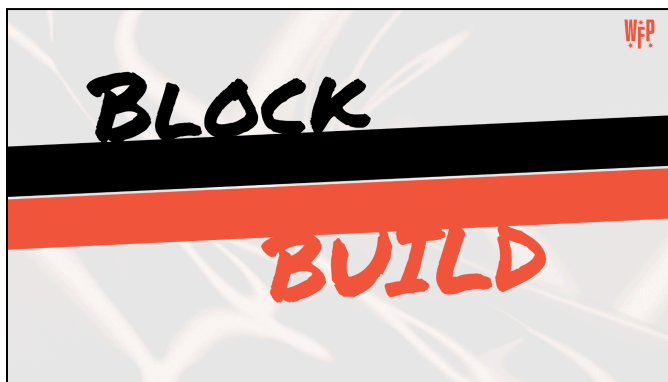


WORKING FAMILIES PARTY MASS CALLS

Mass Call #8 - Political Education Script



- For this political education session we are going to talk about blocking Trump and his MAGA loyalists from carrying through on their plan to subvert our election

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)

A screenshot of a YouTube video player. The video title is "Working Families Party Mass Calls". The video shows a woman with dark curly hair speaking. There are social media icons for YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter. The video is presented with a "CC" (Closed Captions) icon.

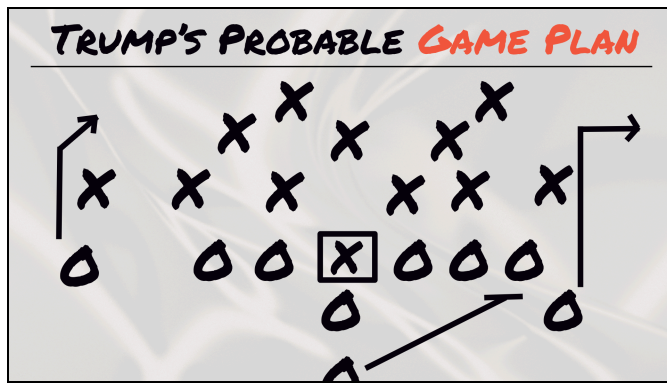
- Before we do that, if you like what you've been hearing in these sessions, or if you want to get caught up on things you've missed, we are posting the

recordings on the WFP website at www.workingfamilies.org/masscalls. We'll drop the link to that in the chat.

- And here's the cool thing...you can do more than just watch the videos. We've put downloadable versions of all the slides and speakers notes for these political education sessions right there on the website.
- So again, you can find the materials at www.workingfamilies.org/masscalls. We will drop that link for you in the chat one more time.



- Before we get into the details of what could happen between the election and Inauguration Day, let's remind ourselves of who we are dealing with here.
- At his core, Donald Trump is weak and he is deeply insecure. Every single one of us on this call knows somebody like Donald Trump. Maybe we grew up with them and they were the bully on the playground. Maybe they're a coworker or neighbor or family member.
- The point is, there is a certain type of person in the world who is so deeply unhappy, and has so much self-loathing, that they need to tear down everyone else around them. We can trust them only to look out for themselves, and though their behavior can be ridiculous, or sometimes laughable, some of us might feel a sense of compassion – or maybe pity – that someone goes through life carrying such pain that they are unable to do anything but hurt others.
- When these people are our family members we do our best to love and support them...or keep our distance if we have to. But when this person has power, we all know that they can be dangerous.



- We don't have to convince anyone on this call that Donald Trump is dangerous.
- If you are a normal person capable of feeling human emotion, then talking about this stuff can raise your anxiety levels. We don't talk about Trump's efforts to subvert our election because we are gluttons for punishment. And we certainly don't do it to say there is no chance for us to win this election – there certainly is, and we need to stop the literal or figurative doom scrolling that might lead us to think otherwise.
- The reason we talk about this stuff is because we need to introduce ourselves to the possibilities that could happen so we are able to fight back against it properly. If the first time we contemplate the ways that Trump and his people might steal this election is the moment they start to do it, it is already too late. We run the risk of being shocked and demobilized at the very moment we need to be calm, clear, and acting with clear leadership and determination.
- In 2020, we prepared in this same way, and thanks to this, our movement was part of the united front that blocked Trump when he was actively trying to subvert the clear outcome of the vote.
- Fortunately, WAY more people are aware of what Trump is capable of in 2024 than they were in 2020. But that does not mean we are fully immune to what could come in the next weeks and months. Because Trump's narcissism and violent authoritarian instinct has continued to mutate and take new forms. He and his people have continued to organize. And just because we beat them last time is no guarantee they'll be beaten again if we don't do everything in our power to make it so.
- Now's the time for us press onward with everything we've got y'all! We need to stay vigilant. And for that reason we are going to consider, for a bit, a worst case scenario. If we are mentally and physically prepared for this scenario, we will be prepared for anything.



- We are all fully aware that the first step of Trump and his MAGA loyalists' plan is to sow doubt about the integrity of our election. To hear them tell it, it is more believable that there is a massive 50 state conspiracy composed of the elected guardians of our state-based electoral infrastructure, combined with armies of malicious citizen volunteers who hand out "I voted" stickers and public servants who count votes. In their world it is more likely that there is a secretive cabal of agents conspiring to allow people who are not eligible to vote at an industrial scale. This cabal is made up of everyone from your mailman to the ghost of Hugo Chavez.
- To hear them tell it, this grand conspiracy is more believable than the simple explanation that what we are dealing with is a deeply narcissistic white man who is unable to accept his failings, and therefore leverages his individual power to get his way.
- So, having gas-lit a small but noisy percentage of Americans into believing in this grand conspiracy, Trump plans to step into the breach and declare himself the winner on election day...no matter what the votes say, no matter how many votes remain to be counted.
- This is not speculation. This is literally what he did in 2020. And everyone – including his allies – expect he will do it again in 2024.
- Then the wannabe king will turn his attention to pressuring election boards. He will file more lawsuits and injunctions. The point of these is not to win, but to gum up the works. And to sow more chaos and doubt.
- If he can delay the process of these boards certifying election results and cause them to miss deadlines, this strengthens his hand for the end game as he sees it...but more on that in a second.
- Trump's plan will then move to the state legislatures and governors. And there may be a power struggle between them. Let me explain...

- We all remember that Vice President Mike Pence famously refused to recognize the fake Trump electors that had come from some states, thus blocking Trump's attempt to bend the federal government to his will.
- However, a little noticed detail from that story is that Pence's own legal team actually argued that he would have had to recognize those electors *if they had been designated by their state legislatures*.
- John Eastman and Kenneth Chesebro, two Trump attorneys who were found guilty of their efforts to subvert the election, argued that state legislatures could overturn election results if they lacked faith in them. Eastman still claims this to be true.
- In four of the swing states, both chambers of the legislature are controlled by Republicans. In 2020, state legislatures – even those controlled by the Republicans – formed one of the first lines of defense against Trump's subversion efforts, which meant Rudy Giuliani, Sidney Powell, and other loyalists had to resort to increasingly theatrical methods to identify fake electors. The question is whether state legislatures will hold firm in 2024 like they did in 2020. It will depend on the kind of pressure they feel, and who it is coming from.
- On the other side of the ledger, five of the seven swing states have Democratic Governors.
- The federal law that governs how this process is to unfold was recently amended by Democrats to close loopholes that Trump tried to exploit in 2020. One thing that Congress did when they amended the law is state that it is Governors – not legislatures – who have the power to make the final determination on who the electors from the state should be.
- So what we are looking at is the potential for a power struggle between legislatures and governors. All of this could end up in the courts. And even if it all goes nowhere, it still fits neatly into Trump's narrative which is designed to sow chaos.



- So where does Congress come in?
- The very first thing to say here is that it will be the NEW Congress that administers the process in January. So this guy, Speaker Mike Johnson, could be in the minority by then with very little power to do anything.
- If Republicans were to hold onto the House, it is also the case that – given this Republican Party – they might have a different Speaker...again.
- But for this worst case scenario, let's assume it is Mike Johnson. Johnson, of course, made a mark in his career by being one of the people in Congress who actively supported Trump's claims of a stolen election in 2020.
- So what is the worst case scenario? There is a narrow path – and certainly not an easy one – that Trump could follow to overturn an election result he does not like via Congress.
- It would start with Republicans retaining control of the House. It could escalate with Trump and his loyalists spending November and December increasing the pressure on the state legislatures of, say, Wisconsin, Georgia, or North Carolina to send delegations of fake delegates to cast votes for him, even if the popular vote went the other way. He would, of course, do this in the context of the distrust that he and his allies have been sowing in the election for months.
- Kamala Harris – in her role as sitting Vice President – would oversee the process on January 6th, but the process itself would happen in the House Chamber. Johnson is playing coy, saying only that he will “follow the Constitution.” But he is not saying whether he means the interpretation of Trump lawyers who believe the Constitution gives state legislatures the right to overturn the popular vote, or whether he means the opinion of the mainstream legal community who does not believe state legislatures have that power.
- In other words, Johnson is refusing to say whether he thinks the Electoral Count Act – a law passed by Congress and amended by Congress – is binding on Congress.
- In this situation Speaker Johnson could force a Constitutional crisis. He could force votes in the House on slates of fake electors and lobby behind the scenes for people to accept the fake electors. He could allow hours of conspiracy-theory laden debate on the House floor to prevent a vote. Or he could just gavel Congress out of session.

- In any of these situations, there would be huge legal battles. And these battles would quite likely end up in front of the Supreme Court.
- If through all of this neither candidate is able to secure a 270 delegate majority of the Electoral College, then it would trigger something called a “contingent election” in the House. Each state delegation would get one vote. Republicans control 26 delegations, Democrats control 22, with two others evenly split.
- So in theory, this means that the Republicans can force a situation where there is no clear Electoral College winner, they can use their slim majority to vote using an alternative procedure which has only been used three times – in 1801, 1825, and 1837.
- So this is getting wild. It would take Republican office holders breaking under the pressure of a wannabe dictator, and it would take brazen and open lawlessness on the part of people in deciding roles, like Mike Johnson in Congress, or people in similar powerful positions in the states.
- In short, this would be a coup.

THE GOOD NEWS

- 1

Trump does not control the machinery of government the way he did in 2020.
- 2

Congressional Democrats amended the law dictating how the mechanics of vote counting will happen, clearing up ambiguity that Republicans tried to exploit in 2020.
- 3

The NEW Congress will oversee the procedure. If we win back the House it would be very hard for Republicans to advance procedurally.
- 4

Trump can't do this alone. We have a decentralized system, and even though parts of it are controlled by his allies they are still subject to public pressure.

- Okay, that was a lot. Let's just take a breath.
- Again, we don't go through this to raise alarm unnecessarily. But I think recent history has shown that we should not take any of this for granted. And again, if we only start thinking and planning for the details of an attempted coup like this when it is already happening, it will be too late.
- And...there IS some good news!
- First, Trump is not the sitting President. Unlike in 2020, when he had the vast power of the federal government at his disposal, when he tried to pressure the Department of Justice to bend to his will, and when he had the advantage of being able to lock the doors of the federal bureaucracy from the inside, he is not in that position now.

- Second, the federal law that spells out how a presidential election should be conducted has been amended by Congress to remove many of the ambiguities and loopholes that Trump tried to exploit in 2020.
- For Trump to be able overturn an election result he does not like in Congress, he will need Republicans to retain – and possibly grow – their majority in the House of Representatives.
- So just in case you were sitting there thinking to yourself that down ballot races don't matter...you should reflect on the role that both the balance of forces in Congress and in state legislatures means for this process.
- All roads lead – again – to January 6th. This is just three days AFTER the newly elected Congress will have taken office.
- And finally, even though Trump is powerful, he can not do any of this alone. While we can't rely on the system holding by itself – especially after it was strained to almost breaking the last time – there are people and institutions along the way that have to go along with Trump – and they are subject to public pressure.

THE BAD NEWS

- 1 Trump and his allies have been learning from the past and preparing.
- 2 Trump has not received consequences for last time. He is motivated by trying to avoid those consequences.
- 3 Trump and his loyalists have been laying the groundwork for a campaign of disinformation in order to sow chaos. This is both at the level of the elites and among his "ground troops."
- 4 We don't know what we don't know.

- But there is also bad news...
- Trump and his loyalists have spent the last four years preparing for this moment. They have learned from the past.
- Over the last four years Trump did not receive consequences for his actions to overturn the election in 2020. He is desperately motivated to make sure that stays the case.
- Trump's campaign to sow chaos has gotten more sophisticated. In our last Mass Call we talked about the role that the Heritage Foundation is playing to create the narrative at the level of the political elite in Washington DC that there is a

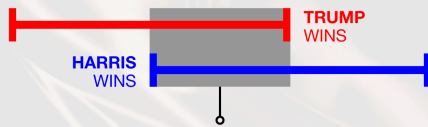
widespread conspiracy to steal the election from Trump.

- It is also the case that Trump's ground troops are not deterred. They may be regular activists...or, more frighteningly, the people who are connected to violent underground organizations and militias...and they are still talking about planning their next coup attempt.
- And finally, we don't know what we don't know. That may sound obvious, but think of it this way: in 2020 we all prepared for Trump to try to steal the election. They tried at election boards and counting facilities and we were ready. They tried in the courts, and we were ready. They tried to sow their narrative in the media and we were ready. And yet far too many people were STILL shocked when Trump loyalists resorted to violent insurrection on January 6th.
- Are we ready if an election worker is hurt? Are we ready if a group of people breaks into a county clerk's office and burns ballots? Are we ready if a militia occupies a state capitol? If national guardsmen defect? We don't know what the details will be of the thing that shocks people, but we should be prepared for SOMETHING to be shocking— no matter how much we prepare.
- So we need to expect the unexpected. And throughout it all we need to keep our minds, bodies, and spirits firmly grounded. We need to not believe and spread rumors and we need to lean into our organization and relationships – which is the source of our power – to get us through this.



- Okay, now we want to shift gears a bit and break this kind of scenario down into the basic ingredients.
- We have maybe felt the feelings of what a scenario like that could create. Now we want to understand the details of how they might try to steal the election on a more technical level, including a key concept and the timeline we need to work with.

MARGIN OF CONTESTATION



The size of the **gray area** between a clear election victory or loss.

- A core concept I want everyone to remember going into this election is that there is a “margin of contestation.”
- What does this mean? Simply put, it is the gray areas between a clear election victory and a loss. The bigger that gray area, the more room there is for funny business to happen.
- And obviously, the more we do the work to turn out the vote and win by a lot, the better off we are going to be.

THE MARGIN OF CONTESTATION IS MORE THAN JUST NUMBERS

- It is influenced by who is **perceived** as the winner or loser.
- The perception can be created by
 - Actions of the candidates and their campaigns
 - Media reporting
 - Public protests and actions
- It is often decided in the “court of public opinion”

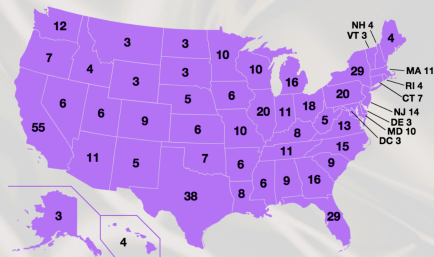


- The margin of contestation is more than just numbers. It is about perception.
- This perception will be determined by what the candidates and their campaigns do. We already know what Trump and his campaign will do.
- The media narrative will play a big role. In 2020, much of the wind was taken out of Trump’s sails when Fox News called Arizona for Joe Biden. This public narrative of what is going on is going to be critical, and we have to do whatever we can to shape it.
- And this is where we come in. The degree to which we are prepared to be in the streets if and when needed will make a big difference, because how the details shake out during this gray period will be determined in the court of public opinion.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE BASICS

- So this is that time every four years when we learn again about the Electoral College, the current system we have of electing a president in the United States.
- We, of course, know about the Electoral College's roots in the founding of this country and the desire of states that enslaved people to protect the institution of slavery.
- We can have a deeper conversation about that at another time, but what I want to talk about today is the technical side of how they might try to subvert this election via the Electoral College process.

THE 538 ELECTORS BY STATE



- So the most basic understanding of the Electoral College is that each state has a certain number of “electors.” There are 538 of them all together, and a presidential candidate needs 270 of them to vote for them in order to win the presidency.
- States each have the ability to determine how those electors should vote, but in every state they’ve passed laws that the electors should vote in accordance with the will of the popular vote in their states.

WHAT COULD GO **WRONG**

IN A "NORMAL" ELECTION:

- State election officials finish counting the ballots.
- The governor certifies the results.
- The governor notifies Congress which candidates' electors will go to the Electoral College to cast votes for their candidate.

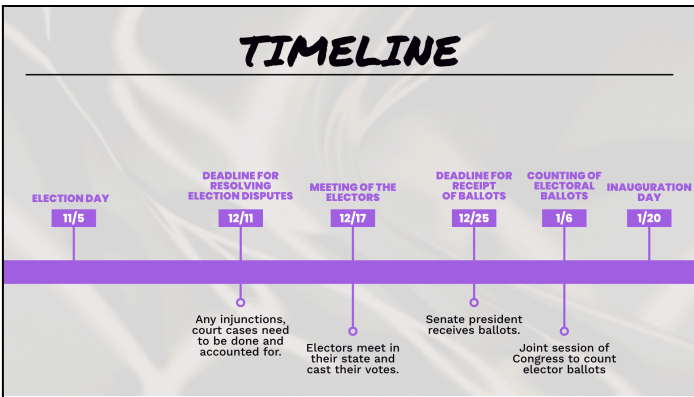
IN A CONTESTED ELECTION:

- There is a dispute over the outcome of voting.
- The governor may not be able to certify the results, or the governor does certify the results ...
- ... but the state legislature decides to challenge this by sending a competing set of electors to the Electoral College.
- Then Congress must get involved.

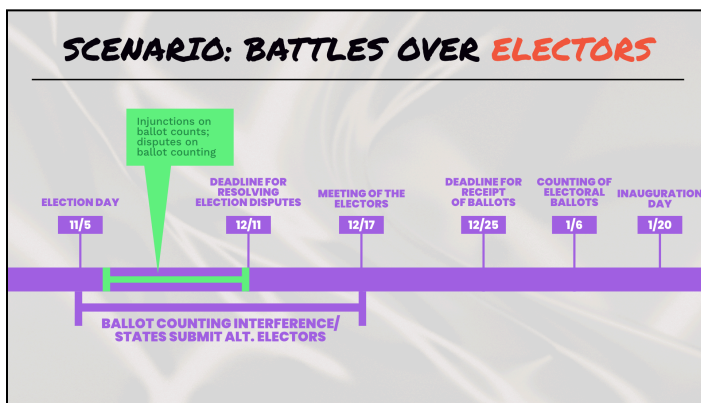
- In a normal election, the process is pretty ho-hum. State election officials count the ballots, the governors certifies the results, and the electors gather at their state capitol for what is usually a ceremonial event. These electors are usually local party celebrities and leaders, and doing this is understood as both a bit of an honor and a civic duty.
- In a contested election, the governor may not be able to certify the results because of legal challenges.
- Or the legislature may decide to pick a fight by trying to take the power to certify the electors out of the hands of their governor. This could provoke a crisis that could force the issue to Congress.

2024 ELECTION SCENARIOS

- Let's get even more specific...let's talk about the timeline of how all of this can play out over the next couple months.



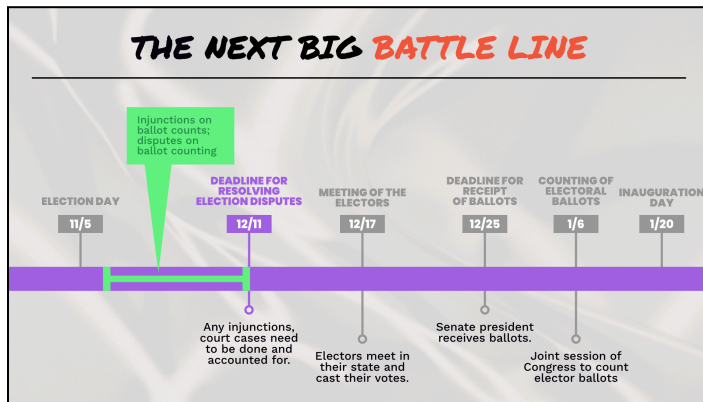
- Here is a look at the overall timeline.
- Election day is, of course, on November 5th.
- Then there is a little over a month that will go by where election disputes could be filed and resolved by December 11th.
- The electors will then meet in each of their state capitols to officially cast their electoral votes for President on December 17th.
- The results of that vote needs to be sent to Congress by December 25th.
- And then Congress certifies those electoral votes on January 6th.



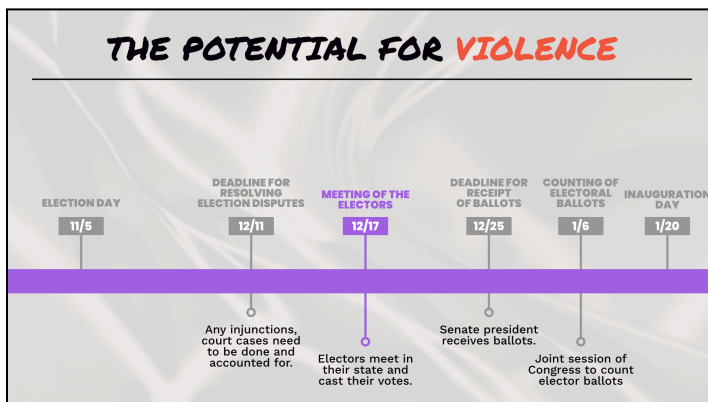
- So the very first scenario we have to prepare for is one that we have already seen before. We expect Trump and his lawyers around the country to file as many disputes as possible to disrupt the counting process.
- Again, the goal here is not really to win these cases. Rather, they are trying to gum up the works and add to the narrative that the

election was stolen.

- Their hope is to push this process past the deadline of December 11th in order to try to create more daylight for them to pressure legislatures to act against the will of their voters and/or to act before the will of their voters is actually known. This gives them space to try to name a group of fake electors.



- So this means that after November 5th, the next big deadline for us to be tracking is December 11th. We need to be ready to push back quickly and decisively against these efforts to gum up the works and prevent the votes from being counted by this legal deadline.




- It is really not being debated anymore that there could be violence in this year's process. January 6th from four years ago put to rest any idea that Trump and his loyalists are above taking it this far.
- We need to be prepared for that violence to happen earlier in the process, and to be more diffused than one large protest in Washington DC.

- A place that many experts believe is particularly susceptible to political violence are the meetings of the electors on December 17th.
- In the past, these meetings would happen in public and ceremonial places like the rotunda of a state capital building. But already, because of credible threats, many states have decided to take more precautions.
- Still, this may not be enough. We need to be prepared in states to deal with this kind of distributed violent disruption. Whether we are talking about protestors who get out of control, or militia groups with premeditated plans for violence, or both, we don't know.
- But these state-level processes present the kinds of “soft targets” that may be particularly vulnerable to attack.

TRUMP'S TACTICS:
WHAT MIGHT THEY BE IN THIS PERIOD?

- Create a sense of chaos.
- Use legal challenges to disqualify ballots.
- Possibly convince Republican election officials to stop ballot counts.
- Encourage his supporters to disrupt ballot counts and incite violence.



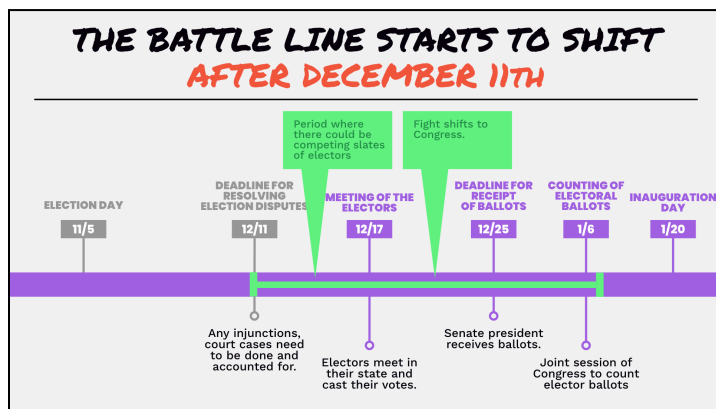
- So to summarize...here is what we should expect the tactics of Trump and his loyalists to be.
- They will try to create a sense of chaos. We need to be prepared to get and stay grounded. We need to not believe or spread rumors and lean into our organization and relationships to counteract this. We need to challenge these narratives if they start to infect media coverage or if pundits start to engage in “both-siderism.” That’s the idea where the opinion of a public servant trying to administer the law and count the vote in a professional and politically neutral way is held up as “one opinion,” and the politically-calculated talking points of right wing PR professionals are held up as “another opinion.”
- We need to let elected officials and state legislatures know we are watching what they do. We need to raise the price for elected

officials now if they try to aid and abet a coup by forcing vote counting to be stopped, or by naming fake electors, or by otherwise meddling in the process.

- And we need to be prepared for attempts they will make to use violence and intimidation to bend the system to their will.

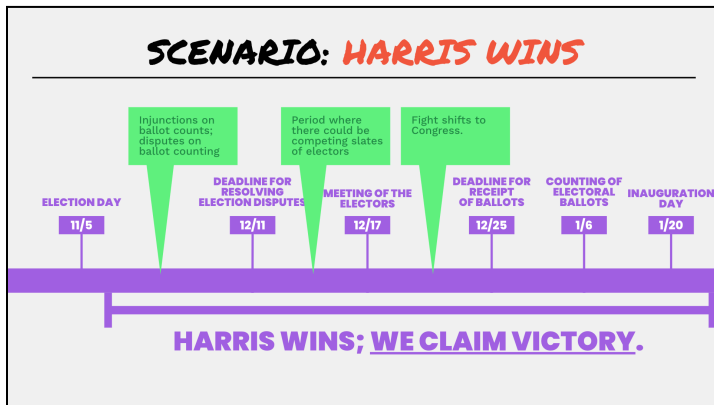


- So what things should we be keeping in mind as we think about our own game plan?
- Let's look back at the timeline.



- We need to be aware of the phases we will go through. At first it will be all about local work to make sure that vote counting processes continue.
- But as we move into December the battle lines will start to shift. After the window has closed for disputes of ballots on December 11th, then attention will turn to which electors will send their votes to Congress.

- We will simultaneously need to be keeping our eye on that process of selecting delegates and preventing any effort to select a slate of fake electors, and we will need to be letting Congress know that we are also watching what they do.



- And even though we almost certainly won't know this on election night, if we are in a situation where the election does get called for Kamala Harris, then we need to claim victory and keep claiming it.
- We need to celebrate what we have accomplished, and we need to make sure that through our joy and our vigilance that these election subversion zombies are dealt with once and for all!

