

Letter From Our Executive Directors

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter! We are excited to be with you on this journey to strengthen our democracy.

As you know, there is an unsettling rise in authoritarianism in America. More and more of our neighbors and our elected representatives are embracing ideas that undercut the foundations of what makes this country great. From efforts to suppress the vote to the attempted coup in January, our form of government and way of life is under attack.

Democracy is a fragile thing; it needs the ongoing work of everyone to keep it alive or we will lose it altogether. Sadly, this is no exaggeration. The good news is that it's not too late to do something about it. But we need your help.

We are often asked who would be interested in The Franklin Project's work. If you answer "yes" to any or all of these questions, we want to work with you:

- Do you value the liberties and rights you have as Americans?
- Are you unafraid of a diversity of opinions?
- Do you want your elected representatives to work together to get things done?
- Are you fearful about the kind of country your children will inherit?
- Do you think that America is already pretty great and that we need to keep it that way?
- Do you want the shrieking, shrill, dangerous extremist voices to quiet down so that the rest of us can be heard?

Then join us. We are the majority of this country and we will not stand by and watch what we love, what we value and what we've sometimes had to fight for simply slip away. The America we love was the only country in history founded on an idea -- an idea that we are all created equal and that we are born with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as we continually strive together for a more perfect union. Are we there yet? Not even close, but the hallmark of what it means to be an American is that we are always trying to be better. For some people, their version of what it means to be an American is a determination to be worse.

Well, not on our watch.

The mission of The Franklin Project is to connect you with others who feel the same way and to help you to be more active participants in your own democracy. The stakes are very high. If we fail, everything that makes America great and the liberties and rights we love and sometimes take for granted will vanish -- faster than you might imagine. But, if we are successful, we'll secure those liberties and rights for ourselves and our children. If we are

successful we will put a stake in the ground in the face of extremism and boldly say,
“ENOUGH!”

Individually, we can't do much to stop this slide into authoritarianism. But together there's nothing we cannot do. Together we cannot -- we must not -- fail. Together we will fight to keep the America we love and cherish by doing the work of Democracy.

-Franklin Project Co-Executive Directors Erin Dobson and Greg Jenkins