



VOTERS

NOT POLITICIANS

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER FROM NANCY



On January 6, 2021, our nation was rattled by insurgents attempting to prevent the peaceful transition of power, a first in our country's history. It was a startling reminder that our democracy is not set in stone and must be protected from those who will fight to seize power by any means necessary.

Though they failed that day, they have not given up. In 2021, the anti-voter extremists shifted their focus to the states, including our great state of Michigan, to change the rules and rig the next elections in their favor by making it harder for people to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

A healthy and vibrant democracy demands an inclusive and engaged electorate where voters are an integral part of government decision-making and public policy. VNP staff and volunteers worked diligently in 2021 to make sure that Michiganders had every opportunity to draw political boundaries that represent the communities where they live and not the interests of politicians and special interest groups. We also fought against anti-voter legislation and a petition drive that would make it harder for Michigan voters to cast their ballot.

I am proud of the work that our staff and volunteers accomplished in 2021. Michiganders successfully ungerrymandered our State Legislative and Congressional maps. The anti-voter extremists in the legislature and in the field were held at bay. However, it is clear our work is far from over. The staff and volunteers at VNP will continue to fight for a Michigan that empowers voters and a democracy that puts power in the hands of the people.

Thank you for your support of our people-powered movement.

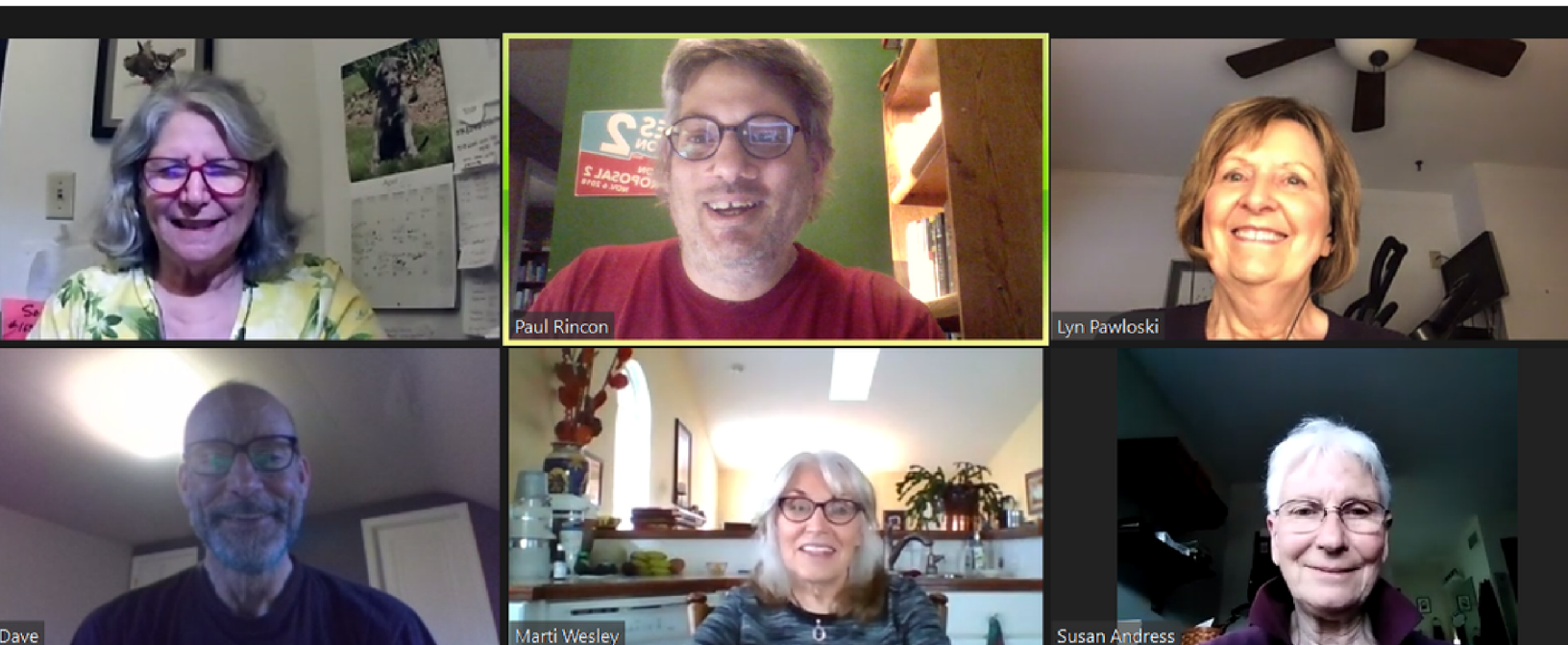
A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, flowing 'N' followed by a horizontal line.

Nancy Wang, Executive Director

Program Impact

In 2021, Voters Not Politicians' programming was laser focused on protecting the freedom to vote from anti-voter extremists working in the state legislature and in the field.

Program	Outcome
Freedom to Vote	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added over 400 Freedom to Vote volunteers for Decline-to-Sign field actions and have been training volunteers on de-escalation tactics.• 675 volunteers made 1,759 phone calls to legislators in 37 mobilization efforts• 921 Volunteers completing 2,595 shifts in 163 events



Paul Rincon

Lyn Pawloski

Dave

Marti Wesley

Susan Andress

VNP In the News

In 2021, Voters Not Politicians earned 433 Press Hits, including 23 published Letters to the Editors from VNP volunteers! Here's a sample of some of our biggest headlines:



WATCH: Voters Not Politicians discusses proposed election bills



Michigan executives sign letter against voting restrictions, including Ford and GM CEOs



Michigan GOP plans “shocking” scheme to ram through voting restrictions over Whitmer’s veto



Ballot drive, suits eyed to fight Michigan vote reforms blasted as suppression

- [WATCH: Voters Not Politicians discusses proposed election bills](#)
Fox 17 West Michigan | March 25, 2021
- [Detroit organizers call GOP legislation a ‘desperate’ attempt to limit voting](#)
Bridge Detroit | April 1, 2021
- [Voting Rights Battleground: Michigan](#)
Black News Channel | April 5, 2021
- [Michigan executives sign letter against voting restrictions, including Ford and GM CEOs](#)
The Guardian | April 14, 2021
- [Tension grips Michigan as Trump’s election attacks continue to reverberate](#)
Washington Post | June 23, 2021
- [Michigan GOP plans “shocking” scheme to ram through voting restrictions over Whitmer’s veto](#)
Salon | July 15, 2021
- [Republicans increasingly look to ballot initiatives as way to enact voting measures](#)
NBC News | July 24, 2021
- [Voters Not Politicians Mobilizing To Counter Secure MI Vote Initiative](#)
Gongwer | September 3, 2021
- [Ballot drive, suits eyed to fight Michigan vote reforms blasted as suppression](#)
Bridge Magazine | September 14, 2021

Freedom to Vote

Fighting for a Fundamental Right

Voters Not Politicians built a massive volunteer program to engage hundreds of thousands of people in Michigan to take direct, pro-voter action to stop the anti-voter effort in the State Capitol and in the field.

VNP mobilized Dial for Democracy volunteers, who made over 800 calls to state legislators to stop an anti-voter package of 39 bills in the Michigan Legislature by putting pressure on elected officials through press and grassroots lobbying. Additionally, VNP sounded the alarm in state and national press while VNP volunteers submitted 23 letters to the editor to raise the issue in local media outlets across the state, successfully putting the spotlight on the Michigan Legislature.

Meanwhile, the anti-voter "Secure MI Vote" moved forward with the anti-democratic "Indirect Initiative Statute" process on September 2, 2021, exploiting a quirk in Michigan law that would allow them to collect just 340,047 signatures and submit the petition to the Republican-controlled Michigan legislature for passage directly into law, circumventing the Governor and the voters.



**"[We will do]
whatever we
need to do to
protect our
voting
rights."**

**- Nancy Wang,
Bridge Magazine**

Freedom to Vote

(Continued)

VNP staff and volunteers quickly realized that the summary provided by Secure MI Vote was misleading and did not accurately reflect the policies in the petition. VNP responded swiftly by alerting our volunteers and providing alternative language that more accurately described the content of the petition. Volunteers submitted 57 comments to the State Board of Canvassers. As a result, the Board of State Canvassers approved a summary that was much more objective and highlighted that voters who were not able to comply with the new requirements proposed by Secure MI Vote would not have their vote counted - a critical point that Voters Not Politicians and allies pushed for.

VNP had been ready and preparing its field team all summer in advance of the petition announcement. We had a ballot question committee in place and began grassroots fundraising upon the announcement of the petition. We added over 400 volunteers for Decline-to-Sign field actions and trained volunteers on de-escalation tactics.

"We've activated our entire infrastructure... We're going to be out on the streets telling people."

- Nancy Wang,
Salon

Commitment to DEI

In 2021, Voters Not Politicians contracted with a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant, Amber Joiner-Hill of Magnolia Detroit and created a DEI steering committee. Under the guidance of Magnolia Detroit, the steering committee set specific goals and objectives with deadlines. We expect to complete all of these objectives ahead of our self-imposed deadlines.

Goal	Objectives
Integrate diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racist values into VNP infrastructure	Conduct a staff workshop or work session to discuss diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racist principles by Sept 2021; Review, finalize, and distribute an updated employee handbook to staff by Dec 2021
Increase racial diversity of the Board of Directors	Create a recruitment and retention strategy for the Board of Directors by Dec 2022
Make data-informed decisions in determining diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racist focused actions	Collect survey data from staff, the Board of Directors, and volunteers annually, starting Feb 2022; Collect and compare state-level U.S. Census Bureau demographic data against staff, Board of Directors, and volunteer corps demographic data annually by June 2022
Increase racial diversity of the staff	Create a recruitment and retention strategy for staff by Oct 2022
Increase racial, age, and geographic diversity of the volunteer corps	Create a recruitment and retention strategy for volunteer corps by Oct 2022

Financials

Revenue		
	Individual Donors	\$341,629
	Grants	\$475,000
	Other	\$1,301
	Total Revenue	\$817,930
Expenses		
	Management/General	\$111,201
	Development	\$24,820
	Programs	\$520,691
	Total Expense	\$661,712



About Us

Voters Not Politicians' journey to end gerrymandering started with a facebook post in November 2016, when a group of internet strangers, all political novices, came together to take on gerrymandering in Michigan. Our group quickly grew from hundreds to thousands of volunteers who came from a variety of backgrounds – from retirees and students to veterinarians and lawyers, young and old, of different political stripes.

Against the odds, our citizen-led campaign ended gerrymandering with the overwhelming approval of Michigan voters (61%) on November 6, 2018.

VNP continues to defend and promote policies that strengthen democracy. Michigan's government must truly represent the will of the people, all votes must count equally, and all voices must be heard. Our representatives must not be unduly influenced by lobbyists or special interests or motivated by personal gain.



Vision

We envision a truly representative democracy, where the will of the voters drives government decision-making and public policy.

Mission

Voters Not Politicians is a nonpartisan advocacy organization that works to effect structural and systemic democracy reform by engaging people across Michigan in effective citizen action.

Values

Integrity
Inclusiveness
Empowerment
Innovation
Impartiality
Excellence

Board of Directors



Jack Schmitt
Board Chair



Lisa Wozniak
Vice Chair



Edward Aboufadel



David Daley
Board Treasurer



Kevin Lignell
Board Secretary



Jeff Padden



Karla Swift



Dana Thompson

Staff



Nancy Wang
Executive Director



Jamie Lyons-Eddy
Deputy Director



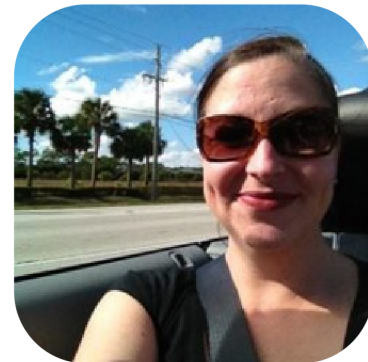
Charles W Beall
Education Program
Director



Melinda Billingsley
Communications
Manager



Rachel Diehl
Regional Organizer, Student
Program Coordinator



Caranne Fields
Operations Manager



Alyson Grigsby
Civic Engagement
Manager



Melissa Horste
Development Director



Amanda Lammon
State Field Director

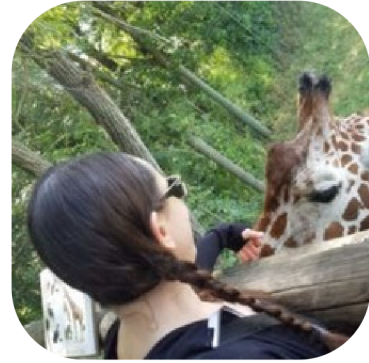
Staff



Kim Murphy-Kovalick
State Programs Director



Paul Rincon
Data and Targeting
Manager



Melissa Zinn
Administrative Assistant



Contact Us

www.votersnotpoliticians.com

info@votersnotpoliticians.com

  @votersnotpoliticians

 @NotPoliticians

(517) 225 - 1812

PO Box 16180, Lansing, MI 48901

**Support our People-Powered
Movement at vnp.vote/donate**