

Impact Report 2023



Letter from the Co-Executive Directors

Dear Community,

As we continue to strive towards a truly multi-racial popular democracy, we center ourselves on one sentence: **Use every moment to build our base.** Like you, some moments have left us reeling, others continue to bring us joy—but all are an opportunity to align, attune, hold ourselves accountable, and appreciate the privilege of building power on behalf of the many, together.

2023 was in short, a lot. Our work was cut out for us: from the erosion of anti-discriminatory protections from the highest court of the land, to the climate-driven catastrophes facing our country and our planet, the drum beat felt shockingly steady. As if that weren't enough, our interconnectedness with oppressed people across the world made us attuned to the horror faced by marginalized and seemingly expendable people in visceral ways. After all, as a Black man living in the U.S. and an Afro Latina born to an undocumented parent, we understand the pain and danger of being painted by the broad strokes of prejudice and the deadly consequences of hate.



One could not be blamed for feeling despair, heartbreak and even fear witnessing the above. As part of the CPD/A community, however, we get to take action together. We made it our mission to harness the energy of the moment and use it as fodder for our organizing. Last year, our network of 51

grassroots affiliates won over 55 policy victories that will benefit millions of people, organized massive non-violent civil disobedience actions to upend politics as usual, and grew our network's base to over 1,000,000 people. We also convened our leaders in sacred organizing spaces, and threw a party or two.

We were able to accomplish all of this and more because we know **building power is not enough—we must wield power.** Just over two years ago, we dedicated ourselves to re-aligning this vast network of people's organizations around a shared purpose. In a first for our network, we guided our affiliates through a process to select one big national campaign to meaningfully advance together. We held a listening campaign for affiliates to speak

openly about the issues that matter most to their members—the Black, brown, immigrant, and working people we are accountable to—and organized a democratic vote to ultimately select House Every One! as our national network-wide campaign.

We officially kicked off the campaign in July 2023 at our triennial People's Convention, culminating in a 2,500 person march and rally through Philadelphia, PA, and a civil disobedience action in which we took over the lobby of a for-profit housing developer. The three-day convening was a rare opportunity to attune our network, deepen community, share learnings, and appreciate the incredible progress we've made towards advancing our goal of achieving governing power for our people.

This year, as a result of our persistent organizing, President Biden named housing as a key priority in his State of the Union address. We kept up the pressure by organizing a six-day cultural housing caravan and concert series across Texas. These successes are just the start of our work to secure elected officials' commitment to address the affordable housing crisis, and are a direct reflection of the power and scale of our network.

Change doesn't happen in one moment or one electoral cycle—it is a cumulative process. Every action we take as a network with your support moves us closer to a world in which we are all free to thrive. **Today, we are immensely proud to share with you CPD/A's 2023 impact report.**

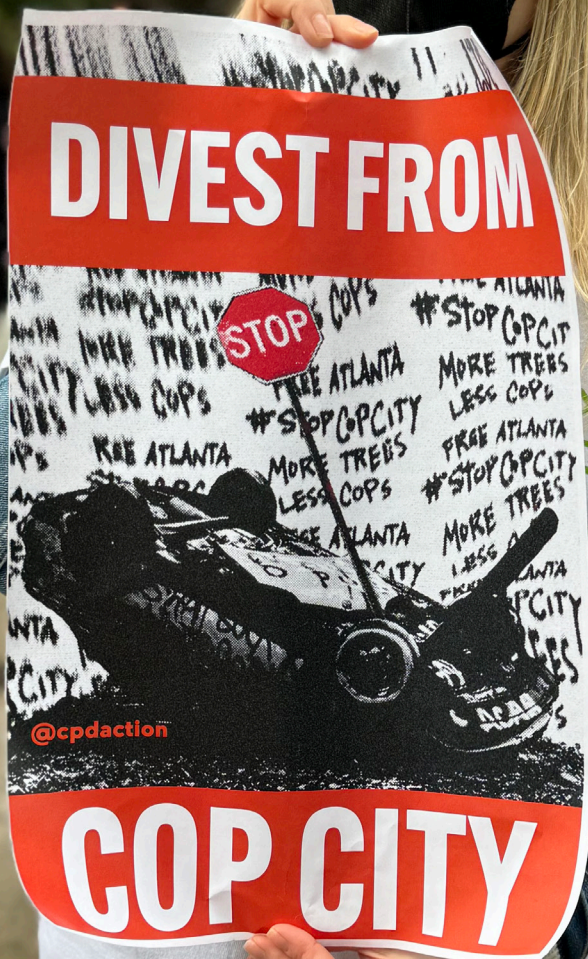
Now, as we quickly approach the elections, our organizers are working deep in communities across the country to support CPD/A affiliate leaders in mobilizing our grassroots base to participate in our democracy. Building a massive and activated base is a key strategy we employ to hold elected officials accountable and enact policies that benefit our country's majority. When we rise up together, we are an undeniable force capable of deciding the future of our democracy.

We are in awe of the grace and strength our affiliate leaders, staff, funders and donor-activists continue to show through upheaval and threats of rising fascism. Together, through deliberate organizing and strategic base-building, we've built a leaderful movement capable of adapting to the ever-changing political landscape and meeting the moment in powerful alignment.

Thank you for your support of CPD/A. We couldn't do this work without you.

In solidarity,
Analilia Mejia and DaMareo Cooper
Co-Executive Directors,
Center for Popular
Democracy
and CPD Action





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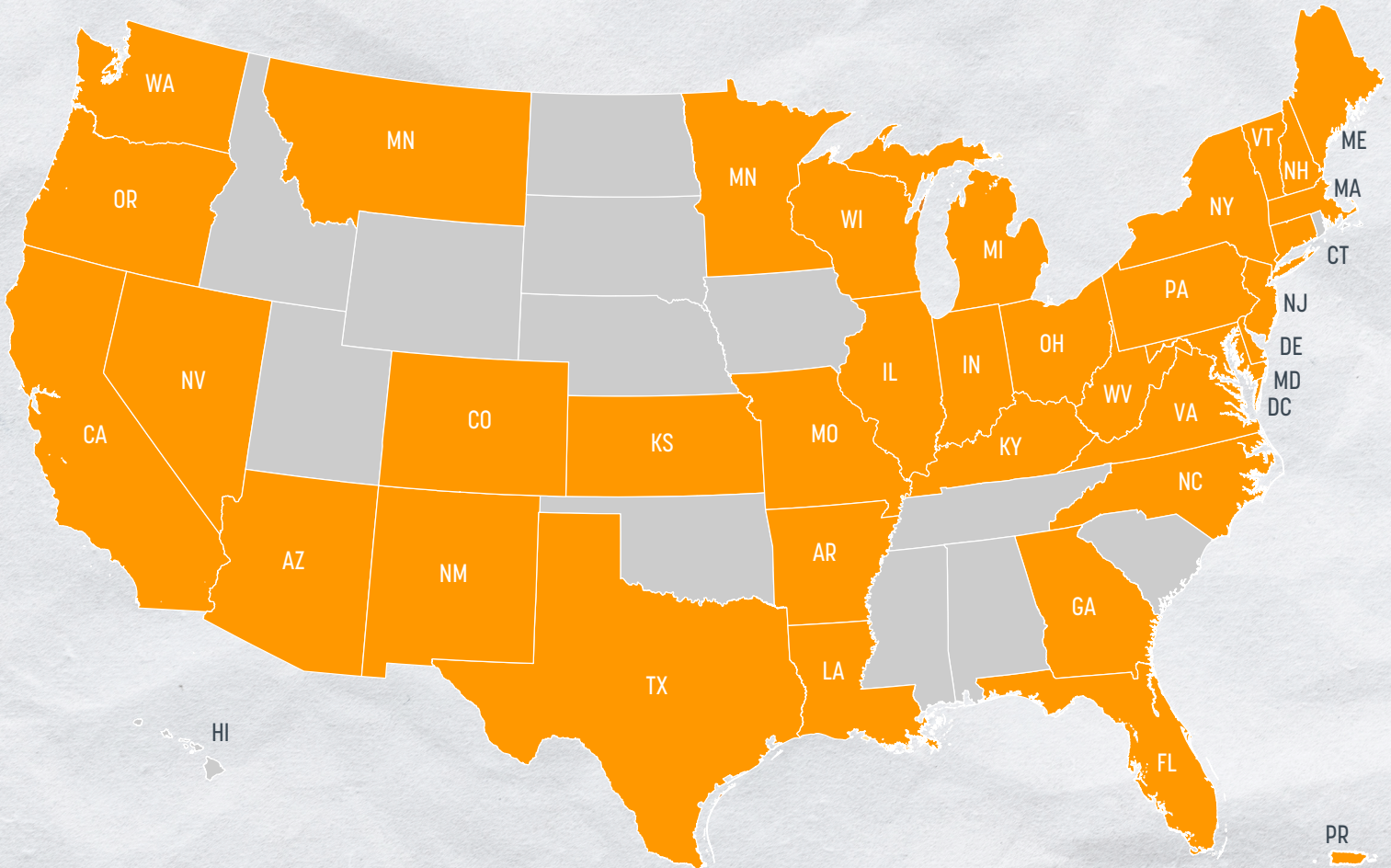
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“We understand winning in one arena creates space for us to win in others. That’s why we’re excited about housing being a central focus for CPD/A—we don’t work directly on housing, but all our people live somewhere...We’re not in competition, we’re building capacity to have more power to win.”

—LaDon Love, SPACES
in Action



Our Affiliates



“We know being part of the network has genuinely been so powerful... It allows us to have a solid infrastructure that a lot of organizations don't have.”

—**Blanca Macias**,
Make the Road Nevada



ALASKA

StandUp Alaska

ARKANSASArkansas Community
Organizations**ARIZONA**

Fuerte Arts Movement

Living United for Change in
Arizona**CALIFORNIA**Alliance of Californians for
Community Empowerment**COLORADO**

United for a New Economy

CONNECTICUT

Make the Road Connecticut

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SPACeS in Action

DELAWARE

Opportunity Knocks Delaware

FLORIDA

Florida Rising

GEORGIABlack Male Initiative
CASA
New Georgia Project**ILLINOIS**Kenwood-Oakland Community
Organization**INDIANA**

Hoosier Action

KANSASCommunities Creating
Opportunity
Sunflower Community Action**KENTUCKY**

VOCAL - KY

LOUISIANA

Step Up Louisiana

MARYLANDCASA
Maryland Communities United
SPACeS in Action**MAINE**

Maine People's Alliance

MICHIGAN

Detroit Action

Flint Rising

MINNESOTACOPAL MN
New Justice Project
TakeAction Minnesota**MISSOURI**Communities Creating
Opportunity**NORTH CAROLINA**

Action NC

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Rights & Democracy

NEW JERSEY

Make the Road New Jersey

NEW MEXICOOrganizers in the Land of
Enchantment**NEVADA**

Make the Road Nevada

NEW YORKChurches United for Fair Housing
Make the Road New York
New York Communities for
Change
VOCAL - NY**OHIO**

Ohio Organizing Collaborative

OREGONPineros y Campesinos Unidos
del Noroeste**PENNSYLVANIA**215 People's Alliance
CASA
Center for Coalfield Justice
Make the Road Pennsylvania
One Pennsylvania**PUERTO RICO**

Taller Salud

TEXASTexas Organizing Project
VOCAL - TX
Workers Defense Project**VERMONT**

Rights & Democracy

VIRGINIACASA
New Virginia Majority**WASHINGTON**

Working Washington

WISCONSINBlack Leaders Organizing for
Communities
Leaders Igniting Transformation**WEST VIRGINIA**

Our Future West Virginia

NOT STATE-BASED

Organization United for Respect

Many affiliates have sister 501c3 or 501c4 organizations that are part of the CPD/A network, though only one may be listed above.

Map and list reflect our affiliate standing as of May 2024.



CPD/A works in partnership with 51 affiliates in over 200 cities and 33 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, DC. These affiliates are headed by the people they represent—79% of our affiliates are led by people of color and 66% are led by women. Together, we work to understand the root causes of the challenges we confront, build consensus around transformative solutions, and create sustained campaign plans to accomplish shared goals and promote change. Building power through a massive, aligned, and active base is the foundational strategy around which all our work is oriented.

So how will we create a diverse, engaged base, especially including those who have been pushed to the margins, to obtain governing power? **CPD/A's work revolves around six main strategies:**

“We understand that the people who have been pushed to the margins are in fact the margin of victory.”

—Analilia Mejia,
Co-Executive Director, CPD/A

1. **Recruit, train, and develop member leaders** using tested base-building tactics in partnership with our affiliates
2. **Build a strong network of strong affiliates** that moves in powerful alignment around a shared purpose
3. **Incorporate culture as a strategic tool**, including using art to amplify our core messages and hosting cultural events to invite people into our movement
4. **Deepen our analysis** of where we need to grow our base to achieve governing power, build a culture of evaluation, and share learnings across the network
5. **Contest for narrative primacy** by building a strong brand and sharing popular education to amplify our main priorities
6. **Build a strong and resilient CPD/A** by establishing consistent assessment and improvement processes tied to organizational goals that reflect sustainable, responsible, and strategic stewardship of the organization



Basebuilding by the Numbers

In 2023, the CPD/A network continued its unwavering commitment to galvanize communities across diverse backgrounds, uniting them in a potent and enduring movement. Amidst the challenges of environmental calamities, a persistent pandemic, economic turmoil, and increasing authoritarianism, our efforts surged forward, driving pivotal changes to reshape our nation and foster an inclusive democracy for all.

Our Basebuilding team leads on critical efforts to grow our movement through deep member leadership development and innovative scaled basebuilding tests, while our Network Management team facilitates invaluable spaces to align our affiliate network. Each of these teams carry out pivotal work that will allow us to sustain our organizing for the long haul.

PEOPLE'S CONVENTION AND **HOUSE EVERY ONE!** KICK-OFF

In July 2023 we held our third-ever People's Convention in Philadelphia, PA. Nearly 1,300 members and staff from 38 affiliates and allies participated in the three-day convening to practice organizing skills, share learnings, and do the critical work of building community.

The convention culminated with a mass mobilization to launch a first-ever undertaking for our network, a shared Big National Campaign that every one of our affiliate organizations will advance together—House Every One! Together, we seek to win generous government funding for green social housing at scale and throughout our communities: housing that is truly affordable for low-income families of color, that protects residents from climate disasters, and that is more sustainable for the environment.

This campaign is a testament to the values of the CPD/A network. Today, we stand united, driven by the voices of everyday people, ready to build a future where housing equity is a reality for all.



In 2023, CPD/A:

Expanded the network base to over

1,000,000

people

Held **13**
in-person regional
multi-affiliate
trainings and
organizing drives.

Organized a two-day series
of **high-impact housing
actions** in Charlotte,
knocking on nearly

2,000

doors

and holding
conversations with

500

tenants in
corporate-owned properties,

with **150** tenants
**committing to future
actions** like joining meetings
or actions, or becoming
members.

52%

of affiliates strengthened
their organizing programs
in 2023, especially in the
areas of data management,
organizing flow, and member
leadership development.

Trained

311 affiliate
organizers
and field staff in **core
organizing and field
skills**, based in a
common organizing
philosophy and theory
of change.

713 member leaders in
core organizing
principles and skills.

112 affiliate member
leaders in CPD/A's
"Guardians of Democracy"
curriculum.

Ran short term scaled
basebuilding tests with our
partner Localyst to **test the
effectiveness of different
outreach tactics** in engaging
Black, Latiné, and working
class people, bringing in:

1,481

new
contacts through our digital
organizing experiment and

992

new contacts
through a relational
organizing test with four
affiliates

As a part of our **national
relational organizing tactics
to mobilize our base**, our
national Canvass Team made

22,349

calls,

held **1,576**
conversations, and

mobilized

1,341

action-takers to various
actions and engagement
events.





Our Impact

CPD/A aims to win victories that advance justice and challenge structural racism, economic inequality, and corporate power through issue campaigns to change federal, state, and municipal policy and build our base.

Through technical assistance, organizer and leader trainings, and facilitating peer learnings, CPD/A increases the scale, strength, and capacity of our affiliates to win real change for their members.

In 2023, CPD/A and its affiliates and partners won over 55 policy victories for millions of people. Here are just some of the victories we delivered at the federal level and across more than nineteen states:

Fighting for Community Dignity

HOUSING

- CPD/A affiliates and our **Renters Rising National Tenant Association** grew our membership to 19,000 and passed important renter protections for families facing the affordable housing crisis around the country. In 2023, affiliates secured over a dozen vital housing justice wins in nine localities across six states. Their policy victories stand to benefit millions of renters. Highlights from across the network include:
 - In Arizona, Fuerte won **a record-breaking \$225M investment in rental assistance** in the 2024 budget, as well as mobile home relocation, re-entry housing, and funding for unhoused individuals.
 - Maine People's Alliance fought for and won a permanent **rent stabilization bill in South Portland**.
 - In California, ACCE and other coalition partners won significant new **renter protections** across the state, including: passing the Homelessness Prevention Act, which will **benefit six million Californian households who rent**; securing "just cause" protections for evictions, relocation assistance for renters who are facing large rent increases, and a ban on evictions for renters who fall behind on a small amount of their rent.
 - CASA won rent stabilization bills in two counties in Maryland that will **cap rent increases** at 3 percent and 6 percent respectively, as well as a new rent-stabilization law in Mount Rainier that will cap rent increases at 60% of inflation.



2023 Impact Report



Center for Popular Democracy / CPD Action

JUSTICE TRANSFORMATION

- CPD/A and affiliate Black Leaders Organizing for Communities in Milwaukee, collaborated on a research report **exposing how policing and incarceration impacts people's ability to participate in our democracy**: "Still Not Free When They Come Home, A Community Report: How Wisconsin's Criminal Legal System Harms Democracy and the Black Community on Milwaukee's North Side."
- Ahead of the **Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act** reintroduction, CPD/A affiliates and partners—Ohio Organizing Collaborative, Make the Road NY, Latinos Unidos Siempre, and Florida Rising—traveled to D.C. to meet with congressional offices, more than doubling the number of co-sponsors on the bill since its last introduction in both the House and Senate.



HEALTHCARE

- CPD/A and affiliates worked hard to pass the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and are now organizing to protect these Medicare wins from pharmaceutical companies, who are suing to strike down Medicare's price negotiation powers. As part of the IRA, Medicare now has the power to negotiate **lower prescription drug prices** on behalf of everyone on Medicare. In August 2023, the Biden administration announced the first ten drugs selected for Medicare drug price negotiation. This was a core demand of the CPD/A-led coalition which involved close collaboration with our allies at Public Citizen, Prep4All, Social Security Works, and People's Action, and highlighted leadership of CPD/A affiliates SPACES, Stand Up Alaska, Rights and Democracy, Action NC, Detroit Action, Our Future West Virginia, Arkansas Community Organizations.
- CPD/A helped multiple affiliates build campaigns pushing states to invest opioid settlement funds in **harm reduction and housing**—not police or prisons—to combat overdosing. Working with affiliate VOCAL-NY and allies, we released guidance for states: "A Roadmap for Opioid Settlement Funds: Supporting Communities & Ending the Overdose Crisis."
- CPD/A affiliates won several important healthcare policies at the state level in 2023, including:
 - Partners around the country, including Texas Organizing Project, Stand Up Alaska, and Opportunity Knocks Delaware, and Rights and Democracy won important improvements in **postpartum care** for parents. They successfully expanded Medicaid postpartum coverage from two months to one year in their respective states. In Texas alone this is projected to help over 137,000 new parents each year.
 - The Center for Coalfield Justice helped push Pennsylvania to decriminalize fentanyl test strips which can now be used to **prevent overdose**.
 - TakeAction Minnesota successfully advocated for a MinnesotaCare public option and **MinnesotaCare Immigrant Inclusion** which will help ensure undocumented community members in Minnesota with low incomes will be eligible for MinnesotaCare starting in 2025. They also won provisions to prevent price gouging and establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (one of the strongest passed to date in the U.S.).
 - Make the Road Connecticut helped to secure funding in the Connecticut state budget for the **expansion of the HUSKY healthcare system** (Medicaid and CHIP) to cover children up to the age of 15, starting in 2024.
 - VOCAL-KY accessed opioid settlement funds in their state to **fund a homeless shelter in Louisville**.



IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

- As a result of the campaign “Lose 45 Días,” CPD/A affiliate COPAL successfully pushed the Minnesota legislature to pass **driver’s licenses for undocumented community members** in the first 45 days of the legislative session. Over 80,000 undocumented community members in the state can now apply for a license or state-issued ID card.
- CPD/A affiliate Make the Road Nevada championed legislation **supporting street vendors**, allowing them to get a permit to sell their products regardless of their immigration status, as well as expansion of in-state tuition eligibility to undocumented immigrants.
- CPD/A affiliate Make the Road Connecticut successfully pushed for a bill establishing a parent bill of rights for English language learners, which will help to **improve equity in education**.





CLIMATE JUSTICE

- CPD/A and affiliates launched **scaled IRA implementation** campaigning throughout the country to ensure it is implemented fully and equitably to achieve the biggest decarbonization impacts and to center frontline people. ACCE, TakeAction Minnesota, Make the Road New Jersey, CASA, and other affiliates are leading active campaigns in their states to equitably electrify public buildings and entire neighborhoods.
- CPD/A and affiliates developed and launched the **Climate Defenders Academy**, a national training program for affiliate members. We graduated 150 leaders from 17 affiliates organizing in 16 different states from a 12-hour course on the climate crisis and how to build the movement through relational organizing.
- CPD/A **joined the Fossil Fuels Fighters delegation at the 28th Conference of the Parties** (aka COP28) which took place in Dubai, UAE at the end of 2023, reflecting the increased role of the CPD/A network in providing leadership in the broader climate movement.
- CPD/A and affiliates were key leaders in the **March to End Fossil Fuels** in September 2023 that resulted in 75,000 people marching to demand President Biden declare a Climate Emergency and an end to the era of fossil fuels. Over 18 affiliates from across the country organized over 1,100 participants to the march, which was emceed by CPD/A and affiliate NY Communities for Change.

“The Louise Jefferson Initiative is reshaping what is possible for politics in my state. Strong data has been so critical for us to build power with Black, Brown and Indigenous people.”

—Leo Murietta, Make the Road Navada

PUERTO RICO

- CPD/A successfully pushed the Puerto Rican legislature to launch **investigations into the labor and environmental practices of pharmaceutical companies in Puerto Rico**. The investigation was prompted by meetings to educate policymakers led by subcontracted cleaning and security workers in the pharmaceutical sector and reports done by CPD/A on these practices.
- CPD/A **won three seats at the new Pension Trust Fund** that will oversee an approximately 10 billion dollar pension fund that benefits more than 165,000 people in Puerto Rico. This is an important victory for retirees and pension holders on the island, who face consistent threats to their pensions by the unelected and unaccountable Fiscal Oversight Board.

BUILDING A JUST ECONOMY

ECONOMIC & WORKER JUSTICE

- As a result of an advocacy campaign in partnership with CPD/A affiliates Make the Road NY, NYCC, CUFFH, and coalition partners, New York passed a \$229 billion spending plan that will **increase the state's minimum wage** to \$17/hour in New York City and its suburbs and \$16/hour elsewhere in the state by 2026, and pegging future increases to inflation, directly benefiting over one million working people.
- With support from CPD/A, affiliate Make the Road NJ successfully pushed for the passage of the groundbreaking Temporary Worker Bill of Rights, which provides **key labor protections for temp workers** in the state.
- CPD/A supported affiliate Working Washington as they successfully secured several **first-in-the-nation legal protections and rights for gig workers** in Seattle, including permanent paid sick leave, protections from deactivation, and robust enforcement legislation.
- CPD/A affiliate Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN) in Oregon successfully pushed for a **hazardous work bill** prohibiting employers from retaliating or discriminating against workers who refuse to be exposed to hazardous conditions. These protections will affect an estimated 174,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers.



EXPANDING DEMOCRACY

VOTING RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

- CPD/A debated our **Civic Leadership Academy**, “Guardians of Democracy,” at our People’s Convention held in July 2023 in Philadelphia. This signature CPD/A initiative supports grassroots members of our affiliates in becoming “hyper-local” civic leaders.
- CPD/A continued to develop the Louise Jefferson Initiative (LJI)—a series of **heat maps of 12 states**—and trained affiliates to use them. The maps display critical organizing data including registered voters, estimates of unregistered eligible voters, and voters by race and ethnicity. LJI is ground-breaking in providing affiliates with exactly the data they need to prioritize their strategic basebuilding efforts on their core communities.
- CPD/A’s Voting Rights & Democracy campaign work also focused on base-building, planning, and strategizing with affiliates to build state-level campaigns that **expand voting rights and voter access**.

JUDICIARY REFORM

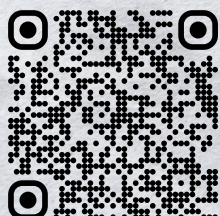
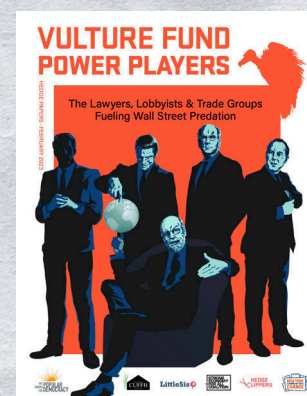
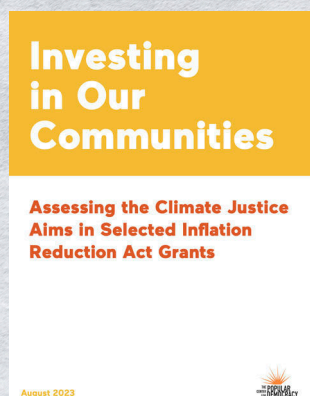
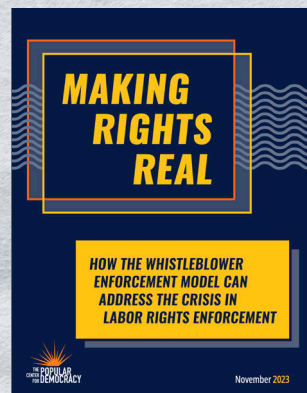
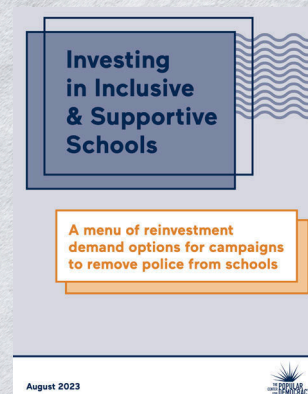
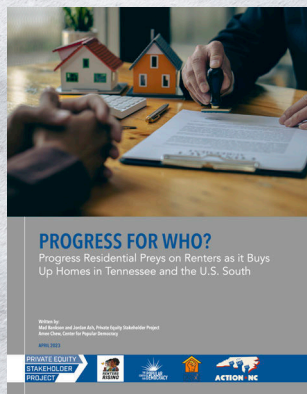
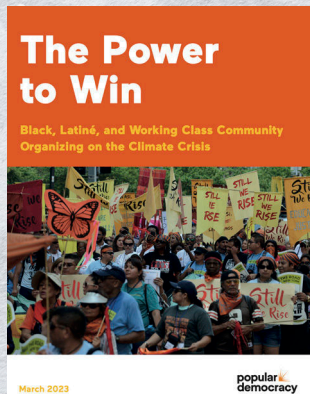
- CPD/A organized around some of the most potentially dangerous SCOTUS cases this term, including those concerning **abortion access, housing, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and voting rights**, among others. CPD/A's efforts to reform and expand the federal judiciary are closely tied to our reproductive justice work, as threats to healthcare and bodily autonomy are symptoms of an unelected, unaccountable Supreme Court.
- To address the current imbalance and dangerous nature of the court, CPD/A is **advocating for additional seats on the Supreme Court and lower courts**. We worked with progressive members in Congress to introduce a slate of bills focused on court reform, including expanding the court, term limits, and imposing a code of ethics. Our efforts led to both the introduction of new legislation, and securing additional co-signers for existing legislation.

“CPD/A’s Guardians of Democracy training helped us stand up a whole new legion of intergenerational folks to change the game as we enter a new election season. They help us move the work that is essential—not just to us but the people we work with.”

—Naomi Folami Randolph-
Hwesuhunu, Action NC



Publications



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Boards of Directors

CPD and CPDA's Boards of Directors are composed of representatives from our key constituency groups: state affiliates, core national partner organizations, allied partners, and community members. The Boards oversee and approve core strategic direction for CPD and CPDA; they hold us accountable to our stated annual goals and objectives; they also monitor overall organizational financial stewardship and health for their respective organization.

Center for Popular Democracy

Analilia Mejia

Co-Executive Director, Center for Popular Democracy

Damareo Cooper

Co-Executive Director, Center for Popular Democracy

Aaron Dorfman

President and CEO, National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy

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Independent Consultant

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Jose Lopez

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Alicia Russell

Living United for Change in Arizona

Ramon Ramirez

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Brianna Brown

Co-Executive Director, Texas Organizing Project

Brandon Snyder

Executive Director, Detroit Action

Rob Solano

Executive Director, Churches United for Fair Housing

thank you!

We are humbled by the generosity and strength of our steadfast staff, affiliates, donor-activists, funders, and partners. CPD/A is one entity nested within a broad and diverse movement ecosystem, and we work everyday to ignite the power that exists in our interconnectedness and united purpose to shape our futures.

Our work in 2023 is proof that grassroots collective action works, and we could not do this work without you. Thank you for your solidarity with CPD/A and this network of affiliate leaders.







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