

**Justice, Equality, Truth, Diversity, Liberty, The Common Good... These are not just words but principles on which our democracy was built.**

At a time when our democracy is suffering from multiple afflictions, we believe the obligation of the social sector is to spark its revitalization through a broad range of democracy-strengthening activities and investments. These range from direct efforts at democratic reform to mission-driven public policy work, from building community capacity to encouraging greater diversity on philanthropic and nonprofit boards and staff.

Building on ABAG's long-standing engagement with policymakers and other advocacy efforts, we are holding the [Democracy and the Social Sector Program Series](#) to stimulate conversations and action on democracy-strengthening activities at the local, state and federal level that promote effective philanthropy and build stronger communities.

**This Learning Series is designed to:**

- Encourage ABAG Members to learn about federal, state, and local issues and vote in the 2018 election;
- Generate public support for state and local budgets that have the resources needed to support vibrant communities and strengthen the state/local economy;
- Stimulate conversations and action on democracy-strengthening activities at the local, state and federal level that promote effective philanthropy and build stronger communities;
- Introduce members to experts, tools, and resources for further learning and action; and
- Increase understanding of the connections to grantmaking practice, the role of philanthropy, and how to operationalize learnings, and identify actions to take.

**The series includes:**

- [Community Engagement Matters: A Workshop with Paul Schmitz](#) - October 19, 1:00 —5:00 PM
- [Five Legal Rules Every Foundation Should Know for the 2018 Elections](#) – January 8, 3:00 —4:00 PM
- [ABAG Goes to Annapolis](#) - February 1, 9:45 AM — 2:00 PM
- [A Deep Dive into the Maryland State Budget](#)—February 13, 10:00—11:30 AM
- [2018 PolicyWorks Institute](#) - March 11-12 with United Philanthropy Forum
- [Foundations on the Hill 2018](#) - March 12-14 with United Philanthropy Forum
- Look for additional programming on Strategic Grantmaking through Advocacy; Voter Engagement; Census 2020; Federal and City Budgets; and more.

**For details and to register: [www.abagrantmakers.org/DemocracySeries](http://www.abagrantmakers.org/DemocracySeries)**