Dear Friends,

The Every Voice (formerly Public Campaign) family of organizations is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, and as we look back at everything we have accomplished together, we are humbled and thankful for your generosity and guidance over the decades.

To that end, we’re pleased to share with you our 2016 Annual Report. In the report, you will find a summary of our work in 2016, the challenges we faced, and how we prepared to find new ways to advance our mission in 2017.

However, we cannot begin the discussion of the 2016 work without first acknowledging the unanticipated change in the political climate after the 2016 election.

Deeply disappointed by the election results, we adjusted our work to respond to the current landscape while also supporting our allies as they face threats to their lives and their livelihoods.

We at Every Voice believe that those who attack immigrants, women, people of color, Muslims, and LGBTQ people have no place in public office. We will continue to fight for an inclusive democracy where all voices are valued and heard.

As we write to you today, the team at Every Voice has joined the resistance – holding the White House and Congress accountable and also continuing to promote systemic solutions to our broken democracy in the media, and in states and cities across the country. Among the 2016 highlights, Every Voice facilitated unprecedented cooperation and collaboration to create the Fight Big Money Agenda with 12 other reform allies, and made sure this agenda was in the platform of a major party and major party candidates.

At the state level, we had both successes and setbacks. We learned important lessons from unsuccessful efforts to get public financing on the ballot in several locales. We helped move small-donor elections forward in Maryland; Berkeley, California; and Portland, Oregon; while supporting new or existing systems in Seattle, Washington and in Maine. Our team worked with stakeholders in many new municipalities and states to design policies that will allow candidates to run competitive campaigns without relying on big donors.

As we look toward our next 20 years, we look forward to continuing our partnership and thank you again for your support and thoughtful advice as we work together to strengthen and secure our democracy.

Sincerely,

Nick Nyhart
President & CEO, Every Voice Center

David Donnelly
President & CEO, Every Voice
OUR MISSION

To pass and utilize policies (e.g. public financing) that combat the influence of money at the federal, state, and local levels, to ensure that not only the voices of everyday Americans are heard, but that the people of our country have control over their democracy.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

The Fight Big Money Agenda

In the lead-up to the 2016 election, we saw the need for the organizations working on money-in-politics reform to present a united voice and come to a consensus on what components make up a comprehensive plan to fight big money and empower people in politics. Every Voice facilitated a collaborative process with 12 money-in-politics reform organizations to create the Fight Big Money Agenda, a series of policy reforms presidential candidates should pledge to pass if elected.

The agenda focused on key reform policies that would curb the power of big money in elections and elevate the voices of ordinary citizens in the political process. Those policies include small-donor public financing; a new, more equitable constitutional jurisprudence; effective enforcement of campaign finance laws; stronger disclosure rules; and removal of barriers to voting.

Every Voice Center continued to convene meetings with partners in the Fight Big Money coalition throughout the election season, coordinating nonpartisan work to promote the Agenda and urge candidates to campaign on money-in-politics reform. As a result, elected officials, candidates, and the media made frequent reference to specific solutions, including public financing.

Our facilitation of a nonpartisan consensus around the Fight Big Money Agenda created a foundation for deeper collaboration among reform advocates that is essential to the robust movement we need now.

Outreach To The Campaigns

The Every Voice team and the Fight Big Money coalition sent the agenda and a questionnaire to every presidential campaign early in the primary season and pressed candidates to make firm commitments to its policies. Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, and Martin O’Malley all released comprehensive platforms to strengthen democracy and pledged to make campaign finance reform a top priority if elected. The Democratic National Committee’s official platform mirrored Fight Big Money as well.

*A note on this report: Every Voice Center and Every Voice are legally distinct entities whose boards and staff teams work closely together on developing and implementing a shared vision and joint strategy. Descriptions in this narrative often reference Every Voice and occasionally reference Every Voice Center or the Every Voice “team.” The finances of the respective organizations remain separate and any exchanges of funds between the organizations are governed by contracts and/or grant agreements that comply fully with GAAP standards and IRS regulations.*
In September, due to Clinton's strong support for reform, Every Voice endorsed her candidacy for president. In response, Clinton issued the following statement pledging to be a partner to Every Voice in building a democracy that works for everyone:

“I am honored to earn the first-ever presidential endorsement of Every Voice.

“To strengthen our democracy, we need to get secret, unaccountable money out of our politics and get the voices of Americans back in. Every Voice is leading that fight. They uncover how special interests interfere with our democracy and block progress on critical issues like addressing climate change, preventing gun violence, and raising the minimum wage. And they have smart, concrete ideas on how to change our broken campaign finance system.

“I’ve made campaign finance reform a cornerstone of my campaign from the beginning. If elected, this will be a top priority for my presidency. And I will be a strong partner to everyone working toward that goal.

“In my first 30 days in office, I will propose a constitutional amendment to overturn the disastrous Citizens United Supreme Court decision. I’ll appoint Supreme Court justices who understand how deeply that decision damaged our democracy. We’ll work to amplify the voices of Americans and make it easier for citizens to run for office by supporting small-donor matching. And we’ll fight for more robust disclosure requirements.

“The United States is the world's oldest democracy and the greatest country in the world. I believe deeply that our democracy should work for everyone, not just the wealthy and well-connected. We've got to do better. Organizations like Every Voice are working to do that every day. As President, I will be their partner.”

In the News

With this pledge, Hillary Clinton is making it clear that she understands the path to the White House depends on having both the right positions on money-in-politics reforms and a clear path of action.” - David Donnelly, USA Today, July 16, 2016.

“The overall impact has meant more money for parties . . . but it also means wealthy people get a bigger role in our elections – and they get access and influence to politicians at the convention, at donor retreats and at fundraisers.” - Nick Nyhart, McClatchy, May 10, 2016.

“The Republican platform would create one political system for billionaires like Donald Trump and one for the rest of us. That’s antithetical [to] a democracy that belongs to all Americans, regardless of the size of our bank accounts. By contrast, Hillary Clinton supports making elections of, by, and for the people not the funders. It's a stark difference.” - David Donnelly, Huffington Post, July 19, 2016.

“The swamp is so deep in Washington that simply saying that there are some people who can have jobs in the administration but can’t cash in for five years is such a weak response to the pretty significant message that America just delivered last week. If this is the only thing [Trump] did, they will see that nothing has changed.” - David Donnelly, CNN, November 18, 2016.
RESEARCH AND POLICY DESIGN

One way Every Voice Center offers expert assistance on small donor program design is through data analysis and policy modeling. Over the years, in addition to intimate knowledge of different programs, Every Voice Center has developed expertise in compiling and analyzing campaign finance data, including independent expenditures, to inform program design decisions.

By looking at the current system, Every Voice Center creates dynamic projections and provides important information for setting parameters for new ones in ways that balance and align with Every Voice Center’s values and goals. For example, in estimating how previous winners might fare under a new matching program, Every Voice Center looks at options for balancing the desire to provide adequate funding for candidates, incentivize reliance on small donors, and keep public totals costs at manageable levels.

In 2016, Every Voice Center provided policy-modeling expertise to small-donor public financing advocates in a number of places, including Miami-Dade County, Florida; Arizona; Portland, Oregon; New Hampshire; Rhode Island; and Nebraska.

STATE AND LOCAL CAMPAIGNS

Maine Clean Elections

As Maine Citizens for Clean Elections Action worked to ensure necessary funding to underwrite the new, more robust Clean Elections system, the Every Voice team added strategic capacity and resources to ensure they succeeded. Participation in the program went from 51 percent in 2014 to 63 percent in the 2016 primary.

Seattle Democracy Vouchers

Seattle’s first-of-its-kind Democracy Voucher program launched in January 2017. In the year before the launch, our local allies garnered seats on the advisory committee to provide substantive input on key decisions by the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC) on implementation and rulemaking for the program. Every Voice Center consulted regularly on the technical details with the local team, coordinated by the Win/Win network, and sent policy experts to Seattle on three occasions in 2016 and made a grant to strengthen local endeavors. Every Voice Center also helped local partners make the case for additional funds to carry out implementation work, including a study in 2017 to learn which methods best mobilize low-engagement voters to use their vouchers.

Miami-Dade County, Florida

Right up until an 11th hour court-ordered setback last fall, Every Voice provided strategic and material support to New Florida Majority, SEIU Florida, and other allies for a small-donor public financing ballot measure in Miami-Dade County. Seven staffers from the Every Voice team deployed to Miami and were key
to ensuring enough signatures were gathered to qualify for the ballot – despite the roadblocks erected by the county government, which sued to block the measure from appearing before voters.

**Portland, Oregon**

Every Voice consulted on strategy and shaped policy proposals with the local activists who persuaded the Portland, Oregon, city council to pass a small-donor matching program in December 2016. The program will go into effect in 2020.

**Howard and Montgomery Counties, Maryland**

Democracy advocates in Montgomery County, Maryland, made a huge stride toward implementation of its public financing system, passed in 2014. Every Voice Center provided financial support, strategic guidance, and additional capacity. The Fair Elections fund needs $6-$9 million by 2018 to implement the program. In 2015, the Montgomery County Council appropriated only the first $1 million. In 2016, hard work by the coalition and champions on the council helped to win an additional $5 million appropriation. Continued advocacy and pressure in 2017 will ensure even more robust resources in time for the program’s inaugural races in 2018.

In Howard County, Maryland, democracy advocates worked to pass a ballot measure to allow the county to create a public fund for elections. The Every Voice team ensured the best possible ballot language to make it easier for voters to understand and support, and hired a local attorney to help reinforce the local advocates’ push to adopt this language. Every Voice also gave strategic advice on polling, targeting, and communications for the ballot campaign. The measure passed in November 2016, clearing the way for small-donor public financing legislation in 2017.

**Washington, D.C.**

As the DC Fair Elections coalition advances public financing legislation, Every Voice acted as an liaison to key city councilmembers. The legislation was introduced with 10 of the 13 councilmembers sponsoring it.
FEDERAL LEGISLATION

On Capitol Hill, Every Voice Center helped to recruit more co-sponsors for the federal small-donor public financing bills written by Sen. Dick Durbin and Rep. John Sarbanes. When Sen. Durbin’s Fair Elections Now Act was not included in the Senate Democrats’ “We the People” package, Every Voice worked with Senate staff to turn it into an opportunity to organize more support for the bill, adding four new Senate co-sponsors in 2016.

Building A Broader Community In Support of Solutions

Democracy Awakening & Democracy Spring

Every Voice Center served on the Democracy Awakening and Democracy Spring steering committees and task forces, which organized a unique demonstration of the depth and breadth of national frustration with political inequality in April 2016. Scores of national organizations representing the labor, peace, environmental, student, racial justice, civil rights, and money-in-politics reform movements brought thousands to Washington, D.C., to demand that we fix our broken democracy—focusing on both money in politics and voting rights reforms. We facilitated and presented at activist workshops, organized volunteers, and forged many new organizational partnerships. The experience strengthened and solidified the democracy reform community and made many public officials, including members of Congress, feel new urgency to advance reform.

Over the course of 10 days of peaceful protests on the Capitol steps, more than 1400 people were arrested – including seven representatives of the Every Voice team– making it the largest act of civil disobedience ever conducted at the U.S. Capitol.

Democracy at a Crossroads

This report, produced in partnership between the Communications Workers of America and Every Voice Center, details how the same big-money donors are funding attacks on workers’ rights and democracy.

“People often look at the set of issues and think of it as the right versus the left; Republicans versus Democrats; management versus employees. But it's really, at its essence, an attack of people's ability to have their voice heard within our society and in impacting the public policies that get passed,” the report stated. “That's the thing that unites them. That is probably the single most important thing. It's not simply a partisan game. It is our democracy that's being challenged here. So we think it makes a more compelling case to step back and look at all these elements.”

Read the report online at http://democracycrossroads.org/.
Our Voices Our Democracy

This report, produced by the Center for Media and Democracy, Common Cause, Demos, Every Voice Center, People For the American Way, Public Citizen, ReThink Media, and U.S. PIRG, lays out the best ways and places to fight big money in 2016.

“It’s about equity; candidates and elected officials often don’t make efforts to get to know young people, immigrants, or Latinos, or to talk to us when they’re campaigning,” one campaign volunteer, Felipe Rodriguez-Flores said. “We all have something to say about decisions that affect us, and I-122 will turn our voices into political action and better representation.”

Read the report online at http://www.commoncause.org/research-reports/our-voices-our-democracy/our-voices-our-democracy.pdf.
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2016 REVENUE & EXPENSES*

EVERY VOICE: $6,248,240
EVERY VOICE CENTER: $2,109,073, $1,325,000

*We fund our work through gifts and grants from those who share this belief that every voice should count — both in elections and in policy decisions that impact our lives. People support Every Voice with gifts ranging in size from $1 to $100,000 or more. Every dollar we receive helps us advance our mission. Although we are not required by law to publicly disclose the names of our donors, we regularly post the names of our active major contributors on this site: https://everyvoice.org/about-us/financials.
Thank you for your ongoing support and interest in Every Voice and Every Voice Center. We would like to recognize our amazing staffs, boards, partners, grantees, donors, and friends around the nation – without whom none of this would be possible.