

# DEMOCRACY, RIGHTS & GOVERNANCE



In every region of the world, democracy is under attack by [authoritarian leaders](#) who demand unchecked power. For many citizens, [freedom of expression](#) has been stifled, making organizing for democracy even more difficult. However, democracy, a government by the people and for the people, is resilient. Despite a narrative that democracies are not delivering, people around the world consistently voice support for [democracy](#) and other processes that enable more citizen engagement.

U.S. investments in democracy, rights, and governance (DRG) expand space for vibrant civil societies and independent media; strengthen political and government institutions to be responsive to citizens' needs; promote transparency and accountability; strengthen the rule of law; foster equitable economic growth; promote tolerance and inclusiveness; protect human and labor rights; and support credible elections.

The U.S. has an interest in promoting democracy because a world full of democratic governments is safer, more prosperous, and more stable. Programs and diplomacy that support democracy, human rights, and good governance are cost effective investments in America's long-term interests.

## FAST FACTS

- ▶ 2023 is slated to bring many consequential [elections](#), including in Indonesia, Nigeria, Thailand, Malaysia, and Sudan.
- ▶ Countries undergoing the process of democratization experience a [20%](#) increase in GDP over a 25-year period.
- ▶ More countries are trending autocratic, with [70%](#) of the world's population living in autocracy in 2021 compared to 49% in 2011.
- ▶ Non-democratic governments are increasingly trying to [silence dissent](#) beyond their borders and coordinate with other non-democratic governments.

- ▶ [71%](#) of the American public support U.S. government action to bolster democracy and human rights overseas. From the same survey, Over 84% agree that “when other countries become democratic, it contributes to our own well-being.”

## KEY U.S. STRATEGIES & PROGRAMS

- ▶ **Strategies:**
  - Democracy versus autocracy features prominently in the [2022 National Security Strategy](#)
  - [U.S. Strategy on Countering Corruption](#)
- ▶ **Programs:**
  - [Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal](#)
  - [USAID DRG Programs](#)
  - [Bureau of Democracy, Rights, and Labor programs](#)

InterAction's [DRG Initiative](#) is composed of nine leading U.S.-based democracy assistance organizations. Through this network, we promote human rights, government transparency and accountability, independent media, and inclusive political and civic engagement across the globe.