

Principal Authors

Democratic Renewal: A Call to Action from America's Heartland

Editor

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Kent Redfield is a professor of Political Studies at the University of Illinois - Springfield (UIS). He has research appointments with the Center for State Policy and Leadership at UIS and the University of Illinois' Institute of Government and Public Affairs. In addition, he is also the Director of the Sunshine Project, a campaign finance research project funded by the Joyce Foundation.

He received his undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Utah and his M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Illinois - Springfield in 1979, Dr. Redfield worked for four years as a member of the research/appropriations staff for the Speaker of the Illinois General Assembly.

Dr. Redfield directed the Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program for 20 years before stepping down from the program in 1999. He also served for three years (2005-2007) as the interim director of the Institute for Legislative Studies at UIS.

Dr. Redfield teaches courses in Illinois politics, state politics, policy analysis, political campaigns, lobbying, and research design and methodology. He is also a contributor to the *Almanac of Illinois Politics*, which is now in its ninth edition.

Dr. Redfield has been engaged in research on the financing of political campaigns in Illinois and political ethics since 1991. The results of that research have been presented in numerous research reports, a series of articles in *Illinois Issues*, a 1994 book on financing legislative elections in Illinois, which is entitled *Cash Clout*, and a 2001 book on the role of money in Illinois politics entitled *Money Counts*.

Since 1997, Dr. Redfield has been director of the Sunshine Project. Located at UIS, this project focuses on the role of money in Illinois politics and political ethics in Illinois. Funding for the project has been renewed by the Joyce foundation through 2009. The Sunshine Project has a partnership with the Illinois Campaign for Politic Reform (ICPR).

The analysis and searchable databases produced by the project can be found in the Sunshine section of the ICPR website at ilcampaign.org.

Principal Authors

Illinois State Profile

Cynthia Canary

Director

Illinois Campaign for Political Reform

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Cynthia Canary is the founding director of the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform (ICPR) a statewide non-partisan, education and advocacy project. ICPR, which was established by the late Senator Paul Simon, conducts research and advocates reforms to promote civic participation, address the role of money in politics and encourage accountability in government. ICPR was actively involved in the passage of the groundbreaking 2003 Illinois State Officials and Employees Ethics Act and the 2005 Omnibus Elections Reform Act. ICPR addresses a range of issues including campaign finance reform, governmental ethics, judicial independence, elections administration and media reform. ICPR maintains an award-winning website and campaign finance database at www.ilcampaign.org

Previously, Cindi was Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Illinois, where she led the successful effort to implement the National Voter Registration Act in Illinois. Prior to that, Cindi was in the Public Education Division of the American Bar Association. She has also had experience working in both state and local government.

Canary serves on the boards of the Chicago Appleseed Foundation and as president of the Mikva Challenge Grant Foundation. She is a member of the University of Illinois' National Selection Committee for the Paul H. Douglas Ethics in Government Award, the National Justice at Stake Campaign Board, and the National Center for State Court's Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Campaign Conduct.

Canary who the Chicago Tribune describes as "the state's most vocal advocate for good government" is a nationally known speaker and writer. She is a frequent media commentator on campaign finance, elections, ethics and judicial reform. Canary received a B.A. in political science from Hampshire College and did her graduate work at Georgetown University.

Michigan State Profile

Rich Robinson

Executive Director

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Rich Robinson has worked throughout his career for the public purpose. He has worked in local, state and federal government, and served for three years in the Peace Corps. Robinson has worked for more than fifteen years in the non-profit sector, including seven years as executive director of the nonpartisan, Lansing-based Michigan Campaign Finance Network. He holds three degrees from the University of Michigan, including a Master of Public Policy.

Ohio State Profile

Catherine Turcer

Director

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Catherine Turcer is the director of Ohio Citizen Action's Money in Politics Project. In 1999, Turcer became the campaign finance director for Ohio Citizen Action and in 2001 she became Citizen Action's legislative director. Turcer is the co-author of a number of campaign finance studies including *The Run for the Money: An Analysis of Campaign Contribution Patterns in Ohio 1999-2000* (March 2002); *The Enron Hot Potato* (February 2002), *\$2.9 Million from Polluters to 'Call the Shots' at Ohio EPA* (April 2003), *2004 Contributions to Candidates for Justice and Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court* (Updated Throughout Election 2004) and *Following the Money: Contributions to Ohio Gubernatorial Candidates 2005-2006* (Updated Throughout Election 2006). Turcer also provides regular commentary to Ohio newspapers including the *Akron Beacon Journal*, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *Columbus Dispatch* and *The Toledo Blade*. She is a frequent guest on WOSU-TV's *Columbus on the Record*.

In June 2006, Ohio Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell gave Turcer The Spirit of Democracy Award stating this civic honor was "in recognition of her dedicated service as legislative director for Ohio Citizen Action, where her efforts to persuade the legislative passage of full disclosure in the political arena were instrumental in creating more robust campaign finance laws." Turcer was the chief lobbyist for the Voter's Right-to-Know Act of 1999. The Voter's Right-to-Know Act put campaign contributor information on the Internet so that voters can look at this information before elections. The Ohio General Assembly strengthened disclosure requirements in December 2004. Turcer actively

lobbied for and testified in favor of strengthening Ohio's pay-to-play law. In December 2006, the Ohio General Assembly passed strong pay-to-play restrictions.

In 2003, Turcer was appointed by the Ohio Secretary of State to Ohio's Help America Vote State Planning Commission. This commission advised the Ohio Secretary of State as the state selected and purchased new voting apparatus. Turcer was instrumental in the passage of a voter verified paper audit trail for computerized voting. In May 2004, Ohio became one of the first states to require a voter verified paper audit trail.

In March 2003, Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer appointed Turcer to two study committees Campaign Finance Disclosure and Public Financing and Voter Guides. Turcer advocated for ending judicial appointments based on political party recommendations. In January 2007, Governor Ted Strickland established the Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendation Panel to address mid-cycle replacements.

In her spare time, Turcer enjoys volunteering at the Columbus Museum of Art. Turcer earned her Bachelor of Arts in Clinical Psychology and Gerontology from Alfred University in Alfred, New York and completed graduate work in social group and research at the University of Connecticut (West Hartford, Connecticut).

Dan Tokaji

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Dan Tokaji is an authority on election law and voting rights. He specializes in election reform, including such topics as voting technology, voter ID, provisional voting, and other subjects addressed by the Help America Vote Act of 2002. He also studies issues of fair representation, including redistricting and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Tokaji's published work addresses questions of election administration, political equality, and racial justice. Among the publications in which his scholarship has appeared are the Michigan Law Review, Stanford Law & Policy Review, and Yale Law Journal. His recent publications include "The New Vote Denial: Where Election Reform Meets the Voting Rights Act," 57 South Carolina Law Review 689 (2006), "Intent and Its Alternatives: Defending the New Voting Rights Act," 58 Alabama Law Review 349 (2006), "Early Returns on Election Reform: Discretion, Disenfranchisement, and the Help America Vote Act," 73 George Washington Law Review 1206 (2005), and "The Paperless Chase: Electronic Voting and Democratic Values," 73 Fordham Law Review 1711 (2005).

Tokaji authors [The Equal Vote](#) blog, which provides analysis and commentary on developments in the area of election reform and voting rights. Media outlets have frequently sought Tokaji's election law expertise, and the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Columbus Dispatch*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune* and *USA Today* have all quoted him on the subject. He has also appeared on the Today Show, Fox News, NBC News, and National Public Radio.

Prior to arriving at the Moritz College of Law, Tokaji was a staff attorney with the ACLU Foundation of Southern California. Among the cases he has litigated are challenges to punch card voting equipment based on *Bush v. Gore*'s equal protection principle. He has appeared before several federal and state courts, including the California Supreme Court and United States Courts of Appeals for the Sixth and Ninth Circuits. Tokaji clerked for the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 1994 to 1995.

He earned his J.D. in 1994 from Yale Law School, where he was an editor of *The Yale Law Journal*. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Harvard College in 1989.

Wisconsin State Profile

Mike McCabe

Executive Director

Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

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Mike McCabe is executive director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, a nonpartisan watchdog group that tracks the money in state politics and advocates for campaign finance reform, election integrity, media democracy, ethics reform, judicial independence and other pro-democracy reforms. During Mike's tenure with the Democracy Campaign, he has led successful efforts to win passage and eventual implementation of the 1998 Citizens Right to Know law requiring electronic disclosure of campaign finances, a 2006 "paper trail" bill requiring any electronic voting equipment used in Wisconsin to produce a verifiable paper record, and a landmark 2007 ethics enforcement reform law that abolishes the state Elections Board and Ethics Board and replaces them with a politically independent enforcement agency under the direction of a nonpartisan Government Accountability Board with an unlimited budget for investigations.

Before joining the Democracy Campaign's staff, Mike was the legislative liaison and communications director for the Madison Metropolitan School District. Mike also formerly worked as a newspaper reporter and state legislative aide, and he previously ran a statewide civic education program for a nonprofit research institution. In that capacity, he co-authored a textbook, *The Framework of Your Wisconsin Government*, that is still widely used in secondary schools across the state. He was raised on his family's dairy farm in central Wisconsin and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with degrees in journalism and political science. He also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the West African country of Mali.