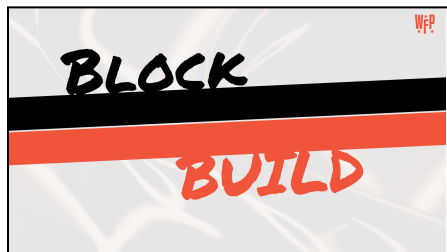
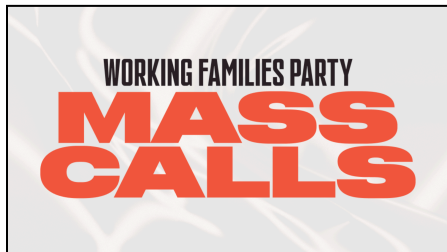


WORKING FAMILIES PARTY **MASS CALLS**

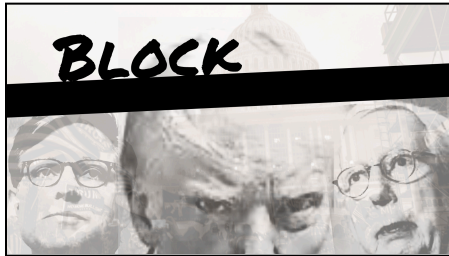
Mass Call #1 - What's the Score in America Political Education Script



- To win we need a strategy. Tonight we are going to start to dig into a strategy we call “Block and Build.”
- It is about blocking our opponents and all the ways that they try stop our progress, while building our own power and alternative.
- And here’s a spoiler alert: We need to play the long game. This strategy is not about one election cycle or one candidate, no matter how much we may love or

hate them.

- But, this strategy does give us practical insights about what we need to do right now, in this election cycle. So let's dig in.



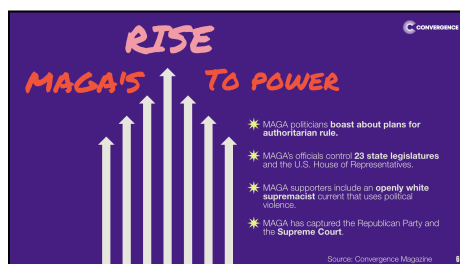
- We are going to start with the idea of Block. In future calls we will get into Build, but we need to have a shared foundation of what we are up against.
- And you may be thinking, “We already know that!” Which maybe we do. But there is also more to it if we dig below the surface a bit. And that is what we are going to do now.



- Let's start by talking about MAGA. This is the latest manifestation of a 60-year backlash against the gains of the movements for workers' rights, civil rights, for women and LGBTQ communities, for the environment, for redistributive justice, and more.
- MAGA's white, Christian Nationalism is not a US phenomenon. It is part of a global rise in authoritarianism.



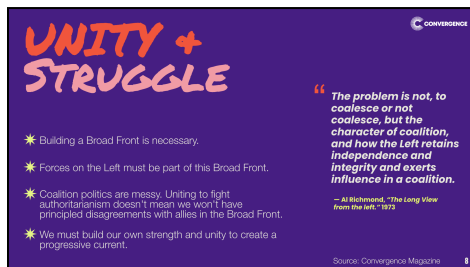
- There is a lot distilled into MAGA:
 - Nixon's southern strategy
 - Reagan's neoliberal attacks on regulations and public spending
 - Gingrich's rule or ruin and contract with America
 - The bipartisan war on drugs/incarceration crisis, never-ending war on terror, fall-out from the 2008 financial crisis and birtherism
 - Tea Party movement
- All of these elements tap into deep patterns of backlash against progressive gains, especially for people of color and for women and the LGBTQ+ community.
- The growing backlash also coincided with the rise and failures of neoliberalism. As the failures of neoliberal rule become evident, the 'establishment' is discredited, and many people are turning to the right.
- So it is important here to hold two ideas in our head at the same time:
 - First, this stuff is rooted in our history, and there has always been a backlash against the gains we make.
 - And second, the threat of MAGA is considerably more dangerous than what we have seen before in most of our lifetimes. There is a fundamental breakdown in the existing order, and the MAGA movement feels they are in an existential fight for their way of life which is bringing out their most extreme tendencies.



- This is what it looks like. MAGA politicians are already boasting about plans for authoritarian rule.
- MAGA already controls 23 state legislatures and the House of Representatives. They also control the Supreme Court.
- MAGA contains an openly white supremacist current that uses political violence to achieve its ends.
- If MAGA gains full power, they already have plans drawn up to:
 - Bring every federal agency directly under the president's control
 - Turn the Justice Department into his political police
 - Make the Environmental Protection Agency a tool of the fossil fuel industry
 - Recast the National Labor Relations Board as a union-busting weapon (if it survives at all)
 - Codify a national abortion ban
 - Increase attacks on LGBTQ+ rights
 - Further shred the social safety-net and define benefits as only for 'deserving citizens'
 - Impose Florida-style book banning and suppress the true histories of struggles against white supremacy and structural racism.
- In case you think I am exaggerating this stuff, here is your homework assignment for later: Check out this guide to Project 2025 (<https://www.mediamatters.org/heritage-foundation/guide-project-2025-extreme-right-wing-agenda-next-republican-administration>). You will be terrified at what the MAGA forces are planning.



- In 2020, an anti-MAGA majority began to emerge. The front against MAGA is made up of 1) Centrist Democrats 2) the anti-MAGA Conservatives and 3) The Rising Progressive Movement.
- Our basis for being in this front together is our shared strategic objective: defeat MAGA.
- The centrist Democrats and anti-MAGA conservatives are in the lead – for NOW – but they cannot defeat MAGA on their own. **They need us and we need them**, as we saw in 2020.



- While we are working to build this united front, we also must work to eventually lead it.
- We will talk about what that looks like on a future call, but in short: our movement must keep growing in our sophistication to know when to struggle with centrist and conservative forces in the broad front. This might look like running primaries against corporate Democrats.
- We need to know when to unite with this front to do things like codifying Roe v. Wade or to defeat a MAGA candidate.



- So okay...does that seem clear so far?
- Here's the thing...as we all know it is not as simple as I just made it sound!
- One of the reasons for that is that elections can suck! In our two party system, they can force some really bad either/or choices on us.
- This leads us to the idea of the “November Contradiction.”
- Calling it the November Contradiction is just another way of saying that in the two party system that we work in, we are faced with similar dynamics every election year. In the primaries we get our hopes up. In the general election, we often feel like we have to settle (or worse).
- We aren't saying this because we agree with it, or think it is an ideal state of affairs...but rather to point out that it is **structural**. It is working exactly as it was designed to. It is a dynamic *built into the system*.



- It is particularly bad this year. We are feeling real pain about the genocide in Gaza. Over immigration. Over the state of the Democratic Party's response to our issues in general.

THE NOVEMBER CONTRADICTION


✨ Many political activists will feel a **sense of whiplash** at the moment we have to switch from defending the Squad in the primaries to grinding out a general election victory in less than ideal conditions.



- And a lot of people are going to feel a sense of whiplash when we have to pivot from doing the work of defending the Squad, or Rejecting AIPAC, to the work of grinding it out as part of a united front strategy for the general elections.

THE NOVEMBER CONTRADICTION

✨ The "lesser of two evils" or "election of our lives" or "our ancestors died for this" rhetoric won't cut it. **People need a reason to feel hopeful that we are building something of our own and something different**, even if we are putting our shoulder to the wheel for Democrats in November.



- But we can't resort to the rhetoric of the Democratic Party to help people make sense of this feeling of whiplash either. We can't go down the path of simplifying folks' necessary participation because it's the "most important election of our lives".
- What we do need to do is name the totality of the problem, and the effect it has on our communities and movements – and name our plan and commitment to do the work to build power beyond the intervention of the elections.
- We need to give people a reason to feel hopeful that we are building something of our own, something different.


THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN AMERICA

1. Authoritarian white nationalist take-over of GOP.
2. Much of the Democratic Party controlled by corporate forces and affluent voters.
3. Democrats losing working class people (of all races).
4. Two party system limits our room to maneuver.

WFP is aligning individuals and organizations to construct winning, long-term electoral majorities.

Our North Star

Governing Power



- Not just in this election, but in general, our movements are navigating some really tough political terrain.
- This next slide is a picture of just what that terrain looks like. This is a picture of the current political crisis in America.
- Depending on where you live in the United States, some parts of the crisis are going to look more prominent than others.
- If you are in a blue state, you are probably dealing more with number 2, that much of the Democratic Party is controlled by corporate forces and caters to affluent voters.
- If you are in a red state, then number 1 is going to be much more real. You are seeing the authoritarian take-over of the Republican Party up close, in real time.
- But none of these are disconnected phenomena. In fact, they all represent a four headed dragon of sorts.



- So let's come back to where we started. We need a strategy...
- At WFP we are building a political party, so it may surprise you to hear that we don't think elections are all that. They are not the be-all-end-all.
- We are competing on electoral terrain – and in a political system – that has been shaped by centuries of inequality and exclusion.
- But here's the thing...elections are a tactic. Building our own party is a tool we are using to exploit this tactic more effectively. Elections and party building can, and should, exist in an ecosystem of other tactics.

