

STATE FINANCIAL OFFICERS FOUNDATION

2022
ANNUAL
IMPACT REPORT

Standing for Economic FreedomProtecting Taxpayer Dollars from Radical Ideas

www.SFOF.com | www.OurMoneyOurValues.com

OUR MISSION

State Financial Officers Foundation's mission is to drive fiscally sound public policy by partnering with key stakeholders and educate Americans on the role of responsible financial management in a free-market economy.

For 10 years, SFOF has educated, encouraged, empowered, and equipped principled, fiscally responsible state financial officers to stand for economic freedom by acting as a key checkand-balance on every tax dollar passing through their office.

SFOF was founded on the belief that principled, pro-freedom state treasurers and auditors are front line defenders against destructive progressive policies and radical "woke" ideas that undermine financial prosperity and opportunity in the states.

We are dedicated to equipping and empowering state treasurers, auditors, and other state financial officers to be champions for economic freedom, voices for fiscal responsibility, and to push back against radical, destructive policies.

OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

- **▶** ECONOMIC FREEDOM
- **▶ RULE OF LAW**
- **▶** FEDERALISM

- **▶** ACCOUNTABILITY
- **▶** A FREE SOCIETY
- ► FREE SPEECH & CIVIL DISCOURSE

"Since the beginning, the State Financial Officers Foundation has promoted freedom and sound public policy among state financial offices across the country. They've played a critical role in maintaining stewardship of taxpayer dollars at the state level and weighing in on burdensome federal regulations that impact financial officers."

RON ESTES

US Representative (KS-4th District) | SFOF Alumni, KS Treasurer 2011 - 2017

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FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

Dear Friends,

In 2022, SFOF celebrated its tenth anniversary. Over the past decade, our organization has worked tirelessly to be the catalyst for informing, empowering, and equipping state financial officers to stand for economic freedom and fiscal responsibility.

This year SFOF was represented by either myself, SFOF staff, or one of our member state financial officers at almost 20 different national conferences, meetings, or events as a moderator, panelist, or speaker. Some of those events were hosted by organizations like The Heritage Foundation, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the State Policy Network, Alliance Defending Freedom, Council for National Policy, Eagle Forum, Philanthropy Roundtable, Steamboat Institute, 1792 Exchange, Americans for Tax Reform, just to name a few.

As you read through this annual report, you will see that SFOF has achieved exponential growth and impact in 2022—increasing our membership ranks of state financial officers to its highest level and effectively informing millions of Americans about the dangers of ESG.

A special thanks to our 2022 National Chair, Nebraska Treasurer John Murante for his selfless service to SFOF and his tireless work advancing principles of economic freedom for all Americans.

Our efforts, engagements, and successes are possible because of your support and partnership. I hope you are proud of the impact you made possible in 2022—we are grateful to have you by our side.

Sincerely,

Derek Kreifels

Chief Executive Officer

A NOTE FROM TREASURER JOHN MURANTE

Dear Friends,

As we flip the calendar on 2022, this is a great time to take stock of the tremendous accomplishments of the State Financial Officers Foundation. I can honestly say this past year was a game changer for SFOF and we should all be proud of how far we've come as an organization to promote good government, pro-growth policies, and free markets.

Last year we drew nationwide attention to proposed governmental overreach by the IRS. This year we raised the bar again. The Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) investment strategy by certain players had flown under the radar, despite having farreaching impacts on all areas of our economy. Thanks to the hard work our staff and our members, we turned an obscure issue into front page news and have forced a conversation about woke policies in our nation's investment strategies to the forefront.

I'd be remiss if I didn't also point to the impressive growth of the membership of SFOF as a notable source of pride. I doubt there is a stronger indicator of how deeply our message is resonating than comparing the membership maps from last year to this year as shown during our November national meeting. There is strength in numbers, and the increasing number of leaders who have chosen the mission and message of SFOF is truly important to the policy conversations our nation will have over the next decade.

I'm proud to have worked with the members and staff of SFOF this past year and I'm proud of our accomplishments as an organization. Keep fighting the good fight.

John Murante

Nebraska State Treasurer

& month





JOHN MURANTE 2022 NATIONAL CHAIR

2022 AT A GLANCE



THIS YEAR, SFOF ADVANCED ECONOMIC FREEDOM...



Joined with several other like-minded organizations to **express unified opposition to Saule Omarova, the self-proclaimed communist nominated by President Biden** to the office of the U.S. Comptroller of the Currency. Omarova ultimately withdrew her nomination in the face of opposition.



Opposed the Biden Administration nomination of radical Sarah Bloom Raskin as nominee for Vice-Chair for Supervision at the Federal Reserve Bank. Raskin's confirmation failed in the U.S. Senate.



Divested \$5 billion from BlackRock and their ESG-driven funds through our members.



Welcomed 9 newly-elected state financial officer positions as SFOF members—and retained all current members.



Launched Our Money, Our Values initiative to effectively inform and educate millions of Americans about how ESG impacts them, their families, and their finances. Our Money, Our Values' pro-freedom, anti-ESG messaging has achieved over 3,000,000 social media and YouTube impressions to-date.



Played a key role in preventing U.S. House leadership from including the "\$600 IRS Snooping Rule" law requiring banks and credit unions to report transactions of \$600 or more (deposits, or debits) to the IRS. SFOF's well-orchestrated media campaign in its member states created a groundswell of citizens across the political spectrum voicing their concerns about the proposal.



Fought "woke" banks attempting to undermine American energy production by advocating for fiduciary responsibility.



Urged President Biden in a letter from our 27 member officers from 23 states to **prioritize energy production in the United States.**



Launched SFOF's Center for Economic Freedom & Fiscal Responsibility to research, expose, and compellingly message the threat ESG poses to state economies—with Carrie Sheffield and Michael Austin joining as the Center's first fellows.



Achieved over 135 national media hits and hundreds more local media hits, calling out the dangers of ESG and advancing a pro-freedom message.



Hosted combined 330 attendees including state treasures, state auditors, other public leaders, partners, and supporters at SFOF's spring and fall meetings.



Led push back against Standard & Poors use of ESG factors when determining states' credit ratings through comment letters to the president of S&P Global Ratings from Utah, Kentucky, and Idaho state treasurers and other state officials.



Awarded the Heritage Foundation Innovation Prize: for the Our Money, Our Values initiative. The prize recognizes and provides financial support for innovative projects, bold strategies, and highly creative policy solutions that help build an America where freedom, opportunity, prosperity, and civil society flourish.



Called out Morningstar for negatively rating firms aligned with Israel and informing their ratings with apparent anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions bias in a letter from 18 state member officers.



Sent a comment letter criticizing the Security Exchange Commission's rule change requiring companies to disclose their "climate-related risk," advancing a political agenda rather than protecting investors.

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NEW CHAMPIONS OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM



Every state financial officer that is an SFOF member up for reelection won their seat in 2022.

Further, while Senate, Gubernatorial, and congressional races took the spotlight, principled, pro-freedom state treasurers, controllers, and auditors won new seats in 2022.

With treasurers and auditors as some of the most trusted public leaders in the country, these new members of SFOF will be a voice for ideas and policies grounded in economic freedom and American principles—and key messengers to the American public on the dangers of ESG.

NINE NEWLY ELECTED IN 2022



ROBY SMITHIowa State Treasurer

Current Iowa state senator and a banker by trade, Roby Smith upset Iowa's incumbent State Treasurer who was the longest-sitting

statewide state official in the country.

NEW SFOF STATE



STEVEN JOHNSON Kansas State Treasurer

Current Kansas state representative, Steven Johnson upset Kansas's incumbent state treasurer.

NEW SFOF STATE



JOHN LEIBER
Wisconsin State Treasurer

An attorney by trade, John Leiber won an open seat for state treasurer.

NEW SFOF STATE



ANDREW SORRELL
Alabama State Auditor

Current Alabama state representative, Andrew Sorrell won an open seat.

> NEW SFOF STATE



Nebraska State Auditor of Public Accounts

Mike Foley most recently served as lieutenant governor, and prior to that he served two terms as Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts.



ANDY MATTHEWSNevada State Controller

Prior to being elected State Controller, Andy Matthews has served as a Nevada Assemblyman.

> NEW SFOF STATE







NEW MEMBERS JOINING SFOF IN 2022



CINDY BYRDOklahoma Auditor of Public Accounts

Cindy Byrd is a CPA and was first elected in 2019 to her current office.

CURRENT MEMBERS ELECTED TO NEW OFFICE



DENNIS MILLIGAN

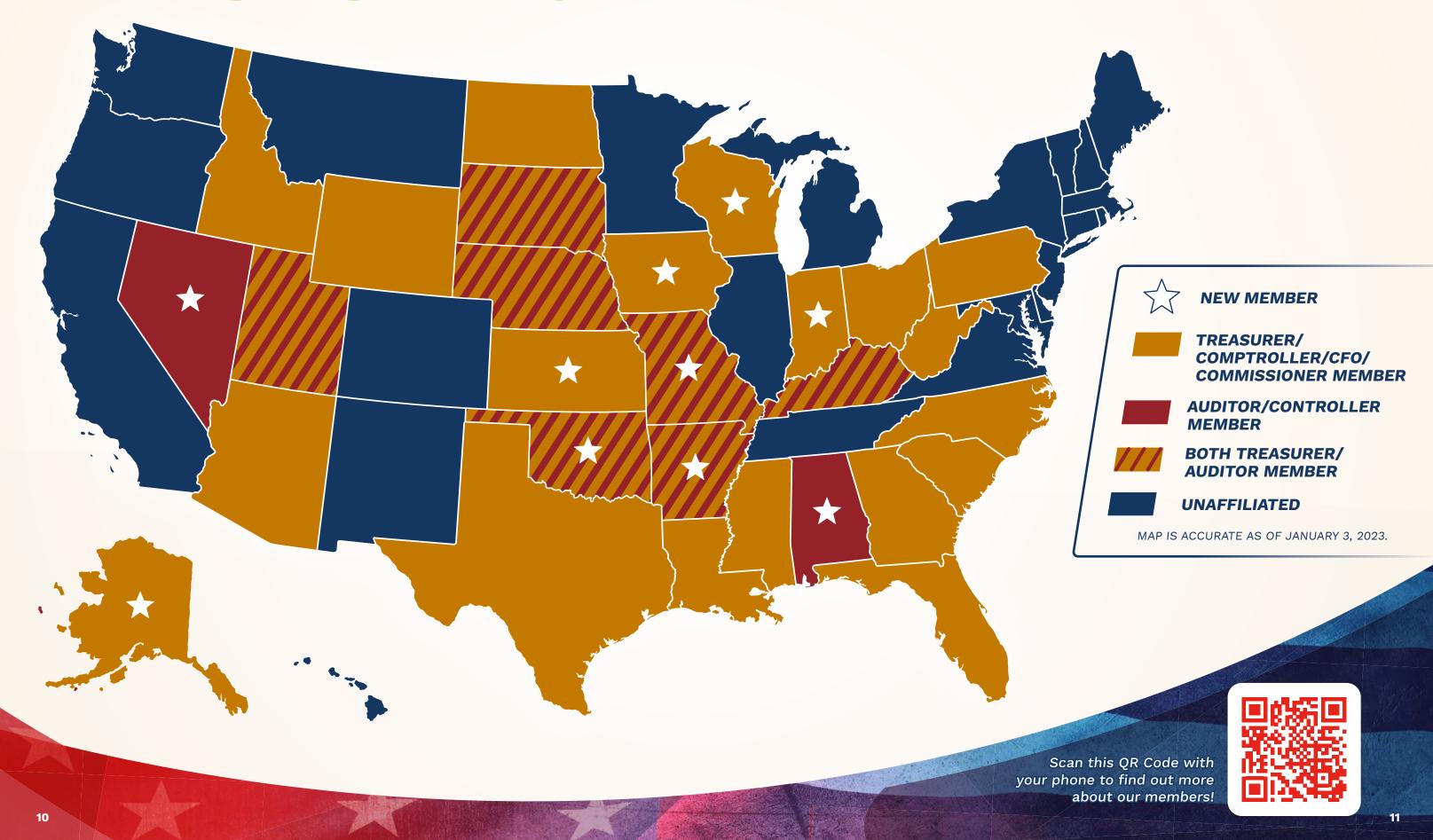
Arkansas Treasurer Arkansas State Auditor Served as SF0F's National Chair in 2021



SCOTT FITZPATRICK

Missouri State Treasurer Missouri State Auditor Served as 2022 National Vice Chair and will remain in the position in 2023.

SFOF 2022 MEMBER MAP-



MEET OUR MEMBERS











NEW SFOF Member

NEW SFOF Member

NEW SFOF Member











IOWA TREASURER ROBY SMITH





















FLORIDA CFO JIMMY PATRONIS









MISSISSIPPI TREASURER DAVID MCRAE









INDIANA TREASURER
DAN
ELLIOTT



























PENNSYLVANIA TREASURER STACY GARRITY



SOUTH CAROLINA TREASURER CURTIS LOFTIS



SOUTH DAKOTA TREASURER JOSH HAEDER



SOUTH DAKOTA AUDITOR RICHARD SATTGAST



TEXAS COMPTROLLER
GLENN
HEGAR



UTAH TREASURER MARLO OAKS



WEST VIRGINIA TREASURER
RILEY
MOORE









FIGHTING ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL GOVERNANCE



2022 saw the most egregious attack by radical ESG on taxpayer dollars and pension funds than ever before.



ESG has become the Left's fourth branch of government. It allows them to push a social agenda they know they can't get passed in the courts and know they can't get passed through the democratic process.

DEREK KREIFELS, CEO SFOF

Environmental Social Governance (ESG) is used as an investment strategy to "encourage" organizations to "act responsibly" by analyzing organizations and businesses across three criteria:

- 1) Their environmental footprint
- 2) Their stance on social issues
- 3) Their internal corporate governance



"America's longstanding freedoms, prosperity, and way of life are under unprecedented duress. SFOF and America's state financial officers know how to use their unique leverage to fend off left-wing policies that undermine economic freedom and to keep fostering prosperity in the states."

THE HONORABLE MIKE PENCE Former Vice President of the U.S.

Pushed by the World Economic Forum, billionaires such as Bill Gates, and large fund managers, such as BlackRock CEO Larry Fink, **ESG leverages financial** institutions and businesses to advance radical environmentalism and a progressive social agenda by:



Violating fiduciary responsibility by focusing on a radical agenda instead of investment performance.



Weaponizing capital to severely undermine American domestic energy production and agriculture industry.



Forcing businesses to adhere to a politically-driven, progressive social agenda in hiring and management practices.



Compelling financial institutions to de-platform supporters of Americans' second amendment rights, free speech, and political stances not aligned with radical progressivism.



Hypocritically turning a blind eye to Communist China's environmental damage and oppressive social agenda.

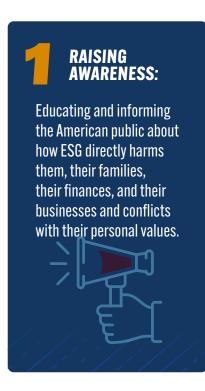
Progressives, emboldened by the Biden administration, are willing to sacrifice states' key industries and their related jobs, efficient domestic energy and farming, Americans' second amendment rights, state investments, and diversity of political thought in the name of so-called "social and climate justice."

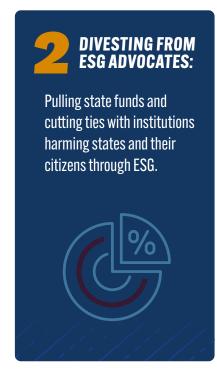
FIGHTING ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL GOVERNANCE



In 2022, SFOF and our members determinedly pushed back against Environment Social Governance at every turn.

SFOF'S STRATEGY IN 2022 WAS COMPRISED OF THREE KEY EFFORTS:









SFOF provides networking, professional development, access to thought leaders and private sector experts, valuable, life-long friendships, and unique experiences to public finance officials. I'm thankful that I was welcomed and supported during my tenure as Maine's State Treasurer.

TERRY HAYES

Executive Director | Maine Municipal Bond Bank | SFOF Alumni, ME Treasurer 2015 - 2019

Throughout 2022, SFOF's members took extensive, aggressive action to push back against ESG. Just some of these many actions included:



Idaho Treasurer Julie Ellsworth shepherded legislation to mandate all proxy votes made on behalf of Idaho taxpayers be transparent on the state website. Treasurer Ellsworth also co-hosted a public information meeting with U.S. Mike Crapo to educate the public about the dangers of ESG.



West Virginia Treasurer Riley Moore shepherded legislation to prevent banks that were actively boycotting carbon-based energy projects from doing business with the state of West Virginia.



Kentucky Treasurer Allison Ball was the first state treasurer in the country to ask for an official legal opinion from her state's Attorney General on whether or not factors like "stakeholder capitalism" could be used in making investment decisions.



23 states sent a comment letter to the US Department of Labor requesting information on possible agency actions to "protect life savings and pensions from threats of climate-related financial risk."



Missouri Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick asked the state pension board to remove proxy voting power from activist asset managers.



23 states sent a comment letter to the Securities Exchange Council calling out rule change supporting a radical environmentalist agenda.



18 states sent a letter to Morningstar for informing their ratings with apparent anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions.



Several state treasurers sent letters to Standard & Poors pushing back against their use of ESG factors when determining state's credit ratings.

DIVESTING FROM RADICAL ESG

PULLING INVESTMENTS FROM BLACKROCK

The investment firm BlackRock has become almost synonymous with Environmental Social Governance-driven investing. CEO Larry Fink has made his company's position clear and, as a firm, BlackRock has committed to implementing an ESG engagement and voting strategy across all assets under management.

Hypocritically—as BlackRock criticizes and undermines traditional American energy production and agriculture and pushes radical, progressive social policies—it continues to pour billions of dollars into investing in China—a leading polluter and a Communist regime with no respect for human rights.

SFOF and its members said "no more" to the leading firm using state funds to advance policies that both harm our states and people.

IN 2022, SFOF MEMBER STATE TREASURERS DIVESTED A TOTAL OF \$5 BILLION FROM BLACKROCK.



JANUARY West Virginia State Treasurer Riley Moore divested \$1.5 billion of state funds.



FEBRUARY Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee

divested \$540 million in state funds.

MARCH **Arkansas Treasurer Dennis Milligan** divested \$125 million.

MAY **Kentucky State Treasurer Allison Ball** requested legal opinion from her state's AG regarding ESG in state investments.

JULY West Virgina Treasurer Riley Moore blocks five financial institutions from doing business in state.

AUGUST Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar accuses 10 financial companies. including BlackRock, of 'boycotting' energy companies & orders state pension funds to divest from holdings.

CUTTING TIES WITH "WOKE" FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

West Virginia blocked five major financial institutions, including BlackRock, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Wells Fargo, and JPMorgan from entering into banking contracts with the state treasurer's office or any state agency.

These companies all instituted policies limiting commercial engagement and lending with the fossil fuel industry—the economic lifeblood of the Mountain State. As a result, U.S. Bancorp backed down from barring fossil fuel lending.

As of December 2022, the following states have either passed or are proposing anti-ESG legislation: Arizona, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas (2021), Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming.



state funds.







DECEMBER

World's second largest asset-manager, Vanguard (\$7 Trillion in assets) resigns from the Net Zero Asset Managers initiative.



SEPTEMBER

Utah Treasurer Marlo

Oaks divested \$100

million in state funds.

DECEMBER

North Carolina Treasurer Dale Folwell called for the resignation of Larry Fink as CEO of Blackrock. His offices also signed an agreement to determine how shares managed by BlackRock are voted at corporate proxy contests.

OUR MONEY, OUR VALUES

EDUCATING AMERICANS ON THE DANGERS OF ESG

For too long, ESG-based investing has allowed those in power to use hardworking Americans' money to pursue their political interests with little concern for their fiduciary duty or actual investment returns.

They have relied on the average American being either uninformed or misinformed about ESG and how it has insidiously and increasingly pervaded the finance, business, and government arenas.



In November, in front of representatives from over 25 media outlets in Washington DC, SFOF officially launched *Our Money, Our Values*—our unique initiative dedicated to educating and empowering Americans with the truth about Environment Social Governance.

Our Money, Our Values uses a multifaceted messaging approach to effectively show the American public that ESG has a direct, negative impact on them and their finances through:





Our Money, Our Values is giving those impacted by ESG a platform to tell their story. SFOF is gathering details from individuals harmed by these radical policies to show the personal effect of ESG on American families and businesses.

Launched at the end of 2022, SFOF is focusing Our Money, Our Values in 2023. The campaign will reach millions of Americans, bring about a measurable increase in the public's awareness of the dangers of ESG, and facilitate opposition to ESG policy implementation.

5,000+
FB FOLLOWERS

250,000+

ON FACEBOOK

VIDEO VIEWS

7,200,000+

IMPRESSIONS

DIGITAL PRESENCE

2022

59,000+ VIEWS ON YOUTUBE.

4:50 VIDEO

SCAN TO VIEW
OUR VIDEO!

D+
BE,

52,000+ WEBSITE VISITS



900+
TWITTER
FOLLOWERS

210,000+ VIEWS on YOUTUBE, :60 SEC VIDEO

SFOF IN

BALLOTPEDIA

The Washington Post

The Boston Globe





ZeroHedge

RedState



JEWISHINSIDER yahoo!

The American Onservative







CN BC THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

IN 2022, ACHIEVED OVER 170 NATIONAL MEDIA HITS,



ERVIEWS





AS WELL AS HUNDREDS OF STATE-LEVEL HITS.





Slaze media





Seeking Alpha THE WALLST

THE CHRISTIAN POST

THE BOND BUYER



responsible investor

The Center Square





The New York Times BUSINESS







2022 WAS A LANDMARK YEAR FOR SFOF'S MEDIA AND **ELEVATED THE PROFILES OF OUR MEMBERS.**



Marlo Oaks @MarloOaks · May 29

It's time for ESG proponents to drop the lie that "investors are demanding ESG." Some are, but not as many as they want you to think. Exclusive Poll: By Two-To-One Margin, Investors Reject Woke Companies Pushing Political



Exclusive Poll: By Two-To-One Margin, Investors Reject Woke Companies Pushing Political Causes



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Idaho State Treasurer's Office @IdahoTreasurer - Aug 29 Negatively rating companies on #ESG #BDS criteria is wrong and I stand with fellow State Financial Officers and Attorneys General in our urging of to take immediate corrective action.



Treasurer Julie Ellsworth Joins 17 Other State Financial Officers Urging

Morningstar, Inc. to take immediate products that treat Israel-connected companies differently than companies operating in other free democracies.



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John M. Schroder Louisiana State Treasu... 🔮 @LATreas... • Nov 16 ... Great visit with fellow Anti-ESG Crusader @sentedcruz at the





Treasurer Ball @ @KYTreasurer - Nov 30

We've all paid more for gas this year, and utility bills are expected to rise. Why? ESG, the new back door strategy of the left, is to blame. Read my latest op-ed with @RepAndyBarr explaining how ESG hurts everyday Americans and our plan to fight back.



realclearpolitics.com

ESG Jeopardizes Economic Security and Must Be Stopped | RealClear... The environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing phenomenon is undercutting the core purpose of financial institutions...







State Financial Officers Foundation @SFOF_States · Aug 5 Major kudos to these attorneys general who are holding @BlackRock

accountable for forcing its destructive agenda on the American people and U.S. companies who are suffering because of the firm's actions. #ESG #EconomicFreedom



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OAN EXCLUSIVE





tucker carlson



KREIFELS: ESG HAS BECOME THE LEFT'S FOURTH BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

SCAN TO VIEW OUR SIZZLE REEL.



Missouri State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatr... 2 @MOTreasu... + Aug 25 ... "As Treasurer, I will continue to push back against companies who use ESG ratings as a cover for forced political action."

Learn more b bit.ly/3KnJKo9



SPRING 2022

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM

In April, SFOF's 2022 spring meeting hosted 150 state treasurers, state auditors, other public leaders, partners, and supporters.

SFOF 2022 ANNUAL MEETINGS

SFOF's annual meetings are an invaluable outlet for state financial officers to network, share best practices, learn, and brainstorm with one another on how to best champion pro-freedom, fiscally responsible decisions.

































FALL 2022

WASHINGTON DC
THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL

In November, SFOF's 2022 fall meeting hosted 180 state treasurers, state auditors, other public leaders, partners, and supporters.

SFOF 2022 ANNUAL MEETINGS (CONTINUED)

Additionally, at these events, state financial officers participate in honest discussions with the financial industry and political leaders to keep them informed about the most pressing issues facing their states. These meetings empower, equip, and encourage financial officers to remain principled stewards of the public's trust.

























NEW OFFICES, EXPANDING STAFF

SFOF FINANCIALS

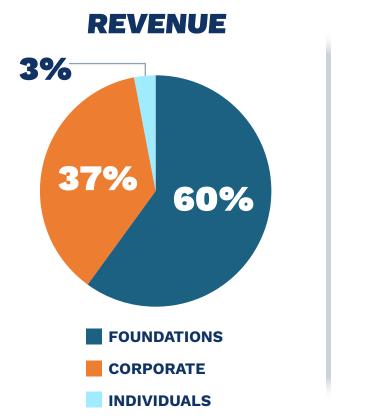
SFOF officially opened its new offices in the summer of 2022:

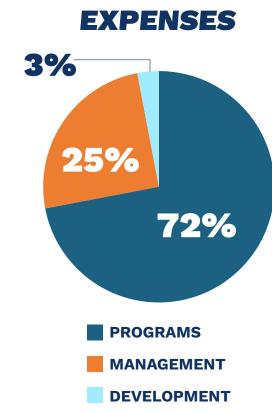
This new space will enhance SFOF daily operations and serve as dedicated space for staff's day-to-day operations as well as for hosting state financial officers, allies, and other partners for meetings and trainings.



As operations and impact grew exponentially throughout the year, SFOF welcomed new staff in 2022.







"In ten short years, SFOF has established a vital network of guardians of the people's finances – a network that holds the line against stakeholder politics, stands strong on conservative principles, and always advances liberty. Now, perhaps more than ever, America needs SFOF's leadership."

LYNN FITCH

Mississippi Attorney General | SFOF Alumni, MS Treasurer 2012-2020



CENTER FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM

2023 LEADERSHIP TEAM

In 2022, SFOF launched its new Center for Economic Freedom to act as a catalyst of research to shed light on where states are invested in ESG-driven funds and expose these financial institutions and companies who are "de-banking" individuals and organizations due to their political views.

As a long-term extension of SFOF's research and messaging capabilities, the Center will fill a critical gap in the policy research space by compiling key information about ESG investing in public pensions and other taxpayer-funded investment vehicles. The work of the center is focused on three key areas:



THE CENTER FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY





Transparency and accountability: The Center will equip empower state financial officers to provide transparency and drive accountability on a host of financial issues including states' investments and performance, utilization of tax dollars, education spending, and more.



2023 National Chair John Schroder LOUISIANA TREASURER



2023 National Vice-Chair Scott Fitzpatrick MISSOURI AUDITOR



Past National Chair
John Murante
NEBRASKA TREASURER



Auditor At-Large
Mike Harmon
KENTUCKY AUDITOR



National Policy Chair
Marlo Oaks
UTAH TREASURER



National Policy Vice-Chair

Julie Ellsworth

IDAHO TREASURER



Staff Representative
Lorran Ferguson
KENTUCKY ASSISTANT
STATE TREASURER

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Bridgett Wagner
VICE PRESIDENT



Ron Crane
TREASURER



James Kemp
SECRETARY



Dee Dee Bass-Wilbon
AT-LARGE



Paul Fitzpatrick
AT-LARGE



John Hart AT-LARGE



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER



Lisa B. Nelson

STAFF



Derek Kreifels
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER



Melanie Kreifels

CHIEF OPERATING
OFFICER



Adam Slayton
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
TO THE CEO

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM FELLOWS



Jonathan Williams
SENIOR FELLOW



Michael Austin



Carrie Sheffield
FELLOW

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Adam Andrzejewski Founder. OpenTheBooks.com



John
vski Ashcroft
oks.com U.S. Attornev General (Retired)



U.S. Rep. Ron Estes Kansas Treasurer 2011-2017



Andy Puzder Sr. Fellow, The Heritage Foundation



Jonathan Williams Chief Economist, ALEC

