



VOTERS

NOT POLITICIANS

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM NANCY

Voters Not Politicians ended gerrymandering in Michigan, and transformed the history of our state.



The truly independent redistricting process established by Voters Not Politicians' 2018 citizens' initiative produced fair maps that empowered Michigan voters in 2022 to choose their politicians and flip control of the legislature for the first time in a generation. This historic outcome would not have happened without our volunteer-powered organization.

We fought voter suppression - and won. Incredibly, in 2022, VNP amended Michigan's state constitution for the second time, as part of the Promote the Vote 2022 initiative campaign to safeguard Michiganders' fundamental voting rights from the legislature's voter suppression efforts.

This is the power of Voters Not Politicians: a pro-democracy movement that has transformed the political landscape of Michigan, and that will continue to do so.

Of course, we didn't achieve all of that by waking up on November 8 and hoping for the best. All of these wins for voters came after months and years of planning, organizing, and mobilizing thousands of volunteers across the state. Not to mention raising millions of dollars, much of it from individual donors.

Voters Not Politicians' pro-democracy work fights for voters when politicians won't. In 2023 and beyond, we will continue to make structural and systemic changes to put political power back into the hands of the people of Michigan. We're taking on money in politics, advancing ethics reform, and making sure the election reforms approved by voters are implemented, while we continue to grow our grassroots, pro-democracy movement.

When we set out to end gerrymandering just 6 years ago, we never imagined that Voters Not Politicians would be a catalyst for such tremendous change in such a short amount of time in Michigan - and the nation. I am so proud of the success VNP and all of our supporters achieved this past cycle, and of all the previous work that went into getting us there.

With your support, the sky's the limit for what Voters Not Politicians can achieve in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nancy Wang', followed by a long horizontal line.

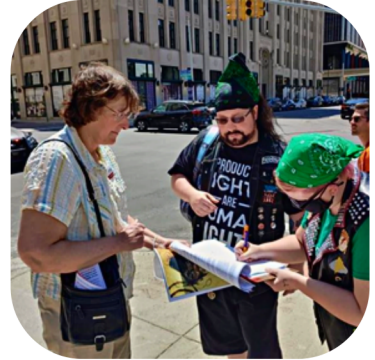
Nancy Wang, Executive Director

About Us

Voters Not Politicians is the leading democracy and voting rights group in Michigan. Made up of thousands of volunteers, the nonpartisan, grassroots organization fights for structural democracy reform in the state.

Founded in 2016 by a group of Michigan voters alarmed about gerrymandering, and without any major funding or institutional support, Voters Not Politicians was responsible for collecting more than 428,000 signatures to put a proposal on the 2018 statewide ballot that established an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. Voters Not Politicians converted its signature collection effort to a successful statewide ballot campaign, and the constitutional amendment to establish independent, citizen-led redistricting in Michigan passed with 61% of the vote.

Since then, Voters Not Politicians, along with the affiliated Voters Not Politicians Education Fund, has continued to harness the power of concerned voters across the state to support and monitor the new redistricting process and advance good-government reforms to strengthen the democratic process in the state of Michigan. Engaging thousands of volunteers and supporters, Voters Not Politicians work is grounded in the principle set forth in the first line of the state's constitution: *"All political power is inherent in the people."*



Vision

Voters Not Politicians envisions a truly representative democracy, where the will of the voters drives government decision-making and public policy in Michigan.

Mission

Voters Not Politicians is a nonpartisan advocacy organization that works to effect structural and systemic democracy reform through engagement of people in Michigan

Values

Integrity
Inclusiveness
Empowerment
Innovation
Impartiality
Excellence

Top Headlines

Michigan Advance →

"Now all Michiganders can be sure that our right to vote is secure, our voices will be heard, and our votes will be counted."

- Nancy Wang

- [Voters won in Michigan this year – and fair maps made the difference](#)
December 3, 2022 Salon
- [Michigan voters OK abortion, voting rights and term limits proposals](#)
November 9, 2022 | Michigan Advance
- [Voters Not Politicians setting sights on GOP election deniers](#)
August 5, 2022 | Michigan Radio
- [Michigan group that overhauled redistricting dives into election law fight](#)
July 6, 2022 | Detroit News
- [Redistricting reform advocates look ahead to protecting voting rights](#)
April 15, 2022 | Michigan Advance

Programs

Promote the Vote 2022 (Proposal 22-2) 05

Dial for Democracy 06

Pro-Voter Candidate Endorsements 07

Promote the Vote 2022 (Proposal 22-2)

Voters Not Politicians was a key member of the Promote the Vote 2022 coalition, collecting over 170,000 signatures to make sure the initiative made it onto the ballot. We mobilized thousands of volunteers and dedicated much of our organization's resources to put Proposal 2 on the ballot and earn the support of Michiganders across the state. The initiative passed with a decisive 60% of the vote, permanently expanding rights for Michigan voters and protecting the integrity of our elections.

In addition to collecting signatures and knocking 125,000 doors, VNP volunteers presented at dozens of events, reaching a total of 3,579 people. We reached hundreds more by tabling at events across the state. VNP's robust and dispersed volunteer capacity enabled our field offices and supply hubs to have the capacity to distribute Prop 2 materials to dozens of other organizations.



Dial for Democracy

A cornerstone of VNP programming is the Dial for Democracy (DFD) program, which mobilizes VNP's army of volunteers in response to legislation that impacts Michigan voters and the health of our state's democracy.

In 2022, VNP State Programs Director Kim Murphy-Kovalick activated a pool of 2,247 DFD volunteers to contact state legislators throughout the year. VNP volunteers made calls to legislators in support of bills that expanded voting rights and simplified election processes for local clerks, and in opposition to legislation that added undue burden to voters and election officials. VNP targeted eight bills, supporting four and opposing four. By the end of session in December, none of the bills advanced through the state legislature. Michigan voters elected a pro-voter legislature this past November, which creates an opportunity for VNP to advance pro-voter legislation in 2023.



Pro-Voter Candidate Endorsements

Our path to Pro-Voter endorsements started when we learned that some candidates for Michigan elected positions from the House of Representatives to the Governor's office were in [attendance at the Jan 6 insurrection](#) in Washington D.C. As election deniers announced their candidacies from the top to the bottom of the ticket, it became clear that Voters Not Politicians had to take action. A committee of volunteers and staff examined the candidates for Michigan offices, conducting research into their public statements, endorsements, funders and, in the case of incumbents, voting records.

We created a candidate questionnaire that addressed voting access and common-sense ethics and transparency reform. You can read all of the questions [here](#). Approved candidates completed the questionnaire with at least 12/13 responses in agreement with VNP values and mission of strengthening and protecting our democracy. Anyone who indicated that they did not believe the 2020 general election was without widespread voter fraud was immediately removed from consideration.

61

**pro-voter candidates
endorsed for MI
House and Senate**

72%

**VNP endorsed
candidates
won their seat**

Field Numbers

Prop 22-2 (Promote the Vote 2022) Circulation



2,316

VNP volunteers collected signatures

171,638

signatures were collected by VNP volunteers

Prop 22-2 and Democracy Slate Canvassing

122,505

doors were knocked by VNP volunteers
and paid canvassers

183,107

total voter contact attempts made by
canvassers and phonebankers



2,481

volunteers took action with Voters Not Politicians

107

volunteers led teams of other volunteers

A Look Ahead to 2023-2024

Campaign Finance Reform

For our democracy to work, it is the voters who must decide who wins elections - not wealthy special interests or multinational corporations. VNP believes the three biggest problems facing democracy are gerrymandering, voter suppression, and money in politics. VNP has successfully taken on the issues of gerrymandering and voter suppression in Michigan. Now it's time to loosen the grip that money has on Michigan politics.

Ethics and Transparency

The Center for Public Integrity gave Michigan an "F" grade in 2015, and very little has been done since to address that. Proposal 22-1 requires basic financial disclosure from our lawmakers, but our legislature can and should go further. VNP will advocate for robust ethics and transparency policies that fight corruption and keep our elected officials accountable to the voters.

and More!

VNP will push for other policies that make our government more representative of and responsive to the voters. This includes legislation to improve voting access, end the practice of prison gerrymandering, criminalize the spread of disinformation, and enact the National Popular Vote bill.



Gerrymandering



Voter Suppression



Money in Politics



Government Corruption

Financials

Voters Not Politicians' thousands of volunteers have powered our movement through their time, talent and financial support since day one. The distribution of our C4 funding sources in 2022 is shown here.

Administrative costs are just 8% of VNP's annual budget. That means your dollars go directly into continuing to make Michigan a better pro-democracy state.

Revenue:

Individual Donors	\$574,032
Grants	\$1,400,000
TOTALS:	\$1,974,032

Expenses:

Management/General	\$76,371
Development	\$43,347
Programs	\$1,466,664
TOTALS:	\$1,586,012

Board of Directors

- **Jack Schmitt, Chair**
- **Lisa Wozniak, Vice Chair**
- **David Daley, Treasurer**
- **Kevin Lignell, Secretary**
- **Ed Aboufadel, Director, c4 Governance Committee Chair**
- **Dana Thompson, Director**
- **Jeff Padden, Director**
- **Karla Swift, Director**

Staff

- **Nancy Wang, Executive Director**
- **Jamie Lyons-Eddy, Deputy Director**
- **Charlie Beall, Education Programs Director**
- **Melinda Billingsley, Communications Manager**
- **Rachel Diehl, Regional Organizer and Campus Coordinator**
- **Caranne Fields, Operations Manager**
- **Alyson Grigsby, Civic Education Manager**
- **Melissa Horste, Development Director**
- **Kim Murphy-Kovalick, State Programs Director**
- **Amanda Lammon, State Field Director**
- **Paul Rincon, Data and Targeting Manager**
- **Melissa Zinn, Administrative Assistant**

Contact Us

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Support our people-powered
movement at vnp.vote/donate