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NON-PARTISAN, CLEVELAND-BASED TEAM GATHERS NATIONAL VOICES EACH WEEK TO DISCUSS AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

The “State of American Democracy” is bringing together national voices and organizations to rally behind the rebuilding process of American Democracy with weekly, topic-based conversations.

(Cleveland, Ohio)—The State of American Democracy is a nonpartisan collective of thought leaders and non-profit organizations and foundations, founded by David W. Orr, a nationally-recognized environmentalist and Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics at Oberlin College. The project, supported locally by The City Club of Cleveland, has already premiered two episodes in its new series, “Democracy Unchained: A Conversation Series.” Episodes one and two focused on the moral foundations of democracy and climate change, respectively—and featured conversations with Van Jones, Jill Lepore, Sally Yates, Michael Eric Dyson, David Brooks, Francis Moore Lappe, and Michael Crow, among others.

The third episode of the series features conversations across party lines—each supporting the full rights of all people to vote in the November 2020 elections. “The Right to Vote” features conversations with Frank LaRose (Rep.), Secretary of State, Ohio and Jocelyn Benson (Dem.), Secretary of State, Michigan, along with discussions with award-winning journalist and producer, Maria Hinojosa; founder of Black Voters Matter, LaTosha Brown; the Most Rev. Michael Curry, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church; and, other thought leaders.

Episode three premieres Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 7 p.m. EST/4 p.m. PST on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Vimeo](#), Roku and Fire TV.

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About the State of American Democracy Project

The State of American Democracy initiative began with a conference at Oberlin College in 2017, with a goal to clarify the historic and institutional origins of the election of 2016 and the breakdown in governance, civility, and fairness that transcends party politics. The second phase of the work through the election of 2020 focuses on repairing and strengthening democratic institutions to serve the aims of justice, fairness, prosperity, and resilience.

Today, the State of American Democracy is a nonpartisan collective of individuals and organizations from across the country who are passionate about rebuilding politics and government in America for the benefit of all Americans. *Democracy Unchained*, the book, edited by David W. Orr, Andrew Gumbel, Bakari Kitwana and William S. Becker (New Press, March 2020), brings together more than 30 contributors, and “Democracy Unchained: A Conversation Series” brings together more than 100 thought leaders from a variety of disciplines. Today, more than 50 organizations have also partnered and/or sponsored this project, as well.

The State of American Democracy project is made possible through the generous support of Ford Foundation, Germeshausen Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, Wallace Global Fund, Park Foundation, and Kallopeia Foundation.

To learn more, visit stateofamericandemocracy.org.