

PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2022



# Our Mission

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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.

# About POGO

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For more than four decades, the Project On Government Oversight has been fighting for reforms that will improve our government and build a stronger democracy.

Our **Policy and Government Affairs** work crafts and builds support for federal policy reforms in key accountability and oversight areas:

- **The Center for Defense Information** aims to secure a far more effective military at a significantly lower cost.
- **The Constitution Project** safeguards constitutional rights that are threatened by abuse of the government's national security and domestic policing powers.
- **The Effective and Accountable Government Program** explores and pushes for evidence-based policy reforms that will ensure the government is equipped to effectively root out corruption and abuse of power, and to be responsive to the people.
- **The Ethics Initiative** fights for stronger ethics rules and laws that prevent conflicts of interest.

Our **Program** work employs different strategies to protect and improve our democracy:

- **The Congressional Oversight Initiative** provides congressional staff with resources and knowledge to perform their oversight responsibilities more



effectively, strengthening the legislative branch's ability to counterbalance executive power.

- **Investigations and Research** conducts independent journalism that uncovers systemic problems within the federal government. They collect information from whistleblowers and insiders, documents, and datasets to bring corruption and abuse of power to light.
- **Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships** works to amplify POGO's work beyond the Beltway and across the nation, partnering with stakeholders and communities impacted by the abuse of power, especially those historically marginalized from power, to advocate for federal policies that foster equity and accountability.
- **The Ridenhour Prizes**, produced in collaboration with external partners, builds community through year-round learning and an annual prize celebration honoring truth-tellers and others who promote a more just vision of society.



# Top 2022 Accomplishments

- **Published a report** highlighting the ways the Constitution's disqualification clause in the 14th Amendment can be enforced against insurrectionists. The House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol included several of our key recommendations in their final report.
- **Worked with Senate staff** to get a floor vote on the nomination of Robert Storch for Defense Department inspector general, a post that had been vacant since 2016.
- **Worked with members of Congress** to pass landmark reforms that will improve the transparency and independence of the inspector general system.
- **Built support in Congress** to unanimously pass the Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act, which requires certain federal judges to make specific financial disclosures public. This will make it easier for journalists, watchdogs, and the public to catch conflicts of interest in the federal judiciary.
- **Published groundbreaking investigations** into Department of Homeland Security Inspector General Joseph Cuffari's mishandling of critical investigations, including the decision to suppress a report detailing widespread sexual harassment within the agency, and his failure to notify Congress for months about missing Secret Service text messages from the January 6 insurrection.





- **Launched a project** to identify and address how structural racism in conjunction with inadequate oversight of federal water infrastructure investment leaves Black communities without access to clean and safe water systems.
- **Worked with the Department of Homeland Security’s Customs and Border Protection** to disband secretive “critical incident teams,” which had a history of cover-ups of use-of-force incidents by their agents.
- **Recommended reforms to the executive branch** that were reflected in President Joe Biden’s executive order on policing and public safety. His order included several of POGO’s top recommendations including requiring better data collection and transparency from police across the country.
- **Helped restore whistleblower due process** by working closely with members of the Senate to confirm three nominees to the Merit Systems Protection Board, the independent agency responsible for hearing whistleblower cases. For the first time since 2017, when the Board lost a quorum, they were able to meet and begin to tackle the backlog of about 3,600 cases that built up over five years.

## WANT TO READ MORE?

To see everything we achieved last year, check out our 2022 Impact Magazines at:

[pogo.org/financials](https://pogo.org/financials)



# Financials

## Overview

Change in net assets.....	\$470,983
Net assets at beginning of year.....	\$9,951,405
Net assets at end of year.....	\$10,422,388

## Revenue

Grants .....	\$6,820,024
Contributions .....	\$1,630,702
Contributed services and event space.....	\$278,317
Interest and dividend income.....	\$127,232
Other .....	\$67,743
Realized and unrealized gain on investments.....	(\$852,943)
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$8,071,075</b>

## Supporting Services

General & Administrative .....	\$606,271
Development .....	\$573,707
<b>Total supporting services .....</b>	<b>\$1,179,978</b>

This statement of activities from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, has been audited.

POGO's full, audited financial statements and 990 forms are available at: [pogo.org/financials](https://pogo.org/financials)

Administrative (8%)      Development (8%)



## Programs

Effective and Accountable Government...	\$2,648,067
The Constitution Project .....	\$694,422
Center for Defense Information .....	\$613,828
Civic Engagement.....	\$613,107
Ridenhour Event & Program.....	\$385,345
Congressional Oversight Initiative.....	\$364,086
Customs and Border Protection Oversight..	\$256,131
Ethics Initiative.....	\$234,301
Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion .....	\$185,167
Racial Equity Project .....	\$85,819
Census Project .....	\$84,067
FOIA Litigation .....	\$73,410
14 <sup>th</sup> Amendment .....	\$72,455
Lobbying.....	\$58,084
Open the Government.....	\$51,825
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$6,420,114</b>

# Our Board and Advisors

## Board of Directors

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- **Danielle Brian**, President of the Board\*
- **Keith Rutter**, Secretary of the Board\*
- **Nithi Vivatrat**, Chair of the Board
- **Debra S. Katz**, Vice Chair of the Board
- **Dina Rasor**, Treasurer of the Board
- Jeanine Abrams McLean
- Ryan Alexander
- Lisa Baumgartner Bonds
- Michael Cavallo
- Andrew Cockburn
- Lia Epperson
- Armando Gomez
- David Hunter
- Wallace B. Jefferson
- Virginia Kase Solomón
- Norman Ornstein
- Hina Shamsi
- Virginia “Ginny” Sloan

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

## Emeritus Board Members

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- David Burnham
- Mickey Edwards
- Morton Mintz
- Anne Zill

## Center for Defense Information, Military Advisory Board

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- **Lt. Col. 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

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- **Ned Feder**, Staff Scientist
- **Louis Fisher**, Executive Power Scholar
- **Mort Rosenberg**, Congressional Scholar
- **Stephen Vladeck**, Supreme Court Fellow, The Constitution Project

# POGO

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

