



2023 Report

It is the end of the year. We have accomplished an extraordinary amount.

In February, along with [Free Speech for People](#), we took a case to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, fighting to overturn the decision of the Attorney General that blocked an anti-SuperPAC initiative we had submitted in August 2022. In May, the Court punted — avoiding the constitutional issue, by ruling that we had to gather signatures on an uncertified petition before we could challenge the erroneous decision to refuse certification. (Ugh.)

We then launched a campaign to make obvious what the Attorney General had missed — that a clear error lay at the heart of the lower court case that gave us SuperPACs, and that the U.S. Supreme Court — yes, **this** Supreme Court — would certainly uphold limitations on contributions to SuperPACs. (You can read the legal argument [in this memo](#) by Professors Larry Tribe (Harvard) and Al Alschuler (Chicago).)

That campaign then grew into a [video competition](#). Lessig first produced [a stem file](#) that creators were to work from. By November 7, we had over 150 videos submitted, and our [five judges](#) — Jason Alexander, Andrew Yang, Guy Charles, Zephyr Teachout and Eli Pariser — then selected three brilliant videos as winners. (You can see all our favorites [here](#)).

Then, motivated by the excitement around the video campaign, we helped citizens in Maine [launch an initiative to challenge SuperPACs in Maine](#). When that law is challenged, it will give the Supreme Court the chance to say what we believe it will say — that nothing in James Madison's First Amendment mandates SuperPACs.

EqualCitizens.US funded the effort to gather signatures in Maine. And by a week after Election Day, we had gathered enough to qualify for the November ballot. (On Election Day, Lessig personally gathered signatures for 13 hours in Hollis, ME — a life-changing experience!)

So because of our work, the fight is on!

And intermixed in all this was a podcast with 27 new episodes (they continue to be posted [here](#)) and op-eds to shape public awareness of democracy issues.

That's a lot for a tiny staff. I'm grateful to everyone on our team for their extraordinary help — Adam Eichen, Blair FitzGibbon, Evan Hunerberg, John Stewart and Phoebe Wong — and especially grateful to those whose generosity (and commitment to democracy!) make this work possible.

Thank you to all!