



Citizens Project

Annual Report 2025

citizensproject.org

719.270.0252

a letter from our executive director

As I reflect on my first year as our executive director, I'm so grateful for the contributions of our supporters, donors, and community partners, and their sustaining commitment to defend the principles we've fought for since 1992.

Citizens Project has deep roots in this community, born out of the struggle for justice and equality in the face of rising religious extremism, and continuing through to the present where our work is still badly needed. In fact, the threat to the American experiment feels even greater now than it did thirty-four years ago, when we were formed in resistance to the now infamous Amendment 2.

Much like democracy and our rapidly changing region, Citizens Project has also had to adapt, experiencing our share of growing pains and seeking a path forward that is both true to our roots and adequately meets the intensity of this moment. 2025 was a season of rebuilding, revising, and restoration, and we're excited to share this report showing our steadfast commitment to freedom in the Pikes Peak Region.

What did that look like in 2025?

While maintaining our legacy programming to educate voters about municipal and school board candidates, and push voter turnout through get-out-the-vote mailers and postcards, we opted to go a step further, and took firm positions on ballot measures. We're proud to have played our own part in defeating the ill-conceived Karman Line Annexation, and securing free school meals for every kid in our community. We've built new lines of collaboration with our state level policy partners, and brought in-depth policy education to community members.

As we recalibrate for the long road ahead, we're turning a critical eye on our longstanding programs. We'll be fine tuning our voter education and advocacy endeavors, and strengthening our role as a local watchdog in this particularly dangerous and volatile era. We'll work to protect the will of the voters when suspicious language appears on the ballot. For over thirty years, voters in the Pikes Peak Region have looked to us for useful information that cuts through the noise, and we stand ready to deliver.

Scary times are also exciting times. I have never been more confident that we have all the ingredients right here to make our region a vibrant and inclusive place, where people of every race and ethnicity, every background, every belief system, ability, and gender, citizen and newcomer alike, will belong and thrive.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steph J. Vigil". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steph Vigil

Staff

- Steph Vigil, Executive Director
- Shay Dabney, Programs Director
- Christopher Davis, Development Director
- Kane Ruiz, Communications Coordinator

Board

- Onnastasia Cole, Board Chair
- Courtney Sutton, Vice Chair
- Ashley Fry, Treasurer
- Christina Leza, Secretary
- MJ Johnson, Board Member
- Crystal Karr, Board Member
- Stoney Roberts, Board Member

programs highlights

19,750

voters received a personalized postcard urging them to make their voice heard

50,000

households in Colorado Springs received our Voter Guide

1,900

residents were spoken to by Citizens Project in low-turnout areas about the upcoming election and how much their voice matters

clean sweep on ballot initiatives!

Citizens Project supported three key initiatives, all of which passed. This includes supporting **Propositions LL** and **MM** (funding and expanding the free lunch program in Colorado), and opposing the **Karman Line annexation**.

*"Since its early days I've been grateful to **Citizens Project** for its open-minded, progressive values here in Colorado Springs."*

*"I deeply believe in citizen engagement to ensure people have their needs met... and believe **Citizens Project** is a place to educate and turn out people to speak to the community they want to see."*

"Now more than ever, we need a beautiful watchdog on behalf of democracy - for all people."

*"**Citizens Project** does vital work in Colorado Springs. I do not know of any other groups working at the local scale in a way that aligns with my values, so I am deeply grateful for all of the work that **Citizens Project** does."*



photo: karman line annexation demonstration (2025)



foundations, funds, & corporate giving

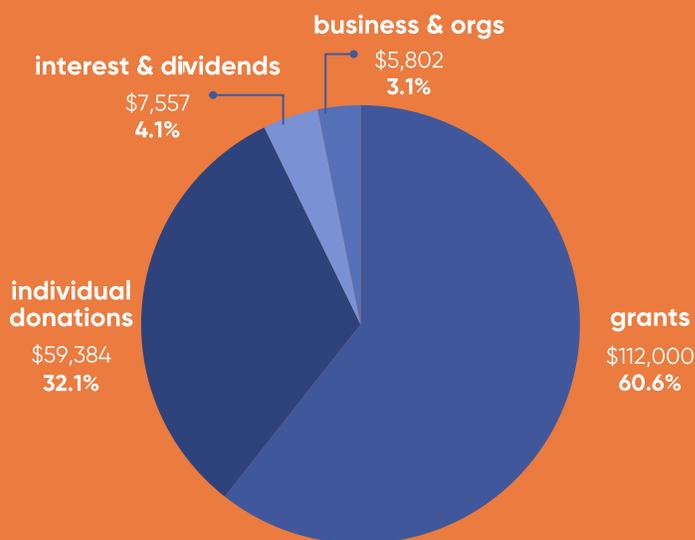
Foundations & Funds

- Colorado Health Foundation
- Give! Pikes Peak
- Windy Pines Foundation
- Divine-Triggs Joy Fund
- Pikes Peak Community Foundation
- Strub-Heer Fund
- Colorado Gives Foundation
- Colorado Fiscal Institute
- Runhow Family Fund
- Theobald Family Foundation
- Give Lively Foundation, Inc.

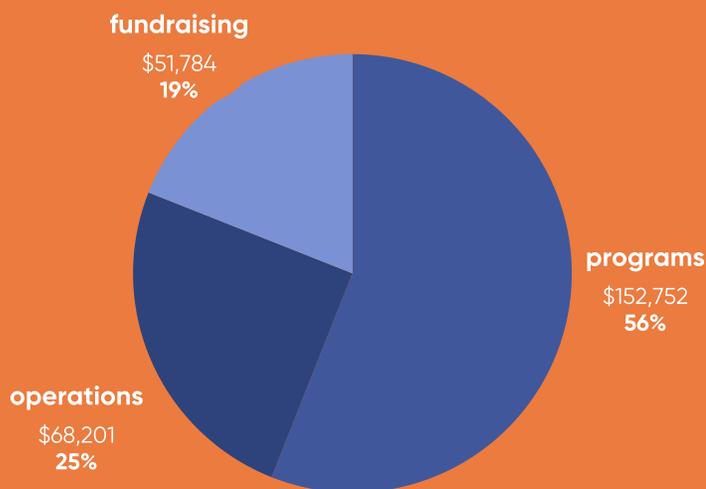
Corporate Giving

- Ent Credit Union
- Kirkpatrick Bank
- Colorado Springs Record Show
- Stellina's Pizza Cafe
- Pfarrside Creations
- Goat Patch Brewing Company
- Sage Wellness COS
- Studio 809 Podcasts
- Breath LLC.

financial breakdowns



sources of revenue



expenses