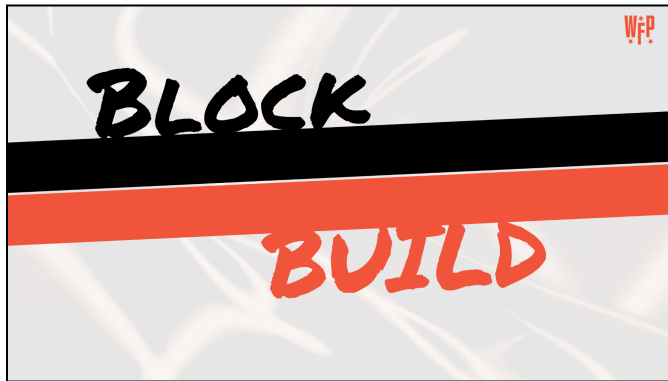


WORKING FAMILIES PARTY MASS CALLS

Mass Call #5 - Political Education Script



- We have new people on this call, so let's do a bit of a re-cap of the ground we have covered in our earlier Block and Build political education sessions.



- In our earlier calls we have talked about the current political crisis in the United States.
- This crisis is defined by the fact that the Republican party has been completely taken over by a white supremacist, Christian nationalist and authoritarian faction.
- This crisis is defined by the fact that much of the Democratic Party has been captured by corporate forces and they are catering to the interests of affluent voters.
- This crisis is defined by the fact that working class voters – increasingly across race and region – are bleeding out of the Democratic Party.
- And mixed in with this, the two party system limits our room to maneuver.
- We think of all of this as interconnected phenomena.



- We have also talked about just who the MAGA movement is. It is a distillation of many different reactionary movements that have come before it.
- It is also – and this is important – even more dangerous than its predecessors because it is emerging in the context of a more fundamental breakdown in the system where people's trust in our public institutions is at an extreme low point.



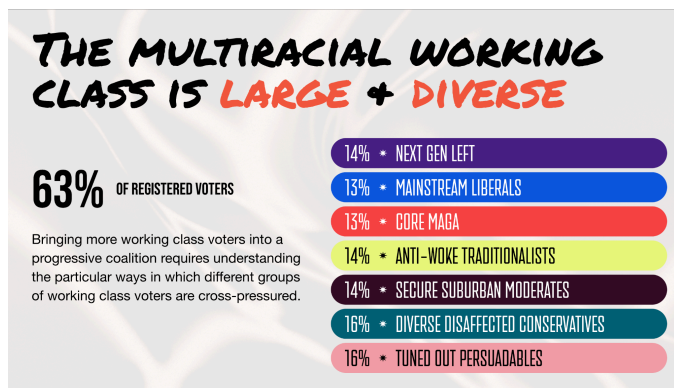
- Given the threat that is represented by the MAGA movement, we have been very clear that we are in a united front moment. We are part of the broad “Cheney to Chomsky” set of forces in the United States that needs to come together across our differences to defeat Trump.
- None of us in this united front are big enough to defeat MAGA on our own. So we need them, and they need us.
- And we have taken inspiration from the French elections where they faced their own version of the MAGA movement and they built a broad coalition between the political left and center to defeat the far right in France.



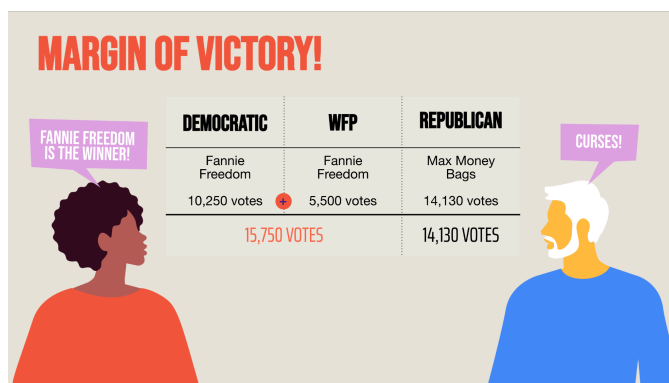
- We also talked about how we CAN build in the general election – not just block. We can build working class power by reaching out to and organizing the working class voter coalition we need right now.



- We talked about how politics is a vehicle to help us construct new majorities of voters. This is what the MAGA movement has been doing so successfully, and it is what makes them hard to stop.



- We discussed how – longer term – we need to build our own bloc of voters. It needs to be made up of working class people of all races.
- We looked at a year-long polling and research project the WFP has been leading to understand just exactly we mean when we say “working class” – because amazingly no one in the multi-million dollar polling industry has ever looked into this!
- We found that members of the working class are under pressure from different directions. These so-called “cross pressured” voters hear different things that may make them lean towards or away from our politics.



- And we talked about how we can build toward changing the rules of the electoral game. We can fight for electoral reform that breaks the two-party cartel that enforces the current system of limited choices and limited ambition that we have now.
- For example, we can create voting systems – that already exist in some states – called “fusion voting” that allows third parties like the WFP to compete meaningfully in elections without acting as a “spoiler” party.
- Fusion voting let’s us build power with OUR people and OUR party and OUR ballot line – right there in public. And success can breed success – when you

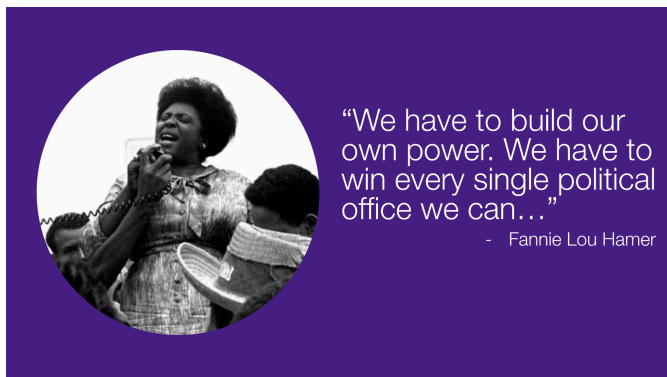
start to win, and people start to see you winning, it builds new momentum behind what we are doing.



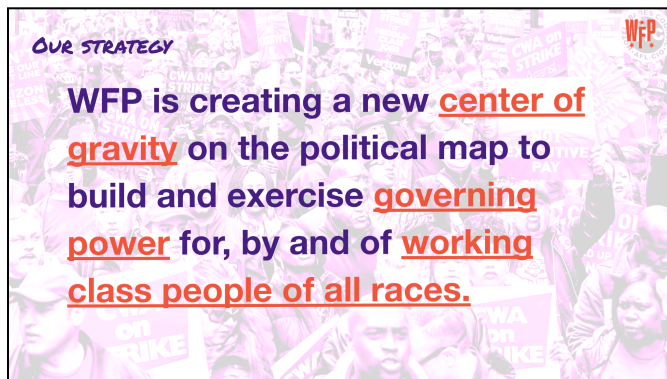
- We also talked about the need to be careful and not block without building or build without blocking. We should not think of our job right now as just blocking so we can build later – because that hands power back to the Democratic Party. But we can build and lose sight that we have to actually win in order to block the MAGA movement.



- Okay, so that is the re-cap of the ground we have covered in our past political education sessions on the last calls. You can catch the details in the recordings!
- Now I want to dig deeper into the idea of what exactly we are building here. Because we owe it to ourselves and the people we want to join us in this work to be both precise and clear. When we show we have a real plan for what we are building, and how we'll build it, we inspire confidence and a sense of hope that we can change the world as it is today, into the world as it should be tomorrow.



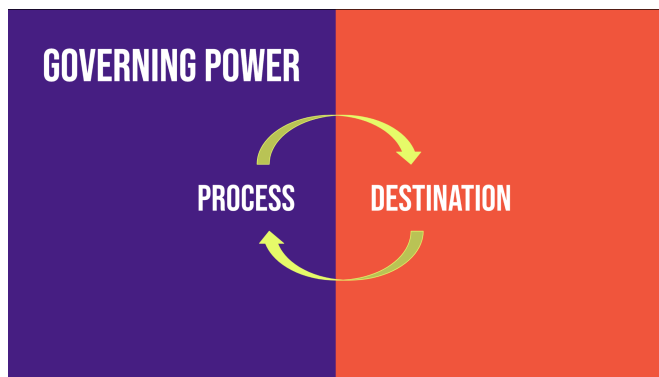
- And, as always, our movement ancestors walk with us in this work.
- This is Fannie Lou Hamer. She and others founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party at a time when the Democratic Party was still a segregated institution. They were locked out of the Democratic Party, so they formed their own. They made history.



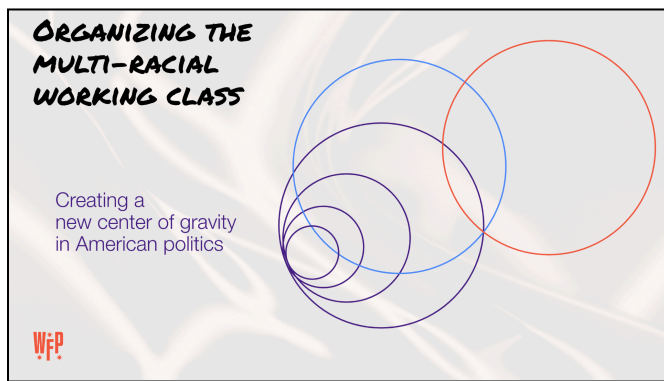
- So starting off...this is the broadest sense of what we are building. We are creating a new center of gravity on the political map to exercise governing power for, by, and of working class people of all races.
- Let's break that down a bit...



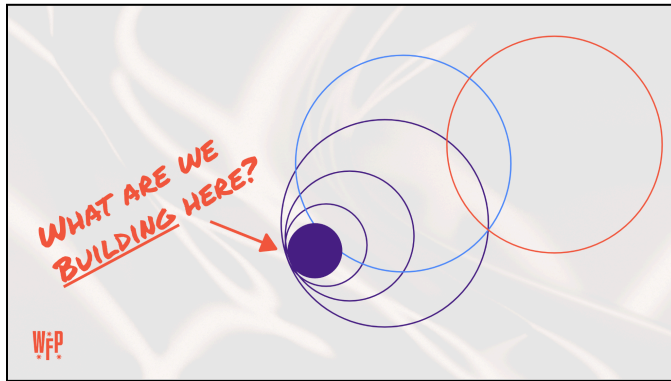
- Let's start with governing power. Here is a simple definition: governing power in this context is about controlling the government.
- But don't be confused. As simple as this definition might seem, it is not a simple concept. Here's why...we have all seen that just getting our people elected, doesn't mean they will be able to govern. Just getting our people in the seat, does not mean that they will have the power to move our agenda.
- There are so many forces that affect our ability to actually move a governing agenda. Our long term job is to both get our people elected, and to change the conditions that surround them when they govern.
- We have talked about this in past calls, but let's just look at how matters of war and peace are decided in the United States. There are incredibly powerful forces that influence United States foreign policy. We have moved the dial on trying to stop arms shipments to Israel, for example, but the pressure on any US President to maintain this status quo is going to be intense.



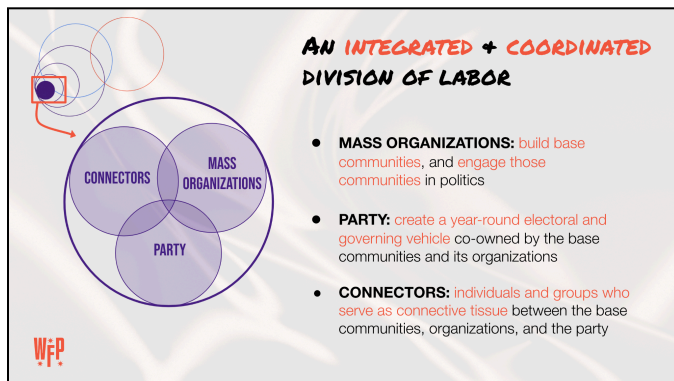
- So our work is both focussed on the immediate task at hand of winning elections, but it means we also have a strategic orientation and informed timeline to build the kind of power we need. We have to have short-medium-and long-term strategies.
- And governing power is not just a place we will arrive “someday,” but it is a process of getting our people elected, doing the work to support them, growing our electorate, and doing it all over again.



- Let's talk about building our electorate now.
- Most people think of politics as having two teams – the Blue team and the Red team. But within the context of this two party system, we have seen that voters move around. Historically, voters have aligned and realigned on the political map – they have switched from one team to another.
- Unfortunately, the voter coalition that the Democrats are currently relying on to win is not enough and it has been eroding over decades.
- The Republican Party is right now trying to flip the script by branding themselves as the party of the working class – and we have to be brutally honest with ourselves that, more and more, it is working.
- Our long term strategy needs to be to build a new center of gravity on the map that can attract those working class voters in our direction. Even while we are getting busy winning with the voter coalition we currently have, our long term “build” is to organize the voter coalition we actually need.
- Our effort may start out small, in the context of how many humans it takes to win elections in a particular geography, but as we organize and win elections with our elected champions we will start to act as a force of attraction that brings working class people into our politics.
- Our north star is to build a WFP party coalition that knits together working class people that are currently split between the party coalitions of the Democratic and Republican parties.
- Again, these kinds of shifts in where voters line up on this map have happened in our history, and it is happening right now. The question we have to ask ourselves is on whose terms it is going to happen? On the terms that the MAGA movement is trying to set? Or on our terms? When I say who's terms, you type and say “OUR TERMS!”



- So the rest of this session is about what we're building – together. We need to have real precision and clarity about what we are building now, and for the long term to make this strategy real.



- Let's put that last picture under the microscope. We are going to zoom in on that inner circle.
- I hope you see yourselves reflected in this picture. You may be an organizer that is working at the local level to organize poor and working class people in their homes and in their communities. You may be a union member and activist. You may be active in a WFP party chapter. Together, we are coming together and building the connective tissue between all of these elements to create an integrated and coordinated division of labor.
- What do we mean by that? It is the idea that each of us has a meaningful role to play on our own, and a critical role to play together. And as we do this work, our ability to reach and grow the base of working class people we need to build a new governing majority increases.

AN INTEGRATED + COORDINATED DIVISION OF LABOR

Organizing

- Build up in states
- Mobilize purposefully, not reactively
- Mind our shop: internal organizing
- Organize and scheme with our elected partners

Infrastructure

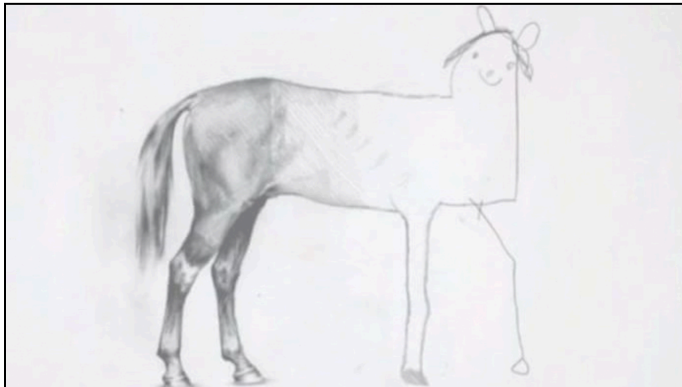
- Develop and invest in our party bodies
- Convene and align forces post-election
- Federal strategy: update our theory of the case, rebuild infrastructure

Narrative

- Intervene in current messaging and narrative
- Win the spin and make meaning of the moment
- Articulate a compelling multi-year vision of our "build"

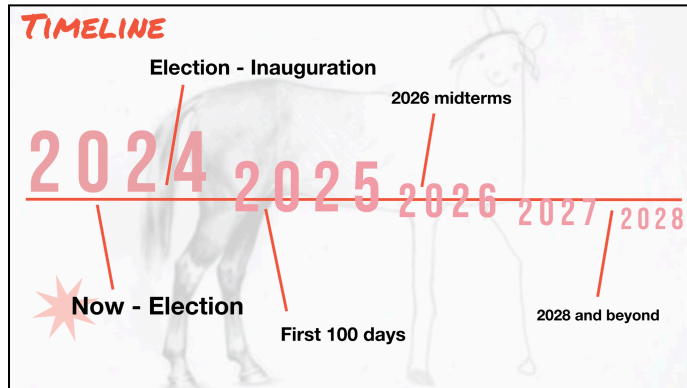


- Let's dig deeper into that. It is long term work, and we break that work into three broad categories: the organizing we are doing, the infrastructure we are building, and the work we are doing to shape the narrative and fight the battle of big ideas.
- Together we are organizing by building power at the state level.
- We are building shared movement infrastructure. At the WFP this looks like the party leadership bodies we are building in each state and at the national level. It also looks like the way various organizations are aligning forces and developing shared political strategy inside the party.
- And finally, we are doing the work to tell a new story. We are using the electoral moment to change the common sense and shift the public's perception of what is politically possible.

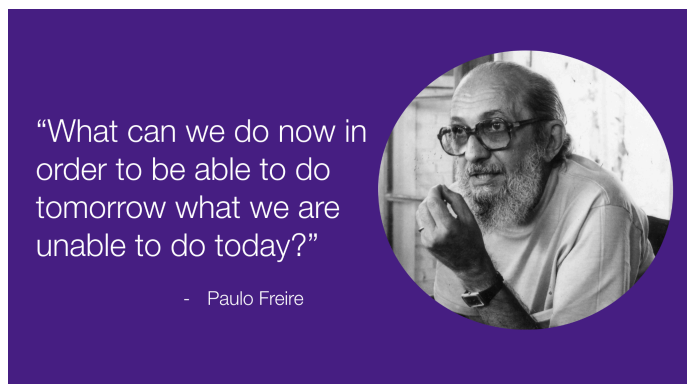


- This funny looking horse is here because it helps us make sense of the process that is going on here.
- Right now we are all focussed on the election immediately in front of us. That picture is pretty clear. But as we project out into the future, the plan becomes a bit more fuzzy. And that is okay.

- The point is that it would be a mistake to only focus on what is in front of us without holding in our head at least a little bit how what we are doing now is connected to what we hope to be doing in the next several years as we keep working on our next breakthroughs toward governing power.



- And here is what I mean by that...
- We are focussed on the period between now and the election, as we should be.
- We are also thinking about what happens between election day and the Inauguration, given that it was at this time that our opponents launched a failed coup attempt four years ago.
- We probably also are thinking about what happens in the first 100 days of whatever administration we are dealing with, as this is a decisive time in any administration.
- But we also need to be holding a longer view about how the things we do now are setting us up for the 2026 midterms – and even 2028.



- We will end this section on build by remembering this quote from Paulo Freire, the Brazilian popular educator and movement leader. He was forced out of his

country by a military coup, so he knew a thing or two about organizing in the context of rising authoritarianism. He took the long view of the work and the role that everyday working people must play to be protagonists in their own history.

- In our next political education sessions we will dig more in what we are building FOR. We want to govern. We want to govern in a way that is rooted in accountability and commitment to liberation for all people and this planet. That is our north star, and there is more to learn about it. So stay tuned!