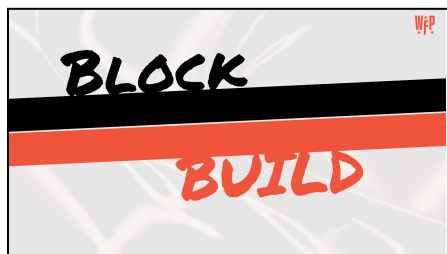
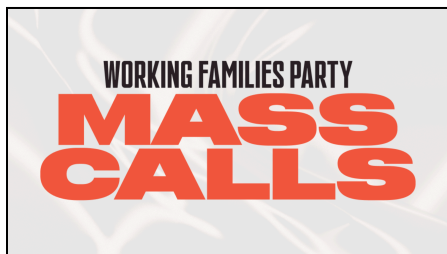


WORKING FAMILIES PARTY **MASS CALLS**

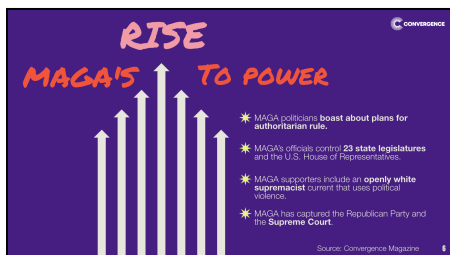
Mass Call #2 - Political Education Script



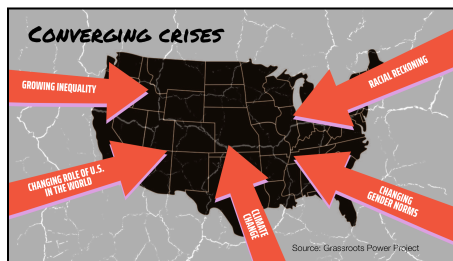
- In today's teach-in, we are going to keep talking about our strategy of Block and Build.
- We are going to dig deeper into understanding the conditions that got us to where we are today, and talk about what that means for our Blocking strategy.
- Then we're going to preview our Build strategy, which we will get into on the next call.



- So! If you were with us on the last Mass Call, you may remember that we talked about the MAGA threat.
- We talked about how MAGA is a distillation of a bunch of historical movements on the right.



- We also talked about MAGA's rise to power:
 - They now control 23 state legislatures
 - They control the House of Representatives
 - They have taken control of one of the major political parties
 - They have a majority on the Supreme Court
 - They are an openly white supremacist movement (at the very least) willing to use political violence to achieve their ends
 - And they are now openly boasting about their plans for authoritarian rule if they win in 2024.
- Again, you don't have to take my word for it. If you want to read about what MAGA has planned 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 our last call, we also talked about needing to hold two ideas at the same time. First, there is a historical precedent for MAGA. And second, MAGA represents something more dangerous than any of those past examples of right-wing reaction.
- The reason MAGA is more dangerous is that there is a more fundamental breakdown in the existing order going on right now. The way the world works is turned on its head in some pretty profound ways. This is happening in the United States, and it is happening all over the world.



- So why is there a breakdown in the existing order of things?
- Here is a way to picture it from the US perspective. Right now there are a series of crises all converging:
 - Growing inequality
 - The changing role of the US in the world
 - Climate change
 - Changing gender norms and the backlash to it
 - And the racial reckoning and its backlash
- All of these forces are bearing down on us, intersecting and escalating in all kinds of ways. It is creating incredible pressure on the status quo.
- We are seeing signs of breakdown. Folks can debate about whether or not we're on the verge of civil war (or if the first one ever ended here in the first place), but what we know for sure is that there is definitely a crisis of legitimacy going on where people's trust in our institutions is breaking down on a fundamental level.
- And combine this with the fact that for many, many people, life has just gotten harder on a day to day level. Groceries are more expensive. They can't afford a home. They are buried in debt.



- Enter into this mix a demagogue like Donald Trump – who is both creating AND riding the wave of this popular resentment – filling the visionary leadership gap that exists only in the absence of our presence, our vision and our sustained work with *all* of our people (including rural folks, working class white folks, faith

communities, etc.), and you have conditions that are ripe for MAGA to be so much more dangerous than its predecessors.



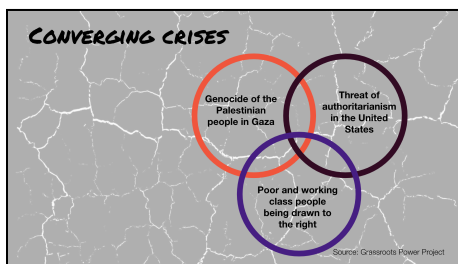
- So let's break this idea of converging crises down another way.
- This is an overwhelming moment in history. There are so many world-changing struggles happening at the same time. Sometimes we can tend to focus on just one in order to deal with how overwhelming it can be to look at the whole picture. Or we feel we may need to focus on the thing that is in our lane so that we can maximize our impact.
- But this narrow focus can make it harder for us to have a generative approach to strategic differences in this moment.
- So we are now going to step back and look at the defining struggles of our moment, where they overlap, and where they are in tension with each other, to help provide a context for our conversations about strategy.
- One clear threat is the threat of MAGA and the rise of authoritarianism. When we focus here, we are focusing on facing a threat driven by a Republican Party that has been taken over by the MAGA movement.
- We can think of this as a "layer" of the converging crises we are dealing with.



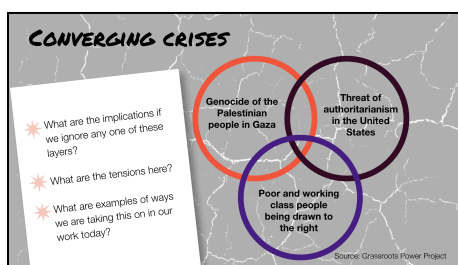
- Another layer is the genocide of Palestinian people in Gaza by the Israeli government, who are using weapons provided by the United States. When we focus here, we are generally focused on the decisions of the Democratic Party's

Biden administration that is continuing to provide weapons to Israel instead of exercising its power, to stop the genocide.

- We can look at these as separate struggles and ask each other: which side are you on? Or we can look at them as intersecting struggles and ask ourselves: How can we address both of these at once, knowing that they tend to focus us on different opponents and different tactics?
- We think this second approach is the more effective one. These are both world-historic crises that all of us are called to respond to. But this requires us to deal with differences in a generative way.



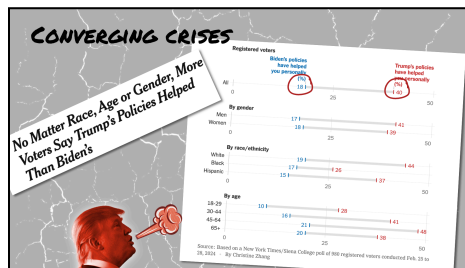
- There is a third layer we want to put into this mix. Increasing numbers of working class people are moving away from the Democratic Party, some are turning to the right. This has historically mainly been white poor and working class people. But it is a trend that is increasingly drawing working class people across race and region.
- It is our duty to address these first two crises – the threat of authoritarianism and the genocide of the Palestinian people – in a way that addresses this pull towards the right among poor and working class people. The Democrats aren't going to do that for us. Otherwise, even if we win this hard battle, we are going to lose the war.



- Before we go any further...let's take a moment to breathe in the enormity of this. It is hard to face all of these things at once and we know it's not everything that has to be faced.

- Let's invite in some acceptance that we can't do all of this perfectly, because, you know, we're humans. We will have differences. We will make mistakes. No one individual or organization can fully hold all of this at once. Then let's take a next faithful step together by asking and answering these questions: how are we being intentional about what we are responsible for in this moment, and how are we being generous with ourselves and others?
- We need to make hard choices. We can't be all things individually. That's why the hard work of strategy is so important. If we want to approach this situation as strategists, it feels important to ask ourselves some questions:
 - What are the implications if we ignore any one layer on this picture?
 - What are the tensions represented here?
 - And so that we can learn from what is working, what are examples of ways we are taking on the intersection of these crises in our work today?

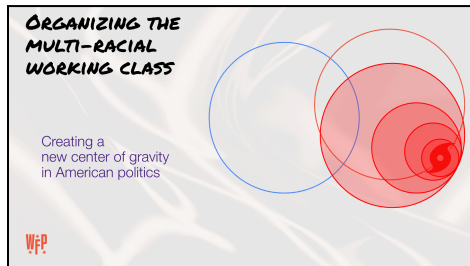
[Take a second here to breathe and to take in responses from the chat...]



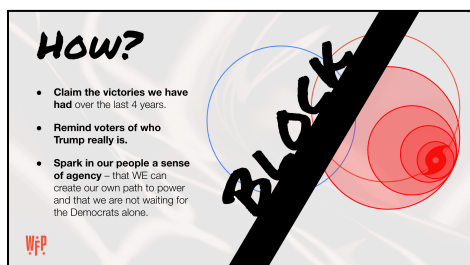
- So we are in an era of converging crises. We are in a situation where the MAGA-Republicans are creating a storm that is threatening to overwhelm everything and all of us, the work we do, and the people we love.
- At the heart of the matter, they are aggressively making meaning of events on the ground and telling a story of what the problem is and who is to blame. And they are doing so in the face of an establishment Democratic Party that has lost the trust of many voters, especially working class voters.
- And this is what that looks like in the polls for this election. A New York Times/Sienna poll found that across every demographic, more voters thought that Trump's policies had done more to help them than Biden's.
- This might be hard for you to believe. You might say, but wait...the only legislation Trump passed was tax cuts for the rich. So what policies are we

talking about, and how do people see that as benefiting them?

- Let's not ignore a cardinal rule of how this stuff works: politics is perception. And right now, because of the conditions in people's lives, the converging crises, and the storm being created by MAGA, more people are still perceiving Trump as something other than what he is.



- So here's a way to visualize what is going on here. Here we have a picture of how most people think of politics in the United States. Blue team. Red team.
- Trump and the MAGA faction have risen into leadership of the Republican Party.
- They are continuing to grow in power to the point where they have almost completely consolidated power inside of the Republican Party, even the conservative leaders of yesteryear have all too often been forced to bend to their will.
- In doing so, they are creating a new force on this political map.
- This new power is exerting a force of attraction on working class voters. It is leading to a political realignment where working class people – increasingly of all races – are being pulled towards the Republican Party.



- So this is another part of what we have to block.

- The question is how?
- First we need to claim the victories we have had over the last four years. These were not solely Biden's or the Democratic Party's victories. They were OURS. We all saw that we played a role in pushing BBB, right? You know—"Biden to Be Better."
- We aren't echoing the right, and we can't just echo the Democrats either. We have to have an independent line because our people want an end to the two party system and desire deeper and truer solutions for our folks. We should claim the victories we've forced the Dems to make, ring the alarm about fascism, and our amplify the imperative to cast a bigger vision forward that's about our ability to build a viable independent political party--we aren't seeking to maintain the status quo or to be in the same situation we're in now in 2028.
- We also need to remind voters of who Trump really is. People are starting to pay attention now. They are starting to clock what it might mean to elect a convicted felon to office, while many of our formerly incarcerated loved-ones still can't vote, and even more are still behind bars on Trump's failed promises of second chances. They are starting to see that Trump is openly selling favors like a pair of sneakers to billionaires and oil company executives in exchange for a second term. They are starting to see what is really going on here. And we have to not let up on making that clear.
- And finally – and MOST IMPORTANTLY – we have to spark in our people a sense that we CAN do this. The horse race reporting on TV and the polls are garbage. They are designed with an explicit purpose: to demoralize and distract us. We need to instill in our people a sense that we can do this, and even more, we will do this. Are you committed to getting this work done? Show me some emojis or comment "Committed!" in the chat!



- So that is as far as we are going to go today. But on our next call, we are going to start to dig into what we mean by "build" in the strategy of Block and Build.



- We are going to get specific about what exactly we are building – right now in the primaries, all the way through the general election in November, and beyond.



- And we are going to talk about some of the errors we can make along the way if we decide to “block without building,” or “build without blocking.”
- We still have some necessary political education material to cover – so stay tuned for the next mass call so we dig into it together!