



**N** The Burnes Center  
for Social Change  
Northeastern University

The Burnes Center Quarterly Report

# IMPACT INSIDER

MAY 2024

*The Burnes Center for Social Change at Northeastern University designs practical solutions to society's hardest problems. The Center is led by a growing team of accomplished and recognized changemakers focusing on strengthening democracy and improving governance, tackling climate change, advancing education outcomes, deepening labor and economic justice, and promoting better health.*

## SPOTLIGHT

# InnovateMA matches AI for Impact students with Massachusetts state agencies to leverage AI for social good

*The Burnes Center's [AI for Impact](#) co-op students continue to make significant progress working under the leadership of Burnes Center Senior Fellow and Boston CIO Santiago Garces to design experiential AI projects for social good for Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies. Transformational projects to improve service delivery for the MBTA's RIDE users, improve access to vital materials for MassHealth and MassDOT workers, make Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) more accessible for families, and more are underway.*

*In this pioneering "product-based learning" program, student teams use AI as a tool for innovation, turning ideas into measurable impacts in collaboration with the communities they are serving and under the expert guidance of seasoned professionals.*

## The Boston Globe

### Gov. Healey launches AI task force to boost competitiveness in tech

By [Hawatha Gray](#) Globe Staff, Updated February 14, 2024, 5:35 p.m.

In addition, Healey announced a partnership with Northeastern University to develop AI tools for state government agencies. The partnership's projects include AI systems to improve the efficiency of the state's MassHealth health insurance call center and a tool to help people more easily access the MBTA's Ride service for elderly or disabled users.



In February, Governor Maura Healey announced [InnovateMA](#), the AI for Impact partnership with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as she signed an Executive Order to establish an AI Task Force.

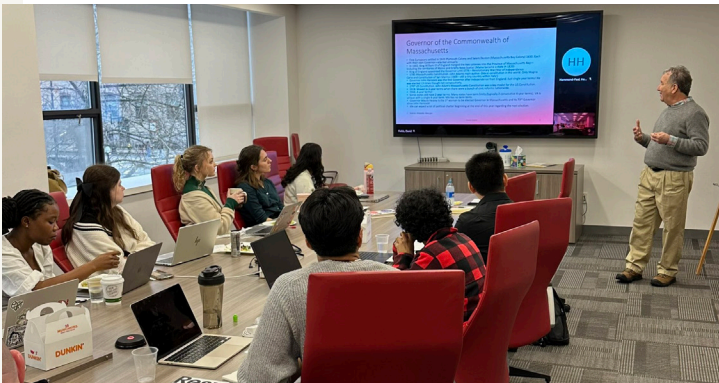
AI for Impact Tech Advisor and Chief Information Officer for the City of Boston, Santiago Garces, also serves as co-chair of the Task Force.

[Read the full press release](#)

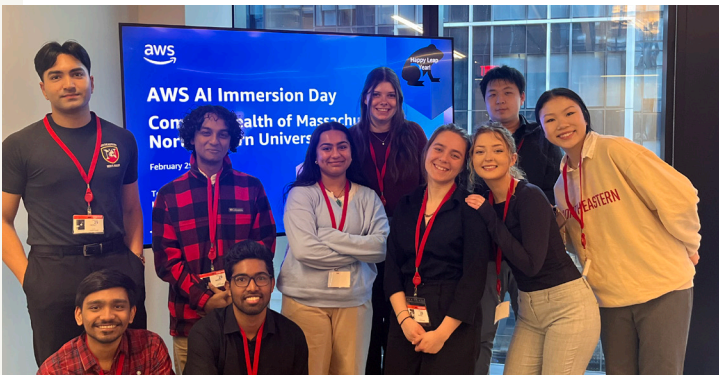
*AI for Impact students meet with Venture Guides, a supporter of the program, to share their projects and learn from the team about early stage start-up investing.*



AI for Impact students visited the Massachusetts State House to discuss InnovateMA and met with Governor Maura Healey's Chief of Staff Kate Cook.



AI for Impact students learn about Massachusetts state government from former Chief of Staff for Governor Charlie Baker, Steve Kadish, Senior Fellow at the Burnes Center.



AI for Impact students visit Amazon Web Services in Boston's Seaport for an immersion day with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



AI for Impact students discuss their projects using experiential AI for good with Digital Minister for Taiwan, Audrey Tang, before her talk at Northeastern as part of the Burnes Center's Rebooting Democracy in the Age of AI lecture series.

## This cohort's projects:

### MBTA INFO HUB – THE RIDE

The MBTA's RIDE Support tool enhances the capabilities of the RIDE's customer service representatives, enabling swifter and more accurate responses to inquiries. This tool aims to significantly boost the efficiency of the RIDE support system, ultimately improving accessibility to essential information for RIDE users. – **Partner: Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority**

### MASHEALTH KNOWLEDGE TOOL

The MassHealth Enrollment Center (MEC) Knowledge Tool supports MassHealth call center workers by providing efficient access to updated and accurate policy and procedural information. This AI-powered tool streamlines the process of addressing both simple and complex issues from MassHealth customers, enhancing the overall productivity and service quality. – **Partner: Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services**

### EEA GRANTS NAVIGATOR

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Grants Navigator aims to make the grant research and discovery process for residents of Massachusetts more efficient and equitable. This tool consolidates key grant information using AI-enhanced search. – **Partner: Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**

### MASSDOT POLICY NAVIGATOR

The Policy Navigator chatbot empowers design engineers in the MassDOT Highway Division, enabling them to efficiently query and interact with department manuals and documentation. This tool aids in the design of quicker and safer infrastructure projects for commuters in Massachusetts. – **Partner: Massachusetts Department of Transportation**

### AI SANDBOX

The Commonwealth AI Sandbox offers a secure, user-friendly environment for state government employees to explore, test, and innovate with AI models, ensuring data privacy and simplicity at its core. – **Partner: Massachusetts Executive Office of Technology Services and Security**

# Impact Studios

*We believe that today's challenges cannot be solved with yesterday's toolkit. That is why we focus on delivering novel participatory approaches using new technology with the goal of solving public problems in partnership with communities.*

*We call these **Impact Studios**.*

## Unlocking Literacy

The Burnes Center, alongside the Museum of Science and with the support of the [Chief of Teaching and Learning at Boston Public Schools](#), [Innovate Public Schools](#), [The Learning Agency](#), and [Citizens Foundation](#), launched [Unlocking Literacy](#) in 2023 to engage the populations most impacted by inequities in learning to better understand why reading proficiently has proved so difficult and why change is so intractable.

Through conversations and collective action with students, caregivers, educators, and education scholars—nationally and in Boston—Unlocking Literacy is surfacing new ideas for how to address low literacy, and in particular, how new technologies, including artificial intelligence, might be part of the solution.

*Unlocking Literacy's online engagement has received over 38,000 responses from a wide range of stakeholders and community members about the top causes of literacy challenges. The top responses from this initial phase of engagement are:*

- Many struggling readers require more support than students performing at or near grade level, and this support is not always provided.
- Students are not always identified as struggling readers and their weaknesses in reading are not assessed by trained specialists.
- The amount of funding and resources going toward public education may vary widely across states.
- Students who fall behind in reading at a young age often struggle in later grades and drop out before earning a high school diploma.
- Young children may not have received enough phonics instruction in kindergarten and first grade to become smooth, fluent readers.

**[Click here](#) and selecting the “Results” tab to review initial results.** The project will now bring experts together to learn more about solutions that work and will begin to spearhead piloting a new approach in Boston and other jurisdictions across the US.

# Countering Election Subversion: 27 Recommendations to Build a Stronger Democracy

By Dane Gambrell and Beth Noveck

Following the completion of the [“Countering Election Subversion” Impact Studio](#), which brought together over 100 experts in political science, election administration, election law, machine learning, journalism, and community engagement and supported by [Democracy Fund Voice](#), the Burnes Center released “Countering Election Subversion: 27 Strategies to Build a Stronger Democracy.”

The report outlines a comprehensive set of recommendations aimed at fortifying the integrity of the American electoral system against the dual threats of election denialism and sabotage. It highlights the misuse of legal and administrative systems by election deniers, who exploit these avenues to obstruct electoral processes and spread doubt about election fairness. Moreover, it addresses the increase in support for violence targeting elections, which undermines faith in democratic institutions and intimidates political participants. The recommendations in the report focus on swift justice against malicious litigation, enhancements to legal education, protection for election offices, efficiency in handling Freedom of Information requests, and addressing election-related violence through early warning systems, de-escalation training, and legislative changes.

The Burnes Center for Social Change and The GovLab have published 27 recommendations for strengthening America’s democratic institutions by bolstering the integrity of our election system.

The package of concrete funding recommendations to philanthropy and government provide a robust strategy to address the twin challenges of election denialism and election sabotage that threaten the bedrock of our democratic system.

Our recommendations include innovative ideas and strategies for how U.S. philanthropic and government organizations can address these two core challenges in the short, medium and long term.

## The Challenge of Election Sabotage and Denial

From City Hall to Capitol Hill, candidates for public office in all levels of government have advanced politically-motivated efforts to subvert elections. Election deniers have carried out a diverse range of election subversion strategies, from spreading disinformation and conspiracy theories on social media, to advancing politicized bills in state legislatures that destabilize voting procedures, to exploiting real economic disempowerment, inequality, and government dysfunction in an effort to spread authoritarian beliefs. In many cases, these efforts have been aided by partisan media, bad-faith law firms, powerful corporations and private donors.

Our recommendations tackle the broader challenge of election subversion from two

—continued on page 12

*A project of the Burnes Center, InnovateUS provides free online learning for public servants by public servants on data, digital, and innovation skills with an emphasis on evidence-based and equitable approaches.*

## Listening series on federal and state AI training identifies most urgent public sector needs

Led by Burnes Center Senior Fellows Cristin Dorgelo and Blake Valenta, InnovateUS hosted a multi-month engagement process with over 100 Government and AI leaders to gather input on the development of a new philanthropically-funded, national online training program on responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) for public sector professionals.

Government leaders and AI experts universally agreed that training on the responsible use of AI to better serve residents is important and urgent and should be widely available, providing a clear framework of AI terms, use cases, and organizational considerations, with hands-on exercises connected to the learner's day-to-day work.

These sessions are informing the development of InnovateUS's new scalable, asynchronous, and 100% free online course – Responsible AI for Public Professionals – anticipated to be available by early summer 2024.

Read more about the engagement process in [\*\*Route Fifty: Government employees need hands-on, standardized AI training.\*\*](#)

## New AI online courses coming soon

InnovateUS will launch three new courses focused on AI for public sector professionals in the coming months.

### Fast Field Scanning With AI

*Launching Spring 2024*

Teaches public professionals how to systematically research solutions, evaluate their viability, and identify whether they will work in their own jurisdiction using the web and Artificial Intelligence.

Comprising eight modules, the course will equip learners with skills and tools to identify effective policies, strategies, and interventions to address public policy challenges and build them with the communities they serve.

### Responsible AI for Public Professionals: Using Generative AI at Work

*Launching Summer 2024*

Directed at a general audience, this course teaches learners to responsibly apply Generative AI in their day-to-day work; covering what Generative AI is, hands-on best practices for responsible use, use cases for common public sector tasks, associated risks and how to minimize them, and more.

### Responsible AI for Public Professionals: Scaling AI in your organization

*Launching Summer 2024*

Directed at people managers, leadership, and other decision makers, this course explores how to responsibly scale AI in your organization. It includes an overview of AI approaches, importance of data quality, staffing AI, selecting projects that can scale, and considerations for mitigating risks.

*Learn more at [innovate-us.org/course](https://innovate-us.org/course)*

## EVENTS

# Rebooting Democracy in the Age of AI Lecture Series

The “[Rebooting Democracy in the Age of AI](#)” Lecture Series is continuing to welcome changemakers and pioneers from around the world working to democratize power in governments, schools, and workplaces.

[rebootdemocracy.ai](https://rebootdemocracy.ai)

In February, Burnes Center hosted an online discussion with [Anthony Grayling](#) (Professor, New College of the Humanities at Northeastern University, London) and [Danielle Allen](#) (James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard University and Director of the [Allen Lab for Democracy Renovation](#) at Harvard Kennedy School’s Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation) to discuss “AI and Democracy’s First Principles.” In March, [Marci Harris](#) (CEO and cofounder of [POPVOX Foundation](#)) discussed Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Lawmaking.

On Friday, April 5, the Burnes Center co-hosted an in-person discussion at the Northeastern Alumni Center with Audrey Tang, Digital Minister for Taiwan, as part of Rebooting Democracy in the Age of AI, and as the Closing Plenary Session of [Northeastern’s AI in Action Week: 2024](#).

Read more about the discussion about AI and democracy, transparency, and governance in [Northeastern Global News](#), and [a summary by Jay Kemp on the Reboot Democracy blog](#).



On April 11, 2024, Associate Professor in the School of Architecture [H. Killion Mokwete](#) moderated a discussion at the Center for Design with Damiano Cerrone and Liza Gazeeva of [UrbanistAI](#) about AI and Participatory Planning.

Watch all of our recent lectures at [rebootdemocracy.ai/events](https://rebootdemocracy.ai/events)

## Upcoming Lectures

**MAY 16, 2024, 5 P.M.**

### AI and the Future of the Workplace

with [Orly Lobel](#), author of [The Equality Machine: Harnessing Digital Technology for a Brighter More Inclusive Future](#), and [Seth Harris](#) (Professor, Northeastern and the Burnes Center), co-hosted by the Power at Work Blog.

*Stay tuned for additional fall 2024 lectures to be announced soon.*

# Recent Events

**FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

John Battelle, Burnes Center Senior Fellow, interviewed Larry Lessig (Harvard Law School) as part of the [Internet We Deserve Lecture Series](#), and co-hosted by the Rebooting Democracy in the Age of AI lecture series.

[Watch the video and read John's blog post.](#)



**FEBRUARY 12, 2024**

Beth Noveck interviewed Jonathan Metz, Burnes Center Senior Fellow, about his new book [What We've Become: Living and Dying in a Country of Arms](#) at Harvard Book Store.

[Watch the conversation on C-SPAN.](#)



**MARCH 19, 2024**

Burnes Center Senior Fellow Laura Forlano launched her new book [Cyborg](#) alongside her co-author Danya Glabau at the Center for Design.



**MARCH 26, 2024**

John Battelle, Burnes Center Senior Fellow, interviewed Tom Wheeler (Harvard Law School) as part of the [Internet We Deserve Lecture Series](#), (former Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Brookings Institute, Harvard Kennedy School).

**MARCH 27, 2024**

The Burnes Center and the Power at Work Blog with the Massachusetts State House Union hosted an Author Talk with Hamilton Nolan, author of the new book [The Hammer](#), moderated by Seth Harris.





# Selected Publications

**FAST COMPANY** | BETH SIMONE NOVECK

[New Jersey is turning to AI to improve the job search process](#)

**TIME MAGAZINE** | JONATHAN METZL

[Guns Are Not Just a Public Health Problem](#)

**FAST COMPANY** | BETH SIMONE NOVECK

[How AI can help reshape Congress](#)

**BOSTON GLOBE** | JILL ABRAMSON

[Harvard students aren't snowflakes](#)

**INNOVATEUS** | DANE GAMBRELL

[Upskilling your workforce for the age of AI](#)

**INNOVATEUS** | JESS SILVERMAN

[Making bureaucracy work for you in the public sector](#)

**JOHN BATTELLE'S SEARCH BLOG** | JOHN BATTELLE

[No. TV Advertising Is Not Going to Become "Performance Driven"](#)

**JOHN BATTELLE'S SEARCH BLOG** | JOHN BATTELLE

[Vint Cerf: Maybe We Need an Internet Driver's License](#)

**POWER AT WORK** | DANE GAMBRELL

[Interview with Shannon Wait, Alphabet Workers Union-CWA Organizer](#)

**POWER AT WORK** | DANE GAMBRELL

[NYU Contract Faculty Win Historic Union Victory, Adding Momentum to the Academic Organizing Wave](#)

**POWER AT WORK** | SETH HARRIS

[The Door is Open to Local and State Just Cause Legislation](#)

## FROM **Reboot Democracy** • AI

*The Reboot Democracy Blog explores the complex relationship between AI, democracy, and governance.*

[New White House Guidance on AI: Strong on Skills, Short on Public Engagement](#)

*Beth Simone Noveck*

[Let AI remake the whole U.S. government, with human ingenuity alongside data](#)

*Beth Simone Noveck*

[Guns, Narratives, and AI](#)

*Beth Simone Noveck*

[To Fight Extremism and Hate Speech Online, Invest in AI-Powered Content Moderation](#)

*Jay Kemp*

[Scandal at the Post Office: Technology on Tap, Justice on Top](#)

*Jay Kemp*

[POPVOX releases new report on AI and legislatures](#)

*Beth Simone Noveck*

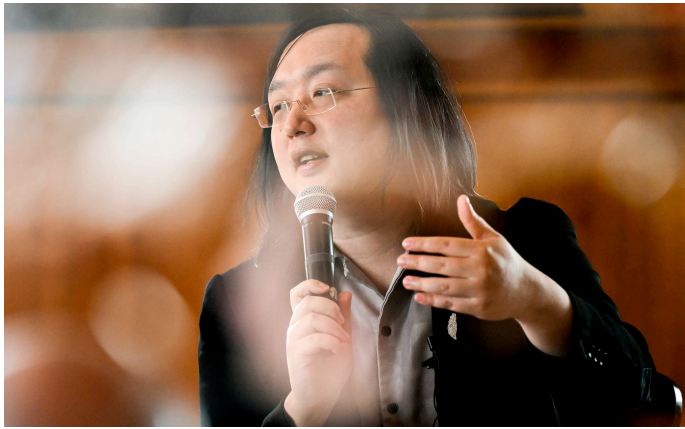


# Selected Media Mentions

**NORTHEASTERN GLOBAL NEWS** | APRIL 5, 2024

## How can we use AI to build more democratic societies? The key lies in transparency, Taiwan's digital affairs minister says

featuring Beth Simone Noveck and the Rebooting Democracy in the Age of AI lecture series



**SCRIPPS NEWS** | APRIL 5, 2024

## Can the U.S. move to a four day work week?

featuring Seth Harris

**CNBC** | APRIL 5, 2024

## March jobs report 'kills the argument' that a recession is coming

featuring Seth Harris

**MARKETPLACE** | APRIL 2, 2024

## End of internet subsidies for low-income households threatens access to telehealth

featuring Alister Martin

**PYMNTS** | MARCH 14, 2024

## Not Everyone Thinks AI Is Going To Destroy Us

featuring Beth Simone Noveck

**POLITICO MAGAZINE** | MARCH 14, 2024

## What the Press and Pollsters Get Wrong about a Biden-Trump Rematch

featuring Jill Abramson

**ROUTE FIFTY** | MARCH 6, 2024

## Meet the newest member of your team: the chief AI officer

featuring Beth Simone Noveck

**GOVTECH** | MARCH 1, 2024

## How Should Government Guide the Use of Generative AI?

featuring Beth Simone Noveck

**GOVTECH** | MARCH 1, 2024

## Where to Start with AI? Cities and States Offer Use Cases

featuring Beth Simone Noveck

**NBC NEWS** | FEBRUARY 27, 2024

## Prices, jobs, access to groceries: What's at stake as the FTC tries to kill the Kroger-Albertsons merger

featuring Seth Harris

**BOSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL** | FEBRUARY 23, 2024

Companies are adding AI chatbots to their websites. It's producing some unintended consequences.

featuring Beth Simone Noveck

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**YAHOO! FINANCE** | FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Going on strike: Why some unions have more leverage than others

featuring Seth Harris

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**POLITICO** | FEBRUARY 11, 2024

The Washington Post Has a New Publisher. Here's Some Unsolicited Advice.

featuring Jill Abramson

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**ALL THINGS POLICY PODCAST** | FEBRUARY 9, 2024

Good Riddance to bad governance

featuring Anirudh Dinesh



**INC.** | FEBRUARY 8, 2024

The E.U. Is Pushing Tech Titans to Help Preserve Fair and Free Elections. Can the U.S. Do the Same?

featuring Beth Simone Noveck

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**WALL STREET JOURNAL** | FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Can the Media Get Trump Coverage Right?

featuring Jill Abramson

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**THE WASHINGTON POST** | FEBRUARY 3, 2024

A journalist assisted a woman's quest for suicide. Did he get too involved?

featuring Jill Abramson

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**AAMC** | FEBRUARY 1, 2024

8 prominent Black leaders in medicine

featuring Alister Martin

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**STATE SCOOP** | JANUARY 31, 2024

New Jersey names former White House adviser as innovation chief, appoints first chief AI strategist

**GOVTECH** | JANUARY 24, 2024

New Jersey Appoints Beth Noveck as First Chief AI Strategist

## 27 Recommendations to Build a Stronger Democracy

—continued from page 5

areas we identified through research to be high priority.

First, our research has shown that those seeking to undermine our democratic institutions increasingly misuse our administrative and legal systems. Election deniers have abused the legal system and the freedom of information system in a coordinated effort to obstruct election administration and sow doubt in the outcomes of fair elections in the minds of the public. In some cases, election deniers have knowingly filed multiple malicious lawsuits with the goal of overturning electoral outcomes and canceling votes. In other cases, election deniers have filed frivolous public records requests seeking information about elections that are duplicative, repetitive, and have unreasonable and unrealistic asks, with no real purpose but to burden and strain the offices responsible for administering elections. There is a need for solutions to address malicious actors and abuse while ensuring that individuals have the ability to meaningfully exercise their due process and rights under the law.

Second, research shows that there has been an upsurge in support for violence targeting elections designed both to undermine faith in our democratic processes or to sow doubt in them. During recent election cycles, extremist groups and individuals have used violent acts and threats to intimidate political opponents, disrupt electoral processes, and cast doubt on the fairness and legitimacy of election results. Local election officials, in particular, are increasingly becoming targets of harassment

and violent threats. Many acts of political violence and intimidation target candidates and public servants who are women in an effort to discourage equal and diverse participation in political processes. White supremacists continue to disproportionately target communities of color—Black communities in particular—as a strategy to prevent communities from gaining and exercising equal political and economic power. There is a need for solutions to address how to better prevent, mitigate the effectiveness, and respond to violence targeting elections.

### How We Did It

Using a problem-solving approach we call “Smarter Crowdsourcing,” we co-created this set of strategies with nearly 100 experts, including representatives from community-based organizations, academics, legal practitioners, lawmakers and policymakers. We convened these experts in a series of two-hour, moderated online advisory sessions where the goal was to generate solutions that respond to these priority problems.

In parallel, we used an artificial intelligence-based toolkit called PolicySynth to develop solutions. PolicySynth automated the creation of over a thousand different search queries, from general to scientific, to data-specific and news-related, to conduct a comprehensive search for problems and their root causes. Then, the software searched the web to identify solutions that are responsive to the problem. PolicySynth yielded many of the same problems and solutions as those identified by the human experts but also introduced additional solutions, such as establishing a legal defense fund for administrative officials and mental health support for election workers.

## Why These Recommendations

Looking towards 2024 and future election cycles, these recommendations serve as a roadmap for philanthropic or government organizations to make urgently-needed investments to combat attempts to subvert and cast doubt on the fairness of U.S. elections.

The GovLab and the Burnes Center for Social Change developed these recommendations with the support of Democracy Fund Voice, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to helping America build a stronger, healthier democracy.

## Recommendations

### MISUSE OF THE LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM

To address the root causes and mitigate the negative impacts of malicious litigation on election integrity, philanthropic organizations and governments should:

- 1. Swift Justice:** Encourage organizations and bodies with disciplinary authority to take swift action against groups, attorneys, and law firms who have advanced malicious litigation.
- 2. Legal Education:** Invest in legal education to better teach professional responsibility and support professional development opportunities for students in order to train the next generation of lawyers to fulfill their role as guardians of democracy, elections and the Constitution.
- 3. Protect Election Offices from Litigation:** Invest in capacity building, and legal advocacy to better protect election offices from malicious litigation.
- 4. Resources for Legal Advocacy:** Invest in resources to support groups who track, report on, or carry out legal advocacy challenging malicious litigation.

- 5. Equipping the Courts:** Invest in research to understand how the courts can more effectively deal with malicious litigations.
- 6. Stakeholder Engagement:** Engage key stakeholders in the process of developing solutions to the problem of malicious litigation.

To address the root causes and mitigate the negative impacts of abuses of the freedom of information (FOI) system, philanthropic organizations and governments should:

- 7. Evaluate FOI Policy Changes:** Invest in policy research to understand how potential changes to FOI laws and policies will impact public access to information, and in particular, the negative knock-on consequences of policy changes.
- 8. Proactively Release Information:** Invest in training, data infrastructure, staffing, and other forms of capacity building that enable election offices to proactively release more election-related information, which can allow offices to head-off vexatious or duplicative requests.
- 9. Boost FOI Efficiency:** Invest in training, data infrastructure, staffing, and other forms of capacity building that enable election offices to process and respond to FOI requests more efficiently and effectively.
- 10. Pilot State-Level FOI Changes:** Invest in research and policy advocacy to pilot administrative changes designed to limit vexatious FOI requests.
- 11. Understand FOI Challenges:** Fund research and further engagement with experts to fully understand the scope of the problem.

To address overarching, existing problems and anticipate future challenges related to election integrity, philanthropic organizations and governments should:

- 12. Support Underresourced Local Election Offices:** Invest in improving administrative processes, filling funding gaps, and providing local election offices (LEOs) with the resources they need to continue to run elections with minimal errors and disruptions.
- 13. Predicting Future Threats:** Invest in research, and provide sustained funding to on-the-ground organizations, to enable the election protection groups to anticipate, and prepare to respond, to future election subversion campaigns.
- 14. Community Engagement:** Engage communities and build coalitions to ensure that the voices of key stakeholders are represented in funding decisions related to election administration.

#### **ELECTION-RELATED VIOLENCE**

To enable better forecasting of acts of violence, improve threat response, reduce the effectiveness of violence as a political tool, and mitigate harms caused by violence, philanthropic organizations and governments should:

- 15. Early Warning Response Systems:** Invest in Early Warning Response Systems (EWRS) – tools which use data and research findings to predict instances of violence – with an emphasis on rapidly delivering intelligence about threats to elections groups working at the local level.
- 16. De-escalation Training:** Invest in de-escalation training for election officials to equip them with strategies to prepare for

and effectively respond to potentially violent incidents.

- 17. Legislative Protections:** Explore how changes to law – such as better protections for the personal identifying information of election officials and judges, or introducing stiffer penalties for threats targeting public servants – could prevent acts of violence.
- 18. Collaborate with Law Enforcement:** Invest in building stronger relationships among elected officials and law enforcement to allow law enforcement to better anticipate, prepare for, and respond to violent threats and actions.
- 19. Longitudinal Data Collection:** Invest in longitudinal data collection about violent threats, attitudes, political beliefs that justify violence, and other data related to violence to better understand the risk of violence and make better predictions. Collecting data about violent acts alone is insufficient.

To address the root causes that promote election-related violence and reduce acceptance for political violence, philanthropic organizations and governments should:

- 20. Research Collaborative on Messaging:** Fund a multidisciplinary research collaborative to develop and test effective messaging strategies, borrowing from successful campaigns in other domains, and designed to combat the spread of anti-democratic ideas.
- 21. Counter Online Hate Speech:** Fund efforts to proactively respond to and counter online hate speech that fuels violence.
- 22. Resilient Election Administration:** Support more transparent, resilient, and bipartisan election administration practices that

build public confidence in electoral procedures and outcomes.

- 23. Civic Engagement:** Invest in civic engagement projects that get citizens more involved in elections, helping to educate and build trust in the electoral process.
- 24. Address Social Media Misinformation:** Explore how to engage with social media companies in developing and implementing solutions to stop the spread of misinformation on their platforms which fuels election violence.
- 25. Congress's Role:** Advocate for Congress to take a leading role in combating violent threats and acts against election officials.

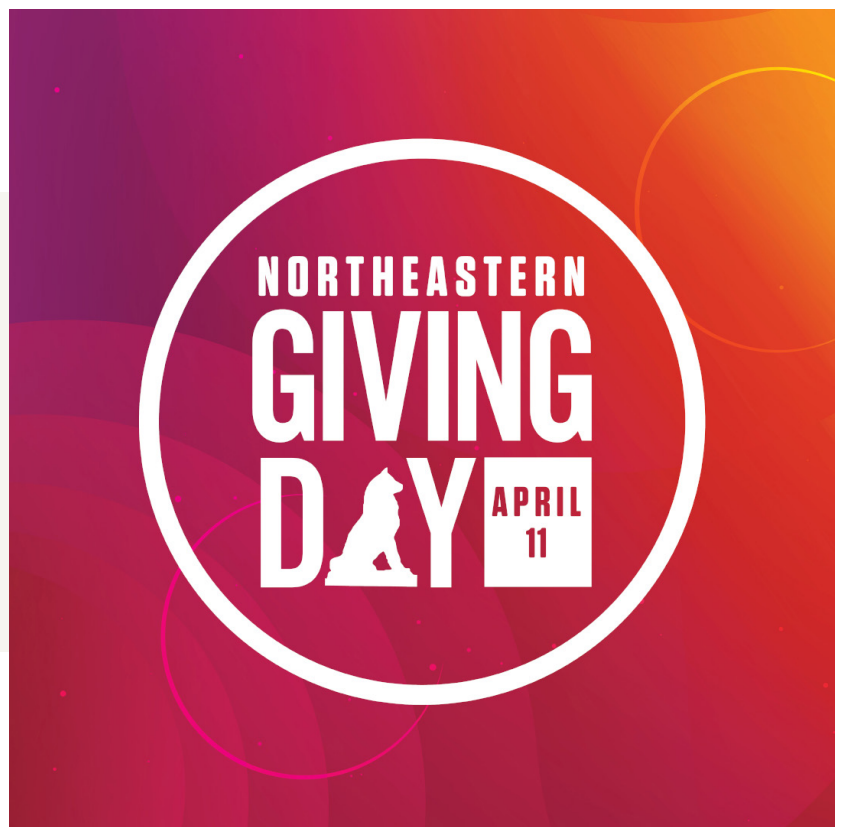
To ensure that the grantmaking process is both equitable and effective, philanthropic organizations and governments should:


- 26. Center Local Communities:** in particular, communities of color and other groups who have historically been targeted by political violence – in grantmaking decisions around election violence.
- 27. Sustained Funding:** Provide sustained funding that allows groups to work on election violence issues continuously across election cycles.

To learn more, visit [smartercrowdsourcing.org](https://smartercrowdsourcing.org)

## Giving Day

Northeastern's Giving Day raised nearly \$33,000 from 55 donors and secured matches from Venture Guides and Northeastern parent Sean Carey to support the AI for Impact program.





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