

## MEDIA CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## EPISODE 7 EXPLORES HOW AMERICA CAN REBUILD CIVIC CULTURE – STARTING WITH HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Regardless of the outcome of the 2020 Presidential election, American democracy has an urgent need to be rebuilt, including the urgent task of rejuvenating interest in and education of civic culture.

On Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 7 p.m. EST/4 p.m. PST, the sixth episode of “Democracy Unchained: A Conversation Series” will premiere online. In this episode, “Money and Democracy,” an esteemed and diverse group of individuals convene to discuss how higher education can serve as one of the starting points to rebuild civic culture through education and empowerment.

The 2020 election can be seen as one of the contentious and controversial presidential elections in American history since 1876 – maybe ever. There are threats of violence and the President has not committed to a peaceful transfer of power; however, regardless of the election outcome, America has the urgent task of rejuvenating democracy and has the task of educating and empowering each citizen, regardless of political party, to support the creation of a more competent, fair and transparent democracy. In this episode, higher education and scholars come together to discuss how we rebuild civic culture in America.

State of American Democracy Project—a nonpartisan collective of acclaimed thought leaders, journalists, political leaders, and theologians stream its weekly episodes of “Democracy Unchained: A Conversation Series” on Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo, Roku and Fire TV. Podcast episodes are also available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts.

Panelists in episode seven, “Rebuilding Civic Culture,” include:

- **Michael Sorrell**, President, Paul Quinn College
- **Patrick Kenney**, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Arizona State University
- **Carmen Twillie Ambar**, President, Oberlin College
- **Judy Braus**, Executive Director, North American Association for Environmental Education
- **Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg**, Director, CIRCLE at Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University
- **Meghan Zahniser**, Executive Director, Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
- **Tom Steyer**, Investor, Philanthropist, former presidential candidate
- **Shoshana Zuboff**, Author, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*
- **Kevin Roose**, Columnist, *The New York Times*
- **Ben Scott**, Executive Director, Reset.tech
- **Danielle Allen**, James Bryant Conant University Professor and Director, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University

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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](http://stateofamericandemocracy.org).