

A TIME FOR ACTION

A PROGRESSIVE DONOR SUMMIT

SPRING 2017 | WASHINGTON, DC

HOSTED BY THE DEMOCRACY ALLIANCE
AND COMMITTEE ON STATES

On November 8, 2016, we were stunned to our core by the election of Donald Trump.

Before this election, we documented the right's powerful independent infrastructure in more than 30 states and elects Republican- dominated state legislatures, governors and Congressional delegations, how it helps control congressional district lines, and advances right wing policy through legislation, lax regulatory enforcement and executive action. This multi-state infrastructure was the state-based organizing and mobilizing engine for the Trump victory.

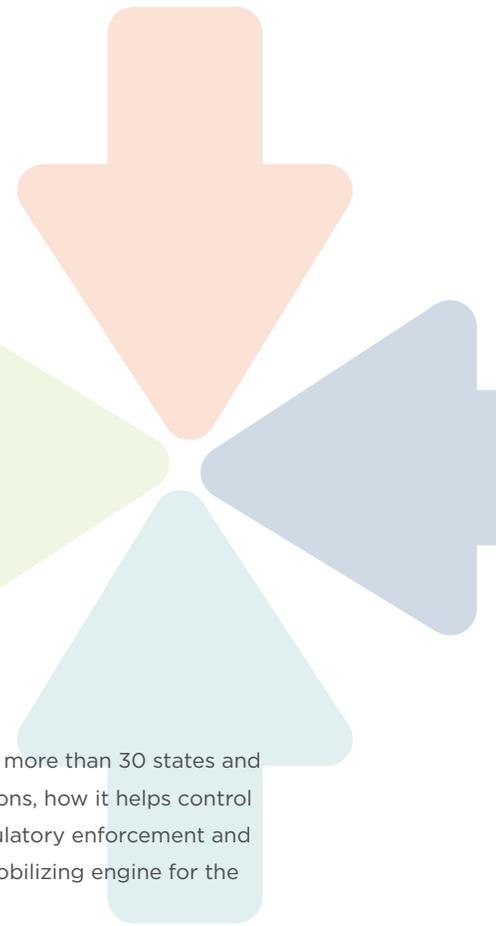
Consequently, the right-wing Republican stranglehold on American politics is deeper, stronger, and more powerful. Beginning in January, Republicans will control 30 state governments, both houses of the US Congress, the Presidency and his Executive Branch agencies, and within months, the Supreme Court of the United States.

This level of political hegemony is virtually unprecedented in American history. It is the highest level of total Republican control of the levers of government in a century.

While progressives over the past ten years have created invaluable tools - Catalist, America Votes, State Voices, Progress Now and etc - to organize our constituencies, promote our agendas and mobilize for electoral and legislative purposes both nationally and in the states, we have failed to match the depth and breadth of political capacity necessary to win elections in most states. Where we have built strength and depth - e.g., Colorado, North Carolina, Minnesota and several others - the political results are palpable and the progressive cause is competitive, visible and vibrant.

We know what works to create strong progressive capacity in the states. Through the work of Committee on States, we have successful operating, leadership and financial models that can be either adapted or replicated in many more states.

Our challenges and opportunities are crystal clear. Leading up to the critical elections of 2018 and 2020, we need to build powerful, enduring activist progressive political capacity in up to fifteen more states -- and do it urgently, intelligently, systematically with the diverse leadership and the necessary resources to deliver the highest quality performance.



In order to execute this strategy, we are calling hundreds of progressive donors to join us early in 2017 to launch this effort. Our substantive goals are as clear as our operational objectives - mobilize for the critical 2017 and 2018 elections where control of the Senate and Governorships in many key states is at stake, and position us well for the critical election of 2020, to win the Presidency and other elections in the last one before district lines are drawn for the next decade.

We can't ignore the fact that the Koch Brothers and their allies on the conservative-right understand the enormity of their opportunities to further consolidate their already immense political power, and already are planning on expanding their investments.

We have not one minute to waste. The fight for 2018 and 2020 began at midnight on November 8.

We invite you to join us to start the process of dramatically expanding the electoral capacities we bring to this fight for the future of our country, and aligning our resources as strategically as we can.

Fortunately, our political infrastructure is shovel-ready for deeper investment: Politically sophisticated donor tables exist in dozens of states with smart plans for taking back power; sophisticated communications and messaging efforts with state of the art data operations and key issue campaigns inform Americans of clear options in their voting decisions; civic engagement efforts with smart electoral strategies can mobilize communities of color, young people, women and other key parts of the New American Majority to change the electoral map.

Save the date of March 22 – March 23, 2017 and join with like-minded donors and key movement strategists to launch a well-resourced, strategic and sustained political effort and build far stronger capacity in states to win electoral and policy victories. We must resist the efforts of Donald Trump and the radical right wing.

As we absorb the sobering results of November 8, nothing is more critical than organizing a conversation with leaders like you.

PLEASE JOIN US IN WASHINGTON.

To RSVP early, go to www.democracyalliance.org/summit, or contact Owen Hooks Davis at odavis@democracyalliance.org.

