

Friends Fund Democracy

Community Fundraising Toolkit

Your step-by-step guide to activating your community's support for Protect Democracy



Welcome to Our Fundraising Team

THIS TOOLKIT IS DESIGNED to help you organize a successful in-person event or online fundraiser to support Protect Democracy’s work. Every dollar you raise helps us stand up to authoritarian actions, safeguard our elections, and build a more resilient democracy. It’s a great way to show your friends, neighbors, and community why you care so much about this mission, to inspire and strengthen connections — and to have some fun.

Why is community fundraising so important?

It amplifies our impact.

By involving your community, you’re building awareness and sparking pro-democratic action at a critical juncture for our country.

It’s based on trust.

Your words resonate with the people you know better than anyone else’s, and your commitment encourages them to lend their support.

It’s fun and fulfilling.

Community is essential to democracy, and bringing people together for a good cause is a great way to strengthen these ties.

Whether you’re a seasoned event organizer or want to start out simple, this toolkit will help you plan a fundraiser that’s the right fit and provides step-by-step guidance to make sure it’s a success.

Online or In-Person? 3

Finding Your “Why” 4

Creating an Online Fundraiser 8

Planning an In-Person Event 13

Donation Page Setup 20

Message Templates 25

More Resources 30

Community Fundraising FAQ 31

Online or In-Person?

THERE'S NO "RIGHT" WAY to do community fundraising. Just pick the path that works for you. Your effort is what matters most.



Online Fundraiser

Raising money online allows you to support Protect Democracy without a significant time investment. Posts and links can be shared in just a couple of clicks but still make a big difference.

- ✓ Easy to set up and doesn't require a major time commitment
- ✓ Great way to reach people in your network beyond your local area
- ✓ Good starting point if you want to work up to in-person hosting

[GET STARTED ON PAGE 8 →](#)



In-Person Event

In-person events require more planning but are a great way to connect with others while supporting Protect Democracy's work. If you're passionate about bringing people together, this is for you.

- ✓ Requires hosts to plan all the details and follow up with attendees
- ✓ Can range from small dinner parties to a community 5K or benefit concert
- ✓ Ideal for anyone eager to dedicate significant time and energy

[GET STARTED ON PAGE 13 →](#)

Finding Your “Why”

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING is most powerful when it reflects your own, deeply-held values or lived experience. You’re reading this toolkit because you believe in the ideals of American democracy and the ways Protect Democracy works to defend them. But you’ve probably never had to articulate exactly why before.

This section includes examples of three fundraisers from different backgrounds. You’ll see how they’ve each created an event or online fundraiser that fits their lifestyle, as well as how they’ve reached into their own interests or life story to present a compelling and authentic reason for loved ones to give.



Maria

Marketing Specialist

Austin, TX

[MARIA'S ONLINE FUNDRAISER →](#)



Walter

Retired High School Teacher

Columbus, OH

[WALTER'S IN-PERSON FUNDRAISER →](#)



Priya

Restaurant Owner

Oakland, CA

[PRIYA'S IN-PERSON FUNDRAISER →](#)

Finding Your “Why”



Maria

Marketing Specialist

Austin, TX

FUNDRAISER TYPE

Online

FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$500

ASK AMOUNT

\$20

Maria’s “Why”

Maria became politically engaged after learning that an ICE surge in her area may be an attempt to undermine elections. As a first-generation American, she sees free and fair elections as the foundation of everything else, and wants to do something concrete rather than just doom-scroll.

Maria’s Plan

As her birthday approaches, Maria decides to try an online fundraiser. She sets up her personal fundraising page and sends an email ask to about 40 friends and colleagues. She also shares it as part of an Instagram story series and a LinkedIn post tying democracy to national economic stability.

TO bsmith@gmail.com

SUBJECT I’m putting my money where my mouth is (and asking you to join me)

Hey friends,

I don’t usually do this, but this year for my birthday I’m fundraising for [Protect Democracy](#), an organization working to make sure our elections stay free and fair no matter who’s in power. I’ve set a personal goal of \$500 by the 18th. If you’re able, a gift of just \$20 can make a big difference. Plus, I’ll match the first \$100 in donations myself. Link’s below!

XO Maria

<https://donorbox.org/friendsfunddemocracy/maria>

Finding Your “Why”



Walter

Retired High School Teacher

Columbus, OH

FUNDRAISER TYPE

In-Person Event

FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$1,000

ASK AMOUNT

\$50

Walter’s “Why”

After 35 years teaching history and civics, seeing our democratic norms erode in real time feels personal. Walter wants to make sure the checks and balances he taught about are still there for his grandchildren. Fundraising is a way to stay actively involved now that he’s no longer in the classroom.

Walter’s Plan

Walter organizes a potluck and postcard-writing evening at his church. He sets up a personal fundraising page and shares it in the email invitation. At the event, he talks for ten minutes about why democracy matters no matter your political views, and makes one more ask for donations at the end.

TO mjones@gmail.com

SUBJECT Postcards Potluck Next Saturday

Hello! Come join me and your neighbors for an evening of good food and good trouble. Bring a dish to share and bring a friend if you’d like! I’ll say a few words about why I care so much about protecting our democratic institutions, and then we’ll write some postcards to thank our elected officials for all that they do. I’ve set up a page where you can donate to Protect Democracy — I’m asking everyone to consider \$50 but it’s really whatever feels right. You can do that at the link below. Mostly, I just hope you’ll come. Next Saturday, 6:00 PM, St. Luke’s community hall. See you there.

Walter

<https://donorbox.org/friendsfunddemocracy/walter>

Finding Your “Why”



Priya

Local Restaurant Owner

Oakland, CA

FUNDRAISER TYPE

In-Person Event

FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$4,000

ASK AMOUNT

\$150

Priya’s “Why”

As a small business owner, Priya sees threats to things like predictable governance and the rule of law as directly connected to her business stability and livelihood. She also wants her restaurant to be known as a space where the neighborhood gathers around meaningful causes.

Priya’s Plan

Priya hosts a lively “dinner for democracy” on a day her restaurant is normally closed. She invites close friends and family and plans a special menu. She sets a ticket price of \$150 per plate, which her guests reserve by donating ahead of the big day on her personal fundraising page.

TO hstevens@gmail.com

SUBJECT You’re invited to a special dinner for democracy

Hello dear friends! On Monday the 23rd, I’ll be hosting a special dinner gathering at the restaurant to support the incredible work of the nonprofit [Protect Democracy](#). You probably already know this is a cause close to my heart, and one that affects our whole community including local businesses like mine. So let’s have a great time while standing up for an America that makes sure our leaders actually work for us!

Tickets are \$150 a plate, which includes three courses plus a glass of wine. You can reserve your spot by [RSVPing here](#) and making a donation [at this link](#) (which includes a sneak peek at what we’re cooking up!) I can’t wait to see you at the table.

Priya

Creating an Online Fundraiser



Creating an Online Fundraiser

TODAY'S DIGITAL PLATFORMS — texts, emails, and social media — provide an ideal way to stay connected to the people we care about. They're also fantastic tools for spreading awareness about Protect Democracy's work and encouraging others to support it.

First, make it yours

The first step is to pick a meaningful moment to tie your fundraiser to. This will anchor your “why” — the reason that motivates you and your community — while also providing a timely deadline for donations. This page shows a few ideas for inspiration.

How to get it done

Once you've settled on your “why,” think about the “how” too. What methods will you use to reach out to your network?

- Text messages
- Social media stories, posts, or videos
- Emails
- Community newsletters

Some ideas for meaningful moments to get you started



Birthdays or Weddings

Instead of or in addition to gifts, encourage your friends and family to chip in to support our nonpartisan mission.



Holidays

Many holidays offer an opportunity to reflect on what matters to us — which in this case could be the work of defending democracy.



Historical events

Is there a date in our nation's history that feels important to you? Consider combining your fundraiser with education about why it matters.



Current events

Maybe a recent news story makes you particularly passionate. Fundraising helps you raise awareness while giving others a way to make a difference.

Step-by-Step Checklist

Asking for money can be a little uncomfortable at first. Our checklist guides you through organizing an online fundraiser that you can feel confident people will be happy to support.



Print out this checklist and use it to keep you on track as you plan your fundraiser.

1. Planning and setup

☐ Pick a date or a date range.

Setting a fixed timeframe for your fundraiser tied to your meaningful moment is important to build momentum. We recommend that online fundraisers last between a week and a month to allow time for you to announce it and then send a few follow-up reminders.

☐ Decide on an “ask” amount.

Think about the people in your network and what they can generally afford to donate. Choose a specific “ask” amount that is meaningful but not too much of a reach. For close friends and family, a modest ask of \$25–\$50 is usually easy to say yes to.

☐ Use that to set a balanced financial goal.

Aim for an amount that is both realistic and ambitious. For example, if 25 friends give \$25 each for your 25th birthday, you’ve already raised \$625!

☐ Make a list of who you’ll reach out to.

Is it friends and family only? Your wider circle? Clarity early on helps you use your time best later.

☐ Create your custom fundraising page.

When you’re ready, use the [form on our website](#) to request your personalized Protect Democracy fundraising web page through Donorbox. This page is where you’ll direct your network to give, and it ensures that their donations are visible to you and connected to your efforts. New page requests can take up to three business days to activate, so make sure to submit your request with plenty of lead time.

[REQUEST YOUR PAGE →](#)

See our Donorbox setup guide on [page 20](#)

Step-by-Step Checklist

2. Promoting your fundraiser

☐ **Announce your fundraiser.**

Give it a fun name and make sure to include the specific ask amount and timeframe. If you're using social media, consider creating a custom graphic or banner to make it stand out. However, please do not use Protect Democracy's logo or other brand elements in your personal promos.

EXPERT TIP

Free online tools like [Canva](#) or [Adobe Express](#) are great for creating eye-catching graphics for your fundraiser.

☐ **Reach out one-on-one.**

Reaching out directly to people via text or email gives your fundraiser a personal touch and encourages engagement.

☐ **Spread the word broadly.**

Even if you're doing plenty of one-on-one outreach, posting to social media every few days is a great and easy complement to those efforts. Consider posting across multiple platforms since you may reach a different group of connections on Instagram than on Facebook.

☐ **Include helpful materials.**

Combining fundraising with education can be a great approach to help people understand your passion. Spend a little time curating a list of links to share, or refer to [our resources](#) to get you started.

☐ **Send a reminder (or two or three).**

We're all busy and many in your network may not spot your first post or message. Plan to remind folks of your fundraising effort a few times in the days before and after the actual deadline you've set in case anyone missed it.

Step-by-Step Checklist

3. Thank-yous and following up

☐ **Thank everyone who gave.**

Your community has shown support for a cause you care about, so make sure to express your gratitude. A personal thank-you can also be a great way to keep the conversation going. You can log in to your Donorbox dashboard anytime to view a complete list of everyone who's made a gift. Check our [message templates](#) to get started.

☐ **Send follow-up to those who didn't.**

Asking one more time can make all the difference. Refer to our [message templates](#) for example language you can use.

Planning an In-Person Event



Planning an In-Person Event

HOSTING AN EVENT for those you know can make a difference in more ways than one. Beyond raising funds for our critical work, connecting in person also strengthens your community's capacity for collective action — a vital ingredient for a flourishing democracy. And the best part is you don't need professional-level planning skills or a huge budget to make it happen.

First, make it yours

In-person events can be small or large, fancy or casual, and anything in-between. You can make it an evening with just a few close friends or a chance to bring together a crowd and meet new people in your community. Use the ideas on this page for inspiration as you start your planning.

A note on ticketed events

For tax purposes, only U.S. citizens are allowed to donate to Protect Democracy. So if you are organizing a ticketed event, we recommend providing a way non-citizens can still attend without making a donation.

Some event ideas to get you started



Dinner or house party

Invite friends over to discuss their thoughts on democracy. Share why it matters to you personally and ask for donations at the end.



Athletic challenges

Organize a neighborhood walk-a-thon or a "5K for the First Amendment" where entry requires a donation.



Music performance

Is music your thing? Host a gig where the "ticket" is a donation or a set of proceeds are donated.



Cover charge meetup

Host a clothing swap, book club, or other event where the "ticket" to participate is a donation.



Bake-sale benefit

Are you an artist or baker? Consider hosting a sale where a share of the proceeds are donated.

Step-by-Step Checklist

Organizing an event can feel daunting, but we've got you covered. Our checklists cover everything you need to do to plan and host a successful and inspiring community event.



Print out this checklist and use it to keep you on track as you plan your fundraiser.

1. Planning and setup

☐ Pick a date at least four weeks out.

This gives you ample time to plan and ensures your guests have enough notice to add it to their calendars.

☐ Determine attendee count based on event type.

For more intimate gatherings like a dinner or a meetup, aim for 10–20 guests. For larger or activity-based gatherings like a community run or a benefit performance, aim for at least 30 but the sky's the limit.

☐ Decide on a reasonable “ask” amount.

Think about the people in your network and what they can generally afford to donate. Choose a specific “ask” amount that is meaningful but not too much of a reach. For close friends and family, a modest ask of \$25–\$50 is easy to say yes to. If you're hosting a more formal gathering, inviting professional networks, or organizing an event with a uniquely compelling draw, you can comfortably aim for \$100 or higher.

☐ Use that to set a balanced financial goal.

Aim for a goal that is both realistic and ambitious. For example, if 25 attendees give \$40, you've raised \$1,000!

☐ Create your custom fundraising page.

When you're ready, use the [form on our website](#) to request your personalized Protect Democracy fundraising web page through Donorbox. This page is where you'll direct those you invite to give, and it ensures that their donations are visible to you and connected to your efforts. New page requests can take up to three business days to activate, so make sure to submit your request with plenty of lead time.

[REQUEST YOUR PAGE →](#)

See our Donorbox setup guide on [page 20](#)

Step-by-Step Checklist

2. Shape your big day

☐ Name your event.

This is where your personal touch starts to shine though. Consider a theme to make it feel unique and exciting.

☐ Secure a venue.

If you're planning a dinner or house party, this part is easy. But other events will require finding and reserving a location. Talk to local businesses that may want to offer their space. Make sure you pin down your venue early and obtain any necessary permits.

☐ Plan your food and drinks.

Make sure you're prepared to provide enough refreshments for all your guests. Consider having a local restaurant or bakery cater your event, and make sure to confirm the details for any deliveries.

☐ Keep track of your RSVPs.

Whether you're using an online RSVP tracker, a Google form, or a handwritten list, you'll want to have a clear idea of who's coming.

☐ Coordinate logistics.

Will you need chairs, tables, audiovisual equipment, or more? Make a list of everything you need for your event and a plan to get it. Don't be afraid to tap your friends or neighbors for assistance.

☐ Create and print materials.

Plan to have information on-hand that makes it easy for guests to learn about Protect Democracy and make a donation. Consider having a stack of our [printable flyers](#) to distribute. You may also want to create a large sign or poster with a QR code that guests can scan to access your personal fundraising page.

EXPERT TIP

Creating a scannable QR code graphic that links directly to your Donorbox page is easy with free tools like [MyQRCode](#) or [Canva](#).

Step-by-Step Checklist

3. Promote your event

☐ Create invitations and announcement materials.

Once you settle on your details — date, time, location — make sure you incorporate them into your invitations.

EXPERT TIP

Online tools like [Partiful](#) or [Paperless Post](#) make it easy to create invitations and track your RSVPs, and both include free options.

If creativity is your thing, design an eye-catching flyer or ask a local artist to help. Make sure you keep the event details as the focus and don't include too much extra text. And please do not use Protect Democracy's logo or other brand elements in your promotional materials, as it could affect our tax-exempt status.

☐ Spread the word broadly.

Consider posting an invitation to your event on social media. Or if you're aiming for a crowd, post flyers around your neighborhood and at local businesses. You can also ask friends to spread the word via their social networks. Reach out one-on-one, too. Mass invitations can be easily ignored, so asking people to attend via text or email will make sure they feel truly invited.

☐ Send a reminder.

Reach out to your RSVP list two weeks before the event and again one week before with a reminder that you hope they can attend.

☐ Send a final reminder with logistics.

Reach out to your RSVP list 48 hours before the event with a final reminder, including any relevant logistics info like parking details as well as a note expressing how excited you are to see them.

Step-by-Step Checklist

4. Hosting your event

☐ **Get excited!**

Have fun, be present, and focus on connecting with people and sharing your excitement about Protect Democracy's work.

☐ **Make donating easy.**

Make sure that guests don't have to go hunting for information about Protect Democracy or the link to your personal donation page. Write it down for them or if you've created a sign or QR code poster, put it somewhere visible.

☐ **Prep your tech.**

If you're going to be playing music or showing a video, test the speakers and Wi-Fi beforehand.

☐ **Give brief remarks.**

Mid-way through the event is a great time to gather everyone's attention for two or three minutes. Share a few brief remarks about why protecting our democratic institutions is so important to you, and why you support Protect Democracy.

☐ **Make a clear verbal "ask".**

During your remarks, make it clear how attendees can get to your fundraising page to make their donation.

☐ **Capture the memories.**

Take plenty of photos and write down any inspiring quotes or testimonials from your attendees.

Step-by-Step Checklist

5. Thank-yous and following up

☐ **Thank everyone who attended.**

The event may be over, but the fundraising isn't quite yet! Follow up within 24 hours to express your gratitude to guests who gave donations and to make one more ask to anyone who didn't donate on-site. You may even want to consider handwritten thank-you notes for an added personal touch. You can log in to your Donorbox dashboard anytime to view a complete list of everyone who's made a gift. Check our [message templates](#) to get started.

☐ **Send a follow-up to those who didn't.**

Asking one more time can make all the difference. Refer to our [message templates](#) for example language you can use.

☐ **Share your success with us.**

We'd love to know how your event went. Please share reflections with us at communityfundraising@protectdemocracy.org or [tag us](#) in your photos on social media.

☐ **Celebrate your achievement.**

Organizing and hosting an event is no easy task — though hopefully this guide makes it easier. Don't forget to thank anyone who helped you organize and take some time to celebrate your own hard work.

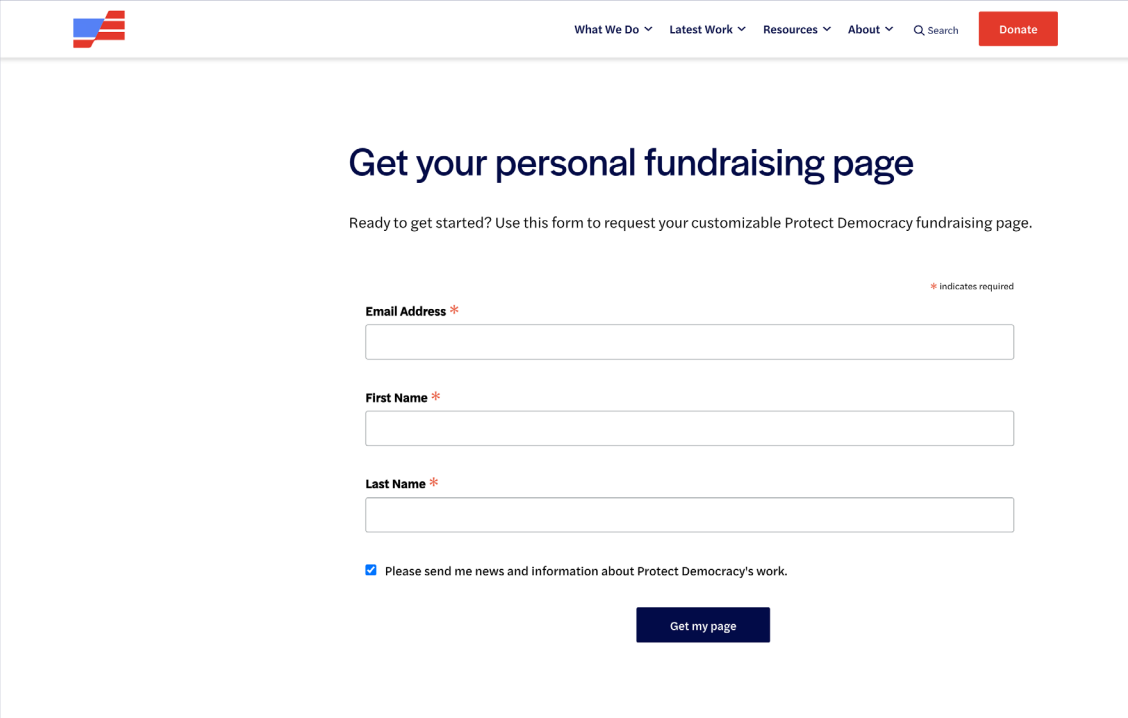
Donation Page Setup

SETTING UP A PERSONAL Protect Democracy fundraising page is the easiest way for your contacts to donate to your fundraiser and for you to track its progress.

Get started by completing the [donation page request](#) form on our website. Within three business days you should receive an email invitation from Donorbox to create and customize your page.

If it's been more than three business days and you haven't received an email, make sure to check your spam folder. Then, if needed, email communityfundraising@protectdemocracy.org for assistance.

REQUEST YOUR PAGE →



The screenshot shows the top of a web browser with the Protect Democracy logo and navigation links: What We Do, Latest Work, Resources, About, Q Search, and a red Donate button. The main heading is "Get your personal fundraising page". Below it is a subheading: "Ready to get started? Use this form to request your customizable Protect Democracy fundraising page." A small red asterisk indicates required fields. The form has three input fields: "Email Address", "First Name", and "Last Name". Below these is a checkbox labeled "Please send me news and information about Protect Democracy's work." and a dark blue "Get my page" button.

What We Do ▾ Latest Work ▾ Resources ▾ About ▾ Q Search Donate

Get your personal fundraising page

Ready to get started? Use this form to request your customizable Protect Democracy fundraising page.

* indicates required

Email Address *

First Name *

Last Name *

☒ Please send me news and information about Protect Democracy's work.

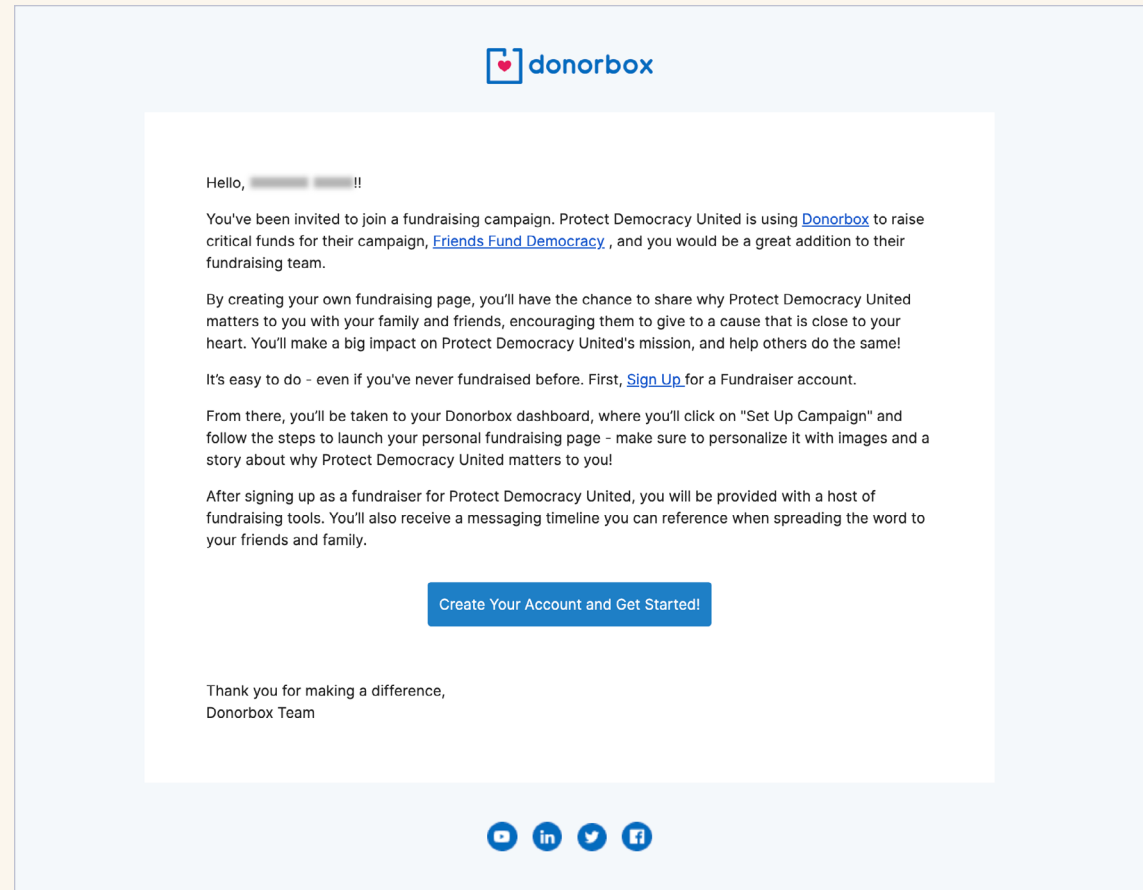
Get my page

Donation Page Setup

1. Accept the email invitation from Donorbox.

Check your inbox for an email with the subject line **Invitation to fundraise for Protect Democracy United's campaign** and click the link to create your account.

Click the link to get started and choose a password to log in to your Donorbox account.



Donation Page Setup

2. Build and customize your personal donation page.

When you first log in to Donorbox, click the **Accept invitation** button to get to your fundraising page builder. You'll be guided through a few simple steps to personalize your page.

Add a square profile photo and upload a background image banner to represent your event. Use the *Share your Story* section to describe why Protect Democracy's mission is important to you and share key information about your fundraiser — including the donation ask amount. You can even add photos or videos.

Enter your total fundraising target in the *Campaign Goal* section and click the **Save** button to make your page live.

The screenshot displays the 'Fundraising Page' builder interface. On the left, a sidebar contains instructions and input fields for: 'Your photo' (85x85 pixels), 'Background Image' (1920x1080 pixels), and 'Share your Story'. A 'Save' button is at the bottom of the sidebar. On the right, a 'Preview' window shows a live example of the fundraising page for 'Friends Fund Democracy'. The preview includes a 'DONATE' button, a fundraiser profile for 'Your Name', a progress bar, and campaign statistics: '\$200 Raised', '37 Donations', and '\$1000 Goal'. The 'Campaign Details' section contains a text area for a description. On the far right of the preview, there is a 'Choose amount' section with frequency options (One time, Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly), a currency dropdown set to 'US Dollars (USD)', and preset donation amounts (\$10, \$50, \$100) along with a custom input field and a 'Next' button. A 'Hide Preview' button is located at the top right of the preview window.

Donation Page Setup

3. View and share your donation page link.

Congrats, your page is now live!

Copy the unique URL address from your browser to share when you reach out to your community. It will look something like:

<https://donorbox.org/friendsfunddemocracy/your-name>

Make sure they use this page to donate so all gifts can be linked to your efforts and visible in your dashboard.

Whenever someone makes a gift, you'll also receive an email notification.

The screenshot displays the 'Friends Fund Democracy' donation page setup interface. At the top, the 'Protect Democracy UNITED' logo is visible, along with a 'Donate' button. The main header features a large image of colorful confetti. Below this, the title 'Friends Fund Democracy' is prominently displayed. A profile section shows a circular profile picture of a woman and the text 'Fundraising on behalf of Protect Democracy United'. A progress bar indicates the fundraising status, with '\$0 Raised', '0 Donations', and a '\$1,000 Goal'. A paragraph of text encourages support for Protect Democracy and their work to keep elections safe. On the right side, a 'Choose amount' section offers options for 'One-time' or 'Monthly' donations, with preset amounts of \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, and \$250. There is also a field for '\$ Other Amount'. Below the amount selection, two checkboxes are present: 'I am a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. (If you are not, do not proceed.)' and 'I understand that my name and donation amount will be visible to both Protect Democracy and the fundraiser host.' A red 'Next' button is at the bottom right. The footer of the page shows 'Powered by donorbox'.

Donation Page Setup

4. Log in to check your progress or make changes.

To see how your fundraiser is doing, use your email and password to log in to your Donorbox account at:

https://donorbox.org/org_session/new

We recommend checking every few days so you can thank your donors promptly. Click on the **Friends Fund Democracy** campaign to view detailed information on your fundraiser.

At the bottom of this page, you can see a list of each person who has made a gift as well as how much you've raised in total.

You can also use the **Edit** button at the top right to make changes to your fundraising page at any time.

The screenshot shows the Donorbox dashboard for the 'Friends Fund Democracy' campaign. The left sidebar includes a 'donorbox' logo and a 'Dashboard' menu. The main content area is titled 'Friends Fund Democracy' and features a 'Link to Donation Page' section with a campaign URL: <https://donorbox.org/friendsfunddemocracy/fundraiser/>. Below this, it shows 'Gross Donations' of \$10 and an 'Average Donation' of \$10. To the right, a table titled '1 Donations' shows a single donation in USD for a total of 10.00. Below the table, there are filters for 'Gross Donation' (\$10), 'Average Donation' (\$10), and 'Donations' (1). Further down, there are dropdown menus for 'All Time', 'Paid', 'All Intervals', 'All Sources', and 'All Currencies'. A search bar is also present. At the bottom, a table lists donations with columns for 'ID & Date', 'Donor', 'Amount', 'Type', 'Donor Comments', and 'Internal Notes'. The first entry shows a donation of \$10 made on 08/20/26 at 17:57:27 via Stripe One-time. In the top right corner, there is a 'Campaign Email Notifications' button and an 'Edit' button. At the bottom right, there is a 'Help' button.

Currency	Total	Count
USD	10.00	1

ID & Date	Donor	Amount	Type	Donor Comments	Internal Notes
08/20/26 17:57:27		\$10	Stripe One-time		

Message Templates

THE EXAMPLES IN THIS SECTION include the basics but are intended to be adapted and customized. Remember, community fundraising is based on personal connection, so your network will be most likely to respond to messages where your unique voice — and your enthusiasm for Protect Democracy’s work — shines through.

You can copy and paste these template messages directly into an email or text, then customize.

IN-PERSON EVENT

Invitation for email or text

He [Name] ! I’m hosting a [event type and name] at [location] on [date] at [time] to support the nonpartisan nonprofit Protect Democracy. They do incredible work safeguarding our democratic norms and processes, and building a democracy that works for all of us. I’m a supporter because [share your “why”] .

If you can make it, I’d love for you to come by, enjoy some [food/drinks] , and help me reach my goal of raising [\$ goal amount] . You can RSVP here: [link to RSVP] . I would love to see you there!

Message Templates

IN-PERSON EVENT

Invitation for social media posts (long)

Hey everyone. I'm excited to announce that on [date] at [time] , I'm hosting a [event type and name] at [location] to support the nonpartisan nonprofit Protect Democracy. They're doing incredible work right now to safeguard our democratic norms and processes and building a #democracy that works for all of us. I'm a supporter because [share your "why"] .

I'm aiming to raise [\$ goal amount] to support their work so if you can make it I would love to see you! It's shaping up to be a great time. You can RSVP here: [link to RSVP] .

#ProtectDemocracy #FriendsFundDemocracy

IN-PERSON EVENT

Invitation for social media posts (short)

I'm excited to announce that on [date] at [time] , I'm hosting a [event type and name] at [location] to support the nonpartisan nonprofit Protect Democracy. [Share your why] .

If you can make it I would love to see you! You can RSVP here: [link to RSVP] .

Message Templates

IN-PERSON EVENT

Attendee final ask for email or text

Hi all! Thank you so much to everyone who came out yesterday to support Protect Democracy! It was wonderful seeing everyone. Thanks to your generosity, I've already raised [\$ raised amount] . If you didn't get a chance to donate during the event but still want to help me reach my goal of [\$ goal amount] there's still time. You can chip in right here: [your donation page link] .

IN-PERSON EVENT

Non-attendee final ask for email or text

Hi all! I missed you at the fundraiser yesterday, but we had a wonderful turnout and raised [\$ raised amount] for Protect Democracy. If you'd still like to join me in supporting their important work, you can make a secure donation here: [your donation page link] . Every dollar counts. Thank you.

Message Templates

ONLINE FUNDRAISER

Announcement for social media posts

Hey everyone! For [share your why] , I'm raising money for Protect Democracy, a nonprofit safeguarding our democratic norms and processes and building a democracy that works for all of us. I hope to raise [\$ goal amount] and am asking those who can to chip in just [\$ ask amount] . You can donate at the link here: [your donation page link] .

#ProtectDemocracy #FriendsFundDemocracy

ONLINE FUNDRAISER

Announcement for newsletters

For this newsletter, I'm encouraging donations for Protect Democracy, a nonprofit working on the front lines of safeguarding our democratic norms and processes and building a democracy that works for all of us. I hope to raise [\$ goal amount] and am asking those who can to chip in just [\$ ask amount] . If you can, I'd really appreciate your support. You can donate at the link here: [your donation page link] .

Message Templates

ONLINE FUNDRAISER

Thank-you for email or text

Hi [Name], thank you so much for chipping in to my fundraiser for Protect Democracy. I also want to share a couple of resources you might be interested in. First is a compilation of simple actions you can take to strengthen our democracy. And the second is Protect Democracy's newsletter, If You Can Keep It. I've linked both below. Thank you again, it meant a lot to me!

<https://protectdemocracy.org/actions>

<https://www.ifyoucankeepit.org>

More Resources

FUNDRAISING EVENTS AREN'T solely about raising money. They're also an opportunity to strengthen your connection to Protect Democracy's work and for you to share why it's so deeply meaningful to you with those you know.

Explore these resources to find out about our work and mission, and share them with your friends and guests so they can learn more too.

Links to learn more and share

Why collective action is the only way

Executive Director Ian Bassin explains why working together is the proven solution for defeating an autocrat.

Executive Override

Learn the strategy the administration is using to try to undermine the 2026 midterm elections — and how to stop it.

Our Impact

Discover all the ways Protect Democracy makes change, from litigation and advocacy to education and technology.

How you can protect democracy

Explore actions you can take in your community, whether you have just a few minutes, a couple of hours, or longer.

If You Can Keep It

Want more in-depth updates and analysis? Check out our newsletter and sign up for weekly posts in your inbox.

Printable flyer

Download and print this one-page flyer to distribute at your event and introduce others to our mission.

Community Fundraising FAQ

What parts of Protect Democracy's work does community fundraising support?

Your fundraising efforts support the work of Protect Democracy United, our 501(c)(4) tax-exempt organization. These gifts allow us the greatest flexibility, funding litigation, public communications, and organizing efforts as well as allowing us to advocate and lobby in legislatures at the federal and local level to strengthen and defend our democracy. To learn more about all the kinds of work we do, visit the [Our Impact](#) page on our website.

How do I get my personal fundraising page?

Start by completing the [fundraising page request form](#) on our website. Within three business days you should receive an email invitation to create a Donorbox account and set up your page. Follow the steps in the [donation page setup section](#) of this guide to add your event information, customize with images, and get your personal donation link to share.

Are there any restrictions on who can make a gift to my fundraiser?

Yes, only U.S. citizens may donate through personal fundraising pages. This is important to maintain our status as a tax-exempt organization.

How can I see who's given to my fundraiser?

Once you've set up your personal fundraising page, you can check your progress anytime by logging in to Donorbox at:

https://donorbox.org/org_session/new

You'll be able to see a list of everyone who has made a donation to your fundraiser as well as the amount they've given.

Are donations to my fundraiser tax-deductible?

No. All donations made through your personal donation page go to Protect Democracy United, our 501(c)(4) social welfare organization. This designation allows us the greatest flexibility to fund the work that's most urgent.

If you have questions or if your campaign does not fit this constraint, please contact our team at communityfundraising@protectdemocracy.org.

If donors have other questions about how their gift affects their taxes, they may consult with a tax professional. We are not able to give tax advice.

Community Fundraising FAQ

Will donors to my fundraiser get a receipt?

Yes, anyone who gives through your personal donation page will receive a receipt from Donorbox at the email they provided.

Do you accept donations by check or cash?

We can accept donations by personal check, though they won't be reflected on your personal fundraising page. Checks should be made payable to "Protect Democracy United" and mailed to:

Protect Democracy United
2020 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, #163
Washington, DC 20006

We are not able to accept cash donations. If one or more of your guests wishes to give cash and it's not important that they receive a receipt in their own name, we suggest you collect it and then make an online donation for the same amount.

Can I use Protect Democracy's logo to promote my event?

No, please do not use Protect Democracy's logo or branding to promote your event. This is important to maintain our status as a tax-exempt organization.

Does hosting a fundraiser affiliate me in any way with Protect Democracy?

No. Fundraisers are independent volunteers, not agents, employees, legal representatives, or contractors of Protect Democracy. Our insurance does not cover third-party events hosted by individual fundraisers and you are responsible for obtaining any applicable permissions, permits, or other compliance needs.

I want to host a second fundraiser. Can I reuse my Donorbox page?

Yes, absolutely! Your personal fundraising page is yours to reuse as often as you'd like. Simply log in to Donorbox to update your event information and, if you'd like, swap in a new header image to give it an easy refresh.

Who can I contact for help if I have questions about my fundraiser?

Reach out to communityfundraising@protectdemocracy.org and include "Event Support" in the subject line. We'll make an effort to respond within two business days.



Protect Democracy is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing American democracy from declining into a more authoritarian form of government.

protectdemocracy.org