Strategic Convening: Blueprint for Action to Restore Our Democracy

National Education Association 1201 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036

Thursday, December 11, 2014

1:00 Charging Forward and Exploring New Pathways:

Guidance for incoming conference, commitments for participation, and next steps.

Annie Leonard- Executive Director, Greenpeace USA Cornell William Brooks – President & CEO, NAACP

1:45 Lay of the Land for Advancing a Democracy Agenda

Wendy Weiser – Director, Democracy Program, Brennan Center for Justice

- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 Breakout Session

The Road to a Constitutional Amendment: The campaign to amend the Constitution to get big money out of politics is a genuine grassroots political movement. Sustained by activists across the country and often dismissed by Beltway insiders, the amendment campaign has organized, activated, and captured the imagination of Americans. Discuss how the campaign can take further impressive steps forward in the next two years – and how it can positively impact other organizing efforts.

Marge Baker - Executive Vice President for Policy and Program, People For the American Way

Margrete Strand Rangnes - Executive Vice President, Public Citizen

Advancing Voting Rights: Expanding voting rights, modernizing state voting systems, and restoring felon voting rights is a critical piece of expanding participation. With the back drop of the 2014 elections, what proactive opportunities are there to win on these issues.

Elena Nunez - Executive Director, Colorado Common Cause Tova Wang - Senior Democracy Fellow, Demos Matt Singer – Executive Director, Bus Federation Dan McGrath - Executive Director TakeAction Minnesota <u>Many Voices, One Chorus:</u> The Democracy Initiative is leading an effort to help all DI-member organizations link their campaigns on specific issues to our common effort to strengthen democracy. We'll share what we have learned to date, what we plan on doing in the future, and how you can be involved.

Sean Trambley - Sr. Communications Strategist, Democracy Initiative **David Mermin** – Partner, Lake Research Partners

<u>Big Money Tips the Scales of Justice:</u> How are judicial elections undermining the independence of our state courts? This session also will look at a pending Supreme Court case that could impact how judicial candidates raise campaign contributions.

Bert Brandenburg - Executive Director, Justice at Stake **Alicia Bannon** - Counsel, Democracy Program, Brennan Center for Justice **Kathy Bonnifield** - Piper Fund Program Officer, Proteus Fund

3:45 **Break**

4:00 Income Inequality, Race and Democracy:

Economic and racial inequities undercut the credibility of our democracy. Bring your questions and join us for a panel discussion on democracy, race and inequality—and how racism and economic inequality undermine fundamental principle of our democracy.

Moderator: Miles Rapoport - President, Common Cause

Presentation: Adam Lioz - Counsel and Senior Advisor, Policy & Outreach, Demos **Jodeen Plguin-Tayler** - Director of Advocacy, Demos

Respondents: Cornell Williams Brooks - President & CEO, NAACP **Julie Fernandez** - Senior Policy Analysts, Open Society Foundation

5:30 Reception

DAY TWO: Friday, December 12, 2014

8:30 Registration & Breakfast

9:00 Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Debrief of day one and outline for day two

Marissa Brown – Executive Director of the Democracy Initiative

9:45 Breakout Sessions

Think Nationally. Act Locally: The fight to control big money in politics is a multi-front war. This session focuses on working locality by locality to build for public financing systems that empower small donors. Attention will be given to how to marshal state and local victories into significantly strengthening a national movement.

Betty Ahrens - Vice President for Outreach and Partnerships, Public Campaign

Jennifer Bevan - Dangel - Executive Director, Common Cause Maryland Andrew Bossie - Executive Director, Maine Citizens for Clean Elections

<u>Fighting back in the States:</u> The fight is on, and there will be action in states to change elections rules. Session will highlight recent campaigns and explore statelevel opportunities for efforts to protect and possibly increase access to the polls—and what can be done to advance these campaigns in the immediate future.

Helen Butler - Executive Director, Coalition for the People's Agenda
Marcia Johnson-Blanco - Co-director, Voting Rights Project, Lawyers'
Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Jamal Watkins - Deputy National Political Director, SEIU

Mobilizing Millions: Democracy stagnates when people fail to take part. How can we as membership organizations build people power? In this session, we'll strategize about how to seize opportunities for collective engagement in 2015 in the money in politics and voting rights realms nationally and in states.

Courtney Hight - Director, Democracy Program, Sierra Club Matthew McKight - Congressional Champions Project Director, League Of Conservation Voters

Aquene Fairchild – Campaign Co-Director, Democracy Is For People Campaign, Public Citizen

George Kohl - Senior Director, Communications Workers of America

11:00 **Break**

11:15 Breakout Sessions

Redistricting: Can 2020 be much better than 2010 If we wait until 2020 to work on redistricting reform? We must focus now on reforms that will create districts drawn to reflect community interests. Discussion will include current campaigns and the opportunities that can be seized in 2015 and beyond.

Anita Earls - Executive Director, Southern Coalition for Social Justice **Kathay Feng** - Executive Director, California Common Cause **Gary Bass** – Executive Director, Bauman Foundation

<u>Lifting the Corporate Veil:</u> How do we win fights to force disclosure of corporate political and lobbying spending via shareholder action and regulatory action by the Securities and Exchange Commission?

Liz Kennedy - Counsel, Demos Lisa Gilbert - Director-Public Citizen's Congress Watch John Keenan - Corporate Governance Analyst AFSCME Nick Surgey - Director of Research, The Center for Media & Democracy/ALEC Exposed Project

<u>Moving Forward on Voting Rights Step by Step:</u> Moving Forward on Voting Rights Step by Step: Building campaigns in states to move same-day registration) What are the steps we can take to win a solid set of victories?

Greg Moore - Senior Strategist, Democracy Initiative Jenny Flanagan - Vice President State Operations, Common Cause Cietta Kiandoli - Program Director, State Voices Jake Matilsky – Executive Director, Montana Voices

12:30 Lunch

1:15 Debrief Breakouts: Collecting Wisdom

Selected participants in each of the morning breakout sessions will share insights and information that could be helpful as we plan actions for the next two years.

Facilitator: Karen Hobert Flynn - Senior VP for Strategy and Programs, Common Cause

2:15 Building the Pro-Democracy Movement

Courtney Hight - Director, Democracy Program, Sierra Club **Greg Moore** - Senior Strategist, Democracy Initiative

3:30 Conclusion