



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



SPN



“The work of SPN is of even greater importance today. What we saw during the Obama years was that the states were an important backstop when it came to efforts to engage in federal overreach. And that will be no different in the next several years. The institutions you stand up, the relationships you develop and relationships between key leaders in the states—all of that is really quite important when you have an executive branch in Washington that will not feel as constrained by the structural Constitution.”

– **Leonard Leo**, CRC Advisors and Co-Chairman of the Federalist Society



“As President Reagan said, ‘The federal government did not create the states; the states created the federal government.’ That’s why I’m grateful for the work my friends do at the State Policy Network every day to push back against the federal government and ensure the states have a voice.”

– **Richard Lee**, SPN Supporter



“If I had to pick the most valuable thing about SPN, it would be the long-term investment. That is the one thing that has made all of the difference.”

– **Tarren Bragdon**, Foundation for Government Accountability



“The things that make America a wonderful place are the same things we love about SPN. It’s all about the ideas, liberty, and what can happen in the states. It’s what motivated our Founders and motivates all of us to work with SPN.”

– **Michael Reitz**, Mackinac Center for Public Policy

A Message from the President and Board Chairman

2021 brought another challenging year for the nation, with waves of coronavirus variants, the slow economic recovery, and a new administration in power determined to grow the federal government's influence over the everyday lives of Americans.

But thanks to SPN's generous supporters and partners, the states stood strong, and this Network ushered in reforms that pushed back on federal overreach and demonstrated that problems are best solved on the state and local level.

Rather than looking to Washington to "fix" the country's problems, people started taking back control of their own communities. When parents got tired of the failed status quo in education, they filled school board meetings to demand change. In California, where politics are overwhelmingly Democratic, people gathered over 1.7 million signatures to recall their governor after months of overreach, and many governors who ruled with overly intrusive policies face tough elections in the 2022 midterms.

This Network, as it has done for the past 30 years, also didn't wait for Washington. When our leaders saw countless examples of government overreach, they used their rapidly expanding litigation, coalitions, and government affairs capacities to help Americans fight back. Thanks to the generosity of those who support SPN and this Network, we saw many advances for freedom that you'll read about in this year's Annual Report.

SPN supporters empowered us to work strategically throughout the year with our state partners to advance freedom. In this report, you'll see progress building resilient leaders and adaptable organizations in the states (including a "network of networks" within states); fostering innovative solutions through our LaunchPad Program and strategy development; fueling the Network with over \$6 million in targeted investments; and bringing leaders together to advance multistate wins through our policy working groups, peer networks, and premiere gathering, Annual Meeting.

SPN and our partners in all 50 states proved once again that the greatest hope for the future of our country lies in the states. Our 2021 Annual Report tells the story of an America where everyday people don't have to look to bureaucrats in Washington to decide their fate. By working at the state and local level, we can empower Americans to reclaim their rightful self-governance and create a better, more prosperous future for generations to come.

Thank you, to our partners and supporters, for making all of this possible.

Gratefully,



Tracie Sharp
President and CEO, State Policy Network

Tracie Sharp



Carl Helstrom
Board Chairman, State Policy Network

Carl O. Helstrom IV

OUR VISION

State Policy Network's vision is an America where all people flourish because collaborative, entrepreneurial leaders have secured lasting social change, personal freedom, and opportunity at the state and local level.

OUR MISSION

State Policy Network's mission is to catalyze thriving, durable freedom movements in every state, anchored with high-performing, independent think tanks.

WHO WE ARE

State Policy Network is a coalition of 64 state think tanks representing all 50 states, over 66 state allied organizations in key capacities (like litigation, journalism, and advocacy), and more than 90 national partners, all dedicated to the principles of liberty and federalism. SPN exists to make these organizations better, faster, and stronger than if each worked alone. The power of the Network is in scaling critical state and local solutions so they spread from state to state, leading to national impact.

WHAT WE DO

We work together with citizens, businesses, community leaders, and policymakers to solve some of our country's greatest challenges. By solving problems closer to home, state leaders can be relevant and responsive to the needs of their communities, regardless of the political landscape. SPN empowers the Network to be influential voices for freedom in the states and achieve meaningful policy wins that enable all Americans to live freer, more prosperous lives.

2021 By the Numbers

64

state-based think tanks across all 50 states

90+

national nonprofit partners

66+

state partners in key capacities like litigation, advocacy, and investigative journalism

\$185M

in total revenue across the state think tank Network

\$6M

in target investments in the 50-state Network

167+

state-driven victories for freedom in the Network

170

SPN-sponsored trainings and events

1,483

unique attendees attending SPN-sponsored events

1,250

Annual Meeting attendees from all 50 states

5

organizations in SPN's startup program

101

consistently engaged leaders in SPN-sponsored peer networks

80,000+

media mentions across the Network

100%

participation from state think tanks in SPN's exclusive online training portal

\$24M

raised in 2021 to advance SPN's mission

The 50-State Network





 **STATE POLICY NETWORK**
State Solutions. National Impact.

Restoring Power to Communities and States Through Federalism

Federalism is how we will pave a better path forward and return power to the American people.

■ Our Founding Fathers created a balance of power to limit the federal government and safeguard Americans against one person, one government entity, or one region from growing too big or too powerful. The 10th Amendment states that “the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

The Founders anticipated a day when states would need to flex their constitutional muscles to push back on federal overreach. Once again, that day has come.

Our country faces a \$30 trillion federal debt, more than a million regulatory restrictions, \$6 trillion in federal spending in 2021, and more than \$250 billion in COVID funds directed to states with onerous strings attached. The federal government is growing, and as it grows, our ability to make choices for ourselves shrinks.

State Policy Network is committed to restoring a healthy federalist system where citizens are active, informed participants who hold government officials accountable and push back when they overstep their powers.

The recent Network-led challenges to Governor Cuomo and Newsom’s actions demanded accountability. When OSHA and other federal agencies issued mandates over private businesses, states pushed back, filing lawsuits that have been upheld by the US Supreme Court.

Federalism is how we will pave a better path forward and return power to the American people.

“Decentralization is critical to restoring trust, competence, and effectiveness in government programs, and to making the nation more flexible and resilient.”

— **Michael Lucci**, SPN Senior Policy Advisor, *National Review*



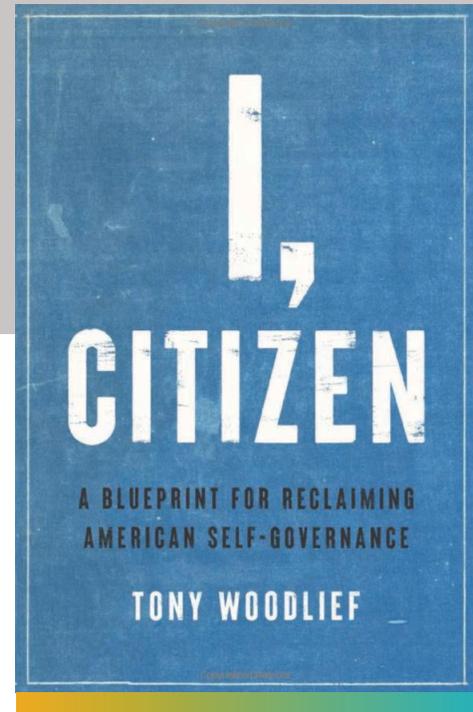
I, Citizen: A Blueprint for Reclaiming American Self-Governance

In 2021, SPN Executive Vice President Tony Woodlief published a new book that makes the bold claim that Americans are *not* divided beyond repair. Americans can, in fact, come together and address some of the country’s greatest challenges without Washington, DC.

Repeated surveys reveal that, in contrast to ideologues who’ve captured our national parties, most Americans hold centrist positions on nearly every major issue, from crime to immigration to government spending. The sooner we realize what we have in common, the sooner we can work together to address the real threat to our country— **the quiet collusion within our nation’s political class to take away that most American of freedoms: our right to self-governance.**

I, Citizen: A Blueprint for Reclaiming American Self-Governance (Encounter Books) argues that by focusing on solving problems together on the state and local level, we can resist the growth of top-down government and empower citizens to regain control of their lives.

The book reached the #1 new release under “state and local government” on Amazon and has been featured on C-SPAN’s Washington Journal, *National Review*, *Washington Post*, Fox News Radio, Civil Squared, and the *New York Post*.



“I, Citizen is the title of this book because retaking our country isn’t something some distant organization or movement will do, it’s a commitment each of us as individuals must make. We can reclaim our freedoms as citizens when each of us stops waiting for someone else to go first. When each of us steps out in faith. Because every one of us as citizens is responsible for keeping our government in check.”

– Tony Woodlief



“I started to write that it was “brilliant,” but that sounds like something someone from D.C. would say. So I’ll pick “practical, kind and common sense” instead - just like the American people.”

– Jeff Sandefer,
Co-Founder, Acton School of Business



State Policy Highlights in 2021

■ In 2021, SPN supporters made it possible for the Network to drive over 167 policy wins that improve the lives of Americans. The solutions championed by this Network spread to multiple states to create national impact.

National Education Impact

■ 2021 was the “Year for School Choice,” where states passed more reforms than they have over the last decade. Network organizations passed dozens of reforms that expand school choice, fund students instead of systems, and protect new education innovations.

SPOTLIGHT

■ West Virginia’s Cardinal Institute and a coalition of national education partners successfully secured the passage of Hope Scholarships—currently the nation’s biggest Education Savings Account program that would benefit more than 90% of students in the state and offer each child up to \$4,300 per year for an education that meets their needs. SPN partnered with Cardinal on strategy development and provided ongoing support for communications, fundraising, and government affairs to help push the reform over the finish line.



*“What happened here in April was something like a **school choice earthquake**. And I think the aftershocks are still happening. We’ve had conversations probably with 8 to 10 states already. I think over the next, probably two to three years, you’re going to see some states really challenge the Hope Scholarship’s title as the “gold standard” policy. And frankly, that’s a great thing.”*

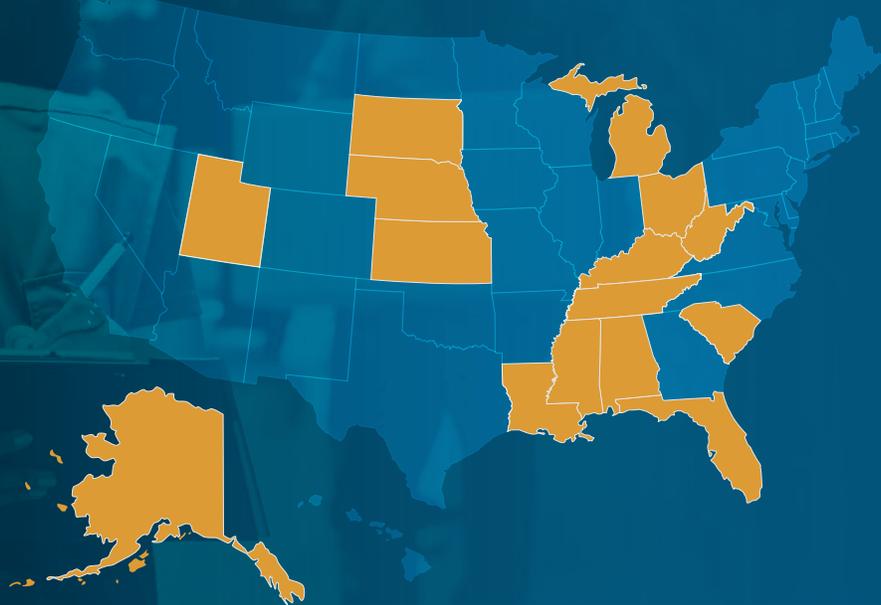


- **Garrett Ballengee**, Executive Director, Cardinal Institute for West Virginia Policy

SPOTLIGHT

Spurring Economic Recovery

■ Using the SPN Economic Working Group playbook, Network leaders enacted economic reforms to help states financially recover from the effects of the pandemic and get people back to work. This includes job licensing reform, welfare reform, deregulation for new businesses, and liability protection from frivolous COVID-19 lawsuits.



■ States that passed economic reforms inspired by SPN's Economic Working Group

SPOTLIGHT

Healthcare Reform

■ Through ongoing collaboration in the SPN-sponsored Healthcare Working Group, Network leaders helped pass 27 reforms in 12 states that expand access to healthcare without imposing costly programs like Medicare for All. Reforms include access to telehealth, direct primary care (removing the insurance company as the middleman between patients and doctors), and allowing doctors to practice across state lines.

“Whether responding to the current crisis or as a matter of permanent policy, we are helping to increase the availability of educated and trained healthcare professionals where they are needed most.”

- Naomi Lopez, Director of Healthcare Policy, Goldwater Institute



Network leaders helped pass 27 reforms in 12 states...



SPOTLIGHT

The Impact of *Janus v. AFSCME 3* Years Later

Network partners and supporters fueled critical efforts to educate workers about their right to choose union membership. Through targeted investments, SPN’s Workplace Freedom Working Group, and years of collaboration, the Network is liberating workers from forced unionism.

- The Mackinac Center estimates over **600,000** workers have exercised their right to leave their union since *Janus*.
- The Freedom Foundation has helped over **100,000** workers choose to leave their union.
- Overall government union political spending in the states fell by **\$27 million** from the 2016 and 2020 elections. \$26 million came from states where our Network is the most active.
- Teacher’s union political spending fell by **\$28 million** between 2016 and 2020 elections. Nearly all of the drop came from states where our Network is the most active.

SPOTLIGHT

Election Integrity

The states are the best—and constitutionally designated—place to ensure voting laws are fair, followed, and vote counting is accurate and transparent.

In 2021, SPN conducted a national survey of voters and released critical messaging to help state and national partners aiming to stop the federal takeover of elections and advance policies that improve the system for the long term. Several Network partners have led the way in the states passing commonsense reforms. For example, the Foundation for Government Accountability helped advance over 50 reforms in 14 states to restore trust in elections.



Fighting Government Overreach: Highlights from the States

CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19

Throughout the pandemic, state leaders used their “emergency powers” to impose costly policies that shut down businesses, schools, and other public services Americans need. SPN’s strategic grants helped fuel multi-state reforms to emergency powers to ensure that greater checks are put in place for such significant decisions.

SPOTLIGHT



Kentucky: Governor Andy Beshear claimed emergency powers that exceeded what the statutes allowed, ordering businesses and schools to close and imposed mask mandates. With the help of the Bluegrass Institute and the Pegasus Institute, Kentucky legislators pushed back to restore the balance of power, limiting the governor’s emergency powers definitively.

SPOTLIGHT



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Ohio: Ohio governor Mike DeWine entertained a second shutdown of schools and businesses. The Buckeye Institute worked with the Ohio General Assembly to pass reforms that limit the emergency powers and give the legislature significant oversight of the executive branch. Governor DeWine vetoed the legislation, but the legislature overrode the veto, and it has now become law.

SPOTLIGHT



Pennsylvania: Governor Tom Wolfe imposed a far-reaching shutdown that caused 30 percent of businesses in the state to close their doors. In response, the state legislature passed state constitutional amendments that would significantly restrict the governor’s emergency powers. When those amendments went to voters in the May primary election, the Commonwealth Foundation was ready. They launched an aggressive campaign to educate voters about the constitutional amendments and helped both pass, holding Pennsylvania’s elected leaders accountable.

SPOTLIGHT

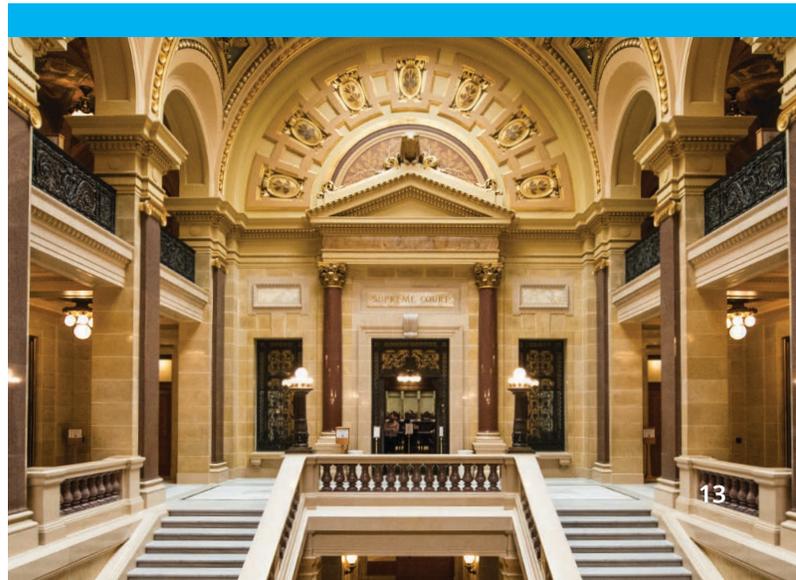


Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Supreme Court issued a ruling in *Fabick v. Evers* that declared the Wisconsin Governor’s use of multiple, consecutive emergency declarations unlawful. Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty President and General Counsel Rick Esenberg participated in oral arguments on the constitutionality of the governor and legislature’s powers in emergencies.

SPOTLIGHT



Kansas: With the help of the Kansas Policy Institute, Kansas lawmakers passed a law that reforms the decades old Kansas Emergency Management Act, which moderates the governor’s powers during a crisis like the pandemic.



SPN and Network Leaders in the Media

80,000

 Media mentions of SPN and state think tanks in the Network per year

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

WSJ

50

Placements of SPN and state think tanks in the Network in the *Wall Street Journal* per year

USA TODAY

NATIONAL REVIEW



SPOTLIGHT

A New Solution to School Curriculum Debates

■ With parents more engaged than ever, the time is ripe to encourage new ideas and pioneer education solutions that serve every student’s individual needs and give them the tools to succeed in life.

SPN’s Executive Vice President Tony Woodlief, inspired by the advice of an education entrepreneur, identified a contributing factor for why many parents no longer recognize what is being taught in schools in a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed: School districts have consolidated over the years and grown too large to meet the needs of each unique constituency.

Woodlief proposed: “Breaking up school districts would make school boards more accessible and responsible to the communities they serve, allowing for customization of instructional practices and curricula.”

Tony’s op-ed was featured on:



WSJ | OPINION

OPINION | COMMENTARY

State Bans on Critical Race Theory Won’t Work

Massive bureaucracies will evade them. The better solution is to break up huge school districts.

By Tony Woodlief
Aug. 20, 2021 1:10 pm ET

I knew we’d lost the day I met the superintendent of North Carolina’s schools in 2011. I was leading a nonprofit whose civics curriculum was a stark improvement over the mishmash that the state’s teachers were then using. The Legislature had recently passed the Founding Principles Act, which required North Carolina schools to teach concepts like property rights, due process and federalism. Unlike the textbooks then in use, our materials were loaded with facts and original documents, illuminating concepts that undergird the U.S. Constitution and its founding. We were offering exactly what the state’s new law required.

The superintendent and her team were polite and engaging, but we couldn’t understand much of what they said. They tossed around jargon like “inquiry models” and “cross-walked objectives,” and insisted that North Carolina schools already met the new law’s standards. My colleagues and I walked out of that meeting knowing that—law or no law—civics instruction in our state wouldn’t change a bit.

I recall this experience as state legislatures debate bans on teaching Critical Race Theory, a body of conjectures that is, according to its defenders, simultaneously sound and nonexistent. Even where allowed to stand by courts, these laws, like other efforts to rein in education bureaucrats, will be swallowed up in the spreadsheets and matrices into which state departments of public instruction lure and quietly strangle every curricular reform.

That’s not to say that state leaders have no options forwarding off CRT, transgender mania, Howard Zinn-style grievance Marxism and other dogmas festering in schools of education. They have the authority to implement a solution that harnesses the common sense of everyday American parents. They can bust up large school districts.

Reaching More People with State Solutions

SPN empowers the Network to build their “owned” audiences:

- Communications Excellence Awards
- \$250,000 in targeted grants (\$1 million planned for 2022)
- Convening a group of communications experts from 22 state think tanks
- Ongoing trainings, gatherings, vendor recommendations, and best practice sharing

■ Social media has greatly expanded our Network’s ability to reach new audiences and win public support for their policy solutions. However, reliance on social media means that anyone could lose access to these audiences as platforms change their rules, censor content, or de-platform users.

When SPN convened senior communications leaders from around the country and asked, “What is the one thing we need to do in order to ensure the communications success of the Network into the future?” Illinois Policy Institute’s Ryan Green highlighted his organization’s efforts building loyal followers who voluntarily provide a direct connection (email, address, phone) that does not rely upon third-party platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). Their “owned audience” has been instrumental in many of their policy victories, including the recent campaign to stop the state’s progressive tax.

“SPN and its partner organizations are uniquely positioned to build direct lines of communication and bypass gatekeepers such as Google, Apple, and Facebook. Continuing to borrow data from these providers is a direct threat to our cause. We must own our data and our relationships with Americans.

The work SPN is doing to build owned audience across the country will position us to win and pay dividends for years to come.”

- **Ryan Green**, CEO of IronLight and former vice president of marketing at the Illinois Policy Institute



SPOTLIGHT

Giving Kids a Fighting Chance

The Kansas Policy Institute created a mini-documentary that contrasted the K-12 academic performance reforms Florida made over the last 20 years with the flat-lined progress Kansas has made during the same time. Kansas Policy’s goal was to not just increase the views of the film, but to grow and expand an educated audience that is passionate about effective K-12 education. Through an acquisition campaign, SMS texting, and other outreach, the documentary enabled Kansas Policy to grow their owned audience by 38 percent.



Building State Leaders for Today and Tomorrow

■ Thanks to our supporters, SPN is able to partner with state leaders to build effective organizations and exceptional leaders who are making a difference in their states and beyond..



“As a newer organization with a strong leadership team that has decades of experience in enacting conservative reforms, the Institute for Reforming Government needed major assistance in strategic planning. Fortunately, Todd, Kim, and the SPN team have provided us with the framework to build our organization around limited government principles, solutions to the environmental challenges we face, and a playbook to advance policy in state government. Because of them, IRG is positioned to secure major policy wins for the freedom movement in 2021 and beyond.”

- CJ Szafir, President,
Institute for Reforming Government



15

SPN-hosted Peer Groups in a variety of professions (communications, fundraising, management, operations)

101

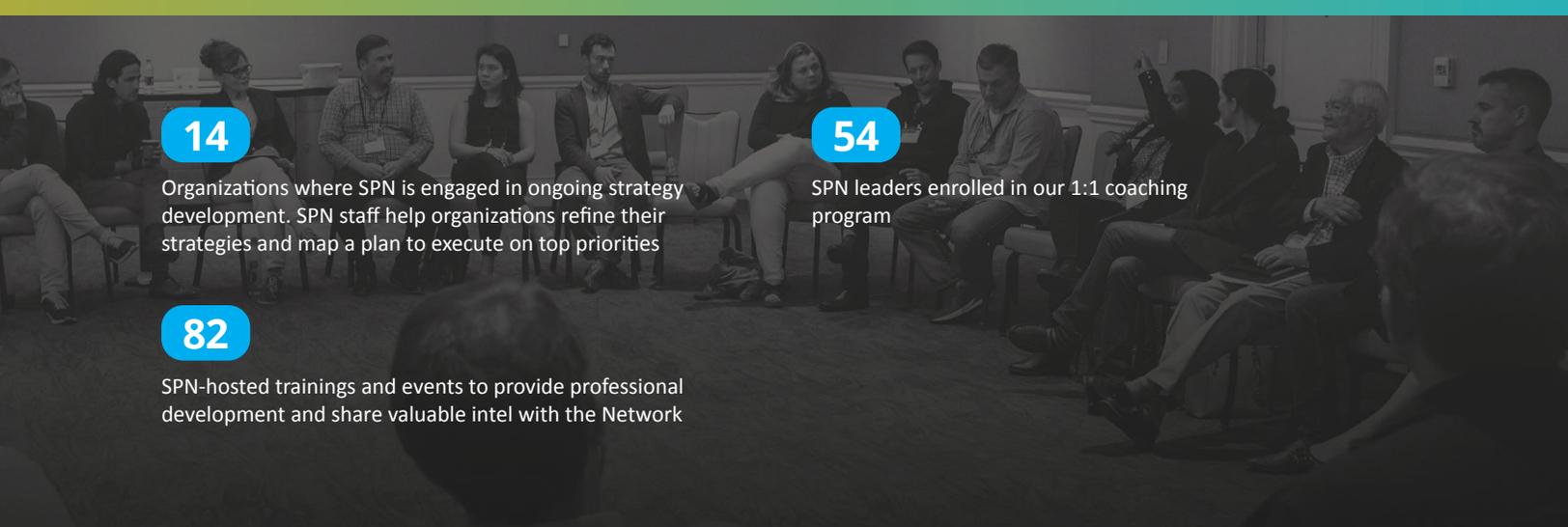
Leaders in peer groups who come together to learn from one another in their trade and collaborate on multistate opportunities



“SPN peer networks have been essential to my development as a leader. I could not be more committed to them or enthusiastic about their importance.”



– Charles Mitchell, CEO, Commonwealth Foundation



14

Organizations where SPN is engaged in ongoing strategy development. SPN staff help organizations refine their strategies and map a plan to execute on top priorities

54

SPN leaders enrolled in our 1:1 coaching program

82

SPN-hosted trainings and events to provide professional development and share valuable intel with the Network

Generation Liberty Fellows Program

SPN cultivates the next generation of leaders in the freedom movement through our Generation Liberty Fellows Program. GLF brings together young professionals in a variety of fields for professional development and networking opportunities, as well as connections to our vast alumni Network of leaders from across the country.



2021 Snapshot

44 fellows (20% acceptance rate)

24 states represented

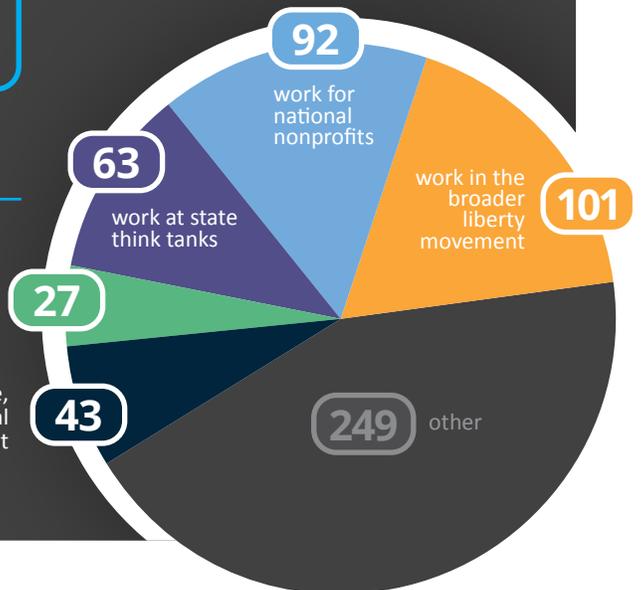
Professions include think tank staff, doctors, lawyers, web developers, local elected officials, congressional staff, and more

Alumni Snapshot

575 total alumni of the GLF program

work in higher education

work in state, local, or national government



"It isn't often young professionals are provided such an incredible opportunity to learn, network, and collaborate with astute individuals from across the country. The GLF fellowship is truly the pinnacle of all opportunities for emerging leaders. I'm so excited to return to my home state with the connections, knowledge, and resources I've acquired."

– **Maya Reagan**, Grassroots Outreach Coordinator,
John Locke Foundation



"Attending Annual Meeting as a Generation Liberty Fellow helped me to receive life-changing mentorship from some of the network's strongest leaders. I'm excited to bring what I've learned back to my state, and I'm thankful for the generous donors that made this opportunity possible."

– **Kaleb Moore**, Louisiana Director of Government Affairs, American Federation for Children



"If you're looking to change the world through the lens of the liberty movement, you must attend SPN's Annual Meeting through the Generation Liberty Fellowship! The supportive and powerful change makers you'll meet encourage you, the programming will inform you, and the overall conference will inspire you to continue the fight for freedom as the war wages on."

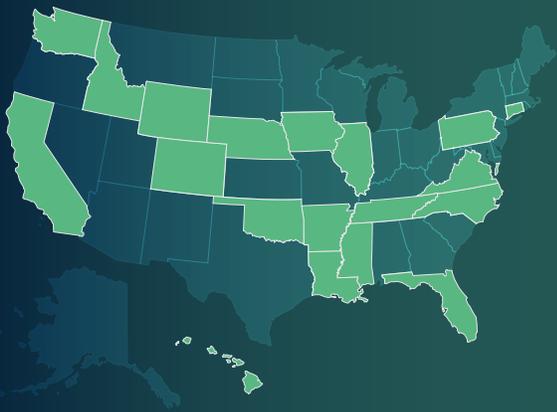
– **Leah Nalepa**, Manager of Professional Development, Hillsdale College



Creating a “Network of Networks” in the States

■ The Network has evolved from building a state think tank in every state to **building a freedom movement in every state** anchored by effective state think tanks. Together, these essential capacities create a powerful infrastructure for change.

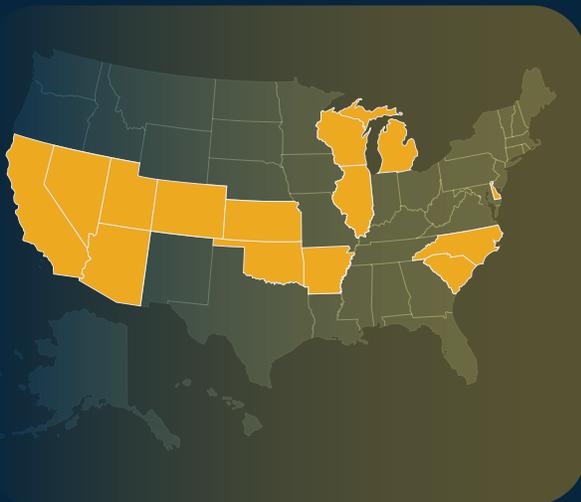
■ States with state think tanks that have partner **501(c)(4)s**



■ States with state think tanks that have affiliated **litigation centers**



■ States with state think tanks that have affiliated **investigative journalism arms**



■ States with **leadership academies** or **young professionals** programs



State Litigation Victories

■ Litigation is an increasingly important strategy as more policy battles are waged in courtrooms across the country. For the past 10 years, SPN has worked with Network leaders to build this important capacity in the states. Today, the Network has at least 21 litigation centers in 18 states. Here are just a few 2021 litigation highlights.



- In 2021, the Empire Center gave peace of mind to families who lost loved ones in New York nursing homes from the Cuomo administration’s COVID-19 policies. Their lawsuit forced the Department of Health to release data that confirmed the death count was much higher than previously stated—from 9,000 to 16,000 deaths. Key members of the administration are now under investigation and Governor Andrew Cuomo resigned amid multiple scandals.
- In a landmark decision in July 2021, the United States Supreme Court upheld donor privacy in its ruling in *Americans for Prosperity Foundation v. Bonta* and *Thomas More Law Center v. Bonta*. The court invalidated California’s demand for nonprofit supporter lists and helped stop citizens from being intimidated for supporting causes they believe in. People United for Privacy, an organization SPN helped incubate, helped recruit 284 signers for 13 amicus briefs in support of the petitioners.

- Network organizations filed lawsuits against the Biden Administration’s job-crushing OSHA vaccine mandate that would require private businesses to ensure their employees are vaccinated or else they lose their jobs. The Pelican Institute in partnership with the Liberty Justice Center, The Buckeye Institute, Texas Public Policy Foundation, Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, and Mississippi Justice Institute all filed cases that were eventually consolidated and taken to the Supreme Court – where the mandate was ultimately overturned.



“This partnership with the Liberty Justice Center representing Brandon Trosclair and his OSHA challenge is really a result of the power of the SPN Network. Our relationship was deepened with the LJC through things like SPN’s Annual Meeting and opportunities to meet them at SPN-sponsored events, information shared about the OSHA mandate from SPN staff and others in the Network...We see the results of bad things stopped and the conversation changed. That’s the kind of thing we can do together.”

- Daniel Erspamer, Pelican Institute



Together at Last

■ SPN convened its 29th Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, and brought together the largest gathering of organizations and people dedicated to promoting state and local policy solutions that strengthen communities and improve the lives of all Americans.

For many, it was the first time reconnecting in person since the pandemic began, and it was a moment to celebrate successes, learn from one another, and identify the best paths forward to achieve even greater advancements for human flourishing.

CONNECTION



SPN

State Solutions. National Impact.

Annual Meeting



2021 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

1,250 attendees

407 organizations

**All 50
states**

39% of attendees
were 34 years old and
younger



“SPN’s Annual Meeting is the place where the conversations happen that spark change in policy reform in the long run...This is where the magic happens, and this is why I look forward to it year over year.”



– **Corey DeAngelis**, National Director of Research, American Federation for Children

“If you care about federalism and the future of our country, the SPN Annual Meeting is a must-attend event.”



– **Jameson Taylor**, Vice President for Policy, Mississippi Center for Public Policy



Annual Meeting Awards

THE THOMAS ROE AWARD

The Beacon Center of Tennessee's CEO **Justin Owen**

was honored with SPN's premier recognition. Under Justin's leadership, Beacon has grown exponentially and helped secure major wins for Tennesseans, including passing the state's first-ever school choice program, repealing an income tax, and protecting right-to-work in the state constitution.

THE JOSEPH OVERTON AWARD

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy's Executive Vice President **Michael Reitz**

was honored with SPN's award for leaders who embody Overton's spirit of humility, loyalty, leadership, and a commitment to liberty.



The 2021 Bob Williams Awards for Outstanding Policy Achievement



The 2021 Communications Excellence Awards

(\$5,000 prize per winner)



The Center of the American Experiment won the **“Bold Brand Boost”** award for their **“Think About It”** campaign that emboldened citizens to send thousands of letters to their lawmakers about critical public policy issues.



The Cardinal Institute for West Virginia Policy won the **“Most Powerful Storytelling”** award for their efforts showing the diversity in education needs and benefits that Education Savings Accounts can bring to thousands of children.



The Commonwealth Foundation won the **“Expanding Audience”** award for their victory in two ballot measures that came from bringing together Democrat and Republican policymakers.

The 2021 Ed-Prize Awards for Education Innovation

(\$75,000 prize per winner)



Izzit.org will use the award to provide Career and Technical Education mobile classrooms to students in Western Pennsylvania. Their mobile classroom will visit school districts and offer students access to an affordable, flexible education in dozens of high-demand vocations.



MicroschoolingNV is building a robust community of microschools so that students can access quality, affordable education options with the flexibility many parents need in terms of where and when school is held. They will expand this innovative solution to multiple states.



The Libertas Institute won the **“Biggest Win for Freedom”** for helping Utah pass the nation’s first **“regulatory sandbox”** that removes onerous red tape for entrepreneurs creating new businesses and jobs. It is now spreading to multiple states.

The Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty won the biggest **“Home State Win”** award for their legal challenge that helped reopen schools in Dane County.

The Illinois Policy Institute won the **“Best Issue Campaign”** award for stopping the most expensive ballot initiative in Midwest political history – or the state’s progressive tax.

The Empire Center for Public Policy won the **“Most Influential Research”** award for its work that exposed the true number of COVID-19 deaths from former Governor Cuomo’s policies.



Launching Innovative Solutions to Longstanding Problems

■ SPN created LaunchPad in 2019 to spur innovative solutions from within the Network and get big ideas off the ground in record time. In just three years, it has grown into a community of entrepreneurs, nonprofit leaders, and industry experts working together to bring state and local-inspired solutions to life.

Past LaunchPad project owners have gone on to pass multistate policy reforms, expand their ability to serve at-risk communities in need, and launch for-profit businesses that solve a market problem, including the need for better health insurance.

This productive and intense co-creation process was inspired by and developed with our friends at the Antigua Forum at Universidad Francisco Marroquín in Guatemala.



“One day at LaunchPad was more useful than the two months I’ve spent doing the program at MIT.”

- Gordon Cummings, CantWait Foundation

SPN LaunchPad

SOLUTIONS ACCELERATED

How LaunchPad Works

STEP
1

Leaders submit their big idea to solve a critical challenge through a state or local solution. The top applicants of a large pool of candidates are selected to participate.



STEP
2

SPN staff work with project owners to do the necessary preparation to pitch their idea and get them fully developed before the LaunchPad conference.



STEP
3

SPN convenes LaunchPad, where leaders pitch their ideas to the Brain Trust. Trained facilitators guide project leaders and Brain Trust members through a cocreation process over the course of two days, where ideas are challenged, tested, and strengthened.

STEP
4

Leaders walk away with an action plan to bring their idea to life, new connections, and potential partners.



STEP
5

SPN locks arms with these organizations, providing ongoing strategy, connections, coaching, and investments to help in their success.



STEP
6

SPN works to identify other states to launch and execute the idea so that the solution makes national impact.





2021

LaunchPad Projects

Commonwealth Foundation: The Human Services Tax Credit (HSTC)

The Commonwealth Foundation proposed a unique solution to poverty that bolsters fulfilling, transformative private alternatives to state-run welfare programs.

CantWait Foundation

CantWait seeks to reform our criminal justice system and policing through practical solutions that strengthen trust between both law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Illinois Policy Institute: Legiscape

Legiscape is like the “Moneyball” of government affairs, using data and technology to more strategically get policy wins and find the right lawmakers to partner with on reforms.

Quest for Justice LLC: JusticeDirect

JusticeDirect empowers everyday citizens to fight for their legal rights without an attorney.

Safe Families for Children: Parent Engagement, Collaboration, and Leadership Initiative

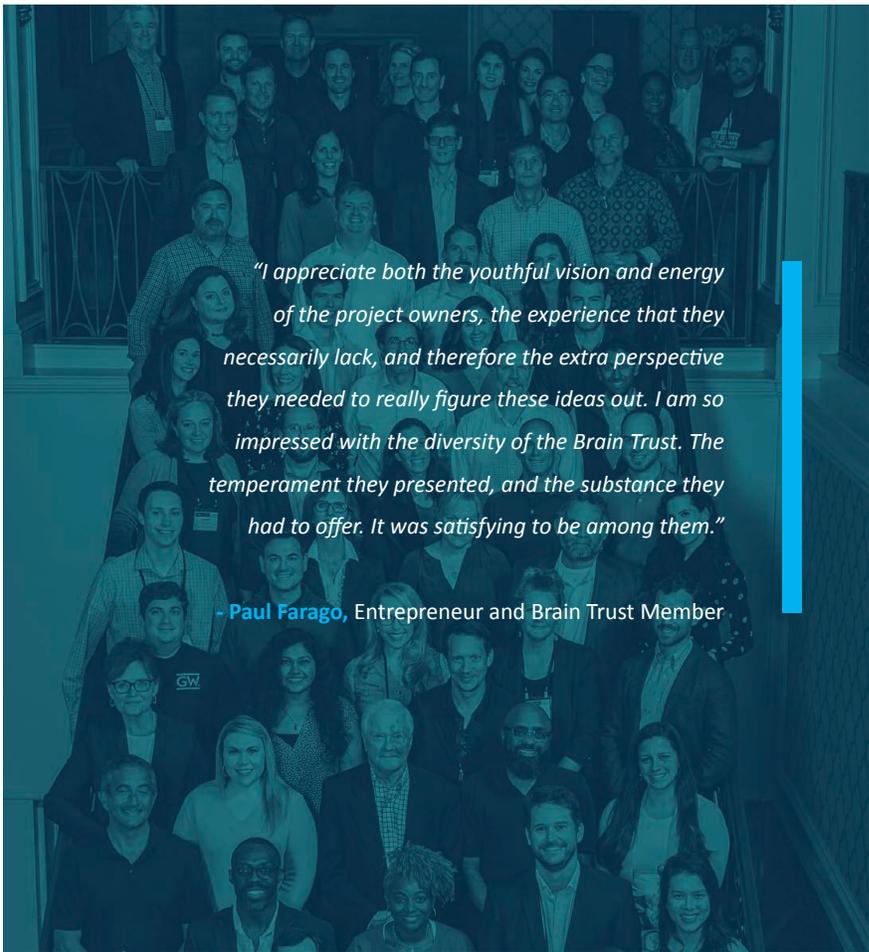
Safe Families for Children creates extended family networks for children so they can stay safely with loved ones and out of the foster care system.

Naomi Lopez: The 21st Century Education

A new platform helps parents assess if their children have the essential skills needed to work in today’s modern workforce, including four key areas (cognitive, digital, interpersonal, and self leadership) and over 56 foundational skills.

American Federation for Children: Black Minds Matter

Black Minds Matter is a national movement to promote school choice by celebrating Black minds, supporting excellence, and promoting high-quality education options for Black students.



“I appreciate both the youthful vision and energy of the project owners, the experience that they necessarily lack, and therefore the extra perspective they needed to really figure these ideas out. I am so impressed with the diversity of the Brain Trust. The temperament they presented, and the substance they had to offer. It was satisfying to be among them.”

- Paul Farago, Entrepreneur and Brain Trust Member



SPN Leadership

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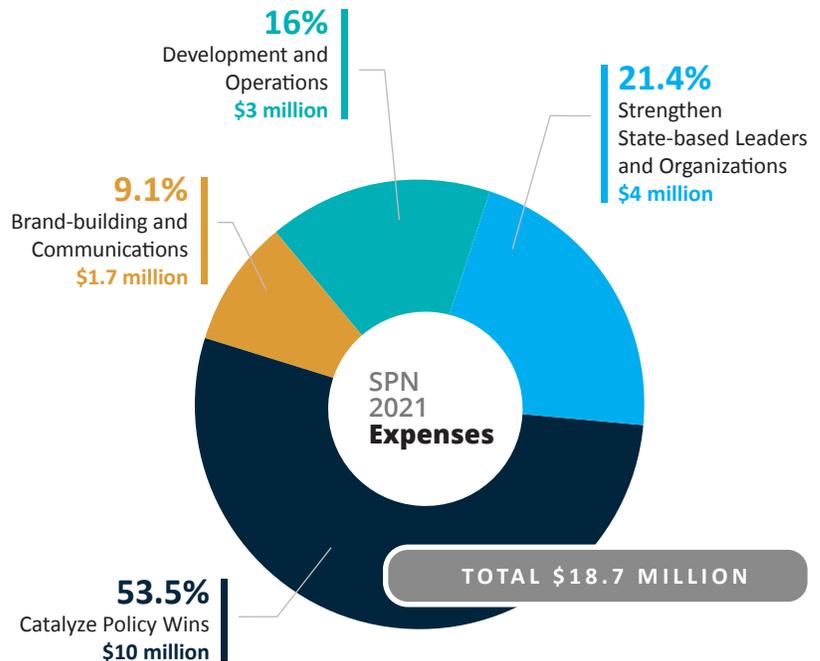
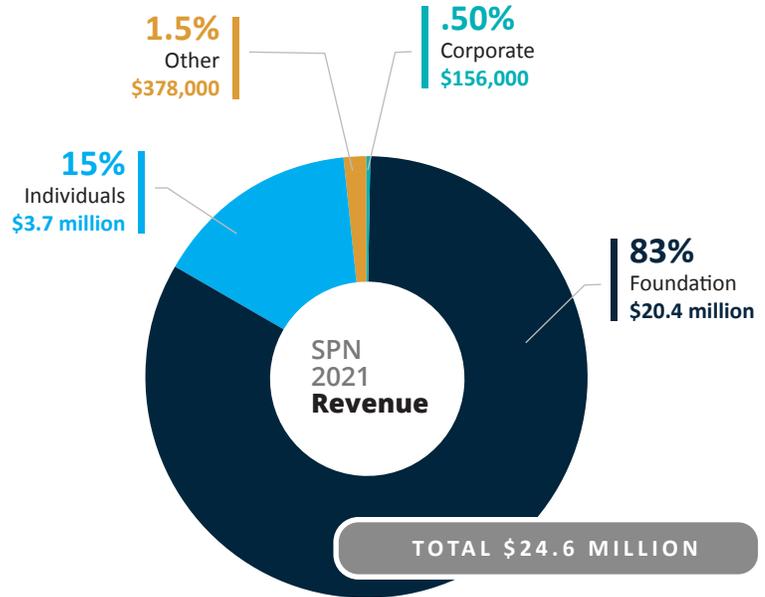
SPN 2021 Assets and Liabilities

ASSETS

Cash and Equivalents....	\$8,861,951
Investments....	\$7,017,798
Accounts Receivable....	\$878
Contributions Receivable....	\$3,475,000
Prepaid Expenses....	\$162,139
Property and Equipment, Net....	\$22,936
Total Assets....	\$19,540,701

LIABILITIES

Liabilities....	\$659,919
Net Assets....	\$18,880,782
Total Net Assets and Liabilities....	\$19,540,701



Ways to Give



By Mail

Checks should be made out to State Policy Network and sent to:

Attn: Tracie Sharp
State Policy Network
1655 Fort Myer Drive, Suite 360
Arlington, VA 22209



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