing legal representation to governments to help them win in court on behalf of their residents. Since our founding, we've built a national network of local elected officials and nearly 230 government offices across all 50 states.

Public Rights Project

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