



# FLORIDIANS FOR DEMOCRACY

We cannot be silent.  
We cannot be indifferent.



## We Are Back!!!



Now that you have had  
time with family and  
friends, we hope **YOU**  
are ready to engage.  
**WE** certainly are!

**EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. COLLABORATE. "COMPASSIONATE."**

## DEMOCRACY 2026

In recent months, we have heard a lot about "Project 2025" and many of the draconian policies posing threats to American Democracy. Meanwhile, on July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. So where will 2025 take us and Floridians for Democracy on this journey to our nation's 2026 anniversary? Will we still have an American Democracy in 2026?

In pursuit of our founding mission to assist with protecting and preserving democracy, Floridians for Democracy will continue to call out actions that are detrimental to a humanistic, multicultural society. Our focus will be on **"Democracy 2026"** and ways we can learn, grow, speak out, and collaborate with others. **We do not plan to be silent!**

We believe millions of Floridians and other Americans do not want to see further attacks on our true freedoms and prefer to stop the erosion of hard-earned social and human rights. While "hope" is not a strategy, we do *hope* that by pursuing the tasks outlined below and ones that will evolve in the coming months, we will contribute to strengthening democracy on behalf of future generations.

Hope you have some renewed energy to join us on this path of **Education, Advocacy, Collaboration, & Compassion**. We recognize that many of us have made substantial financial and personal sacrifices in the past year and are constantly being bombarded for donations; nevertheless, if you are pleased with our upcoming plans, even a \$25-50 contribution will be a helpful investment in this journey. One FFD couple has already committed to a **new \$25,000 matching grant** to keep our efforts alive! Thanks to all.



**EDUCATION** is a key role for Floridians for Democracy Institute, Inc., our 501c3. We will organize educational programs that highlight emerging issues that hinder and damage a free society. We will collaborate with other pro-democracy organizations in developing such programs, thereby increasing diversity of thought, enhancing each other's missions, expanding reach throughout Florida, and building shared trust, understanding, and compassion. We hope to pursue facts over fears and reality over perceptions.

Educational programs under consideration:

- Deportation implications
- Free speech suppression
- Anti-science and research
- Women's health and reproduction
- Public education
- Civil liberties

**ADVOCACY & ACTION** are key roles for Floridians for Democracy, Inc., our 501c4. We will seek to learn, understand, educate, and call out policies and bills that are inhumane or negatively impact or attack true freedoms and democracy. We will collaborate with other pro-democracy organizations to communicate concerns to policymakers in Florida and nationally.

In the short term, we will:

- Closely monitor the Florida legislature's pending "special session" in late January, especially its focus on immigration and deportation.
- Hold a statewide FFD Zoom in late February to identify proposed bills from the regular Florida legislative session that impact freedoms and democracy. We will encourage advocacy against such bills in the form of postcards, emails, and phone calls to legislators.

**COMPASSION & DECENCY** is difficult in an increasingly hyper-partisan, win-lose, political climate. Millions may not currently share our feelings that democracy and our freedoms are at risk. As the actions of the new administration begin to unfold, we believe we must be open to welcoming those who may suddenly feel disenfranchised. To effectively bring together and build "coalitions of trust", it is important to have avenues to pursue constructive dialogue so that we, as a state and nation, can heal, repair trust, and negotiate positive solutions.

Some FFD participants and representatives from other nonprofit and nonpartisan organizations have expressed interest in seeking ways to restore compassion as the center of morality and civic institutions. By affirming our commitment to Compassion and asking others to join us, we are taking a bold step to ensure our civic initiatives, independent of party affiliation or other identity politics, reflect values of kindness and human decency. **"Compromise", "compassion", and "collaboration" should not be dirty words!**

# REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESS



## **VOLUNTEERS**

Many of you have offered to volunteer in the past. While we have called upon a few of you for specific tasks, we have not effectively utilized the over 1100 FFD participants. Below are areas where we could use **YOUR** volunteer assistance in an organized fashion.

**We will need team leaders or co-leaders and energetic working volunteers.** Our **Democracy 2026 goals** will not have any positive impact without **dedicated, energized volunteers** working within the FFD network.

**Please let us know your willingness to help in the areas identified below (leadership and/or assistance) by email: [info@floridiansfordemocracy.org](mailto:info@floridiansfordemocracy.org)**

- Volunteer coordination to help organize the activities identified below
- Social media volunteer talent is essential for effective and timely postings and monitoring of our websites, Facebook pages, Instagram, and YouTube channel; plus monitoring, and sharing with other pro-democracy organizations.
- Educational Programs organizing & collaborating with other pro-democracy organizations; marketing programs to increase participation including a focus on youth.
- Fundraising and friend-raising volunteers.

**\*\*\*** For individuals interested in working on or learning more about building “coalitions of trust” for our Compassion & Decency Initiative, please contact FFD board member Bill Petrarca: [bill@petrarca.net](mailto:bill@petrarca.net)

## **FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

**We just received a matching donor grant of \$25,000 to kick-start 2025!!!**

Your financial contributions over the past two years have positioned us well and we have tried to remain worthy of your trust and support.

As you know, prior to the November elections, we donated most of our remaining funds for media outreach in hopes of helping make some elections closer, especially in support of Amendment 4.

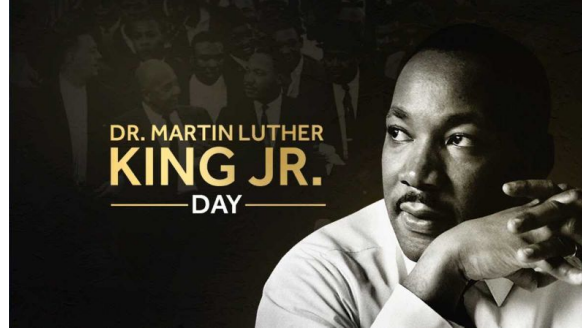
We do not want to be in major competition with the many pro-democracy initiatives that are out there that many of you support; however, some financial resources are necessary.

Your assistance at any level will be most appreciated and help us secure the new matching donor grant quickly.

FFDI's tax-deductible **education fund**:  
[ffdi.floridiansfordemocracy.org/donate/](https://ffdi.floridiansfordemocracy.org/donate/)

FFD's non-tax-deductible **action fund**:  
[floridiansfordemocracy.org/donate](https://floridiansfordemocracy.org/donate)

*We are sharing **Equal Ground**'s statement on the ironic reality of honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. the same day as the inauguration of the 47th President of the United States! **Read & Think!***



Today we stand at a crossroads. On one hand, we commemorate a King and celebrate his life of servant leadership. On the other, we prepare to accept the reality that a person who is the antithesis of his dream is set to return to the White House as the 47th President of the United States of America.

This stark juxtaposition—honoring the legacy of a man who lived and died for justice, equality, and truth, while witnessing the inauguration of someone whose actions and rhetoric often contradict those very values—is not just ironic; it is a profound conundrum. It is a moment that forces us to confront the fragility of progress and the enduring need for vigilance in the struggle for justice.

Dr. King's dream is not just something to admire and commemorate; it is something to fulfill. And as we gather today, we must ask ourselves: What are we doing to bring his dream to life? What are we doing to bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice? What are we doing to challenge systems of inequity and create a society where every person can thrive? These are not rhetorical questions; they are the tasks before us.

So today, on this unique day of celebrating a King while inaugurating a President who seeks to be one, let us draw inspiration from the contrast. Let us use it to fuel our determination to work for a better future. Let us recommit ourselves to the enduring struggle for justice and equity, knowing that the journey is long but worthwhile. Together, we can ensure that Dr. King's dream lives on, not as a relic of the past, but as a vibrant and guiding force for our present and future.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We envision a state of Florida where all elected leaders proactively implement laws ensuring all residents have equal opportunity, regardless of race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation as granted by democratic freedoms dictated in the constitution.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

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