

Take action for fair elections in Hungary -

Let voters decide the fate of illiberal governance!

Guardians of democratic elections in Hungary

The Roots and Wings Foundation is organising an **online Live Crowdfunding Night** on 27 January 2022 to support NGOs working for the fairness of the April 2022 parliamentary elections. Fundraising for these organisations **starts on 17 January**.

The work of these NGOs is crucial – get to know them better!

LET'S COUNT TOGETHER! MOVEMENT



SZÁMOLJUK EGYÜTT
MOZGALOM

The mission of the Let's Count Together! movement is to monitor the fairness of elections in Hungary. The goal is to ensure that at the 2022 April parliamentary elections, all 10,214 polling stations will have a trained, "civilian" vote counter who is independent of the authorities. This is an ambitious goal, given that four years ago, 40 per cent of polling stations did not have vote counters independent of government. At that time, in 2018, the movement delegated 1,700 trained vote counters to polling stations.

The organisation's recruitment campaign for this year has already started, and they are also ready to train candidates in person or online. Many volunteers will be counting votes at polling stations far from their homes. The aim of Let's Count Together! is to be able to pay for travel expenses for 150 volunteers at an average of €28 per volunteer, a total of €4,200.

PRINT IT YOURSELF!



The aim of the organisation's free weekly print newspaper is to counter the propaganda machine of the government, which is supported by hundreds of billions of forints, by providing real news to the population of Hungarian towns and villages, who mostly receive information from the state and pro-government media. The weekly newspaper, which is now five years old, publishes information that the government wants to withhold from the people, especially those living in small villages. It does this by printing on both sides of an A4 page, so it is short and accessible to everyone.

The newspaper, which is easy to copy, is edited and distributed by volunteers; it reached a circulation of 1 million at the last elections. This spring, the aim is to reach 2 million rural voters with 1.4 million copies, especially in swing constituencies where the election will be decided. In this fundraising campaign, the organisation aims to raise €4,200 to print 150,000 newspapers.

DONATING AND LIVE GIVING

We welcome donations from individuals to support these four causes. Donations can be made through the **Roots and Wings Foundation website**, where you can support one or more organisations by making a **secure, bank card payment**.

In addition, we invite you to our **online Live Crowdfunding Night** on 27 January from 18.30 CET (**registration link**), where you can learn about the people and stories behind these organisations. The event will last two hours. It will be held in Hungarian with simultaneous translation into English. You will have the chance to make a donation at the event as well as before. You can find out more about the event's programme after registering.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC LIFE



The School of Public Life aims to ensure that democracy in Hungary does not only exist on paper but also in practice. Over the past five years, the organisation has successfully led the way in dismantling the stubborn isolation of the Hungarian civil society from politics. It has successfully promoted the idea that civil society organisations should see participation in public affairs as a means of advocacy.

The organisation has already done much of the preparation for the 2022 elections by organising training on community campaigning methods for other organisations and groups. The School of Public Life is now providing free training to NGOs on how to use the general election and the campaign to advance their own causes, and to help partner organisations to imagine the post-election world and their place and role in it, by using scenario planning. Raising €2,800 would enable them to provide training for 100 individuals or 50 organisations.

CIVIL COLLEGE FOUNDATION



In Hungarian politics, there are many well-established tools to influence voters: promises of jobs, warnings of job losses, simple bribery, or threatens to cut social benefits, just to name a few. In cooperation with other organisations, the Civic College Foundation has launched a campaign to reduce the social acceptance of electoral fraud.

In the campaign, locally well-known community organisers of the Civil College Foundation will organise at least ten events in underdeveloped areas of the country on the importance of voting and the methods of vote manipulation and how to recognise them. The cost of one event is €700. The goal is to raise €3,500 for five events.