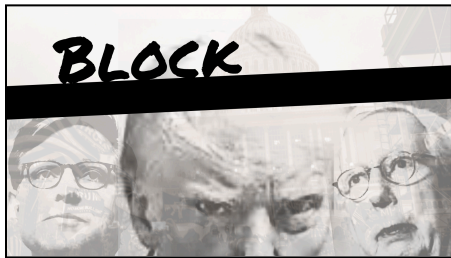
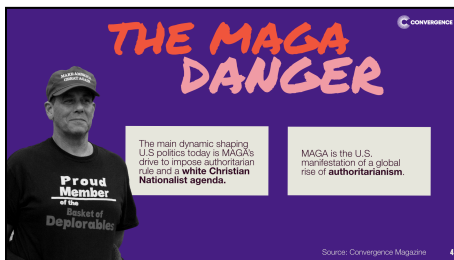


WORKING FAMILIES PARTY MASS CALLS

Mass Call #3 - Political Education Script



- Before we dig into the “build” part of Block and Build, let’s just take a few moments to remember some of the ideas we have talked about already.
- You will remember that on the last two calls we went into detail about just what we mean when we say “block.”



- We talked about the danger posed by the MAGA movement. This is the latest manifestation of a 60-year backlash against the gains of our movements.
- MAGA’s white, Christian Nationalism is not only a US phenomenon. It is part of a global rise in authoritarianism.

- And the fact that billionaires are lining up behind this authoritarian movement is one more clear sign – as if we needed any others – that these corporations and elites will literally sign up for facism if it means they can make more money.



- We talked about the need 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.



- They are trying to take over and fundamentally change all of our institutions of governance.
- We talked about how MAGA politicians are already boasting about plans for authoritarian rule.
- And we are glad to see that since our last calls where we were ringing the alarm bell about Project 2025 the word is getting out.
- There were times last week when more people were googling the term “Project 2025” than they googled “Taylor Swift”.
- We absolutely should not let up on talking about the MAGA movement’s radical plan to burn down the government as we know it and replace it with one of

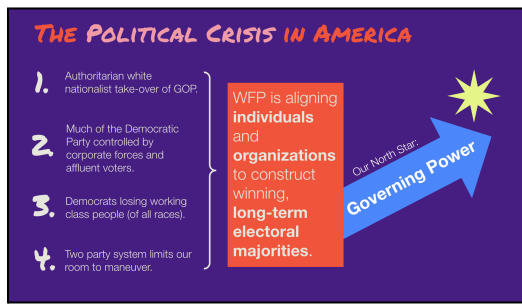
authoritarian rule that they control. It's even more important to tell folks explicitly how the plan will impact their lives, and what they can do about it (defeat MAGA up and down the ballot).



- We also talked about how 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 & Left Movements.
- 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.
- And since then we all had a chance to witness a powerful example coming out of the French elections where the left and the center formed a coalition to defeat Marie LaPen and the far right party there. And they did that in just THREE WEEKS!



- We have talked about this idea of the “November Contradiction.” This is the idea that in our two party system in the United States, we deal with the structural limitation of an either/or choice every November.
- We are naming this not to admire a problem, but because naming it takes away some of its power. When we realize this is something that happens to us every election we can choose a clearer strategic vision to be more proactive.



- That vision helps us see the political terrain we are navigating more clearly.
- This is a picture of the current political crisis in America.
- None of the elements on this slide are disconnected phenomena. In fact, they all represent a four headed dragon of sorts.
- And let's be clear about something here: NOTHING that has happened in the last few weeks – from Biden's debate performance, to the factional fight within the Democratic Party over what to do about their lead candidate, to the assassination attempt on Trump's life, to the naming of JD Vance as Trump's VP, to the dropping of the documents court case against Trump have altered the fundamental political dynamics that we're living and working in.
- If anything, the Supreme Court's decision to grant immunity to the President has only accelerated the trends represented on this slide.



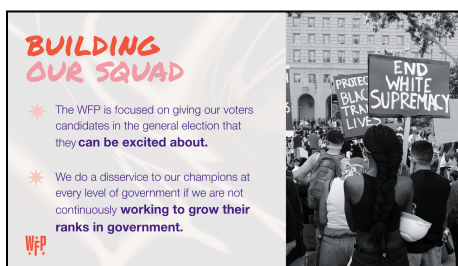
- So again – let's just take a moment to breathe. The events alone could lead us to feel despair or fear for the future. And that is natural.
- But again our job is to make hope possible rather than despair convincing.
- To do that, we are going to turn our attention to some of what we mean by "build."



- It is important that we ground ourselves in the movement ancestors who came before us.
- This is Fannie Lou Hamer. She was one of the founders of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. They formed at a time when the Democratic Party was segregated. To break it open, Fannie Lou Hamer and others formed their own party and forced the Democratic Party to reckon with them.

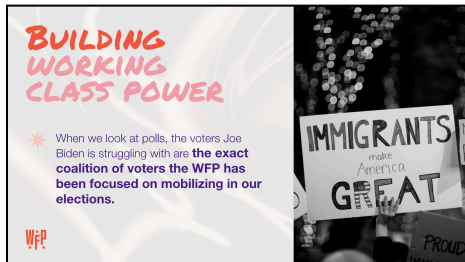


- So let's get into what we are building...



- All throughout this primary season, we've been focusing on building our power. We're putting massive resources into ensuring our champions in Congress like Summer Lee or Cori Bush get re-elected. We're running bottom-up candidate selection processes all over the country and supporting our states to elect candidates like the progressive District Attorney we recently elected in Columbus, Ohio. We're pounding the pavement in our state primaries to elect WFP aligned Democrats across the country. The WFP is focused on giving our voters candidates in the general election that they can be excited about.

- And if we're being honest, we are doing a disservice to ourselves and our champions at all levels of government if we are not continuously organizing to push and flank them and build their numbers inside state capitals and in Congress. That is why in addition to electing more people and giving our voters better choices in November, the WFP is investing in taking the expertise we have developed in organizing elected officials to actually form our own WFP caucuses in legislative bodies all over the country. This is long-term work. Our experience having these organized groups of our closest elected champions at every level of government is a powerful tool in our effort to build governing power.

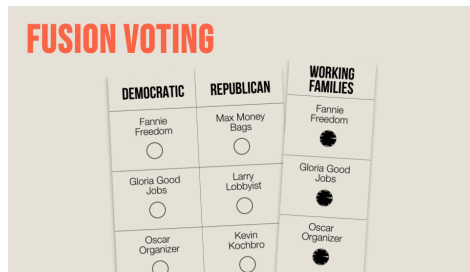


- We are also building working class power.
- When we look at polls, the voters Joe Biden is struggling with – who are either considering Trump, Kennedy, Cornell or staying home this cycle – they're the exact coalition of voters the WFP has been focused on mobilizing in our elections.

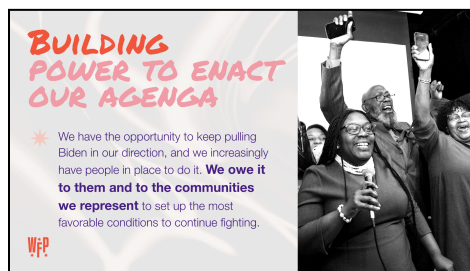
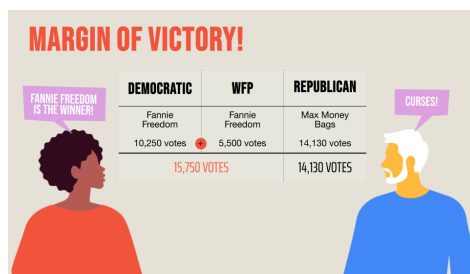


- Even though 2024 is undoubtedly a “nationalized” election, all of the campaigning – not just for president, but for all the races we care about – happens in states.
- So the opportunity to build through the general election is not something happening only at the “national level,” or even just in swing states.

- The dynamics of the electoral moment are multiplied 50 times over in EVERY state, and this is a wave we need to ride.



- And let's mention something that often gets overlooked. Electoral Reform. Because we are building a third party in a country with rigid rules that try to prevent that from happening, we also need to working day in and day out to change those rules. We need to fight in the courts and in the states to overturn rules that protect the two-party cartel.



- If we compare the MAGA governing agenda to the Biden/Harris governing agenda, we clearly see that Biden and Harris' is better. That's because we made it that way!
- But we also see that the Biden/Harris agenda is not nearly enough.

- We can look at the positions of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and say that these are getting a lot closer to the agenda we would like to see.
- So right now we have the opportunity to keep pulling President Biden and Vice President Harris in our direction, and we increasingly have people in place to do it.
- We owe it to the communities we represent to set up the most favorable conditions to keep fighting in 2025.
- This election is about more than the president. And as organizers we need to ask ourselves, “what are the conditions I want to be organizing under for the next 4 years?”
- If we make a sober assessment of our power right now, we can honestly say that we flexed a lot of it when it came to shaping the Biden/Harris domestic agenda over the last four years. We did not get everything we wanted against the conservative forces inside the Democratic Party, but we also could not be ignored and we got some big wins.
- When we look at matters of war and peace beyond our borders it is a more mixed bag. We are pretty clear that there are very powerful forces pushing for permanent war in a place like Gaza. Our movement has moved the dial against those forces, but we certainly are not where we need to be.



- So let's come back to this idea of the November Contradiction that we talked about earlier.
- You remember that this is the idea that a lot of our people are going to be feeling whiplash as we have to make the shift from fighting it out in the primaries to putting our shoulder to the wheel for the general election.

- It is the idea that even though this dynamic is particularly hard this year, it is actually something that we face EVERY election cycle because it is structural – it is a dynamic built into the two party system.



- But let's not get it twisted. When we say something is a “contradiction” that is not the same as saying it is an unsolvable “problem.” We aren’t throwing up our hands and giving up.
- No...saying something is a contradiction is recognizing there is a tension between the world as it is, and the world as it should be. What exists now and what is prefigurative. It is being able to name the exact point where the system is rubbing us raw.
- Saying something is a contradiction does not make us pessimists, it makes us good strategists. It gives us the clarity to know exactly where the problem is, and what we have to do to start addressing it.
- And the thing about contradictions is that the tension that is built into them can sometimes be resolved. And the resolution of that contradiction can lead to new breakthroughs and new advances for our ability to build power.
- But the determining factor of whether that contradiction resolves in our favor, or in some other direction, is our ORGANIZING!



- So we have to get it right. And we have to avoid errors that may creep in when we talk about “block and build.”
- One of those errors is if we are all block and no build. This looks like throwing everything we can at defeating Trump, but doing it in a way that doesn’t build our base, or capture our own data, or develop our own leaders and infrastructure.
- When we do “block” in this way we are handing power back to the Democratic Party at the end of the day.
- But there is also a way we can do “build” and forget that we have a duty to also block the fascists! We can build a movement that is vibrant and beautiful, powerful and successful, but we can get sloppy about the fact that we actually have to win this electoral thing – for us and for our communities.



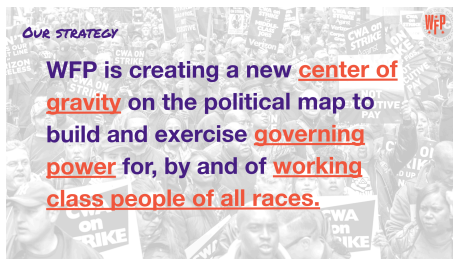
- And here is a secret: even though the general election is shaped by the November Contradiction, we CAN build in the general election.



- The time around an election is something we sometimes call the “electoral moment.”
- The electoral moment around a general election – especially in a Presidential year – is the time that working class people pay the most attention to politics. It’s like the World Cup, where suddenly, once every four years, everyone is

paying attention to what's going on in soccer!

- People are paying attention to politics right now. And we have a chance to be talking directly to them. This is what it will take to build our voting bloc of working class voters of every race.
- In a general election volunteers come out of the woodwork. And some of those volunteers can go on to become leaders in our movement. This is a time of mass politicalization. How folks are politicized, in some ways, depends on whether we show up and show out, or not.
- And when the election is over we don't stop talking to these folks. We do the work to absorb them into our organizations and into our party. We take all those positive ID's we got on the doors and phones and we pile them up into the voting bloc we are building year in and year out.



- Okay, we are going to stop discussing this part of “build” for now, but we will have more on our next call.
- As a preview, one of the things we are going to talk about on the next call is to look at the idea of building a new center of gravity on the political map to exercise governing power. This is part of what we are doing in this election cycle, but it is also a generational project.
- So stay tuned!