MAKING STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MORE RESPONSIVE, PARTICIPATORY, AND REPRESENTATIVE

Political Voice works to make state and local governments more participatory and representative of the communities they serve.

- REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY
- EXPANDED POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
- RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

Our goal is that all community members can genuinely participate in the making of effective public policy, in ways that go beyond just voting, and that governments respond equitably to community concerns. To accomplish this goal, we advocate for racially and economically just democracy reforms.

A more participatory and representative government is the bedrock for achieving a more racially and economically just California. However, despite being a majority-minority state, California’s democracy does not reflect its demographic reality.

Significant racial disparities persist in voting and other forms of political participation. Similarly, racial gaps persist in who is elected to public office. In both cases, whites, especially those who are more affluent, tend to be overrepresented, whereas people of color, especially those who are less affluent, tend to be underrepresented. It is imperative that governments improve their ability to engage with a wider range of community residents and be more responsive to the diverse needs and interests of our growing populations.

CURRENT KEY ISSUES

FAIR REDISTRICTING
Monitoring state and local redistricting processes and empowering residents to engage in those processes.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVENESS TO RACIAL INEQUITY
California’s legacy of white supremacy is reflected in long-standing disparities in life opportunities.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE
Participatory governance practices can lead to more effective and equitable government.
IMPACT OF OUR WORK

We empowered low-income Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) residents to participate in 2021 state and local redistricting processes.

Helped community partners adjust 2020 Census outreach efforts amid the pandemic to encourage residents across LA County to self-respond.

Co-convened a coalition to secure an Office of Racial Equity in the City of Los Angeles.

Fought to ensure every county across California implemented universal vote-by-mail and in-person voting options for the 2020 election.

Won over $180 million in state funding with our Census Policy Advocacy Network partners in support of 2020 Census outreach.

Released Unequal Voices, a two-part report that analyzed the political participation of Californians of color.

Desired Outcomes

○ Better institutional opportunities for community residents to participate in policy decision-making.

○ Decision-making bodies that better reflect the diverse interests and needs of their jurisdictions.

○ Elected officials with a demonstrated commitment to achieving a racially and economically just California.