The Mission

The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate is dedicated to educating the public about the important role of the Senate in our government, encouraging participatory democracy, invigorating civil discourse, and inspiring the next generation of citizens and leaders to engage in the civic life of their communities.

Letter from the President of the Board

2020 was an unforgettable year - a year in which our country faced a global pandemic, conducted a decennial census, celebrated the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage, and generated the highest voter turnout in over a century.

As the Kennedy Institute began 2020, we were filled with purpose and energized about our plans for a new exhibit and programs dedicated to educating the public about the importance of voting and the power of everyone’s voices. Then the pandemic hit, and we immediately pivoted to virtual programming, with our staff working from home and delivering our programs on-line. This Annual Report shares some of the highlights of that important work.

- We launched “Today’s Vote in the Classroom,” an on-line curriculum resource to help teachers simulate the legislative process and examine real legislation in their classrooms. Building off of our successful in-person Today’s Vote by going virtual and combining it with continued on-line support, this program serves as a valuable resource for educators and students during this time of remote learning, and beyond.

- We centered much of our programming around the importance and fundamental right of voting. This included hosting a discussion with current Chairs of the Committee on Election Laws on the preservation and expansion of voting, as well as a conversation with former Congressional staff and others who helped ensure passage of the Voting Rights Act. We also launched www.JustVote.org, a comprehensive and permanent online resource for informing, engaging, and educating the American public on the importance of voting.

In this time of significant change and uncertainty, the Kennedy Institute remains grounded in its commitment to educating the public, encouraging participatory democracy, invigorating civil discourse, and inspiring the next generation of citizens and leaders to engage in the civic life of their communities. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank the staff for their dedication and resilience, and our supporters for their steadfast commitment, without which our work would not be possible.

Victoria Reggie Kennedy
Co-Founder and President of the Board
Educational Programs

- **4,702** in-person attendees
- **826** virtual attendees

Public Programs

- **709** in-person attendees
- **4,653** virtual attendees

Year in Review 2020

Program attendees flip through Boston photographer’s Bill Brett’s new photographic collection, “Boston: Gentrification”, which celebrates Bostonians who are affecting positive change throughout the city.

The Kennedy Institute, the Barbara Lee Family Foundation and Mass Humanities premiere The Citizen’s Senate, featuring a combination of archival footage and live performances which examine the struggles and success of the final decade of the women's suffrage movement.

Students participate in a poetry exercise with Presidential inaugral poet Richard Blanco and discuss the themes he explored in his poetry collection, “How to Love a Country.”

Congressman Richard Neal joins the Kennedy Institute for its first all virtual public program to talk about the federal government’s reaction to the global pandemic, and the role the House Ways and Means Committee plays in this response.

A panel of state and local leaders discuss the importance of completing the 2020 Census, the impact the Census has on federal, state, and local government, and dispel myths surrounding the collection and use of data in regards to the Census.

In partnership with the JFK Presidential Library and Museum, the Kennedy Institute hosts a discussion on how building a culture of service can strengthen our communities and our democracy.

The Kennedy Institute and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation host a conversation with youth leaders from Africa and the United States about the impacts of both the COVID-19 and HIV pandemics.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy was a chief sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act and introduced the legislation in the United States Senate. 30 years later, this program gathered partners, activists, advocates and policymakers to celebrate the ADA.

Today’s Vote in the Classroom students participate in a virtual simulated U.S. Senate session and a live floor debate, and consider a live legislative issue from multiple perspectives, share their own ideas, and then cast their votes.

In a virtual program, students learn about an immigrant’s journey to citizenship and are charged with drafting a bill that defines a pathway to citizenship for four groups of undocumented immigrants.

Congresswoman Katherine Clark speaks with Kimberly Atkins from The Boston Globe about the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, her legislative initiatives, and the upcoming elections.

The timely conversation with Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer takes place three weeks after the passing of his colleague, Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and two weeks into the nomination process to fill her seat on the Supreme Court.
During the 2020 election year, we saw our mission to educate the public about how our government works and the collective strength of every individual’s voice as more important than ever before: that exercising the right to vote is fundamental to the success of our democracy.

The Kennedy Institute launched a new digital experience about the importance of voting, available to all online. Through a collection of virtual public programs, digital exhibits, and online story sharing, JustVote.org underscores why voting is important and highlights how many throughout this nation’s history have fought hard to expand and protect the right to vote. With its series of stories and extensive resources, JustVote.org brings the historical stakes in the battle for voting rights firmly into the present – and teaches every American how to exercise their franchise.

**JUST VOTE**

Your future depends on it.

**How To Vote?**

- **How do I get registered?**
  Register to vote at Vote.org. Some states allow residents to register to vote and vote all in the same day, including Election Day. Check to see if your state allows same day voter registration [here](#).

- **Where can I vote?**
  Once you’re registered to vote, it’s important to know where your polling place is located so you know where to go on Election Day (if you choose to vote in-person). You can find your polling place [here](#). Keep your eyes on that web page in the days leading up to election day, as your polling place could change between now and November 3rd.

- **How to vote by mail?**
  Every state allows voters to request a mail-in ballot. Some states require voters to provide an excuse for their request, while others do not. [Here](#) are the no-excuse states and [here](#) are the list of excuses you can use in excuse states. You can use this website to generate a request for a mail-in ballot.
The Kennedy Institute honored Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, at the 2020 Annual Dinner with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute Award for Inspired Leadership. Both recipients displayed steadfast leadership and were recognized for their nonpartisan initiative on public safety during the global COVID-19 pandemic on behalf of their respective states.

Honoring

**Governor Charlie Baker**  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Governor Andrew Cuomo**  
State of New York

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Annual Celebration of Inspired Leadership

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2020 Contributors

The Kennedy Institute is grateful for the many generous donors who have supported the work of the organization throughout the year.

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- Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Laborers’ International Union of North America
- Mass General Brigham
- James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Foundation

**$50,000 - $99,999**

- Annenberg Public Policy Center
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- Victoria Reggie Kennedy

**$25,000 - $49,999**

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- Boston Red Sox Foundation
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- Patrick Kennedy
- Liberty Mutual Foundation
- Next Chapter LLC
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**$10,000 - $24,999**

- Andrew Card Jr.
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**$5,000 - $9,999**

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Anne M. Finucane, Vice Chairman of Bank of America & Chairman of the Board of Bank of America, Europe
Martin Luther King III, Global Human Rights Activist & Co-Founder of Drum Major Institute

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These lists account for gifts of $1,000 or more received by the Institute between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. Every attempt has been made to ensure their accuracy. Please contact us if your gift was omitted or in the case of other errors.
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Kennedy Staff Club Members

The Kennedy Staff Club is comprised of Kennedy alumni who worked for Senator Kennedy in the United States Senate during his five decades of service, as well as Kennedy campaign workers who served on his U.S. Senate campaigns or the 1980 Presidential campaign, and who make a financial contribution every year. The alumni-only club was launched in 2017 in celebration of the 85th anniversary of Senator Kennedy’s birth.

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Deborah Sutinen
Laurie Syms
Jeffrey Teitz
Alexander Thomson

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### Statement of Financial Position

as of December 31, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current assets</th>
<th>63,358,157</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>35,135,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property &amp; Equipment and Other Assets</td>
<td>26,361,939</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>124,855,214</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current and long-term liabilities</th>
<th>61,298,908</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td>63,556,306</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>124,855,214</strong></td>
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</table>

### Distribution of 2020 Operating Expenses

- Program Services: 60%
- Management & Services: 28%
- Fundraising: 12%