



THE DAVID & LUCILE

Packard Foundation

Democracy, Rights, and Governance Initiative

Initiative Overview

In a strong democracy, everyone is treated equally under the law, people resolve disagreements peacefully, government institutions meet people's needs, and we can make progress toward our vision of a just and equitable world where people and nature flourish.



The Challenge

Our democracy is under strain. People are disillusioned and frustrated, their trust in government is eroding, and too many Americans feel left out and unheard.

Built long ago, our democracy was not designed to serve everyone or meet today's challenges. Today, government institutions are outdated and struggle to keep up with the needs of our diverse and rapidly changing society, people rarely interact with others whose views differ from their own, and our media and electoral systems often reward outrage instead of facts and division instead of solutions.

Our Goal

We seek to advance a thriving, resilient democracy that meets the needs of a politically, racially, and religiously diverse America.

In the democracy we envision, government is open, honest, and responsive to the people. It can meet people's needs, withstand challenges, and adapt to change without compromising its core values.

Our Approach

Our approach to strengthening democracy is nonpartisan. We intentionally collaborate with leaders across the ideological spectrum because that is what democracy is about – working across differences, and protecting people's rights, is a shared responsibility that takes all of us.

We work beyond elections, providing funding to address the underlying causes of the strain on our democracy and addressing the issues that will persist regardless of the outcomes of any one election.

Our grantmaking is focused on:

1 Strengthening U.S. Civic Culture

We work to strengthen civic culture by reinforcing shared democratic values in communities where support for democracy is slipping.

In these communities, we support trusted leaders and influencers who can demonstrate, through their words and actions, why democratic values are so important. These leaders bring people together and create opportunities for communities to collaboratively solve problems, so they are less vulnerable to division and anti-democratic values.

2 Improving Federal Government Effectiveness

We invest in efforts to make the federal government more responsive, efficient, and capable of delivering services and solving real problems in people's lives.

We support grantees who are helping improve how the government hires and supports its workforce, uses new technologies, and responds to the needs of the people.

3 Building Resilient Futures

Together with other pro-democracy advocates, we're working to shape a long-term, positive vision for the future of democracy in the U.S.

We are also helping to ensure new technologies like artificial intelligence strengthen (rather than undermine) democracy by investing in research, policy, and safeguards that make sure technology development and adoption uphold democratic values.

Geography

Some efforts are national while others focus locally on constituencies and communities where tensions are high, and support for democracy is slipping.



LEARN MORE

For more information about the Packard Foundation's Democracy, Rights, and Governance initiative, visit www.packard.org/democracy.

