

Democracy Protection Network

Resources for Civil Servants

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The Democracy Protection Network is a coordinated network of experts who have come together to provide support for civil society organizations and individual leaders who are increasingly facing a variety of threats that drain resources and detract from their core work. Our broad goal is to ensure that those who are targeted are able to stay on the field. The DPN coordinates low- to no-cost crisis-response and resilience-building services — including physical security, cybersecurity, crisis communications, and legal services — for organizations and individuals working to protect and strengthen American democracy.

The DPN is able to support some current and former government officials who are singled out in some way and face an immediate threat. We understand, though, that the current need is far greater than that. We offer these self-serve resources as a starting point for civil servants looking to better understand their rights and options. Also, the DPN recently published a more comprehensive set of [*Readiness and Resilience-Building Resources*](#) for civil society, including cybersecurity, legal compliance, physical security, and crisis communications resources that may be helpful to current and former civil servants as well as others.

Resources included within this compilation are solely informational. Inclusion does not constitute an endorsement or legal advice.

If you want to learn more about the DPN, visit DemocracyProtectionNetwork.org.

This compilation will be updated on an ongoing basis. To submit additions or revisions, please contact manager@democracyprotectionnetwork.org

Legal Analysis

Suzanne Summerlin, [Federal Employee Rights: What Probationary Employees Need to Know](#), Just Security (Jan. 31, 2025).

Suzanne Summerlin, [Beware the “Deferred Resignation” Offer: A Legally Dubious Proposal for Federal Employees](#), Just Security (Jan. 29, 2025).

Protect Democracy, [Supporting and Defending the Constitution: A DOJ attorneys guide to upholding ethical obligations and the rule of law](#)

Just Security

- [Collection: Just Security’s Coverage of the Trump Administration Executive Actions](#)
- [Litigation Tracker: Legal Challenges to Trump Administration Actions](#)

Collected Resources

[Dear Civil Servant](#), *Protect Democracy*

Newsletter series with news, resources, and analysis of the Trump Administration’s attacks on the nonpartisan civil service.

[Civil Service Strong](#), *Democracy Forward*

Collected resources for current and former civil servants who are targeted or threatened with harassment or adverse personnel actions.

[Federal Employee Resources Hub](#), *Partnership for Public Service*

Collected resources for federal employees on the history of the civil service, understanding current laws, keeping up with executive actions and proposals.

[Justice Connection](#)

New organization building a network of Department of Justice alumni who will provide DOJ employees with practical support, including legal services; help for employees who’ve been doxed or harassed online; whistleblowing guidance; and job-search assistance.

[Public Service Alliance & Foundation for Powering Public Service](#)

New partner organizations planning to provide current and former public servants at every level of government with tools related to physical, digital, and economic security, as well as a growing library of education resources.

[What Federal Workers Can Do to Protect Themselves](#), *Protect Democracy*

Resource hub for civil servants navigating attacks on the federal workforce.

Whistleblowing

[Your Rights When Reporting Wrongs](#), *U.S. Office of Special Counsel*

Guide for reporting to OSC as a federal employee or using independent, secure channels for disclosing and resolving wrongdoing in federal agencies.

[Whistleblower Resources](#), *Government Accountability Project*

Collected explainers, myth-busting information, guides, reading materials, and survival tips for whistleblowers.

[Rights, Resources, & Recourses for DOJ Employees Targeted by the Trump Administration](#), *Government Accountability Project*

Analysis of federal employees' rights and duties to refuse to obey illegal orders.

[Resources for Whistleblowers](#), *The House Office of the Whistleblower Ombuds*

Collected fact sheets, governmental and non-governmental resources on whistleblowing.

[Caught Between Conscience & Career: Expose Abuse Without Exposing Your Identity](#), *Government Accountability Project & Project on Government Oversight*

Guidance for whistleblowers on retaining anonymity, digital security, monitoring investigations, and navigating media.

[Legal & Advocacy Resources for Whistleblowers](#), *Project on Government Oversight*

Collection of law firms, advocacy organizations, watchdog organizations, and reading materials relevant to whistleblowers.