

# A Political Giving Workbook for Progressive Donors

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# About this Guide

As we approach another consequential election year, we find ourselves reflecting on the importance of our fragile democracy and the role that philanthropists on both sides of the aisle play in shaping its future. The stakes are incredibly high.

While we can (and should) debate the impact of private money in politics, we nevertheless are in an election season that will have a profound impact on the people and issues we care about most. We have been hearing from many of our clients who have approached us with concerns about the election and how they can extend their philanthropic giving to politics.

The values that connect civic engagement and philanthropy are what fuels our passion for social impact at Phila. **We support our donors who are committed to fostering a society built on justice, equality, and compassion.** Values-based giving is a powerful public expression of our personal values and a tangible investment in the kind of world we envision for ourselves and future generations.

This *Political Giving Workbook for Progressive Donors* offers a simple yet impactful roadmap for channeling your well-honed philanthropic instincts toward the electoral races that have the greatest chance to advance progressive social change.

The *Workbook* would not have been developed without the foresight and creative energy of my colleague Janell Turner. I extend my deepest gratitude to her and to the rest of the Phila team for their efforts. And finally, thank you for your commitment to making a positive difference this election year, and for harnessing the power of your giving to shape a future for the benefit of us all.

**Stephanie Ellis-Smith**  
Founder & CEO

*February 2024*

“The best art is political and you ought to be able to make it unquestionably political and irrevocably beautiful at the same time.”

- Toni Morrison

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# Getting Started: Setting Your Budget & Strategy



# How does charitable giving differ from political giving?

Category	501(c)(3): for religious, educational, or charitable intent	501(c)(4): for advocating for causes and propositions, and endorsing candidates or legislation	Political Action Committee (PAC): for electing and defeating candidates or legislation
<b>Taxes</b>	Donations are deductible	Donations are not tax deductible	Donations are not tax deductible
<b>Lobbying</b>	Restrictive	Allowed to lobby, but not as a primary activity of the organization	Unlimited
<b>Candidate endorsements</b>	Not allowed	May endorse candidates that agree with its positions	Unlimited—primary purpose is to support particular candidate or issue
<b>Political Views</b>	Not allowed to share political messages with the public	Can share political messages publicly, but not organized primarily to influence political campaigns	Unlimited

# 4-Step process for creating your giving budget and putting a plan in motion

- 1 Set an aspirational budget:** Consider the impact you'd like to have in 2024 and establish projections for future years.
- 2 Determine how much spending you wish to apply to:**
  - Presidential Election
  - Congressional Elections
  - State and Local Elections
- 3 Allocate amounts\* within each category between:**
  - Candidate Campaigns
  - PAC/independent expenditure
  - 501 c3/c4 organizations (or funds/initiatives)
- 4 Execute your plan!**





## But how much should I give?

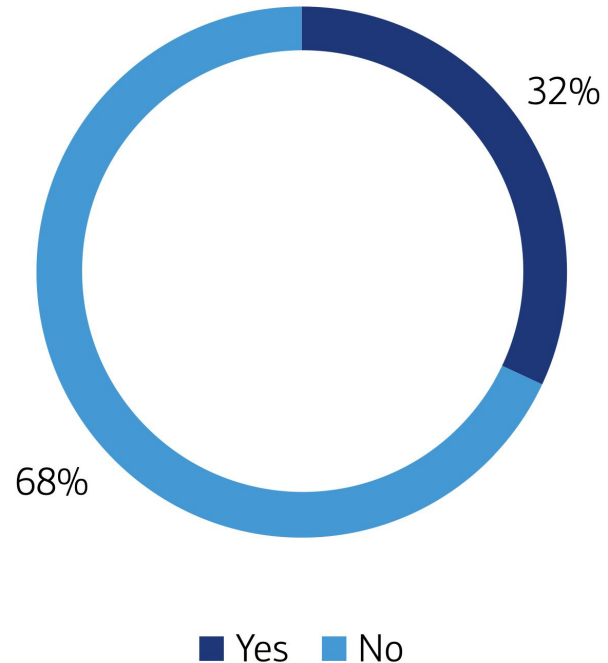
Over 88% of affluent households give to charity each year, but the individual amount ranges based on personal values and motivations.

- Think about your 501c3 budget and then add 25% for c4/political giving (**Don't subtract that 25% from your c3 budget!**)
- Start with organizations you're familiar with. For example, if you already give to the charitable arm of Planned Parenthood consider an additional gift to their c4, the Planned Parenthood Action Fund.



**About 32% of affluent individuals gave to a political candidate, campaign or committee in the 2020 election season.**

Percentage of affluent households who give politically



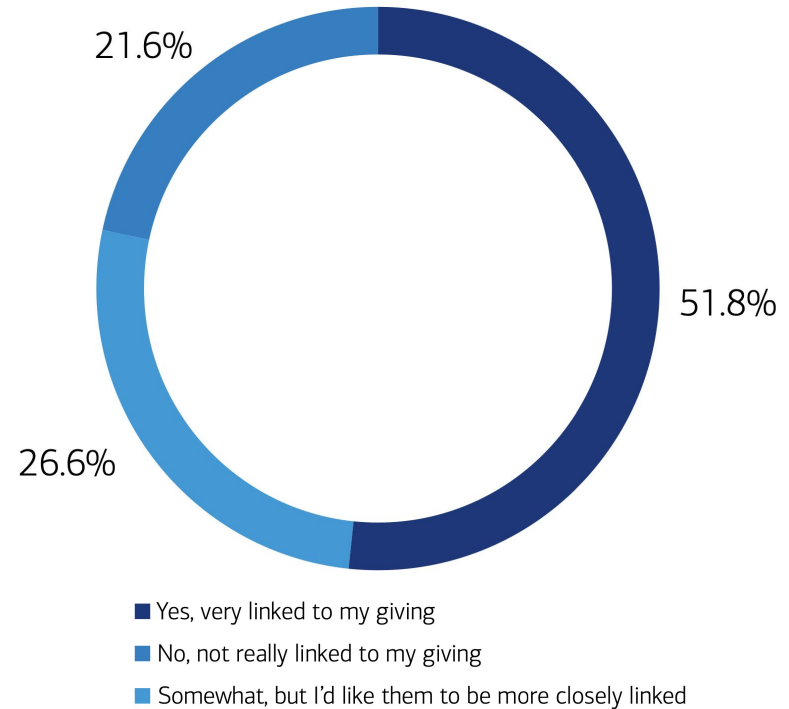
Source: [The 2021 Bank of America Study of Philanthropy: Charitable Giving by Affluent Households](#)





**Consider how your political giving aligns with your broader charitable giving strategy.**

Percentages of affluent individuals whose charitable giving is linked to their public policy preferences



Source: [The 2021 Bank of America Study of Philanthropy: Charitable Giving by Affluent Households](#)



# Establishing a budget and deciding how much to give is not a straight line . . .

It requires careful consideration of your **personal values, financial capacity, and impact goals**.  
Key considerations:

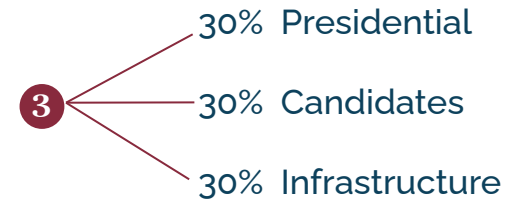
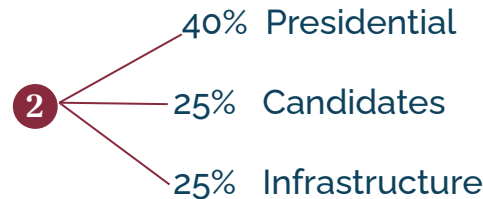
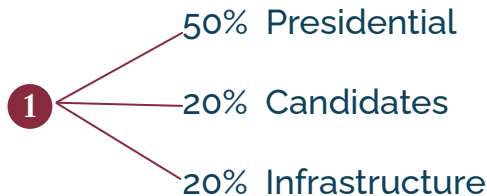
- **Clarify values and priorities:** Reflect on your core values and the causes you're most passionate about to guide setting your priorities.
- **Define your impact goals:** Write out specific goals you'd like to achieve through your giving, whether it's supporting specific candidates, policy change, or advancing grassroots movements.
- **Assess financial capacity:** Determine a realistic and sustainable budget that aligns with your financial plan.
- **Consider long-term commitments:** Political giving isn't solely about election cycles; it's a long-term commitment. Consider recurring donations or establishing a structured giving plan that extends beyond a particular election period.



# Diversification can amplify outcomes

This could involve dividing the budget among various candidates, organizations, or initiatives that align with your values and goals. Diversification ensures a broader impact and also mitigates risks associated with uncertainties in the political landscape.

While budget modeling is based on individual preferences and there is no universal formula, some donors may use a **rough guideline similar to the "50/30/20 rule"** commonly applied in personal finance. Per the giving suggestions in this deck, here are three example models:



*\*these figures account for a 10% reserve budget to allocate later in 2024 after the primary/caucus season*



# Think strategically, and have fun!

**Nested races and states = high ROI.** For instance, Michigan is a targeted presidential battleground, US Senate target, US House target for 3+ races, and a target to hold their state legislative chambers. Several state legislative races are nested within the US House targets. Investing in one or any helps all. Similar nesting exists in all presidential battleground states as well as the US Senate targets of Montana (US House race and state supreme court) and Ohio (US House races and ballot measure). Your dollar stretches further down-ballot but helps the top of the ticket as well.

**Adopt a state.** Do you live in Washington but are from Florida? Do you live in New York but have family ties to North Carolina? In addition to investing in your home state, considering adopting a purple state (for this cycle and beyond). You can support both candidates and organizations; many states have donor tables to make high-impact giving easy.

**Under-resourced efforts.** US House races in places like Iowa and New Mexico are cheap dates compared to California and New York. The abortion rights ballot measures in Missouri and Montana will cost a fraction of that in Florida. Power-building organizations in red and blue states are perennially under-funded. Consider where your biggest impact lies with under-resourced efforts.



# Candidate Races: Biden-Harris



# Consider supporting the Biden-Harris campaign in 2024

## Biden-Harris and the DNC:

- Maximum to Biden-Harris: \$3,300 for primary (before convention), \$3,300 for general election
- DNC general fund: \$41,300
- DNC legal, building, and convention funds: \$123,900 each
- Biden Victory Fund: \$10,000 per state; can designate for specific states
- All disclosed

## Future Forward:

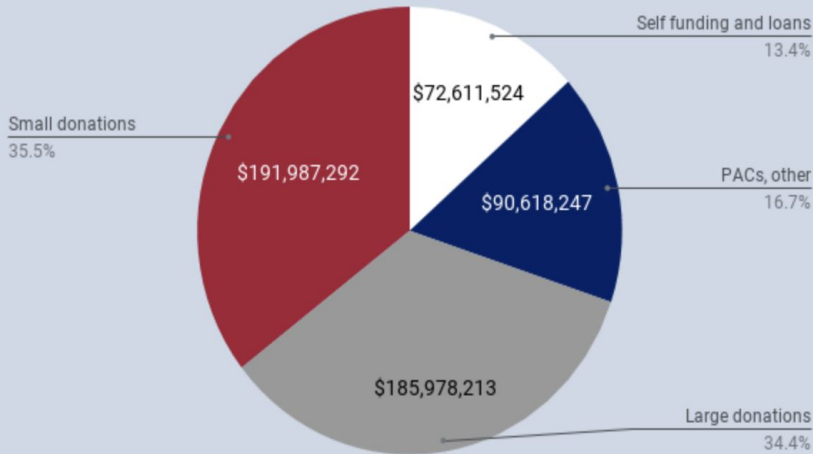
- Super PAC (disclosed, most helpful)
- C4 (not disclosed)
- C3 (not disclosed)

# Consider supporting the Biden-Harris campaign in 2024

If you're questioning the amount of your gift and if it will really have an impact, consider the 2020 election in which 35% of Biden's campaign support came from "small" donations under \$200.

(Source: [PIRG](#))

2020 Campaign Funding



# Candidate Races: Senate & House





# An overview of congressional elections

**Senate:** The U.S. Senate has 51 Democrats (including three independents) and 49 Republicans. There are 34 seats up in 2024 - including a special election in Nebraska - of which 23 are held by Democrats or Independents. Republicans can retake control with a net gain of two seats or by winning the 2024 presidential election along with a net gain of one seat. View the map for a list of candidates in close races.

This is a defensive year for Democrats with numerous incumbents up in red and purple states.

[2024 Senate Election Interactive Map](#)

**House:** All 435 congressional districts are up. The Republican Party currently controls the U.S. House, by a narrow 3-seat majority (with two upcoming special elections).

Democrats are on offense in the House, as there are 17 seats held by a Republican that Biden won and 5 seats held by a Democrat that Trump won. There are 7 seats in CA and 8 seats in NY considered extremely competitive. Additionally, several states have undergone redistricting since the 2022 elections, changing the maps in key states like NY, NC, and OH.

[2024 House Election Interactive Map](#)

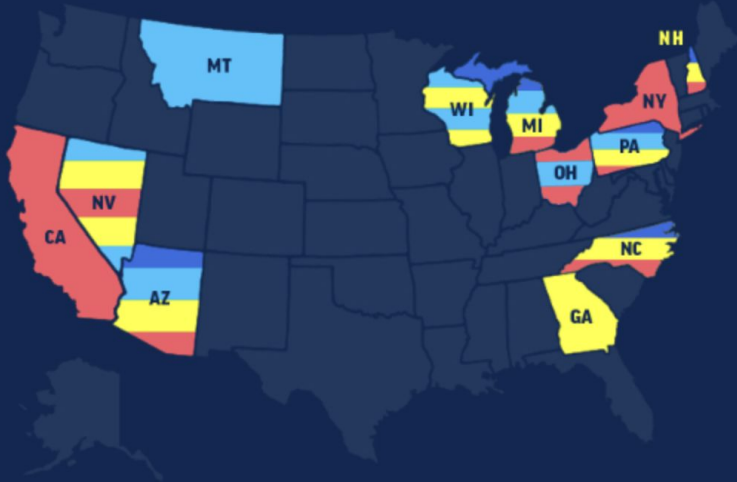


# Candidates you've supported over the past several election cycles

To inform your current giving, an analysis of your past giving can serve as inspiration. One approach is to review which candidates and electoral organizations you've supported in the past. Find out who is...

- Up for re-election
- Currently in office
- In a major swing state or district
- "Rising Star"- Has considerable potential for a long-term career in politics and is someone you'd like to grow with
- A champion for priority issues

## 2024 TARGET RACES



● Presidential      ● U.S. House  
● U.S. Senate      ● State-level

## Keeping an eye on the nation

**Senate:** The U.S. Senate has 51 Democrats (including three independents) and 49 Republicans. There are 34 seats up in 2024 - including a special election in Nebraska - of which 23 are held by Democrats or Independents.

**House:** All 435 congressional districts are up. The Republican Party currently controls the U.S. House, by a narrow 3-seat majority (with two upcoming special elections).

# Top US Senate candidates to consider . . .

## Most endangered incumbents:

- AZ: **Sen. Kyrsten Sinema** (I) vs. Rep. Ruben Gallego (D) vs. Kari Lake (R)
- **Sen. Jon Tester** (D) vs. businessman and former Navy SEAL Tim Sheehy (R)
- NV: **Sen. Jacky Rosen** (D) vs. TBD (primary 6/11)
- OH: **Sen. Sherrod Brown** (D) vs. TBD (primary 3/19)
- WI: **Sen. Tammy Baldwin** (D) vs. TBD (primary 8/13)

## Open seat:

- MI: Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D) vs. TBD (primary 8/6)

## Potentially competitive: FL, TX

## Help elect Black women:

- DE: Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester vs. businessman Eric Hansen
- MD: Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks vs. Rep. David Trone (primary 5/14) vs. former Gov. Larry Hogan (R)

# Top US House candidates: most endangered incumbents to consider. . .

- AK-AL: Mary Peltola
- CO-8: Yadira Caraveo
- CT-5 : Jahana Hayes
- IN-1: Frank Mrvan
- IL-17: Eric Sorenson
- ME-2: Jared Golden
- NM-2: Gabe Vasquez
- NY-3: Tom Suozzi
- NV-3: Susie Lee
- OH-1: Greg Landsman
- OH-9: Marcy Kaptur
- OH-13: - Emilia Sykes
- OR-6: Andrea Salinas
- PA-7: Susan Wild
- PA-8: Matt Cartwright
- PA-17: Chris Deluzio
- WA-3: Marie Gluesenkamp Perez

# Top US House candidates: current competitive open or challenger seats

- AZ-6: Kirsten Engel (challenger)
- CA-27: George Whitesides (challenger)
- CA-41: Will Rollins (challenger)
- MI-7 : Curtis Hertel (open seat)
- NY-17: Mondaire Jones (challenger, fmr Rep)
- OR-5: Janelle Bynum (challenger)
- WI-3: Rebecca Cooke (challenger)

## To keep in mind . . .

- It is easier to keep a seat than flip one, so shoring up incumbents early helps take races off the board
- The list of open and challenger seats will expand by 8-12 races as primaries occur
- CA and NY are expensive with plenty of in-state donors; consider going further afield
- Peltola, Caraveo, Hayes, Sykes, Salinas, and Gluesenkamp Perez are all women of color, who typically have a harder time raising money

**Candidate Races and  
Ballot Initiatives:  
State & Local**



# State and local elections center on community and can have the greatest effect on our daily lives.

***State and Local Level Elections*** | State legislatures and local offices both pass and implement many policies that directly impact our lives - especially more recently with critical freedoms such as reproductive care being left to states to decide. Many leaders at this level also grow into bigger roles so it's important to invest in them and their future! [Governors races](#), [State Supreme Court races](#), Attorney General races, and Secretary of State races are all critical for both policy and voting rights.

The impact per dollar is higher for state and local races, and decreases from there given how expensive national and presidential elections are. Experts recommend that donors with capital to allocate, **should give at all 3 of these levels.**



# Key Washington Elections in 2024

## Statewide Ballot Issues:

### Stop “Let’s Go Washington” at the ballot

- Defend \$900M in annual education investments
- Defend WA Climate Commitment Act and keep investments in carbon reducing innovations
- Protect health and homecare for vulnerable seniors

**Give to: Defend Washington**



# Key Washington Elections in 2024

## Candidates:

- Congressional - Gluesenkamp Perez (WA-03; defend in swing); Randall (WA - 06, expand diverse representation in Congress)
- WA Senate - Elect Maria Beltran, (LD 14, flip) & defend majority
- WA House - Expand progressives and build new leadership bench
- Downballot WA - Pierce County Executive, Spokane County Council (Governor, Attorney General are up but less "swingy")

# Top state and local candidates to consider. . .

## Statewide

- Governor: NH, NC, WA
- Attorney General: NC, OR, PA
- State Supreme Court: MT, NC, OH, PA

## State Legislative Chambers

- Key holds: AK, MI, MN, PA
- Key flips: AZ, NH, WI
- Prevent Republican supermajority: NC
- Largely overlaps with presidential map

## Major Mayoral

- Anchorage (4/2)
- Milwaukee (4/2)
- Phoenix (11/5)
- San Francisco (11/5, top two)
- Las Vegas (11/5)
- El Paso (11/5)

## To keep in mind . . .

- States are increasingly where critical issue battles are being waged, from abortion rights to minimum wage
- State and local races are dramatically less expensive than federal races; the average competitive state legislative races costs less than \$250,000
- Local office is the pipeline to higher office, particularly for women and people of color who need to be more credentialed than their white male counterparts
- Catch a rising star / get their attention - many federal electeds cut their teeth at the local level, where they learn about key issues. It's easier to help educate a local or state official about issues that matter to you than a federal officeholder.

# Investing in Political Infrastructure



# What is democracy reform?

- Democracy [reform](#) encompasses a set of initiatives and policies aimed at strengthening and revitalizing the democratic process. It addresses challenges such as:
  - Voter suppression
  - Gerrymandering
  - The influence of money in politics
- By advocating for fair and accessible elections, transparency, and equitable representation, democracy reform seeks to ensure that every citizen's voice is heard and that the political system truly reflects the will of the people by fostering trust in institutions, safeguarding the integrity of elections, and sustaining a government that is accountable and responsive to the diverse needs of its citizens.



# Issues/political organizations you've supported over the past 5 years

To inform your current giving, an analysis of your past giving can serve as inspiration. One approach is to review which issues or organizations you've supported over the past 5 years. Consider . . .

- What the current ballot initiatives are in your area
- What organizations are doing the recruitment and candidate development training
- What organizations are managing the year round communications work that needs to happen in order to create a positive environment for a candidate to run

# STRATEGY TO WIN IN 2024

MVP is supporting **hundreds of local organizations** in **all the top 2024 states and districts** to reach tens of millions of voters, win elections up and down ballot, and pass policy in 2025.



## TARGET

**Target the most pivotal places and races** that will shape our country now and long-term.

Image: Down Home North Carolina



## INVEST

**Invest in the best local groups** organizing in the most marginalized communities.

Image: Voces de la Frontera Action Wisconsin



## ORGANIZE

**Organize the most disenfranchised voters** who have the power to tip the closest races.

Image: Arizona Democracy Resource Center Action



## WIN

**Win elections and transformative policy change** by building lasting grassroots power.

Image: Detroit Action

**Movement Voter Project has a clear path forward as described in their *Strategy to Build a Progressive Decade* [Action Plan](#)**





# Investing in political infrastructure v. election cycle giving

- Political Infrastructure includes the organizations, programs and systems that operate consistently rather than those that are spun up during an election cycle.
- Consider a few examples that illustrate the distinction:
  - You might fund an organization that runs year round doing research, polling, and policy work (infrastructure)
  - Or you might fund a ballot measure - this would be short term cycle funding (not an infrastructure investment)





# What to focus on for the 2024 election cycle

- **Election Protection** - protecting voter access and supporting county and state election administrators to execute their jobs
- **Voter Mobilization** - increasing voter participation and turnout in battleground states often through organizing, in person canvassing, phone banking, and other campaigns
- **Countering the Right** - preventing political violence, fighting misinformation, pursuing accountability for bad actors
- **Communications & Media** - research, polling, messaging; using influencer networks and digital media
- **Community Empowerment** - supporting Grassroots movements and local, community-led initiatives

\*see [database](#) of vetted organizations aligned to these areas



# What to focus on all year round...there's no such thing as off-year elections!

- **Candidate Recruitment & Training** - equipping community leaders with skills in order to serve at a political level
- **Movement and Power Building** - advancing justice by centering historically marginalized communities and increasing their collective power
- **Electoral System Reform** - including countering the political manipulation of electoral district boundaries
- **Political Data & Research** - increasing access, correcting misinformation and best practices to move democracy forward
- **Countering Authoritarianism** - investing in networks, coalitions, and communities that focus on democracy preservation

\*see [database](#) of vetted organizations aligned to these areas



# Individual Work Pack



## Look Back: In this space reflect on how you engaged in the last several election cycles

How much did I give in total?	How did I engage with my time?	Which experiences stand out the most?
2022:		
2020:		
2018:		
2016:		

# Look Back: What candidates and electoral organizations have you financially supported in the past several election cycles?

Thoughts and Reflections:



# Worksheet: reflecting on your look back and forward looking goals, write down your political giving budget for 2024

Total Budget:		
Allocation	Presidential	
	Federal	
	State/Local	
	10% Reserve	

# Worksheet: Generate a list of candidates to support with your political giving

Key geographies where you feel a strong connection:

Battleground state(s) that you could “adopt”:

Congressional races:

State/Local races and ballot initiatives:



# Choose Your Own Adventure!

Take the following survey to determine your impact focus areas

How strongly do you agree with the following statement?	Response on scale of 1-5	For your highest scores: look to support candidates/organizations with this focus
Candidates and causes have the potential to bring about significant policy change aligned with my values		<b>Progressive candidates</b> Strategic donations to key races or issues where the impact can be most substantial
Local campaigns, community orgs, or social justice projects offer the most direct, tangible change		<b>Local Community Empowerment</b> Grassroots movements and community-level initiatives
I want to nurture a pipeline of diverse future political leaders		<b>Candidate Recruitment &amp; Training</b> Programs that identify, train, and support candidates that align with your values



How strongly do you agree with the following statement?	Response on scale of 1-5	For your highest scores: look to support candidates/organizations with this focus
Foundational changes can influence the broader political landscape over time (i.e. symptoms vs root causes)		<b>Democracy systems/reform:</b> Organizations working towards long-term systemic change
There are a few issue areas that I prioritize in my giving and I want to use these to guide my political giving		<b>Issue-Based Giving:</b> Causes and policy issues that align with your values
I believe in building a stronger, more cohesive progressive movement		<b>Movement Building:</b> Organizations that foster collaboration and coordination
The right to vote and transparency in political spending are key to a healthy democracy		<b>Electoral Reform:</b> Initiatives working on electoral reform and improving the democratic process
Increases civic participation and transparency, ensures greater accuracy and productivity, and invests in the future		<b>Communications &amp; Media:</b> Transparent journalism and Initiatives that leverage technology and innovation to enhance political engagement

How strongly do you agree with the following statement?	Response on scale of 1-5	For your highest scores: look to support candidates / organizations with this focus
I'm not sure how to have the most impact with my political giving and would like to delegate to others I trust		<b>Easy Button Options/delegation:</b> look for intermediary funds that align with my values
I want a space where I can meet with peers for ongoing learning and potential ways to engage with my time		<b>Easy Button Options/collaboration:</b> Find groups that meet virtually or in person to engage donors with similar interests

Inquire with us about building a custom plan!

**Worksheet: looking back to your survey responses, write down all the focus areas where you gave your highest scores.**

Focus Area	Orgs in this area that I've funded in the past	Orgs from the appendix/ resources that fit this area	Action/next steps

**Worksheet (cont'd): looking back to your survey responses, write down all the focus areas where you gave your highest scores.**

Focus Area	Orgs in this area that I've funded in the past	Orgs from the appendix/ resources that fit this area	Action/next steps

# Click [here](#) to access a complete list of organizations (c3, c4, PACs) recommended by our panel and other experts

Organization / Initiative	Type (c3, c4, PAC) - orgs with c3 and c4/PACs have legally separate entities in compliance with federal law	Issues or Demographics	Donor Resources	Promoting a fair election cycle in 2024				Investing in Long Term Infrastructure and System Reform					
		Giving Circles / Donor Tables	"Easy Buttons" / Intermediary Funds	Election Protection	Voter Mobilization	Countering the Right	Communications & Media	Community Empowerment	Indidate Recruitment & Training	Movement and Power Building	Electoral System Reform	Political Data & Research	Countering Authoritarianism
<a href="#">Accelerate Change</a>	c3/c4						X						
<a href="#">Advance Native</a>	c3/c4	Native and Indigenous						X					
<a href="#">Alliance for Youth Action</a>	c3/c4	Youth			X				X				
<a href="#">America Votes</a>	c4/Super..		X	X					X		X		
<a href="#">America Votes Education Fund</a>	c3		X	X					X		X		
<a href="#">American Bridge</a>						X							
<a href="#">Biden Victory Fund</a>	PAC			X	X								
<a href="#">BlackPAC</a>	SuperPAC	Black Outreach			X								

# What a giving portfolio could look like . . .

Category	Where the \$ will go (candidates' c4 + PACs + infrastructure organizations)	
<p><u>Presidential</u> - 40%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Biden Victory Fund</b></li> <li>● <b>DNC:</b> Democratic National Committee</li> <li>● <b>Future Forward:</b> A leading outside organization supporting President Biden's re-election</li> <li>● <b>BlackPAC:</b> Black-led PAC mobilizing and engaging Black voters</li> <li>● <b>Galvanize Action:</b> Values-based education and ads targeted toward moderate women voters</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Federal</u> - 30%</p> <p><i>Key races in home state (WA) + 1 adopted battleground state (PA)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● WA-3: <b>Marie Gluesenkamp Perez</b></li> <li>● WA-6: <b>Emily Randall</b></li> <li>● WA-1: <b>Suzan DelBene</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PA-7: <b>Susan Wild</b></li> <li>● PA-8: <b>Matt Cartwright</b></li> <li>● PA-17: <b>Chris Deluzio</b></li> </ul>
<p><u>State/Local</u> - 15%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Electing Women:</b> Local giving circles across the country supporting women candidates</li> <li>● <b>LGBTQ+ Victory Fund:</b> Dedicated to electing LGBTQ+ leaders at every level of government</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Other infrastructure</u> - 5%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● WA - <b>Maria Beltran</b></li> <li>● PA - attorney general and state Supreme Court races</li> <li>● <b>Progress Alliance of Washington:</b> Donor table with a focus on racial justice and politics</li> <li>● <b>First Mile:</b> Giving circle that supports progressive, BIPOC candidates in Washington State</li> <li>● <b>Defend Washington:</b> To stop "Let's Go Washington" ballot initiative</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Reserve</u> - 10%</p>	<p>Set aside for future campaign donations, ballot initiatives, and other emerging needs</p>	



# My giving portfolio

To complete on your own  
incorporating your worksheets from  
pages 38-44

Category		Where the \$ will go (candidates' c4 + PACs + infrastructure organizations)
<u>Presidential</u>	%	
<u>Federal</u>	%	
<u>State/Local</u>	%	
<u>Other infrastructure organizations</u>	%	
<u>Reserve</u>	%	

**Thank you to our  
contributors!**







## Alexandra Acker-Lyons

*President, Founder of AL Advising*

For over 20 years, Alexandra Acker-Lyons has worked for some of the nation's most prominent donors, campaigns, and progressive organizations.

Alexandra is a recognized political commentator and travels internationally as a trainer for the National Democratic Institute. She is the author of *The Political Ladder: Insider Tips on Getting a Job in Politics*, published in 2012. She also serves as the Political Director for Electing Women Bay Area and the Electing Women Alliance.

From 2011-2015, Alexandra served as Director of the Youth Engagement Fund at the Democracy Alliance, raising and re-granting over \$5 million to youth-focused civic engagement efforts. She led the Young Democrats of America as Executive Director during the historic 2008 election cycle. Alexandra served as the Executive Director of Democratic GAIN, professional organization for political operatives, for the 2010 election cycle, having previously worked for GAIN as Training Director. She has also worked in various capacities for the John Kerry for President Campaign and the Democratic National Committee, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY).

Alexandra currently serves on the Boards of the Alliance for Youth Action, Colorado Democracy Alliance, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, and Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains Action Fund. She graduated summa cum laude from the State University of New York at Binghamton. Originally from Nyack, NY, Alexandra spent time in Washington, DC and Palo Alto, CA. She currently lives in Denver, CO with her husband, Jonathan, and son, Abraham.

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## Dionne Foster

*Executive Director of Progress Alliance of Washington*

Dionne (she/her) brings a wealth of experience in strategy development, public policy research, social movement funding and advocacy to her work as Executive Director at Progress Alliance. Dionne has worked as a grassroots organizer, Mayoral policy advisor, researcher and funder on issues as diverse as climate justice, youth employment and legal protection for diverse gender identities.

The common thread of her career has been organizing people, information and resources to advance progressive policy and racial equity. At Progress Alliance she steered the expansion of grantmaking to reach diverse geographies and communities across Washington state and more than doubled the organizational dollars going to elect people of color to local office.

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## Kevin Geiger

*Co-Founder & Partner at Blue Wave Politics*

Kevin Geiger is co-founder and partner at Blue Wave, one of the leading political fundraising, digital and compliance firms in the country.

Kevin currently serves as the Finance Director for Future Forward, a data-driven creative engine powering advertising behind issues and elections. The group includes Future Forward USA Action, a 501(c)(4), The Future Forward Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) project sponsored by the Our American Future Foundation, and FF PAC, a political committee registered with the FEC.

His other Blue Wave current clients include -- U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, Rep. Marilyn Strickland, Gen-z for Change, Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell and many other national organizations and candidates running for office. Kevin started his political career in Seattle while he was waiting tables and stocking beer and interning on campaigns. Originally from New York, he has spent significant time living in Egypt and Canada, and is based now in Seattle with his husband Jeremie and their dog and two cats.

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## Jaime Van Horne Robinson

*Founder of Electing Women Seattle*

Jamie is the founder of Electing Women Seattle and is committed to engaging women in the political process and electing more Democratic women to serve at all levels of public office. Jamie also serves as Co-President of the Robinson Family Foundation and Partner at Dream Variation Ventures where she invests primarily in early-stage start-ups. She and her husband are proud investors in the Seattle Storm WNBA franchise.

She earned her MPA at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in 2022. Jamie also holds an M.A. in International Relations from IE School of Global and Public Policy in Madrid and a B.A. with honors in Psychology from Yale University. She was a four-year member and captain of the Yale women's basketball team.

### **Electing Women Seattle**

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