



Building the  
Future of Democracy

818-591-9321  
5115 Douglas Fir Rd.  
Calabasas, CA 91302

# A Message from Our President



Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are truly excited to celebrate the rich, productive opportunities we have had to engage with our beneficiaries, volunteers, and partners. In collaboration with all of you, we are succeeding in our mission to bring deep civic and constitutional education to everyone. Continuing to build on our research-backed programs, we focused on adapting and innovating to better meet the challenges in our society today. We launched projects to increase access for English learners and developed multi-modal curricula, like [Civil Discourse: An American Legacy](#).

Support for these projects enables us to engage nationally with people of all ages, helping them gain the skills and dispositions necessary to identify and step into their rights, roles, and responsibilities for civic engagement.

Our conviction grew stronger upon learning that nationally, eighth-grade civics scores have decreased significantly for the first time in 25 years. This unfortunate evidence attests to the many years of national malaise in championing the importance of civics. We are confident that with your continued support, we will strengthen constitutional understanding and responsible civic involvement—to help our democratic republic and its people thrive.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Chris Riano". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Christopher R. Riano, President  
Center for Civic Education





# Our Mission

The Center for Civic Education strives to promote an enlightened and responsible citizenry committed to democratic principles and actively engaged in the practice of democracy.

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**Southwest Career and Technical Academy  
celebrating 1st place at a Nevada  
Regional We the People competition**



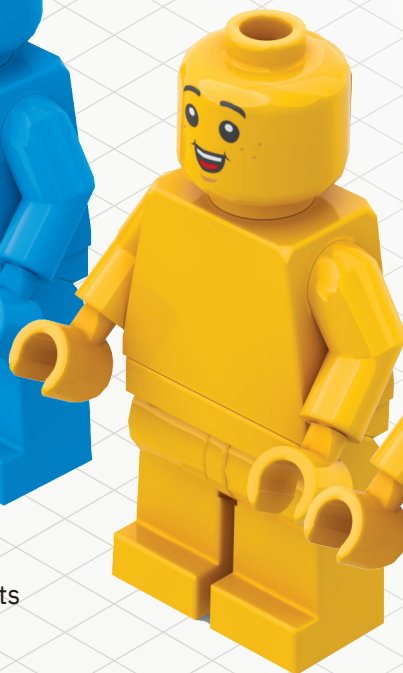
## The Challenge



**▲ 31%**

One in three students cannot completely demonstrate an understanding of the rule of law.

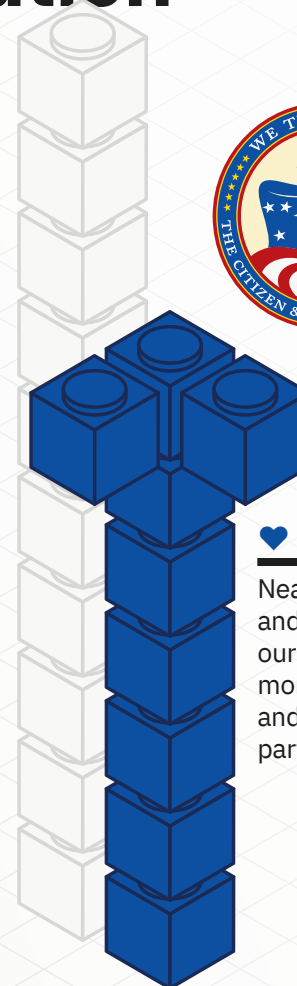
↑ Source: NAEP Report Card: 2022 NAEP Civics Assessment—Civics score declines for the first time; score unchanged compared to 1998: [nationsreportcard.gov/highlights/civics/2022](https://nationsreportcard.gov/highlights/civics/2022)



**▲ 22%**

Less than one in four 8th graders score proficient in civics.

## The Solution



**♥ 70+%**

Nearly three-quarters of middle and high school students in our core programs became more attentive to government and felt more prepared to participate in their community.



# The Impact

🧱 = 250 people

737,000+



**viewers and users of our free online courses, podcast, lesson plans, and strategies for educators, and other program participants**

Every year, donors like you enable us to reach teachers and their students, all across the country. Last year, the Center brought life-changing resources to almost 737,000+ people of all ages.

Over 10,240 youth & adults participated directly in Center-led programs, such as workshops and national competitions.





# Shining a Spotlight on the Future





We were thrilled to, once again, host the We the People National Invitational and in-person National Finals! Fourteen middle school and forty-eight high school teams from thirty-one states and the District of Columbia participated in this

year's events. Seventy-two volunteer judges joined us for the Finals, while an additional twenty-four judges assisted with the Invitational. The Invitational took place on April 20 and 21 (virtually) and was immediately followed by the in-person National Finals from April 22-24.

Approximately 1,200 students and their teachers participated in the high-energy weekend of the National Finals competition. Their days were filled with hard work during simulated congressional hearings, practice, and immersion in all Washington, D.C. offers.

The National Finals is the capstone competition of the Center's We the People program, whereby students gain immeasurable knowledge about the U.S. Constitution and the American system of government, and develop the skills needed to participate in and influence our democratic republic.

Virginia's Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies from Richmond, Virginia, placed first, Oregon's Grant High placed second, and California's Foothill High School placed third. [The results and awards ceremony program](#) can be found on our website. Our media partner for this event [produced a short video](#) highlighting the program's impact.

This year, we featured a College and Professional Development Fair for participating students and their teachers. Participants immersed themselves in conversation with school and historical organization representatives. The Center thanks our Fair sponsors—Kansas State University, the Bill of Rights Institute, and the Center for the Study of Federalism—for their support.

This event was made possible in part by your support and the support of our event sponsors: T-Mobile, the American Judges Foundation, Kansas State University, the Bill of Rights Institute, the Center for the Study of Federalism, as well as our media sponsor, NoticeNews, and our technology sponsor, Fidelity Investments. ●

# We the People National Finals

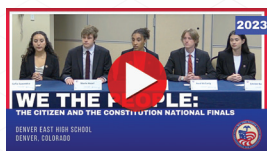
## ↓ Watch Students in Action



↑ Arizona



↑ California



↑ Colorado



↑ Washington

# Cultivating Public Policy Skills: The Project Citizen Research Project



↑ Project Citizen Portfolio from  
P.S./M.S. 184 Shuang Wen School

Teachers in the five regions of the [Project Citizen Research Program](#) (PCRP) continued implementing the Project Citizen curriculum with middle and high school classes through the Spring 2023 semester. They submitted class public policy portfolios to regional showcases for evaluation. Closing out the last year of this three-year project, evaluators have studied the efficacy of the Project Citizen curricular program for students and its supportive professional development program for teachers in achieving outcomes correlated with state standards in civics and government.

Across five regions of the country, approximately one hundred teachers each year have participated in the professional development program and implemented the curriculum with their students. Evaluators examine data on teachers' professional development and students' civic knowledge, dispositions, and skills; social-emotional learning; and outcomes related to other academic areas such as English Language Arts and STEM.

“What I learned by participating in Project Citizen is that a policy can be changed, but there needs to be hard work and effort. It isn't that easy to change something, but as a regular citizen, I could still try and actually make a change.

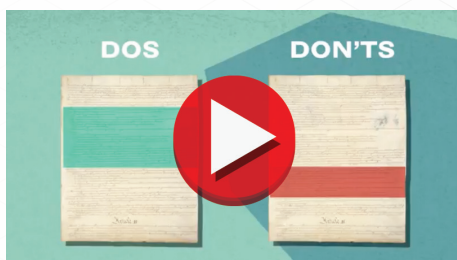
—Brittney G., Project Citizen Student

While just outside of the fiscal reporting period, the Center is pleased to share that on August 1, the PCRP National Showcase featured fifteen class portfolios from across the country. The national showcase—the capstone competition for the Center's Project Citizen program—included three classes from each of the five regions involved in the grant-funded project. Students proposed public policy solutions to a wide range of local issues, including trash in community parks, unhealthy school lunches, parking lot accidents, unsafe drinking water, and drugs in schools. Funding for this project was made possible by the U.S. Department of Education through an Institute of Education Sciences grant. ●





↑ Foundations of the Constitution



↑ The Dos and Don'ts of Congress



↑ The Least Dangerous Branch



↑ Presumed Innocent

# Engaging Students of All Ages:

## THE CONSTITUTION EXPLAINED

The Center for Civic Education joined forces with iCivics, a leading national nonprofit, to create a new series of videos for young people and adult learners that explain basic facts about the U.S. Constitution in everyday language.

**The Constitution EXPLAINED** is a collection of brief, two- to three-minute videos that explore key concepts of the U.S. Constitution and explain how the American system of government has changed since the founding period. The series launched in September 2022, in time for Constitution Day and Citizenship Week. The Constitution EXPLAINED was made possible by the generous support of Kenneth C. Griffin. ●

“This collaborative effort shows what is possible when sister organizations work together and has produced a rich collection of resources that students of all ages can use to make core constitutional concepts accessible to everyone. We have made a special effort to tell the story of American constitutional democracy in an intellectually and visually engaging way, and we are very proud of the result.

—Christopher R. Riano, President of the Center for Civic Education





# Filling a Need for Educators





↑ Webinar: Media Literacy: Research with Reliable Sources (May 8, 2023)



↑ Women in the American Colonies & Early Republic (April 2023)

← All episodes can be [viewed online](#). Professional learning webinars are made possible, in part, by support from the Mara W. Breech Foundation.

# Webinars for Professional Learning

The Center expanded its professional development portfolio for teachers in elementary and secondary schools through a new online seminar series: Successful Civics for All.

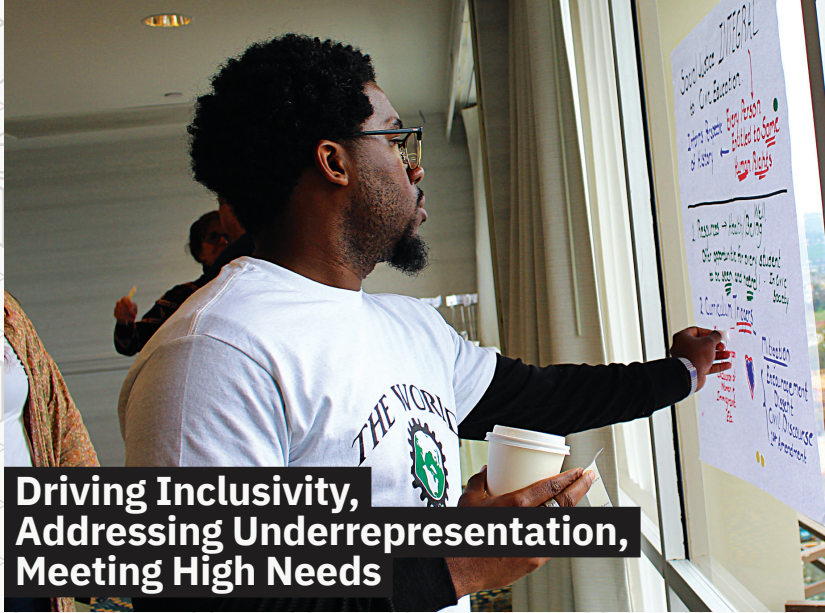
With civic education often resting in the margins of scholastic education and the burgeoning teacher shortage, the Center assists a broad range of teachers in building their civic knowledge, empowers them to feel confident in their abilities,

encourages the use of research-backed curricula, and enables them to create classroom learning environments that support student engagement and improve student outcomes.

Many teachers need the opportunity to deepen their civic education knowledge and pedagogy due to subject reprioritization and cost prohibition. The Center bolsters their success through interactions with program experts, scholars, pedagogical guides, mentors, and other teachers. Content covered in these sessions has applicability beyond the civics and government classroom and helps support and encourage lifelong student civic engagement.

During Civic Learning Week (March 6-10, 2023), the Center co-hosted two new virtual professional development programs with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation: “Underrepresented Voices of the Founding Era” and “Equity & Inclusivity in the Civics Classroom.” Both programs were well attended and well received. There was a bonus through our 60-Second Civics podcast series, [“Women in the American Colonies & Early Republic,”](#) featuring scholar Dr. Holly White from Colonial Williamsburg. ●





**Driving Inclusivity,  
Addressing Underrepresentation,  
Meeting High Needs**

# We the People: Civics that Empowers All Students



The Center hosted more than sixty state coordinators and mentors in Los Angeles on March 17-19, 2023, for the First Annual Coordinator and Mentor Workshop of **We the People: Civics that Empowers All Students (CEAS)**. Workshop sessions featured culturally responsive and trauma-informed pedagogy experts, our research partners at Georgetown University, a taste of new We the People scholar videos, site

collaboration and teacher professional development planning time, and administrative sessions for state coordinators led by the Center's team.

The goals of this multi-year project are to (1) to increase underserved grades 4–8 students' attainment of state civics standards, related literacy standards, and social and emotional learning competencies, (2) to create inclusive and identity-safe learning environments for underserved students in grades 4–8, (3) to support high-quality development for diverse teachers, and (4) to study the effectiveness of the updated and enhanced We the People blended-learning professional development program at improving teacher and student outcomes.

The first round of CEAS summer professional development took place this past summer. Cohort one

comprises three hundred teachers from more than twenty-five states who will implement the We the People curriculum with underserved students in grades 4–8 in the 2023–2024 academic year. Recruitment for this program mainly targeted teachers of minority backgrounds and schools with at least 30% underserved populations. The program, funded by a Supporting Effective Educator Development grant from the U.S. Department of Education, will expand to more states and teachers in the following year. We are recruiting teachers to join an upcoming cohort.

A Supporting Effective Educator Development grant from the U.S. Department of Education funds this project. [More information is on our website](#), and we look forward to sharing more throughout the life cycle of this project. ●





# American Civic Education Teacher Awards

In July, 2022, the Center for Civic Education, the Center on Representative Government, and the National Education Association announced the annual winners of the **American Civic Education Teacher Awards**. They were Justin T. Hubbard of Salamanca High School in Salamanca, New York; Shelina Warren of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C.; and Tony Pirotta of Jule F. Sumner High School in Riverview, Florida.

"I am very proud and honored to receive this award," said ACETA award winner Justin T. Hubbard. "Civic education is vital for the survival of democracy, and I will use this award to motivate me to continue my work in this extremely important field." ●



**Driving Inclusivity,  
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Meeting High Needs**

## James Madison Legacy Project Expansion

Seven We the People state coordinators hosted James Madison Legacy Project Expansion Program professional learning workshops for 146 teachers this past summer. This includes new lesson plans developed by the Center to infuse social-emotional learning, Universal Design for Learning principles, and support for language learners into We the People instruction for high-need middle and high school students.

The teachers will implement the We the People curriculum and new lesson plans with underserved populations, particularly students with disabilities and students of color, in the 2023–2024 academic year. Dr. Diana Owen and her team at Georgetown University are **conducting rigorous research** to determine the effectiveness of the enhanced We the People PD and instruction at improving civics outcomes for underserved populations. The Education Innovation and Research Program of the U.S. Department of Education funds this project. ●





## Increasing Accessibility

The Center is committed to breaking down the language barriers that limit access to beneficial public policy learning experiences.

Awarded in the spring of 2023, the Center was chosen as one of the recipients of California Humanities' new pilot program supporting civics and humanities education for middle schoolers in California. With this vital funding, the Center will implement "Project Citizen: Empowering Community Engagement," in which approximately 100 students will engage cooperatively as a class to identify a problem in their community, research alternative public policy-based solutions, and develop and present a solution.

This pilot will reach students in California who have not had prior opportunities to engage in this curriculum and increase accessibility through program material translation and teacher professional development specifically for English learners in the middle grades. With this support, the Center was able to translate student-facing materials into Spanish, which will help the Center fill a critical gap. This resource will be available more broadly upon the project and pilot completion in September 2024. This project was made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

We continue to look for partnership opportunities to revise and translate our curricula and supplemental resources to remove barriers to participation and engage more learners. ●

## John Lewis Scholarship Class



Suppose you have never seen the students in action. In that case, we encourage you to [watch our John Lewis Scholarship Class](#) (↑), Wilbur Cross High School (Connecticut), that would not have otherwise been able to afford to fund their team's experience if not for the financial assistance provided through the Center's scholarship—fueled by generous investments from funders like you. ●



# The Center in the Media

On May 6, 2023, vice president and chief program officer Donna Phillips was hosted on C-SPAN's *Washington Journal* program to discuss the Center's long-running podcast, **60-Second Civics**. She also discussed the state of civic education and the need to bolster resources for teaching civics. ↓



Later that month, on May 24, Phillips also appeared on *All Sides with Ann Fisher*, a live radio show and podcast produced in Columbus, Ohio. ↓

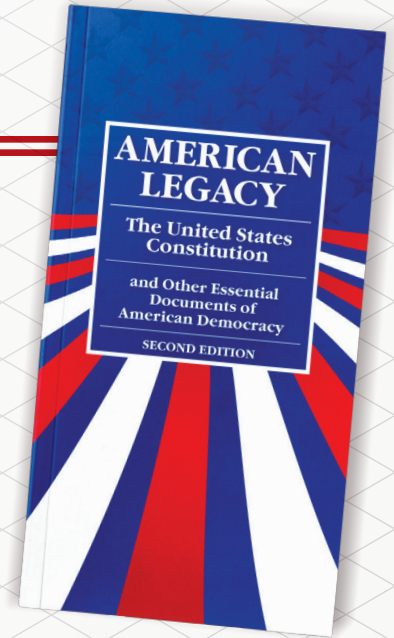
**Listen to the Show ▶ // 50:58**

# The American Legacy Gets a Revision

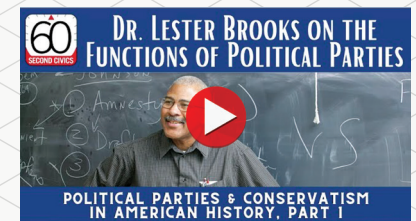
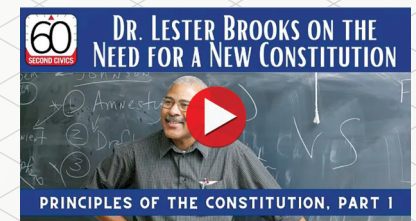
The Center published a revised edition of *American Legacy: The United States Constitution and Other Essential Documents of American Democracy*, edited by Center Board member Henry Chambers Jr., to help us better serve today's learners.

Much more than a pocket Constitution, this portable resource for any American government student contains a collection of works essential for understanding the core and evolving principles of American democracy. The documents illuminate who we are, what we believe, what rights we have, and how we govern ourselves. It notably includes “I Have a Story,” an essay by Maya Angelou written in 2012 specifically to support the Center for Civic Education.

The book's release was accompanied by a series of 60-Second Civics podcasts (➔) created for our Civil Discourse: An American Legacy project. The revised book is [available for purchase](#) through our website. ●



## ↓ 60-Second Civics Highlights from 2023





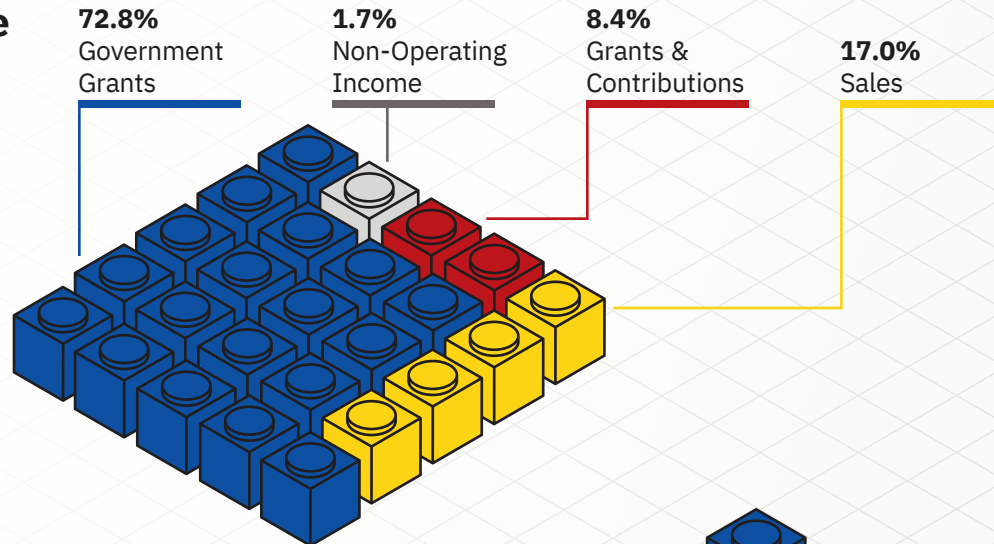


Teachers and Center state partners learn from a scholar at the annual workshop for the Civics that Empowers All Students program.

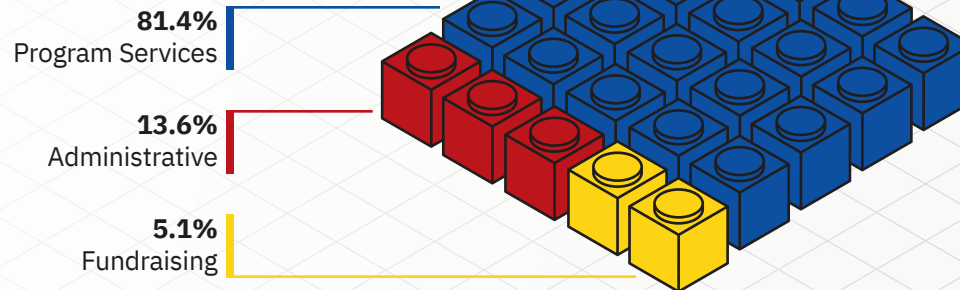


# Financials

## Revenue



## Expenses



## Revenue

Government Grants .....	\$2,888,599
Grants & Contributions .....	\$335,330
Sales .....	\$675,904
Non-Operating Income .....	\$68,959
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,968,792</b>

## Expenses

Program Services .....	\$3,208,150
Administrative .....	\$534,419
Fundraising .....	\$199,212
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,941,781</b>

## Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents .....	\$771,716
Investments .....	\$2,091,543
Accounts Receivable .....	\$344,943
Grant & Contract Receivables .....	\$251,225
Inventory .....	\$411,953
Prepaid Expenses .....	\$12,148
Other Assets .....	\$80,520
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,964,048</b>

## Liabilities

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses .....	\$235,769
Other Current Liabilities .....	\$123,682
Loans Payable .....	\$3,662
Deferred Revenue .....	\$0
Non-Current Liabilities .....	\$187,566
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$550,679</b>

<b>Net Assets .....</b>	<b>\$3,413,369</b>
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# Our Donors

Thanks to the support of corporations, foundations, and individual gifts, the Center for Civic Education provides no- and low-cost programs and resources enabling learners of all ages and professional educators to access robust Constitutional and civic education.

This support offsets the cost of curricula and program development for students and educators, as well as audio, video, and print resources for learners of all ages. Thank you for your investment in democracy and civic education.

**Contributions were made  
August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2024.**

- ✓ Event sponsors are in italicized bold font.
- \* Asterisks denote members of our Sustaining Democracy Circle, monthly donors of \$25 or more per month.

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3 Summrs Fund

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Daniel Murphy





Students from Boonsboro High School placed first in the Maryland state We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution competition.



