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**THE LISA AND DOUGLAS GOLDMAN FUND DONATES \$2 MILLION
TO PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS**

SAN FRANCISCO — January 14, 2014

A San Francisco foundation has pledged \$2 million to ensure that all eligible Americans have the opportunity to vote.

The Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund announces grants to four organizations working to fight voter suppression and protect voting rights nationally — the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Common Cause Education Fund, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and Project Vote. In a similar effort, prior to the 2012 elections, the Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund supported each of these groups with grants of \$125,000. In December 2013, the Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund renewed its commitment and awarded grants of \$375,000 to each organization to support efforts to combat voter suppression in the 2014 and 2016 elections. The total award per organization is \$500,000.

"Voter suppression is a wrong that must be righted," said Douglas Goldman, co-founder and president of the Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund. "By supporting these four distinct projects, we are encouraging them to coordinate their efforts and, thus, increase the likelihood that voting rights will be protected."

Leading up to the 2012 presidential election, Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund grantees worked successfully to stop egregious laws, educate and assist voters, maintain rules around voter registration, and communicate voting problems through media and public education campaigns. However, there was a major setback to voting rights in 2013 with the Supreme Court's ruling in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which deemed a central provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act unconstitutional. This ruling makes it easier for certain states to impose barriers on traditionally disenfranchised voting populations, such as limiting early voting, ending same-day registration, relocating polling places, and requiring specific forms of ID or proof of citizenship to vote. These restrictions fall most heavily on voters of color, youth, the elderly, and low-income voters. Recipients of the grants will continue their activities to protect and expand the right to vote.

Project Vote's Executive Director Michael Slater conveys, "With this award, the Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund has taken a stand for democracy and demonstrated their long-term commitment to keeping our democracy strong and accessible for all American citizens."

About the Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund

Lisa and Douglas Goldman established their foundation in 1992 to support charitable organizations that enhance our society. Since its founding, the Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund has awarded philanthropic contributions of nearly \$75 million to over 600 nonprofit organizations. The Fund's assets currently total approximately \$235 million. The foundation provides support to nonprofit organizations working in seven areas: democracy and civil liberties, education and literacy, environment, health and recreation, the Jewish community, reproductive health and rights, and San Francisco Bay Area institutions. <http://ldgfund.org/>

About the Organizations Supported through this Initiative

American Civil Liberties Union Foundation <http://www.aclu.org>

Common Cause Education Fund <http://www.commoncause.org>

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law <http://www.lawyerscommittee.org>

Project Vote <http://www.projectvote.org>