



POGO ANNUAL REPORT 2021

H.

ATE C

Octo

ffered

U

AN



About POGO

Our Mission

The Project On Government Oversight (POGO) is a nonpartisan independent watchdog that investigates and exposes waste, corruption, abuse of power, and when the government fails to serve the public or silences those who report wrongdoing.

We champion reforms to achieve a more effective, ethical, and accountable federal government that safeguards constitutional principles.

How We Work

POGO is a leading voice in the fight for accountability in the federal government no matter who sits in the Oval Office or runs Congress, and our teams help build a more effective, responsive, and just democracy by identifying and addressing challenges to good government no matter how daunting they may be.

Our investigations and research team uncovers systemic problems within the federal government, and the wrongdoing that results. They collect information from whistleblowers and insiders, documents, and datasets to bring corruption and abuse of power to light and to inform POGO's policy work.

Our public policy team explores and pushes for evidence-based policy reforms that address systemic issues in our government and build a stronger democracy.

Our civic engagement team connects with new and existing supporters, stakeholders, and partners “beyond the beltway” to bring voices from your communities to the fight for reform.

These teams address corruption and abuse of power in all three branches of the federal government. We also have three projects that drive good governance in specific areas:

The Center for Defense Information (CDI) aims to secure a far more effective military at a significantly lower cost.

The Congressional Oversight Initiative (COI) provides congressional staff with resources and knowledge to perform their oversight responsibilities more effectively in order to strengthen the legislative branch's ability to counterbalance executive power.

The Constitution Project (TCP) safeguards constitutional rights that are threatened by abuse of the government's national security and domestic policing powers.

2021 BY THE NUMBERS



18

Testimonies. POGO provided testimony to Congress on a range of issues including improving whistleblower protections, strengthening the inspector general system, and cutting the Pentagon budget.



40

Op-Eds published. POGO's opinion editorials were placed in major news outlets including CNN, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, and *NBC News*.

Washington Post



153

Congressional mentions. Congress cited our expertise in press releases, floor mentions, "Dear Colleague" letters, reports, and social media posts.



652

Attendees at our congressional trainings. Hill staff attend these trainings to learn how to conduct oversight more effectively.



10

Roundtables with lawmakers and constituents. POGO organized roundtables with lawmakers' offices and constituents in our target states of Michigan and Ohio.

28,600

Actions taken by supporters. POGO supporters across the country took actions like writing letters to their representatives, submitting letters to the editor for a newspaper, or signing a petition.

Top 2021 Accomplishments

Key Highlights

- **Testified before Congress a record-breaking 18 times on a wide range of issues.** These issues include fighting Pentagon waste, improving whistleblower protections, strengthening the inspector general system, and bolstering congressional ethics.
- **Built bipartisan support for inspector general reforms.** We testified twice in the House of Representatives, led civil society engagement on legislation, and activated our civic engagement network to advance the IG Independence and Empowerment Act of 2021. It passed the House and the Senate committee with jurisdiction last year.
- **Trained a record number of congressional staffers in bipartisan oversight skills.** This was our biggest year ever, and we are proud to say that about 40% of all congressional committee staffers have attended at least one of our monthly training sessions.
- **Fought for stronger oversight of Customs and Border Protection.** The agency is the country's largest law enforcement agency, and one of the least accountable. POGO released a report providing a blueprint for accountability in and oversight of the agency. The secretary of Homeland Security, members of Congress, and agency officials all reached out to POGO to discuss the blueprint.
- **Ended the Overseas Contingency Operations account.** In 2020, only 15% of the \$165 billion fund went toward supporting the purpose of the account: missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria. After POGO's tireless advocacy, the account was eliminated in 2021.
- **Activated our civic engagement network to oppose new F-35 Joint Strike Fighters.** The program has been a magnet for billions in wasted funds. We worked with our supporters across the country to call on their elected officials to stop funding the program. The 2022 defense budget was the first in years in which no additional F-35s were added beyond the original budget request.

RESILIENCE

THE ROAD TO A STRONGER DEMOCRACY



POGO IMPACT REPORT 2021

To see everything we achieved last year, check out our 2021 Impact Report at www.pogo.org/about/financial-information/.



Our Board and Advisors

Board of Directors

Danielle Brian, President*

Keith Rutter, Secretary*

Nithi Vivatrat, Chair

Debra S. Katz, Vice Chair

Dina Rasor, Treasurer

Ryan Alexander

Henry Banta

Lisa Baumgartner Bonds

Michael Cavallo

Andrew Cockburn

Lia Epperson

Armando Gomez

David Hunter

Norman Ornstein

Virginia “Ginny” Sloan

Anne Zill

David Burnham, Board Member Emeritus

Mickey Edwards, Board Member Emeritus

Morton Mintz, Board Member Emeritus

*Danielle Brian and Keith Rutter are officers of the Board but are not members of the Board.

Center for Defense Information, Military Advisory Board

Tony Carr (USAF, Ret.)

Lt. Col. Daniel L. Davis (USA, Ret.)

Col. Gary I. Wilson (USMC, Ret.)

Col. Michael D. Wyly (USMC, Ret.)

Advisors and Fellows

Ned Feder, Staff Scientist

Louis Fisher, Executive Power Scholar

Mort Rosenberg, Congressional Scholar

Stephen Vladeck, Supreme Court Fellow,
The Constitution Project

Financials

Overview

Change in net assets.....	\$1,574,136
Net assets at beginning of year.....	\$8,377,269
Net assets at end of year.....	\$9,951,405

Revenue

Grants.....	\$6,426,971
Contributions.....	\$1,819,786
Contributed services.....	\$606,206
Realized and unrealized gain on investments.....	\$496,447
Interest and dividend income.....	\$62,223
Other.....	\$42,103
Total.....	\$9,453,736

Supporting Services

General & Administrative.....	\$674,967
Development.....	\$573,598
Total supporting services.....	\$1,248,565

This statement of activities from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, has been audited.

POGO's full, audited financial statements and 990 forms are available at:
pogo.org/about/financial-information.

Administrative (9%) Development (7%)



Programs

Effective and Accountable Government...	\$2,320,481
The Constitution Project.....	\$1,345,902
Center for Defense Information.....	\$687,864
COVID-19 Relief Oversight.....	\$599,911
Civic Engagement.....	\$458,046
Congressional Oversight Initiative.....	\$286,514
Election and Transition Integrity.....	\$268,613
Ridenhour Program.....	\$251,877
Ethics Initiative.....	\$190,641
Lobbying.....	\$77,457
Census Project.....	\$66,792
FOIA Litigation.....	\$53,264
Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion.....	\$23,673
Total.....	\$6,631,035



POGO
PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Project On Government Oversight
1100 13th Street NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005
pogo.org | (202) 347-1122

