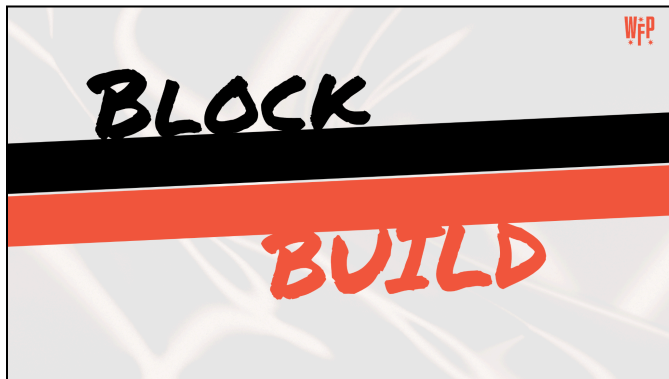
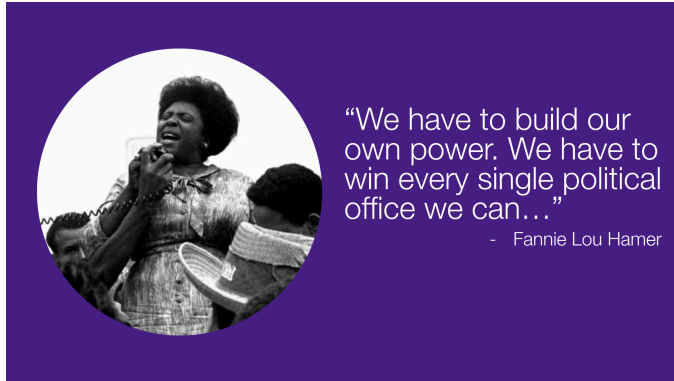


WORKING FAMILIES PARTY **MASS CALLS**

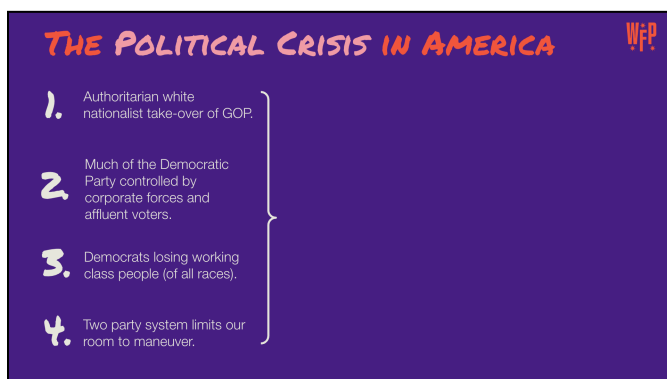
Mass Call #10 - Political Education Script



- For today's Block and Build political education session we are going to talk about strategy. With the election behind us, we are entering into a new phase of the work. So we need to update our strategy about how we are building power in the next period of this struggle.



- Before we do, let's remind ourselves that we stand on the shoulders of others who came before us. This is Fannie Lou Hamer. In the 1960's she and others founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to fight the segregation of the Democratic Party in the South. It was a third party, rooted in a broader social movement, that advanced the cause of civil rights.



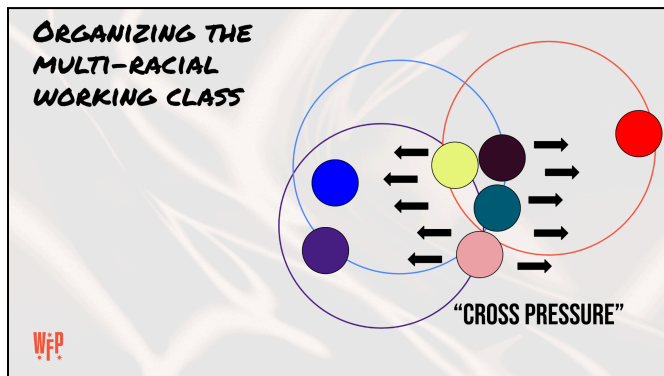
- As we like to do, let's review some of the material we have gone over in previous Mass Calls. At the end of this, we are going to share with you how to access these materials – so stay tuned.
- Last week, we did a deeper dive on the political crisis in the United States. In short, the political crisis is defined by an authoritarian take-over of the Republican Party. It is defined by a Democratic Party that is beholden to corporate forces and caters to affluent voters – all while working class voters are defecting, across race and region.
- And this crisis is defined by the fact that the two party system limits the set of options we have to address these dynamics.



- In the context of this crisis, WFP is aligning individuals and organizations to build long-term electoral majorities. The prize is to govern.



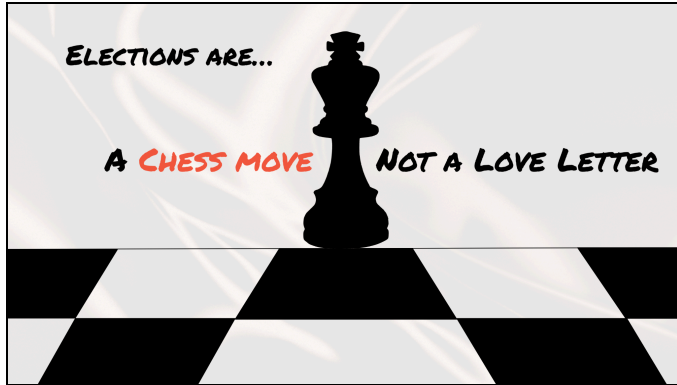
- On past calls we talked about this idea from the political theorist, Stuart Hall.
- For him, politics is bigger than just elections. What we do in politics is the long-term practice of constructing majorities.



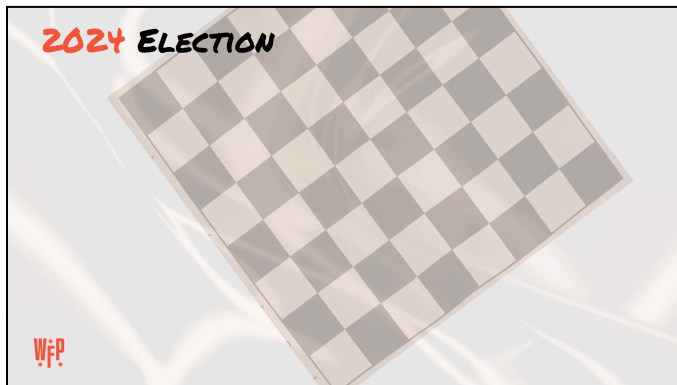
- Our goal is to construct a majority of working class voters of every race behind our politics.
- And we have heard the rumors...we have heard some of y'all asking if all this talk about class means we no longer care about race?
- I don't know about you, but I am thinking about people like my family! I'm thinking about my friends! I'm thinking about me! We have for far too long been programmed to hear "class" as meaning some picture of a white dude in a hard hat. Now we love and welcome those white dudes in a hard hat, but the numbers don't lie y'all: the ACTUAL working class in this country is MUCH more diverse than that.
- It is THAT vision of the working class that we need to hold in our heads so that we actually mean it when we say multi-racial working class!
- But no matter what the color of their skin, many working class voters are what we call "cross-pressured." That means there are competing influences shaping their political loyalties, and they are being pulled in different directions.



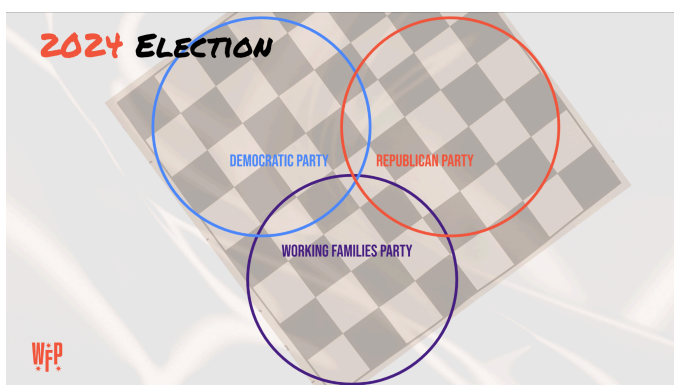
- And since we are doing all of this work in the context of the rigidly two-party system in the United States, it means we are dealing with a zero-sum electoral equation. If the Democratic Party loses support – even if those voters don't vote for the Republicans – it still mechanically transfers power to the Republicans.



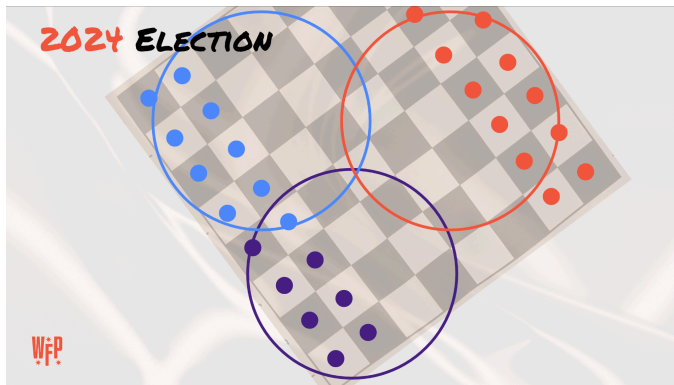
- So given this, we have to be very strategic about how we approach elections. During the 2024 election cycle we often made the point that elections are a chess move.



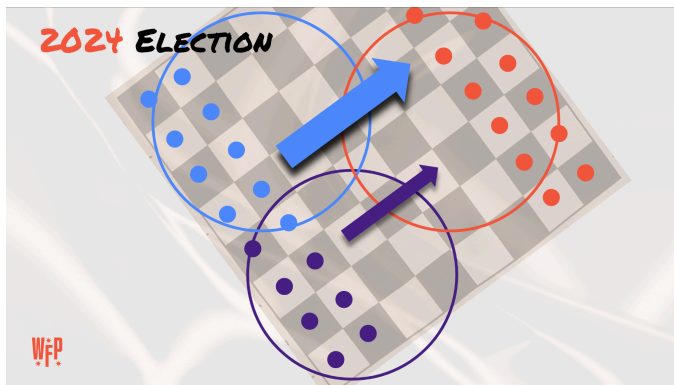
- Let's dig into that more deeply. Here is a picture of the chess board of the election we just completed.



- And on this 2024 chess board, here are the two major parties and the WFP.

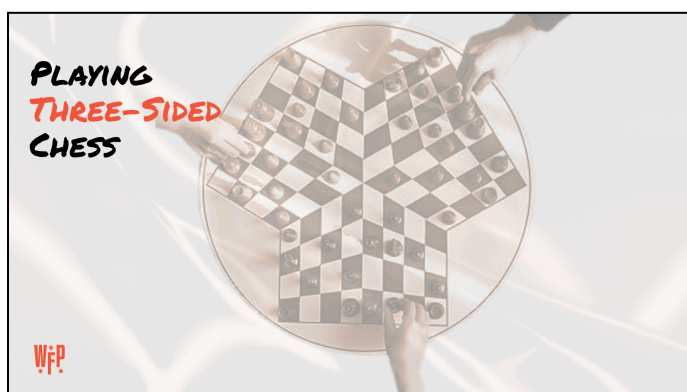


- In the 2024 election we were part of a united effort with the Democratic Party. We were, of course, the junior coalition partner. As a legacy party, the Democrats led on selecting – and then re-selecting – their top-of-ticket candidate.
- The Democrats had the bulk of the money. And they controlled a much larger portion of the electoral campaign infrastructure.
- And, let's be real: there are still a lot more people out there – working class or otherwise – who identify themselves as Democrats rather than as members of the Working Families Party.



- For these reasons, the Democratic Party was in the leading position of this coalition. While we certainly did a huge amount of work – especially in the battleground states – we were still in the position of deferring to the Democratic Party on many central questions of strategy, resource allocation etc.

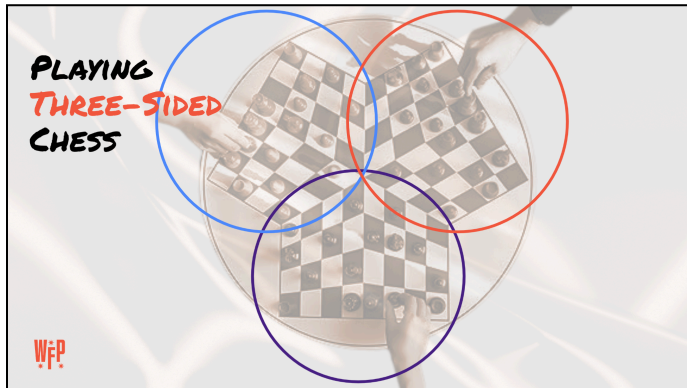
- But the point is, on this chess board, we were united in our effort to confront the MAGA movement. We were united because we made a sober assessment that neither of us – or any of the other forces in the so-called “Cheney to Chompsky” coalition – were strong enough on their own to block this threat by themselves.
- Of course, as we all painfully know, even our united effort was not enough this time. The MAGA win is generationally impactful, and there is no sugar-coating it. So we have to move forward with a sense of humility that more is required of us.



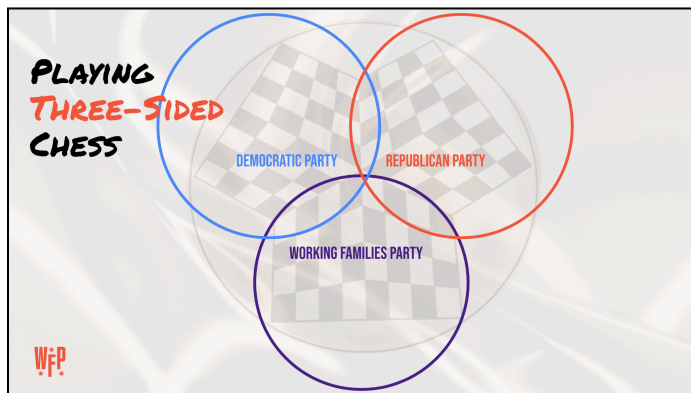
- But now the election is over. And here's the thing, the game we are playing has changed. We are no-longer in the pressure-cooker of a zero-sum equation. The two-party teeter-totter, where weakness of one major party mechanically translates into electoral strength for the other, is not what we are dealing with for the next period.
- Now you could say that we are playing **three-sided** chess. Three-sided chess is a game just like chess, but instead of playing against one opponent we're are playing against two. Instead of a two-way, zero-sum equation on the chess board that we WERE playing on, this three-sided chess board opens up different dimensions for building power.
- To be clear, our strategy has NOT changed. We are still doing Block and Build. **What has changed is the nature of the game we are playing.** We are moving on different terrain. In the general election, when MAGA was on the other side of the ballot, our strategy and tactics required creating a united front with the Democratic Party.

This is because we understand that elections have consequences.
We don't have the privilege of ignoring this fact.

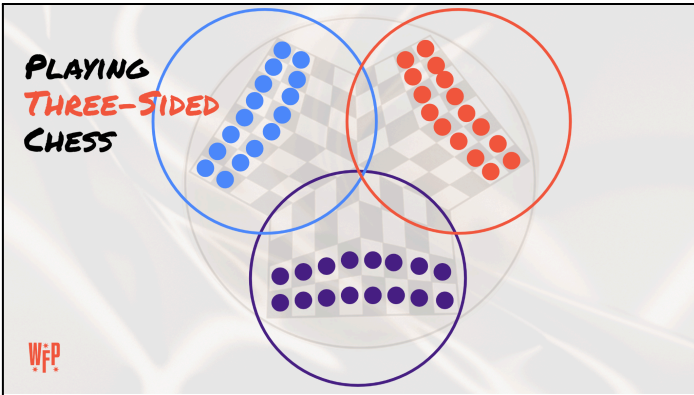
- But beyond the general election, our conditions and Block and Build strategy can look different.



- So let's look at that more closely. Let's look at our power map again.



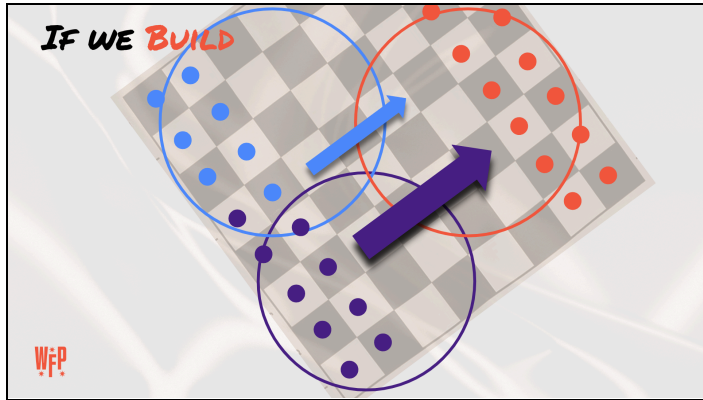
- We have the same players, but the field of play looks different.



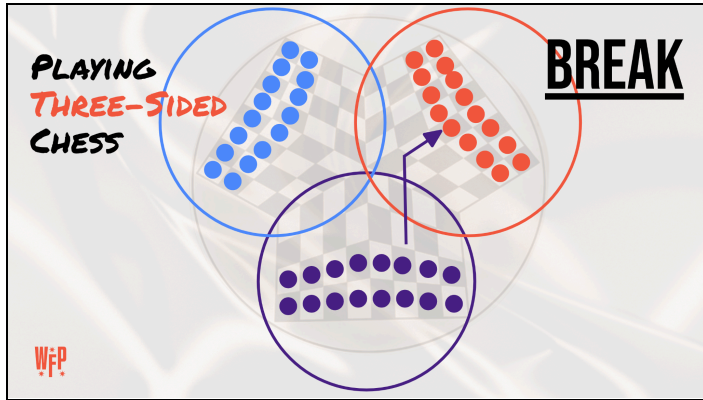
- Instead of being lined up as a united front with the Democrats facing the Republican Party, all three parties are facing one another now.
- In a second I want to talk to you about the power-building moves we can make in this scenario, but before I do that, I want to say something about where all this is heading so you know why we are going through all of this.



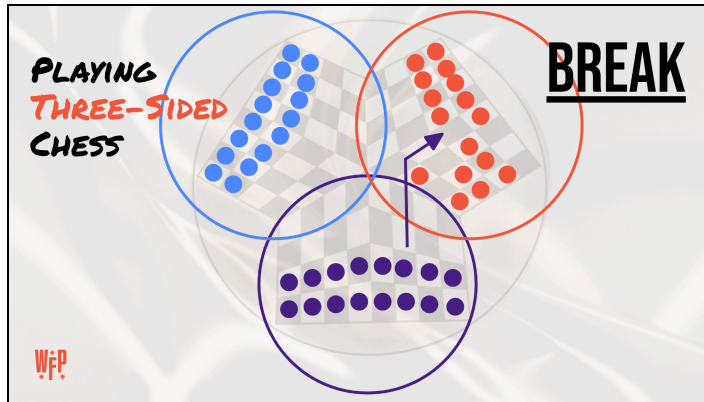
- Simply put, this is about how we are **BUILDING**. We have been very clear about what we are blocking. Everyone on the call just put it all on the line to block because the threat was so crystal clear.
- Now we need to have that same clarity about what we are building, somebody say power, so we are going to start digging in there today, and on future calls.



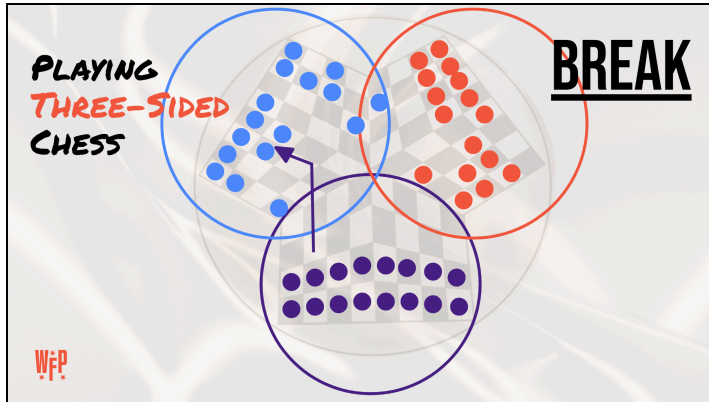
- Spoiler alert: our goal is not just to build for the sake of building. We envision a world where, in future elections, we are not the junior coalition partner, but actually in the **LEADING ROLE**.
- This is dependent on how much power we **BUILD in this moment**. We gotta build our strong social movements. We gotta build our own party. We gotta build our own self-determined communities.
- When we start to think in those terms, it brings a whole new level of seriousness to what we are talking about here. We are not content just throwing stones from the sidelines. We are saying to ourselves – and to others – that there will come a time when we are **LEADING** the charge.
- And in case you are sitting there thinking this won't ever happen in your lifetime, I invite you to remember that there is more to this than just presidential elections. In fact, we are **ALREADY** playing this kind of role in various cities, state legislatures, and even at the Congressional level.



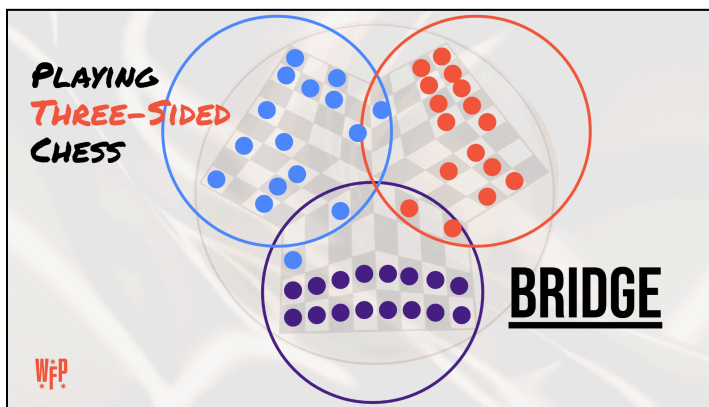
- So if that is our goal, then let's break down how we get there on this new chess board we are playing on.
- The first power move is that we need to look for strategic openings to **break** the Republican coalition.
- Trump succeeded in winning over – at least temporarily – more working class voters of increasingly diverse backgrounds. We need to look for opportunities to wedge the Republican party along those class lines.
- We have got to pick smart fights in the coming months – at all levels of government – that signal that whatever line Trump was selling about being a man of the people, it was actually bullshit.
- Trump is the boss who doesn't pay you on time. He's the landlord that raises your rent. He builds private clubs and golf courses for the rich to hang out in and laugh at all the rest of us, while planning how to make themselves even richer and us poorer, consolidating their power at our expense.



- How will we know if this break maneuver is working? I would propose a few metrics that we can use to measure our progress:
 - Are we seeing visible fractures in their coalition? Are they fighting amongst themselves?
 - Is our alignment of forces coming into tighter formation. Are we moving with greater clarity of purpose over the short, medium, and for the long term?
 - And finally, are we successfully exposing the bullshit of this rightwing populist narrative? Are the polls showing decreases in support? And are the “focus groups” of our friends and families registering a change? Are the people we know – our parents and cousins and high school friends – who maybe don’t follow this stuff as obsessively as we do...are they starting to notice that this is all a Trump con job?
- In using some of these breaking maneuvers on the Republicans, we almost certainly will be joined by the Democratic Party. They will be looking for ways to weaken the Republicans as they are thinking about strategy for the 2026 midterm elections. So we’re not arguing that this is the end of the united front.
- We will welcome this united effort with the Democrats because we recognize that the more directions this attack is coming from, the more likely it is to land squarely on our desired target.

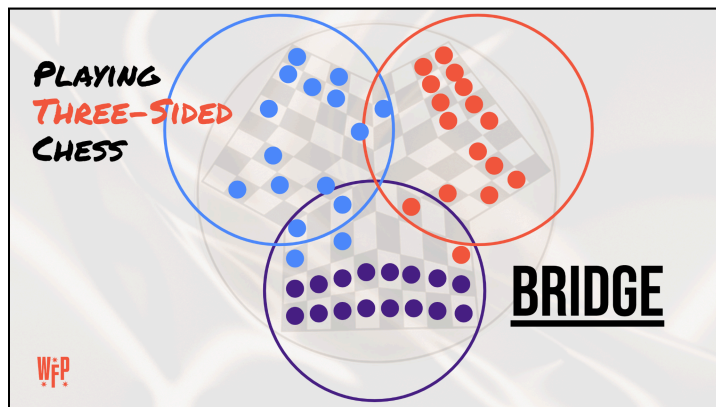


- But we won't stop there. We will also be looking for moves to wedge the corporate wing of the Democratic Party, and to minimize their influence over that party's direction.
- We will accomplish this through organizing, through candidate recruitment, and lifting up issues and picking election fights in the primaries to advance our position.

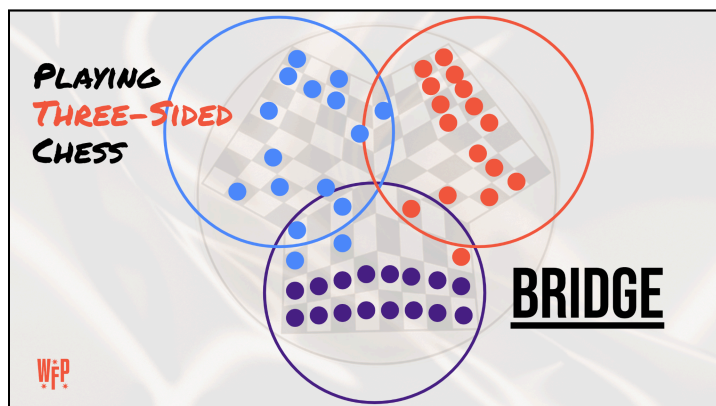


- The next power move we will be using is **bridging**.
- As Maurice Mitchell, the national director of the Working Families Party, said on last week's mass call, if you are sitting in a room where you agree with everyone, you are not sitting in a big enough room. If your idea of organizing is to only work with people who share the same ideas you have, then you don't have the stomach for the work ahead.
- Our task is to organize. We need to build bridges with working class

people across race and region. We know that many working class people are done with BOTH of the major parties. These are people we need to be talking to. We need to recruit them as leaders and candidates. We need to grow our base of people – with smart and patient organizing – who can challenge both the major parties because they are not looking out for us.



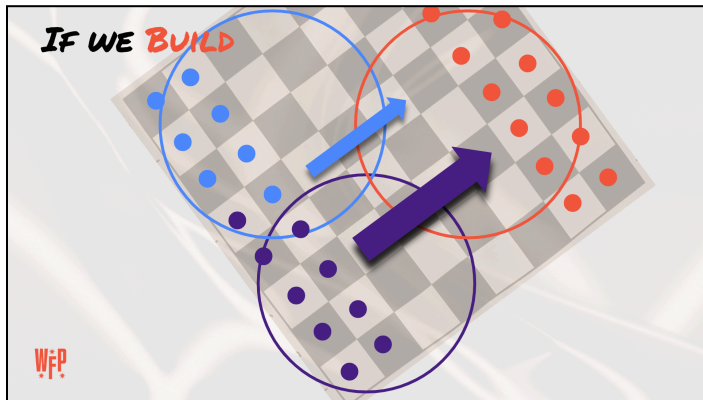
- And as time goes on, this work of bridging to working-class people will change the balance of forces on the power map. We will be pulling more and more people into our orbit.



- It will continue to change the balance of forces, until we are harder and harder to ignore.
- Of course, because this is a three-sided chess board, we should

also be prepared for attacks to come against us – from both the Republicans and the Democrats. They may even **team up** to attack us. This is something we have seen happen many times before in the WFP's 26 year history.

- But when that is happening, we will know that something we are doing is really working!



- So again...where is all of this heading? We need to be building right now in a serious way because there are lots and lots of people out there looking for something different, something new.
- There are millions of people out there who are done with this two party tug-of-war that is not making their lives any better, and they are looking for people they can trust with a plan to change it. We have to be those people, y'all!
- We are not content with being on the sidelines. We are not prepared to be the "junior coalition partner" forever. Our movements are ready to lead. It starts with what we do right now!

Watch the recordings and download the materials at:
www.workingfamilies.org/masscalls

MASS CALL #1: WHAT'S THE SCORE IN AMERICA

In this call we talk about the threat posed by the MAGA movement, and the need for a united front strategy to defeat it. We make clear that in the context of the ongoing political crisis in America, elections are a doorway, not a destination.

Download the Curriculum



(Sample slides from the curriculum)



- Now if you like these political education sessions we have been doing on these calls we are posting the recordings on the WFP website at www.workingfamilies.org/masscalls.
- And we've also put downloadable versions of all the slides and speakers notes for these political education sessions right there on the website. You can find the materials at www.workingfamilies.org/masscalls.

