

THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Organizational Profile & Threat Assessment

We Are the Resistance — Corporate Collaborators Series

LAST UPDATED: April 23, 2026

This document is part of the Corporate Collaborators research series. All claims are based on verifiable public records, primary source documents, and credible reporting. For civic education and lawful accountability purposes only.

I. Organization Overview

Full Name	The Heritage Foundation
Type	Conservative think tank / policy advocacy organization
Founded	1973 — by Paul Weyrich, Edwin Feulner, and Joseph Coors
Co-Founded With	Paul Weyrich also co-founded ALEC the same year — both organizations share founding ideology and infrastructure
Headquarters	Washington, D.C., USA
President (2026)	Kevin Roberts — previously worked on Trump's 2016 transition team; has described Heritage's role as 'institutionalizing Trumpism'
Annual Revenue	Approximately \$100 million+ from private donors, corporations, and foundations
Status	501(c)(3) nonprofit — tax-exempt, donors are not publicly disclosed

The Heritage Foundation is one of the most influential conservative think tanks in the United States. It produces policy research, model legislation, personnel pipelines, and media commentary designed to reshape U.S. federal and state governance. Heritage does not merely advise — it prepares people to execute its agenda from inside government.

Its 900-page “Mandate for Leadership” has served as the policy blueprint for every Republican administration since Reagan. In Trump’s second term, it became operational within days of inauguration.

II. What Heritage Has Built

The Policy Pipeline

Heritage does not simply publish papers. It operates a complete policy-to-power pipeline:

- Produces model legislation adopted by state and federal lawmakers
- Maintains a personnel database of vetted conservative candidates for government positions
- Runs training programs preparing those candidates to 'seize the gears of power' on day one
- Coordinates with ALEC, the Federalist Society, and the Koch network to align state and federal agendas
- Publishes The Daily Signal, a media arm that shapes public narrative on behalf of its policy positions

Mandate for Leadership — The Blueprint

Heritage has published “Mandate for Leadership” before every Republican administration since Reagan. The 2025 edition — a 900-page document written by more than 350 conservative policy specialists — was sent to Trump transition team members as an operational manual.

Four days into Trump's second term, Time magazine's analysis found that nearly two-thirds of Trump's executive actions 'mirror or partially mirror' Project 2025 proposals drawn from Mandate for Leadership.

Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts, July 2024: 'We are in the process of the second American Revolution, which will remain bloodless if the left allows it to be.'

Project 2025 — The Implementation Plan

Project 2025 is Heritage's coordinated effort to prepare a conservative administration to rapidly restructure the federal government. Organized by Heritage and signed by more than 100 allied organizations, it is built on four pillars:

- Mandate for Leadership — the 900-page policy blueprint, agency by agency
- A personnel database — a 'Conservative LinkedIn' of vetted candidates for government roles
- A training academy — preparing those candidates to execute Heritage's agenda from inside agencies
- An agency playbook — converting policy proposals into day-one implementation instructions

Project 2025 includes plans to:

- Replace tens of thousands of career civil servants with ideologically vetted political appointees (Schedule F)
- Weaken or dismantle independent agencies including the DOJ, EPA, and Department of Education
- Expand presidential authority over every agency of the federal government
- Pursue abortion restrictions at the federal level and eliminate reproductive healthcare access
- Restrict LGBTQ+ rights, transgender healthcare, and gender-affirming education

- Implement hardline immigration enforcement, family separation, and mass deportation
- Eliminate the Department of Education in favor of private and faith-based schooling

Heritage 2.0 — The 2026 Agenda

With Project 2025 approximately 50% enacted as of late 2025, Heritage released its 2026 priorities under the banner 'Heritage 2.0' and 'Restoring America's Promise.' Its nine stated goals for 2026 include:

- Continue dismantling the 'deep state' of career civil servants
- Expand control over K-12 and higher education; eliminate the Department of Education
- Intensify immigration enforcement at state and federal levels
- Restrict abortion access at all stages; restore 'the nuclear family to the center of American life'
- Eliminate DEI programs across all federal agencies and institutions
- Reduce the size and scope of federal government; ease environmental and energy regulations
- Root out 'woke ideas' including Critical Race Theory and 'radical gender ideology' from schools

Heritage describes this as a 'two-year project to dismantle the deep state.'

III. Key Policy Areas and Their Impact

Civil Rights and Reproductive Freedom

Heritage has been the primary policy architect behind:

- The legal strategy that led to the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* — Heritage-aligned scholars and the Federalist Society shaped the Supreme Court appointments that made this possible
- Federal and state legislation restricting abortion access at all stages of pregnancy
- Legislation restricting transgender healthcare for minors and adults
- Opposition to marriage equality and LGBTQ+ civil rights protections
- Voter ID laws and election restrictions that civil rights organizations argue suppress turnout among minority, elderly, and low-income voters

Immigration

Heritage policy papers provided the intellectual framework for:

- Mass deportation operations and the ImmigrationOS system (built by Palantir)
- Family separation policies
- Reduction of asylum protections and legal immigration pathways
- Expanded border policing, detention, and deportation authority

Democratic Institutions

Heritage's core agenda targets the structural mechanisms of democratic governance:

- Schedule F — reclassifying career civil servants as political appointees, enabling their mass replacement with loyalists
- Weakening independent agencies (DOJ, EPA, FTC, FCC, Federal Reserve) by subordinating them to direct presidential control
- Expanding the unitary executive theory to concentrate all federal power in the White House
- Project Sovereignty 2025 — a Heritage-funded effort to identify and publish the names of federal employees deemed likely to resist the administration's agenda

Project Sovereignty 2025 received a \$100,000 Heritage grant to post online the names of 100 federal employees who might oppose Trump's agenda. Critics compared it to McCarthyism.

IV. Funding and Accountability

Heritage is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. This status means:

- It pays no federal income tax
- Donations to Heritage are tax-deductible for donors
- Its donor list is not publicly disclosed

Known funders include members of the Koch network, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, major corporate foundations, and a network of anonymous donors funneled through donor-advised funds.

Heritage exercises outsized influence on legislation and executive policy while remaining entirely insulated from voter oversight, public transparency requirements, and the ethical review standards applied to government actors. Its leadership is not elected. Its donors are not disclosed. Its agenda becomes law.

V. What Can Be Done

Track the Agenda

- Monitor Project 2025 implementation using watchdog trackers maintained by the ACLU, People for the American Way, and Documented
- Read The Daily Signal critically — it is Heritage's media arm, not an independent news source

- Follow Heritage Action, the political arm of Heritage, which lobbies Congress directly

Congressional Pressure

- Contact your Representatives and Senators demanding hearings on Schedule F implementation and the politicization of the civil service
- Demand that appropriations riders prevent the use of federal funds to implement Project 2025 proposals
- Oppose confirmation of Heritage-affiliated nominees to federal agencies and the judiciary

Support Counter-Organizations

- ACLU — litigation against Project 2025 policy implementation
- Brennan Center for Justice — democracy and voting rights research and advocacy
- People for the American Way — monitoring and opposing Heritage's policy agenda
- Documented — investigative reporting on dark money and conservative influence networks
- Center for Media and Democracy (CMD) — tracks ALEC, Heritage, and allied organizations

VI. Sources

Project 2025	Heritage Foundation, Mandate for Leadership (2025 edition) Wikipedia, Project 2025 (updated April 2026)
Heritage 2.0	NOTUS, December 2025 Newsweek, December 2025 Baptist News Global, December 2025
Implementation	Time magazine analysis, January 2025 Washington Week / PBS, December 2025
Kevin Roberts	ACLU, Project 2025 Explained CNN reporting on Heritage-Trump ties
Project Sovereignty	Wikipedia, Project 2025 Partnership for Public Service commentary
Funding	IRS Form 990 filings Center for Media and Democracy (SourceWatch)
Civil Rights	ACLU Human Rights Campaign Brennan Center for Justice

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Peaceful · Lawful · Persistent · Collective

All materials are for peaceful, lawful, and ethical civic engagement only. Not affiliated with any political party.

DATE CREATED: April 23, 2026 | LAST UPDATED: April 23, 2026