

MEMORANDUM

TO: COS Full Committee
FROM: Scott Anderson, Frank Smith, and Aaron Merkin
RE: 2014 COS Network Investments
DATE: 10/21/14

This cycle, twenty functional state-based donor alliances including individual and institutional partners will have invested over \$45 million into proven, research-driven state-based progressive political infrastructure.

This is an electrifying figure that amplifies the national investments of Democracy Alliance partners in infrastructure strategies like America Votes, Progress Now, State Voices, 501c(3) and 501c(4) funding streams, and others. Many of these state donors clearly have recognized the importance of leveraging more strategic and targeted investments into sustainable infrastructure. Other state organizations continue to be funded based on their impact and merit, while duplication of efforts and wasteful program have decreased.

Three additional states are currently developing donor alliances, including Georgia, Montana, and New Hampshire. COS is assisting the leaders in those states with building relationships, best practices and next steps. Interest in coordinating efforts in Virginia, Illinois, South Carolina, and Mississippi is also being explored.

Since Committee on States founding in late 2006 with the following progressive leaders: Anne Bartley, Al Yates, Anna Burger, Ted Trimpa, John Hunting, Christopher Findlater, Rob McKay, the late Fred Baron, Alida Messinger, Doug Phelps, John Stocks, Pat Stryker, Lynde Uihlein, Michael Vachon, Frank Smith, and Rob Stein, the core vision has never wavered. Since our founding we have been joined by the AFL-CIO and AFSCME as institutional partners. We have set up a parallel 501c(3) track to handle permissible non-partisan work in the states and have gained three new partners through this work.

Committee on States membership in 2014 consists of 21 national donors and institutional partners, all committed to the current mission of Committee on States: To help create, nurture, and sustain a community of state-based progressive investors and institutional partners throughout the country who are committed to the creation and success of state-based donor networks working to advance progressive causes and produce progressive change within individual states. If the national donors listed above had not coalesced around the COS strategy then the infrastructure across these important states would likely be de minimis or nonexistent. Together we are building a progressive future, one that is sustainable, state-focused and dedicated to winning electoral and policy victories.

APPENDIX

STATE	ESTIMATED 2013/2014 INVESTMENT FROM STATES
Arizona	\$2 million
California	\$3.5 million
Colorado	\$6 million +
Florida	\$6 million +
Idaho	\$900 thousand
Maine	\$1.25 million
Massachusetts	\$200 thousand
Michigan	\$1 million
Minnesota	\$7 million
Nebraska	\$250 thousand
New Mexico	\$3.4 million
North Carolina	\$7 million
Ohio	\$1 million
Oregon	\$250 thousand
Pennsylvania	\$2 million
Texas	\$2 million
Utah	\$200 thousand
Washington	\$1.3 million
Wisconsin	\$9 million
Wyoming	\$250 thousand
TOTAL	\$50 million+

*Georgia will have moved an estimated \$1 million into state infrastructure via individual donors

**Most of these state estimated amounts include large contributions by our labor union allies