

# Governance/ Democracy Prospects

Prospect	Alignment
<a href="#">Arnold Ventures</a>	<p>4 Main Topic Areas: Criminal Justice, Health, Education, Public Finance (U.S.- Focused)</p> <p><b>Policing:</b> Arnold seeks to transform American Policing by supporting projects that advance police effectiveness and increase positive encounters between police and the community. We work with partners to analyze enforcement trends, test policing strategies, and build a toolbox of effective responses and cross-agency partnerships to improve public safety and fiscal outcomes. And we help implement promising reforms, then rigorously study their impact on crime rates, local budgets, officer safety, and public confidence, particularly within communities most affected.</p> <p><b>Tax Policy:</b> funds organizations that studies tax policies, evaluate effects, and seek sound strategies to improve economic mobility and address inequality. Grantees advise policymakers on how to design tax codes to achieve short- and long-term goals, provide expert testimony to Congress and state legislatures, and have developed state-of-the-art modeling tools to help determine the impact of major reforms</p> <p><b>Retirement Policy:</b> funds research on public and private retirement plans to gain insight into how to improve those systems, and we partner with governments to create stronger safety nets while balancing budgeting challenges. We support efforts to improve the retirement security of workers, including the expansion of public programs that automatically enroll employees into IRAs and commitments by policymakers to increase funding for pension plans.</p> <p><b>Policy Labs:</b> Arnold launched labs to pair public officials with data analysts and social scientists to learn more about taxpayer needs and demand for state services. Some of the top researchers in the country are now working with government leaders to use advanced methods of data analysis and research to evaluate the impact of existing policies and develop new ideas about how to address pressing social issues.</p>
<a href="#">Carnegie Corporation of NY</a>	<p><b>Strengthening Democracy Program:</b> Carnegie is focused on fostering a pluralistic, vibrant democracy through the civic integration of immigrants, support for nonpartisan voter registration and education, and voting rights.</p> <p>This includes the following focus areas:</p> <p><b>Field Building:</b> Through support for state and local groups aiding immigrant communities</p> <p><b>Strategic Communications:</b> Informing the immigration reform debate and providing messaging for communities</p> <p><b>Policy Development:</b> Improving federal and state policies regarding immigration and civic integration</p> <p><b>Nonpartisan Civic Engagement:</b> Encouraging legal residents to become American citizens and informed voters</p> <p><b>International Peace and Security:</b> To build a more secure, peaceful, and prosperous world through independent analysis and action addressing critical global challenges.</p> <p><b>Global Dynamics:</b> To reduce the risk of global instability by promoting deeper understanding of domestic and foreign policy developments in the Euro-Atlantic and Asia regions and their implications for U.S. and global security, with particular attention to Russia and China.</p> <p><b>Transnational Movements and the Arab Region:</b> To improve conditions in the Arab region by empowering Arab social scientists to address political, economic, and social drivers underlying conflict, and advance new approaches to transnational trends including political violence.</p> <p><b>Peacebuilding in Africa:</b> To strengthen the field of peacebuilding on the continent by promoting scholarship within Africa, connecting African experts with international peacebuilding communities, and drawing applicable lessons from other regions of the world.</p> <p><b>Cross-Cutting Challenges and Special Initiatives:</b> To bring nongovernmental expertise to bear on international security issues by strengthening independent scholarship, bridging the gap between academia and policy, deepening congressional knowledge of international affairs, and responding to special challenges and opportunities affecting international security.</p>
<a href="#">Charles Koch Foundation</a>	<p>The Foundation supports educational initiatives in economics, philosophy, entrepreneurship, criminal justice, and other disciplines that have a direct impact on opportunities to thrive.</p> <p><b>Criminal Justice Reform:</b> The Foundation supports research that emphasizes human dignity and enhances public safety, with a particular focus on reducing overcriminalization, recidivism, and barriers to second chances for ex-offenders.</p> <p><b>Tolerance and Free Speech:</b> supports research, educational programs, and dialogue focused on enabling a more tolerant society through modeling civil discourse and protecting press freedom</p> <p><b>Foreign Policy:</b> supports new voices and sound scholarship that speaks to America's enduring interests and policies that will make our country safer.</p> <p><b>Economic Freedom:</b> supports research on the barriers that prevent people from working, innovating, and creating value for themselves and their communities.</p> <p><b>Technology and Innovation:</b> supports scholars who are examining the barriers to innovation, from transportation, and healthcare, to online communication</p>
<a href="#">Ford Foundation</a>	<p><b>Civic Engagement and Government Program (International and U.S)</b></p> <p><b>International:</b> We support efforts to protect and expand civic space, and to strengthen civil society's ability to inform, engage, and mobilize diverse communities. Ford supports research, advocacy, and networking aimed at protecting and expanding civic space, and reversing global trends toward destabilization and constraint. We also work to ensure better and more effective protections and protocols to address problems like the harassment, intimidation, and violence too often aimed at activists, journalists, and defenders. Areas of focus internationally include: Brazil, Eastern Africa, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mexico and Central America, Middle East and North Africa</p> <p><b>U.S.:</b> We invest in efforts to make governments more representative, and to ensure that the rules for political participation are fair and inclusive. And we work to help emerging leaders address injustice and inequality in their own communities. Anticipated outcomes include: protecting voting rights, strengthening the census, building a body of empirical research on voter motivation and civic engagement, and making sure all people, especially those who have historically been excluded, have a role in decision-making.</p> <p>*Ford does not have open RFP's, they accept idea submissions.</p>
<a href="#">Hewlett Foundation</a>	<p>The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation funds a broad range of initiatives including education, the environment, global development and population, performing arts, cybersecurity, democracy, effective philanthropy and the San Francisco Bay Area.</p> <p>Established in 1966, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation was founded by William Hewlett, co-founder of the Hewlett-Packard technology company, and his wife, Flora. The foundation works nationally and internationally in education, environment, global development, performing arts and cyber policy. It's Bay Area program supports community development and programs for disadvantaged youth. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has announced a new grantmaking program aimed at strengthening its investments in America's democratic institutions.</p> <p>Launched in 2014 as a time-limited effort focused on strengthening U.S. democracy, the Madison Initiative will become the foundation's new <b>U.S. Democracy Program</b>. With an annual grantmaking budget of more than \$22 million — the same as the Madison Initiative's budget in 2019 — the program will work to advance five priorities: advocating for and upholding key values and norms of U.S. democracy, including pluralism, political tolerance, negotiation, and compromise; boosting the effectiveness of Congress by modernizing and rebuilding its capacity and culture of deliberation, leadership, and civility; improving campaigns and election processes to better represent the diversity of eligible voters; combating the negative impacts of digital disinformation; and providing support for research, data, media, and collaboration that informs and improves the work of philanthropists, scholars, advocates, journalists, political reformers, and policy makers.</p>
<a href="#">Knight Foundation</a>	<p>The Knight Foundation has been committed to helping the public better understand the effects of technology on political landscapes and elections.</p> <p>Their Trust, Media, and Democracy program advances a multi-disciplinary approach to addressing problems of misinformation and declining trust in media by supporting technologists, journalists, academic institutions and others passionate about solving the information challenges of our day. There is also an Elections and Voting program area. Knight sees engagement in the democratic process as more than just the act of voting. It should be embedded in every part of civic life, extending before and after an election.</p> <p>Knight announces and opens select funding opportunities on a quarterly basis with deadlines. They also accept general LOI's on a rolling basis.</p>
<a href="#">Omidyar Network</a>	<p><b>Reimagining Capitalism</b></p> <p><b>New Economy:</b> To support healthy societies and create opportunities, economies must become more democratic and equitable, with a rebalanced social contract among businesses, the state, and individuals</p> <p><b>Worker Power:</b> Dignified work enables dignified lives. Healthy economies, societies, and democracies are only possible when workers are empowered to bargain for better work and can access fair share of economic success</p> <p><b>Property Rights:</b> Providing and protecting people's rights to property are essential to creating opportunity for world's poor</p> <p>*Omidyar proactively seeks investments based on network of partners and contacts. Does not accept unsolicited proposals.</p> <p>The Omidyar group is also the funder for The Democracy Fund, a bipartisan foundation which uses the approach of "systems mapping". The first three maps of focus include Local News and Participation, Congress and Public Trust, and Election Administration and Voting.</p>
<a href="#">Open Society Foundation</a>	<p><b>Themes:</b> Democratic Practice, Economic Governance and Advancement, Education, Equality and Antidiscrimination, Health and Rights, Justice Reform and the Rule of Law</p> <p><b>Equality and Antidiscrimination :</b> Supports groups that speak out and litigate on behalf of communities who face discrimination—at work, on the street, in access to health care and other public services, or before the law.</p> <p><b>Racial Justice in the USA:</b> OSF supports groups that work on a range of issues affecting communities of color, including the racial wealth gap, a justice system that disproportionately incarcerated African Americans, and overly punitive school discipline policies. It has also focused on efforts to improve opportunities for black men and boys in the United States, and to support the development of the next generation of minority communities across the country.</p> <p><b>Fighting Prejudice and Hate:</b> In the US, OSF funds efforts to better document and track hate crimes. OSF is also the leading private funder of efforts to support Europe's estimated 10 to 12 million Roma people.</p> <p><b>Statelessness:</b> Pursues legal action to address statelessness, which can fuel conflict and exclude entire communities from access to their rights.</p> <p>In the area of governance and accountability, the Open Society Foundations "work with governments and businesses to advance transparency, rule of law, and good governance around the world." In recent years, the foundations have prioritized anticorruption, drug policy reform, the European Union, media freedom and counterterrorism. Past grantees include Publish What You Pay, the Media Foundation of Sparkasse Leipzig and Transparency International, an organization that addresses global corruption and resulting criminal activity. Information aOpen Society Initiative for Eastern Africa: The Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa invites applications from pro-democracy organizations in the region. OSIEA plays an active role in encouraging open, informed dialogue on issues of importance in Eastern Africa. Through a combination of grant making, advocacy and convening power, OSIEA is able to support and amplify the voices of pro-democracy organizations and individuals in the region and to strengthen their capacity to hold their governments accountable. This includes efforts to defend and support rights activists and pro-democracy advocates who come under attack for their work.</p> <p>For additional grantees in this area is available at the Open Society Foundations' grants page.</p> <p><b>Current Open Programs:</b></p> <p>The Latin America Program addresses rights and governance issues in Latin America and the Caribbean through grant making, network building, and collaboration with partners. We focus on supporting Latin American and Caribbean efforts to defend democracy and increase governmental transparency, protect minority rights, reduce homicides, and reform drug policy. One- to two-page letters of inquiry or concept notes can be sent to latinamerica@opensocietyfoundations.org.</p>

## Governance/ Democracy Prospects

<a href="#">Rockefeller Brothers Fund</a>	<p>The Democratic Practice--U.S. program works to enhance the quality of American democracy through support for high leverage opportunities at the federal, state, and local levels (including New York City as the Fund's home).</p> <p>Goal: Advance a Vital and Inclusive Democracy in the United States In the United States, the Fund supports innovative strategies to strengthen and broaden participation in the practices and institutions of democratic governance, foster greater transparency, accountability, and responsiveness of government institutions, and promote social, economic, and racial justice in our democratic systems.</p> <p>Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Combating the corrupting influence of money in politics by supporting the adoption of public financing of electoral campaigns, including judicial elections, and selected other reforms to enhance the integrity of representative democracy.</li> <li>-Increasing opportunities for meaningful citizen participation in democratic systems through election and voting reforms, including improvements in voting rights, election laws, redistricting processes, and election administration.</li> <li>-Supporting movement-building strategies for systemic reform of democratic institutions to advance economic and racial justice.</li> </ul> <p>The Rockefeller Brothers Fund announced in 2020 that it will boost its grantmaking by \$48 million over the next five years in support of efforts to advance racial justice, strengthen U.S. democracy, and generate new economic thinking to address global climate change. The commitment includes \$10 million over three years to launch a racial justice initiative that builds on the fund's work with justice, governance, and civic culture organizations to identify solutions for dismantling structural racism in America.</p>
<a href="#">Russell Sage Foundation</a>	<p>The Russell Sage Foundation (RSF) is one of the oldest charitable foundations in the United States. In its early years, the funding focus at RSF revolved around improving the social and living conditions for marginalized populations across the country. The foundation is now exclusively dedicated to "strengthening the methods, data, and theoretical core of the social sciences." Its main grantmaking programs are in Behavioral Economics, Future of Work, Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration, and Social, Political, and Economic Inequality.</p> <p>RSF's Behavioral Economics program funds "research that uses insights and methods from psychology, economics, sociology, political science and other social sciences to examine and improve social and living conditions in the United States," as well as a two-week summer institute and small grants for doctoral students. Future of Work grants fund research into the "causes and consequences of the deteriorating quality of low-wage jobs in the United States," including "foreign outsourcing and immigration," "the decline of unions and technological change," and "the role of job search behaviors on the employment and wage outcomes of women and minorities in the post-recessionary U.S. labor market," among others. The Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration program supports "multi-disciplinary perspectives on questions stemming from the significant changes in the racial, ethnic, and immigrant-origin composition of the U.S. population." Finally, the Social, Political, and Economic Inequality program funds research into "factors that contribute to existing inequities, the extent to which these inequalities affect social, political, and economic institutions and outcomes, and how they influence the lives of individuals and families."</p>
<a href="#">Smith Richardson Foundation</a>	<p>The mission of the Smith Richardson Foundation is to contribute to important public debates and to address serious public policy challenges facing the United States. The Foundation seeks to help ensure the vitality of our social, economic, and governmental institutions. It also seeks to assist with the development of effective policies to compete internationally and to advance U.S. interests and values abroad.</p> <p>The Domestic Public Policy Program supports projects that will help the public and policy makers understand and address critical challenges facing the United States. To that end, the Foundation supports research on and evaluation of existing public policies and programs, as well as projects that inject new ideas into public debates.</p> <p>The Foundation believes that policy makers face a series of challenges that need to be met if the United States is going to continue to prosper and provide opportunity to all of its citizens. Even as public finances begin to recover in the wake of the financial crisis and recession, officials are confronting difficult choices that will have to be made in order to restore long-term fiscal balances while maintaining essential public services. These choices will include decisions regarding how best to raise revenues while also creating an environment conducive to economic growth. Policy makers are also looking for strategies that can deliver key public services, such as education and criminal justice, in an effective and efficient manner. There is also a need to develop strategies to improve the long-term growth rate of the U.S. economy and strengthen economic opportunity. Doing so will require a combination of more effective strategies to develop human capital and establishing an economic climate hospitable to entrepreneurship and growth.</p> <p>To meet these broad objectives, the Foundation has developed a number of grant making portfolios. A group of grants is focused on the challenges of identifying mechanisms that can inform thinking on fiscal practices at the national, state, and municipal levels. In terms of human capital development, the Foundation has been supporting work to identify how schools can become more productive by, for example, increasing the quality of the teacher workforce or adopting more effective curricula. Because success in the contemporary economy requires individuals to acquire education and training beyond high school, the Foundation is building a portfolio of projects on post-secondary education. Finally, the Foundation is supporting work on the criminal justice system that will examine whether costs can be lowered while still protecting public safety.</p>
<a href="#">Tinker Foundation</a>	<p>The Tinker Foundation oversees three major grantmaking programs. Its Field Research and Visiting Professors programs support academic research in Latin America, while its Institutional Grants seeks "[e]ffective policy changes to improve the lives of Latin Americans." The program supports global development efforts in democratic governance, education, and sustainable resources management.</p> <p>Their Democratic Governance program seeks to "establish conditions for equitable economic growth by strengthening the institutions for democratic governance, particularly those related to public security, access to justice and financial inclusion.</p> <p>Over the past three decades, Tinker has supported Latin American organizations working to advance the rule of law as a foundational element of democratic governance. Beginning in the 1980s and 1990s, Tinker provided funding to seminal efforts related to judicial reform across the region. In the 2000s, we supported organizations across the Americas providing and enhancing access to pro bono legal services. Today Tinker seeks to build on and deepen this commitment by prioritizing projects focused on justice and rule of law. We will continue to review and consider other Democratic Governance projects on an ad hoc basis through our LOI process but anticipate focusing our resources on these core issues.</p> <p>We invite projects with the objective of creating and consolidating systems of justice that are independent, effective, reliable, equitable, and transparent. We will consider proposals focused at the national or sub-national level, including those with comparative or regional components. Projects may relate to what could be called the "unfinished work of judicial reform," i.e., the challenges and opportunities involved with implementing and operating within more recently adopted structures and frameworks.</p> <p>Tinker considers a range of project types and methodologies that match our overall grant-making parameters and capacity. These may include research and policy analysis, experimentation with new models and early scale-up of proven approaches, and exchange of knowledge across countries and contexts.</p>