



# 2021 Annual Report

United in Purpose: Expanding Civic Education at a  
Critical Moment in U.S. History



Center for  
Civic Education

818-591-9321

| [www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org)

|

5115 Douglas Fir Rd., Calabasas, CA, 91302



# CONTENTS

## UNITED IN PURPOSE

- 03 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 04 ABOUT THE CENTER
- 05 BY THE NUMBERS

## EXPANDING CIVIC EDUCATION

- 06 WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION
- 08 WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL FINALS
- 09 WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL INVITATIONAL
- 10 PROJECT CITIZEN
- 12 CIVITAS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
- 14 60-SECOND CIVICS
- 16 LEARN.CIVICED.ORG
- 18 SPECIAL PROJECTS
  - PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ACADEMIES FOR AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS
  - PROJECT CITIZEN RESEARCH PROGRAM
  - JAMES MADISON LEGACY PROJECT
- 24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## FINANCIALS

- 25 DONORS
- 26 FINANCIALS



Center for  
Civic Education



# UNITED IN PURPOSE

## A Message from the President

---



At the Center for Civic Education, we strive each and every day to ensure that the core ideals of our constitutional republic are accessible to as many people as possible, and I am exceedingly proud of the incredible progress we made this year.

The last year was challenging for everyone, but in a world of challenges there is endless opportunity. In the past year, we redoubled our efforts to reach more students and teachers. Our years of investment in providing distance-learning resources, such as enhanced ebooks, podcasts, and webinars, allowed us to reach new audiences of all ages in diverse urban and rural settings. The Center also convened a meeting of key leaders in the civic education space to kick off the We the People National Finals, providing a renewed sense of hope, unity, and common purpose. Simply put, we are ready to emerge from the challenges of the past in a way that will sustain us for the next 50 years.

We couldn't do this without your support. Building upon our successes in 2020, we again hosted the We the People National Finals and National Invitational online thanks to the generosity of sponsors like T-Mobile and the hundreds of businesses and donors that support our research-based civic education programs nationally and in local communities. People from across the globe recognize the importance of ensuring that a civic and constitutional education must be available to all, from cradle through career.

We want you to share in our successes. As you read through the pages of our annual report, I invite you to consider how you can join us in our cause to improve our democratic republic—and individuals' lives—through meaningful civic education. Because if we work together to ensure that a civic and constitutional education is available to all, there is nothing we cannot accomplish.

Very Truly Yours,

Christopher R. Riano, President  
Center for Civic Education

## ABOUT THE CENTER

---

The mission of the Center for Civic Education is to promote an enlightened and responsible citizenry committed to democratic principles and actively engaged in the practice of democracy in the United States and other countries.

The Center for Civic Education helps students develop (1) an increased understanding of the institutions of constitutional democracy and the fundamental principles and values upon which they are founded, (2) the skills necessary to participate as competent and responsible citizens, and (3) the willingness to use democratic procedures for making decisions and managing conflict. Ultimately, the Center strives to develop an enlightened citizenry by working to increase understanding of the principles, values, institutions, and history of constitutional democracy among teachers, students, and the general public.

To fulfill this mission, the Center develops high-quality curricular materials, provides exceptional professional development for teachers, and advocates for stronger civic education in the United States and emerging democracies.





BY THE NUMBERS  
FY 2020-2021

2

National civics  
competitions

1,250

National competition  
participants

Pageviews of  
civiced.org

1.1 million

262,700

YouTube  
Views

42,762

Civics textbooks  
distributed

62,909

Subscribers

50

State programs

# WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

---

The We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Program promotes civic competence and responsibility among the nation's upper elementary and secondary students. The We the People curriculum is an innovative course of instruction on the history and principles of the United States constitutional democratic republic. Since its inception in 1987, more than 30 million students and 75,000 educators have participated in the We the People program.



---

# 30 million

STUDENTS SINCE 1987

---





## WE THE PEOPLE IN 2020-2021

---

The 2020-2021 school year proved to be challenging for students and teachers of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program. Educators were confronted with having to explain to their students to meaning an impact of the January 6 Capitol riots. We the People teachers were particularly well-positioned to deal with the crisis, many having received professional development that provided a firm understanding of the importance of the peaceful transfer of power. Against this backdrop and the continuing crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, our educators were challenged, but rose to the occasion.

The Center held two online national competitions on the Constitution in the spring of 2021: The We the People National Finals for high school students and the We the People National Invitational for middle school students. More than 1,200 students participated.



# WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL FINALS

*From climate change to civil rights, I am confident that I can use the skills I've learned through We the People to solve these issues!*

More than a thousand students from 47 high schools participated on April 23-26, 2021, in the 34th Annual We the People National Finals, a national academic competition on the U.S. Constitution and contemporary constitutional issues. Due to COVID-19, the Center held the National Finals online using videoconferencing software. Nevertheless, a large and diverse group of students and teachers participated in the National Finals.

Tejas M.  
Student

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies from Richmond, Virginia, led by teacher Samuel Ulmschneider, placed first in the competition. Grant High School from Portland, Oregon, led by teacher Angela DiPasquale, placed second, and Reno High School from Nevada, led by teacher Richard Clark, finished third. "In an extremely tough year, We the People has been a class that remained a joy for me to teach, even on Zoom," said Ulmschneider.



The 2021 We the People National Finals were generously sponsored by T-Mobile and the American Judges Association.





# WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL INVITATIONAL

---

The We the People National Invitational, a middle school competition on the U.S. Constitution and modern constitutional issues took place May 1-3, 2021. Fourteen schools took part in the event, which was held online. Competitors represented Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Nevada, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia, and Washington.

Fishers Junior High School placed first, Saint Richards Episcopal School finished second, and Fall Creek Junior High School placed third.

The 2021 We the People National Invitational was generously sponsored by T-Mobile and the American Judges Association.

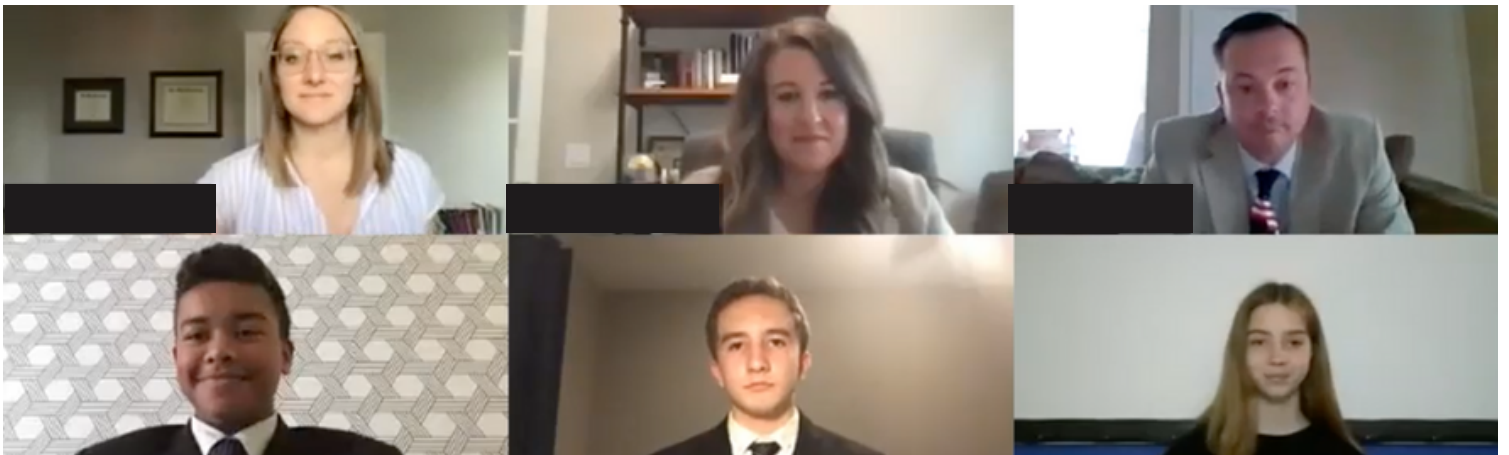
*My We the People class has helped my life greatly. Going to competitions has helped me with public speaking skills, leadership skills, evaluating issues, compiling data, and presenting my ideas in a persuasive manner. I am now more politically involved.*

We the People Student



*During my We the People class I learned to analyze differing opinions. I have learned to keep an open mind because that's the best way to solve a conflict when discussing differing views on political issues.*

We the People Student



# PROJECT CITIZEN

---

*Project Citizen gives you a chance to speak out and to make a difference.*

Project Citizen provides a practical, first-hand approach to learning about how to monitor and influence government. Students work together to research their community to discover problems and identify public policy solutions. Students also display their research and policy suggestions through showcases, a way for students to display their research and present their policy solutions to their classroom and community. Showcases are also held at the state levels, where classes have the opportunity to participate and share their work with other classes from across their state.

Project Citizen Student

---

# 250,000

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE  
EVERY YEAR

---



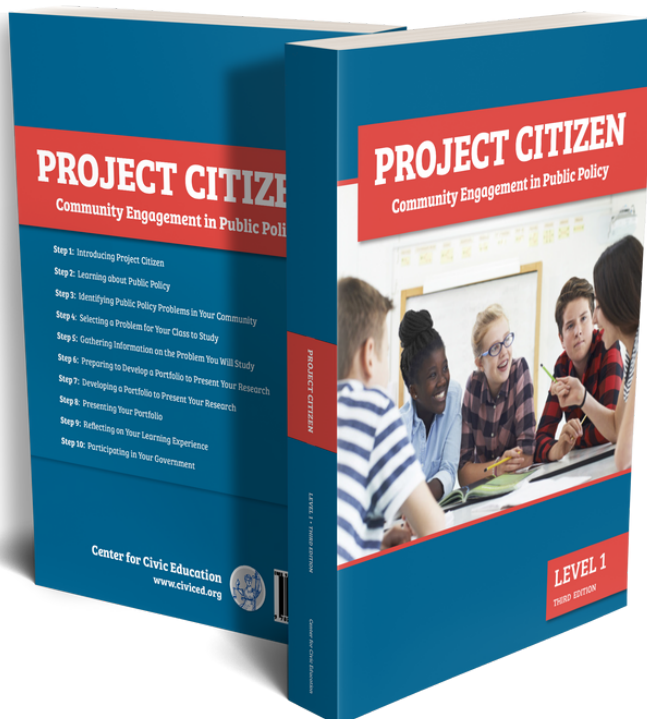


## PROJECT CITIZEN IN 2020-2021

---

In 2020-2021, the Center held a Project Citizen National Showcase. The showcase was held online due to the COVID-19 virus. Schools from Florida to Wyoming submitted a total of 21 portfolios. They dealt with such issues as light pollution, racially disproportionate exclusionary discipline, and the lack of employment opportunities in the rural West. Each project revealed students' strong commitment to serious issues.

The Center also published a new, third edition of the *Project Citizen* textbook for middle school students. The 76-page illustrated textbook engages middle school students in proposing public policy solutions to real-world problems in their communities. Using 10 clearly defined action steps, students learn the skills and knowledge they need to be active, responsible, and impactful citizens.



# CIVITAS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

*In my 40 years practice, I have never experienced such exponential growth of my students' competencies and their ability to work together. I'm beginning to know optimism for their future.*

Civitas Teacher, Bosnia

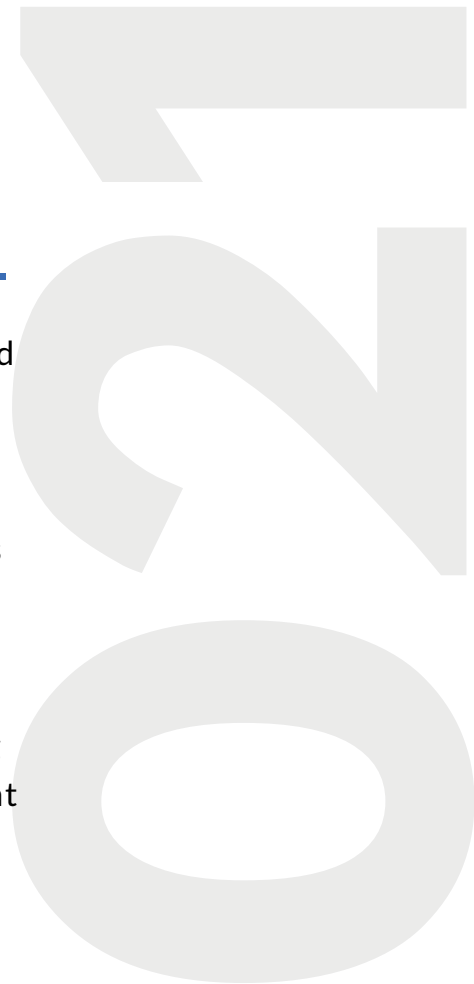
The Center for Civic Education's Civitas International Programs bring exemplary civic education curricula to students worldwide in partnership with organizations in the United States and 84 countries. This unique network of educators, civil society organizations, educational institutions, and governmental agencies has worked for more than a decade to develop quality curricular materials and train teachers throughout Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

The Civitas International Programs promote the exchange of experiences among educators and leaders from different countries. The Center participates in and hosts opportunities for partners to share lessons learned and best practices in developing, implementing, and sustaining civic education programs.



# CIVITAS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS IN 2020-2021

Throughout the year, Civitas partners around the world implemented educator training and support in high-quality civic education programs adapted to local contexts. The most widespread among these programs is Project Citizen, which is implemented with hundreds of thousands of young people every year throughout countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mongolia, and Thailand. These partners demonstrate the sustainability of the initial investment of grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education and Department of State.





## 60-SECOND CIVICS

---

The Center for Civic Education's daily civics podcast, 60-Second Civics, provides listeners with a quick and convenient way to learn about our nation's government, the Constitution, and our history. Every day, subscribers can listen to a new podcast episode or watch the podcast video and test their knowledge with the Daily Civics Quiz.

60-Second Civics is frequently used by teachers as a warmup activity in their middle or high school social studies classrooms. There are currently more than 4,500 episodes in the 60-Second Civics catalog.

The podcast has reached new audiences with its expansion onto YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. The YouTube playlist currently has more than 675 videos and 11,000 views.

Special episode collections allow educators to zero in on teaching Black History Month and Women's History Month.



---

# 4,500+

EPIISODES SINCE 2009

---

## 60-SECOND CIVICS IN 2020-2021

*I quickly realized that using your daily civics question was a great way to engage my students at the beginning of each class. ... Your daily podcast has brought a lot of insights and fun to my classes over the years.*

60-Second Civics Teacher

The 2020-2021 fiscal year was a period of robust expansion and improvement for 60-Second Civics. Each episode during this period was offered as both an audio podcast and a video. Episodes were offered through the most popular platforms, including YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Stitcher.

60-Second Civics expanded its series of podcasts with 58 new episodes devoted to Black History Month and Women's History Month. These were later made accessible as special collections from the podcast homepage, making it possible for teachers and students to play the podcasts, read the transcripts, and take Daily Civics Quizzes at their convenience.

60-Second Civics also posted interviews with scholars and other remarkable Americans on civics topics. Guests included Dr. Carla Hayden, the nation's first African American and female Librarian of Congress.

**CELEBRATING  
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

**60  
SECOND**

**PODCASTS-LESSON PLANS-VIDEOS**

# LEARN.CIVICED.ORG

---

Learn.civiced.org is the Center for Civic Education's online learning platform, which is a free professional development resource designed primarily for K-12 teachers. It currently hosts the following resources:

- **We the People Open Course:** This online course introduces learners to the philosophical foundations of the U.S. Constitution, historical developments in the evolution of American constitutionalism, and the modern interpretation and application of its ideals. This self-paced course features noted scholars explaining key aspects of the Constitution and online exercises to check for understanding. The course follows the six units of the *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution* textbook, making it a useful resource for We the People teachers.
- **Strengthening Democracy in America:** This self-paced online course deepens understanding of the American political system and the rights and responsibilities of Americans. The first two courses provide a framework for understanding the history and development of the system. The next eight courses describe ways to enhance the strengths and diminish the weaknesses of this system.
- **Instructor-led Courses:** The Learn platform hosts several synchronous courses that are led by instructors. These include a graduate-level course conducted by the Massachusetts Center for Civic Education through Framingham State University and courses for the Presidential and Congressional Academies and for the Project Citizen Research Program.



## Open Courses

Free, self-paced We the People and Strengthening Democracy in America courses to deepen understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the American political system.

[Show Courses](#)



## Instructor-led Courses

Participate in structured courses with esteemed scholars and facilitators to expand your learning and grow professionally.

[Show Courses](#)



## Civics Forum

Discuss civics and government content and share instructional ideas in this online community for educators.

[Go to Forum](#)



## Resources

Featuring free ebooks, links to lesson plans, primary sources, and many other great resources for teaching and learning about civics and government.

[Resources](#)



## LEARN.CIVICED.ORG

---

Learn.civiced.org also hosts two permanent features useful to K-12 civics teachers:

- **Civics Forum:** The Civics Forum is designed for educators throughout the United States to discuss civic education content and pedagogy.
- **Resources:** The platform's Resources section features free ebooks, links to lesson plans, primary sources, and many other useful resources for teaching and learning about civics and government.


---

# 1,519

ENROLLED USERS IN  
OPEN COURSES

---

Learn.civiced.org



Welcome to Learn.civiced.org!

Here you can learn about the Constitution by participating in our free We the People Open Course, discuss civics and government content and pedagogy with other teachers nationwide, and find shareable content in our Resources section.

# PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ACADEMIES FOR AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS

*The most important takeaway for me was to get involved with our government and politics. I have a voice in society.*

The Presidential Academy for secondary school teachers and the Congressional Academy for high-need students immersed participants in the study of constitutional history and principles following the intellectual framework of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution curriculum.

Georgetown University's independent evaluation of the 2021 Presidential and Congressional Academies for American History and Civics demonstrated that participating high school teachers and high-need students achieved significant gains in their civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions. Through these intensive online summer programs, educators and young people across the country interacted with noted scholars, engaged in civil discourse, and participated in a simulated congressional hearing on constitutional issues. The online programs for 2021 were as effective as 2019's in-person program at achieving learning gains.

Congressional Academy Student



# PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ACADEMIES FOR AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS IN 2020-2021

---

In 2021, as difficulties arising from the pandemic were still present, the Center decided to take the immersive Presidential and Congressional Academies experience virtual. Academy participants enjoyed collaborating with peers from across the country to dive deep into the study of the Constitution with great scholars and mentors guiding them. This opportunity was offered to students and teachers throughout the United States with grants from the U.S. Department of Education and matching funds.

High school students and teachers from throughout the country logged in to listen to eminent scholars covering such topics as the philosophical foundations of the Constitution and the causes of the Civil War.

After the summer academies, diverse high-need students participating in the Center's 2021 Congressional Academy for American History and Civics designed unique history and civics projects to share what they learned with students and educators in their schools. Their academic-year projects included starting new schoolwide civics and leadership clubs, developing a website focused on Gen Z civic engagement, organizing a mock Supreme Court hearing, arranging an online meeting between student rights pioneer John Tinker and 11th- and 12th-grade students, a variety of National History Day projects, and coaching students involved in the We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution program.



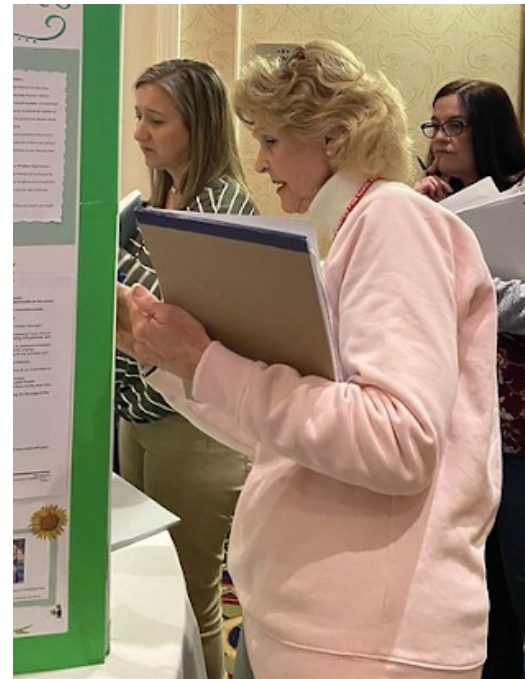


## PROJECT CITIZEN RESEARCH PROGRAM

*There are many times when I've gone to trainings and I can see how the program impacts students, but this is the first one that impacts a community.*

The Project Citizen Research Program studies the effects of the Center's Project Citizen curriculum for students and professional development for teachers. With a multi-year grant from the Institute of Education Sciences at the U.S. Department of Education, the Center is partnering with its network of Project Citizen state-level organizations and the Civic Education Research Lab (CERL) of Georgetown University to implement and research the Project Citizen program. The Center and its network are conducting annual professional development institutes for middle and high school teachers and supporting those teachers as they conduct the Project Citizen curriculum with students. CERL is rigorously studying the program's learning outcomes for teachers and students. The evaluation examines students' academic-learning outcomes in civics, reading, writing, and STEM; student social and behavioral outcomes that are key to success in school and civic life; and teacher outcomes that contribute to effective instruction.

Project Citizen Research  
Program Teacher



## PROJECT CITIZEN RESEARCH PROGRAM IN 2020-2021

---

The Project Citizen Research Program held its first annual summer institutes for teachers in the summer of 2020. Five regional sites across the country organized online professional development for 96 middle and high school teachers new to the Project Citizen curricular program. Continuing into the 2020-21 academic year, the teachers participated in 42 hours of professional development in Project Citizen. Despite unexpected challenges and impediments due to COVID-19's impact on education, most of the teachers implemented the curriculum with students and held simulated public hearings with their classes. Each region's work culminated with a regional showcase of student public policy portfolios. The showcases demonstrated students' skills and creativity in developing and designing policy-based solutions to problems in their communities.

Preliminary research findings in 2021 demonstrated that Project Citizen students, who come from a variety of backgrounds, gained significantly more civic knowledge and skills than the control group. They gained knowledge of government and the public policy process and became more attentive to public policy issues. They improved their ability to work cooperatively to solve problems, to express their views, and other important skills conducive to the development of social and emotional learning (SEL) competencies.



# JAMES MADISON LEGACY PROJECT

*This is one of the most effective and powerful ways to teach Civics and the Constitution that I have experienced in 28 years of teaching.*

The James Madison Legacy Project (JMLP), which concluded in 2020, provided teachers nationwide with professional development in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution curricular program. The JMLP's primary goal was to increase the number of highly effective teachers throughout the country capable of improving high-need and other students' attainment of civic education standards. A Supporting Effective Educator Development grant from the U.S. Department of Education funded the project.

JMLP Teacher



## Impact of JMLP

- 2,219 teachers from 1,819 schools participated in professional development in the We the People curricular program
- 257,953 students participated in the We the People curricular program
- Over 90% of teachers worked in Title I schools and districts and/or taught a high percentage of at-risk students
- Middle school and high school students whose teachers participated in the JMLP **gained significantly more knowledge** from pretest to posttest than students in the control group
- Over 70% of students became more attentive to government affairs and felt more prepared to take part in their community
- Over 90% of students believed that it is a citizen's duty to vote in elections following the program





## JAMES MADISON LEGACY PROJECT

---

From 2015 to 2020, JMLP reached 2,219 teachers, 1,819 schools and 257,953 students in 48 states and the District of Columbia. More than 90% of participating schools worked with high concentrations of high-need students.

The Civic Education Research Lab at Georgetown University conducted rigorous research demonstrating that the project was successful in meeting its objectives. JMLP teachers gained substantial civics content knowledge and confidence to effectively implement the We the People curriculum in their classrooms. They used active-learning methods and a variety of media-related pedagogies in civics instruction. JMLP students demonstrated statistically significant gains in their civic knowledge in comparison to control groups who participated in standard civics and social studies classes. They also demonstrated growth in civic skills and dispositions.

During the JMLP, the Center developed and tested a comprehensive online course in the We the People curricular content, which can be used in professional development programs. This is now publicly available as the We the People Online Course on the [Learn.civiced.org](https://www.learn.civiced.org) civics and government platform. The course features videos of notable scholars and interactive exercises to engage teachers and other adult learners. The Center also developed the first five Strengthening Democracy in America online courses on [Learn.civiced.org](https://www.learn.civiced.org) with JMLP grant funding.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

---

### **Chair**

Pauline Weaver

### **Vice Chair**

Jonathan D. Varat

### **Secretary**

Clara Slifkin

### **Treasurer**

Karen Greve Milton

### **Directors**

Henry L. Chambers, Jr.

Cheryl Cook-Kallio

Hon. David B. Ladenburg

Timothy D. Moore

Dan Murphy

Liza J. Prendergast

M. Carmen Ramirez

Beth E. Ratway

Vicki Ross-Norris

Daniel Wong



## DONORS

---

We couldn't do this without your support.

Christine Adams  
Jarrett Adams  
Steven Anderson  
Susan Anthony  
Andrew Barker  
Stacy Bartkowski  
Daniel Beck  
Nick Bergman  
Hilary Bhinder  
Lisa Bova-Hiatt  
Nancy Brooks  
Lester Brooks, Ph.D.  
Ed Burke  
Danny Burns  
Henry L. Chambers, Jr.  
Edward Chiu  
Deb Christenson  
Douglas Clark  
Alex Constantelos  
Cheryl Cook-Kallio  
Christopher T. Cullen  
Sharon Danosky  
Keven Danow  
Emilia De Luz  
James Dominguez  
Lindsey Draper  
Rick Dryer  
Brian Eaton  
Jen Eichberg  
Jonathan Eisenberg  
Sarah Elghazoly  
Francene Engel  
Kristine Fargotstein  
Mike Fassold  
Melanie Fisher  
Kimberly Foster  
Jill Galas Hickey  
John Ganino  
Victoria Gipson  
Benjamin Glickman  
Dianne Gorman Riano  
David Gracia  
Karen Greve Milton  
Miles Harbur  
LeeAnn Harvey  
Roseanne Harvey  
Ronald Hatzenbuehler  
Walter Hellman  
Hazel Heredia  
Priyanka Heredia  
Ryan Heredia  
Charles Hinderliter  
Marcia Holland  
David Holmes  
Leon Kass  
Julie Lacouture  
David B. Ladenburg  
Christopher Lakin  
Susan M. Leeson  
Renee Lerner

Kai Lucid  
Sally Martinez  
Thomas Melia  
Gholam Memar  
Hamid Memar  
Mariam Memarsadeghi  
Leonard Mindes  
Janey Molli  
Ali Mossaver-Rahmani  
Deanna Mullenix  
Priscilla Myrick  
Sarah Norcross  
Kitty O'Reilley  
Joseph Passanise  
Francisco Perez  
Douglas Phillips  
Daniel M. Polvere  
Kevin Porter  
Liza J. Prendergast  
M. Carmen Ramirez  
Rebecca Reeder  
Ben Reynolds  
Tim Ring  
Leah Robin  
Donald W. Rogers  
Kara Rogers  
Shannon Romero  
Vicki Ross-Norris  
Nicholas Rowen  
Theresa Russo  
Darin Sands  
Dennis Sands  
Alyson Santoro  
Stacy Schellhaas  
Kimberly Shiao  
Jennifer Simons  
Elissa Simonson  
Lisanne Sison  
Clara Slifkin  
Timothy J. Smith  
Susan Thomas  
Kristal S. Tillman  
Gwen Tobert  
Devereux Tower  
Ly Tran  
Ken Triemstra  
Jonathan D. Varat  
Edward L. Volpe  
Kristie Wang  
Pauline Weaver  
Christopher Weber  
Frank Whigham  
Brent Williams  
Wendy Williams  
Mary Ann Willis  
Paula Winter  
James Wise  
Scott Wohlander  
Daniel Wong

## Support Partners

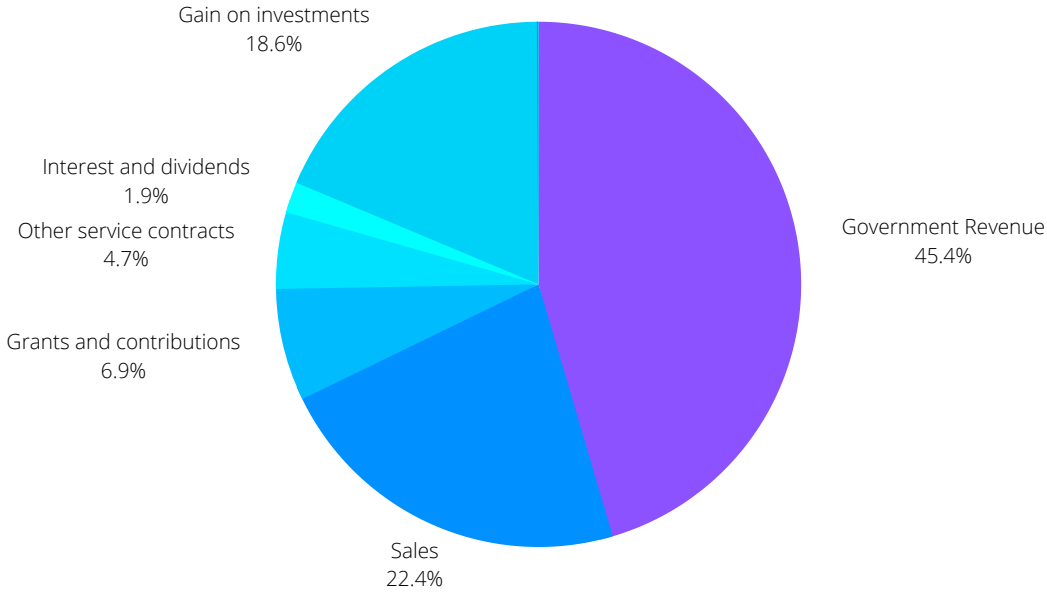
---

Amazon Smile Foundation  
American Judges Foundation, Inc.  
The Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Bond, Schoeneck & King  
Delman Family Charitable Trust  
Facebook Payments Inc  
The Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation  
Idaho Law Foundation Inc.  
Indiana Bar Foundation  
Korea Democracy Foundation  
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory  
Los Angeles County Office of Education  
Paypal Giving Fund  
Scott Bader Inc  
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust  
T-Mobile USA, Inc.  
Wideband Detection Technology Inc.  
Zimiles Family Donor Advised Fund

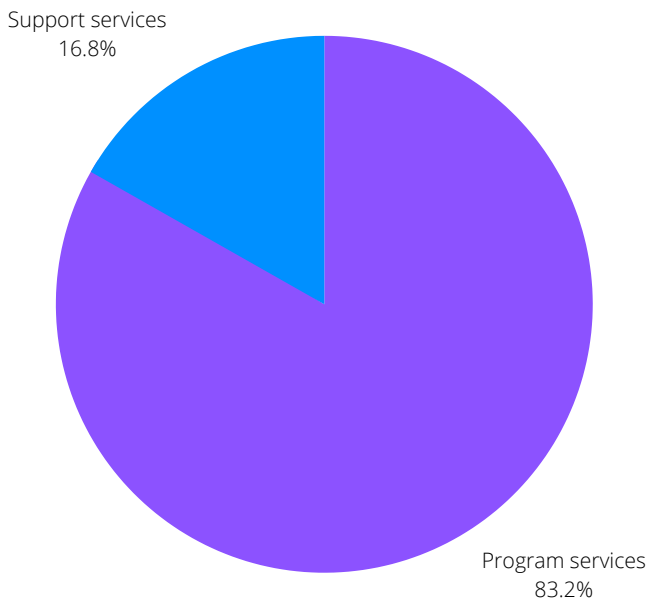


# FINANCIALS

In the 2021 fiscal year (August 1-July 31), the Center for Civic Education earned or raised \$2,163,963 and spent \$2,145,794.



## Revenue



## Expenses



## Revenue

- Governmental: 45.4%
- Sales: 22.4%
- Gain on investments: 18.6%
- Grants and contributions: 6.99%
- Other service contracts: 4.7%
- Interest and dividends: 1.9%
- In-kind contributions: 0.1%
- Total: \$2,163,963**

## Expenses

- Program services: 83.2%
- Support services: 16.8%
- Total: \$2,145,794**