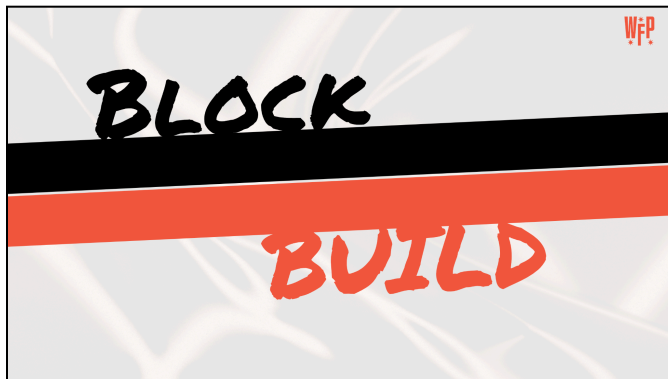


WORKING FAMILIES PARTY **MASS CALLS**

Political Education Script - Mass Call #13



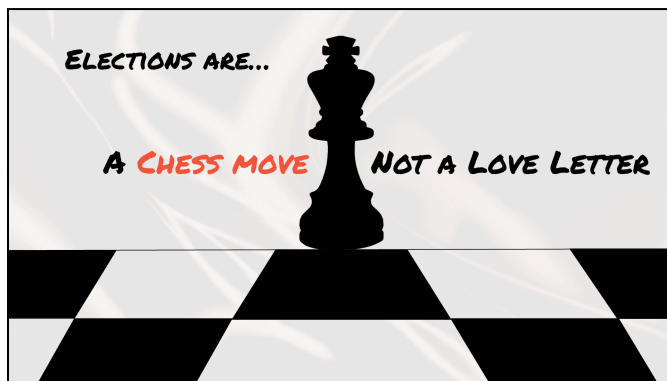
- WFP has now done thirteen mass calls. Each time I have had the privilege to beam into your computer screen, your tablet, or your phone, and at least once on your tv screen. And I thank you for not considering it robbery to spend this time with me!
- We started these calls during the primaries and kept rolling through the twists and turns of the general election. Now we have been continuing in this post-election period as well.
- Thousands of you have been tuning in. And if you have been following along regularly you will remember that we have been in the middle of doing a deep dive on the idea of POWER. We have been talking about the kinds of power we need to build, how we measure our power, and how we wield power effectively and in line with our values.

- We are going to get back to that theme, but today we are going to take a bit of a detour because we are again joined by our friends and allies that you heard from at the top of this call.
- To start, like we always do in these political education sessions, we want to take some time to go back over some of the material we have covered on past calls to make sure we are all on the same page. If you are joining us for the first time – again, welcome! And if you have been on every one of the past thirteen mass calls we have done, consider this your quick review!

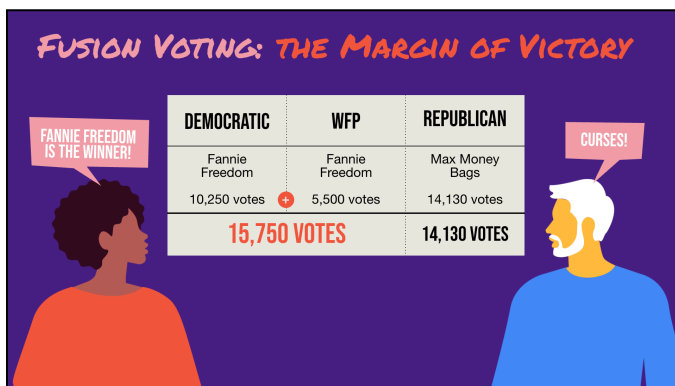


- We start every one of our political education sessions with this picture. This is a picture of the current political crisis in the United States. This picture was true before the election, and it continues to be true after the election.
- In this picture, regular working class people, like many folks on this call and like our friends and our relatives...are left with a bad set of choices. We have a Republican party that is under the control of an authoritarian faction. We have a Democratic Party that is too much influenced by corporate forces and catering to the interests of affluent voters.
- And we have a two party system that limits our room to make a lot of big moves. Our political system works as a zero-sum equation. If the Republican Party loses strength, it mechanically translates into strength for the Democratic Party and vice versa. If Democrats lose support it directly translates into strength for Republicans. This makes it really hard for working people that are angry and want to punish elected officials and parties without unintended consequences.
- Let's put an even finer point on this picture...we have already seen media revealing its true colors as CORPORATE media and media owned by billionaires. They are cozying up to Trump or buckling under the pressure of his threats and lawsuits.

- We have seen more and more of the tech sector – supposedly a bastion of big-money support for Democrats – falling in line with Trump.
- And even within elected Democrats, we have to deal with an **ideological** opposition to fighting for working people. For example, even as they are both leaving office and have no need to run for election again, our so-called friends Kristin Sinema and Joe Manchin are using their last bits of power in the Senate to hurt working people. They are blocking Biden’s appointment to the National Labor Relations Board. This will allow Republicans to have power over unions and it will make the lives of working people that much harder.
- This is not all happening by accident. It is because powerful forces have either completely or in part taken over BOTH of the major parties. They are clear on their class interests...and they are NOT our interests! All of this is contributing to the crisis in our political system that people everywhere can see plain as day.



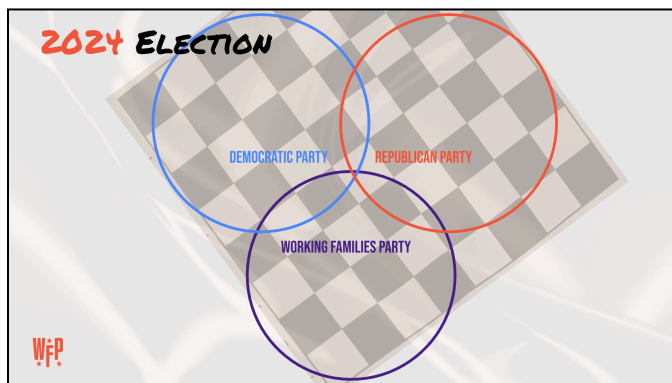
- In this context – with few choices and many structural limitations – at WFP we talk about the fact that elections are a chess move, not a love letter to a politician. We have to be strategic and we have to be thinking many moves ahead.



- On past calls we have also introduced the idea of fusion voting. Fusion voting allows us to imagine what it would look like if we were making our electoral

moves on a slightly more favorable chess board.

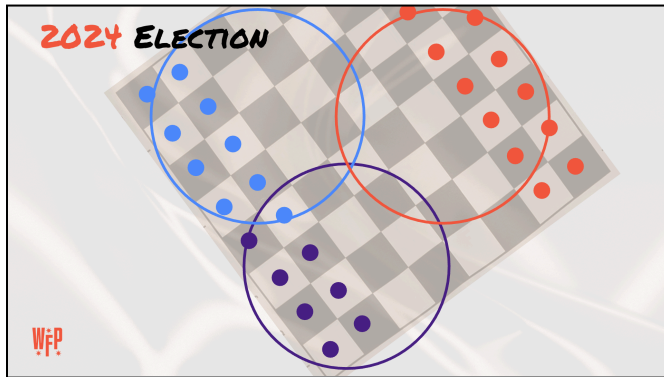
- Fusion is a system of voting that still exists in several states in the US. It used to exist everywhere before the major parties got wise and ganged up to get rid of it over one hundred years ago!
- With fusion voting we would not have to worry about the “spoiler effect” because we could support the candidate that is closer to our values and then fuse our votes for that candidate in order to make common cause against the MAGA threat.
- Let’s break this down a bit: Another way to think of fusion is that it allows us to **block** the really bad guy on the ballot, while still **building** our own electoral power in every election.
- What do I mean by that? In this example, you can see that WFP is supporting a Democrat named Fannie Freedom against the Republican candidate Max Money Bags.
- Why this is interesting is that this nomination actually SHOWS UP ON THE BALLOT that every voter gets. And voters get to vote for Fannie Freedom on the WFP ballot line if they want, and ALL of those votes count for Fannie Freedom.
- And like in this example, quite often it happens in states where we do have fusion, that the number of people who vote on the WFP ballot line actually end up being greater than the margin of victory in the race.
- So in the end we **blocked** Max Money Bags from winning, but in doing so we were also able to **build** and show our electoral strength. And I don’t know about you, but if I were a candidate and someone was responsible for delivering me the votes I needed to win my election, I might show up and listen to them!!



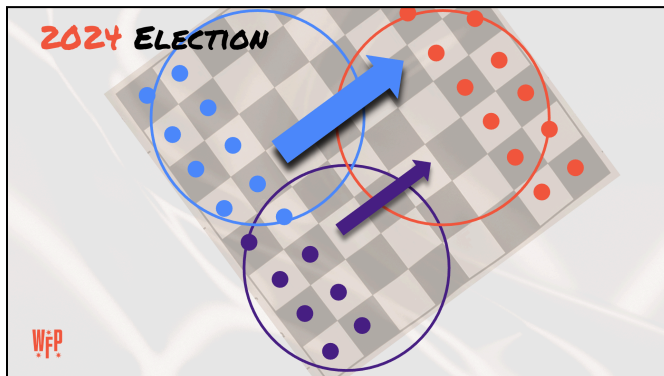
- So fusion voting is an example of one kind of chess move we can

make during elections. But like I said, it only exists in a few states right now because the major parties got together and banned it in most places.

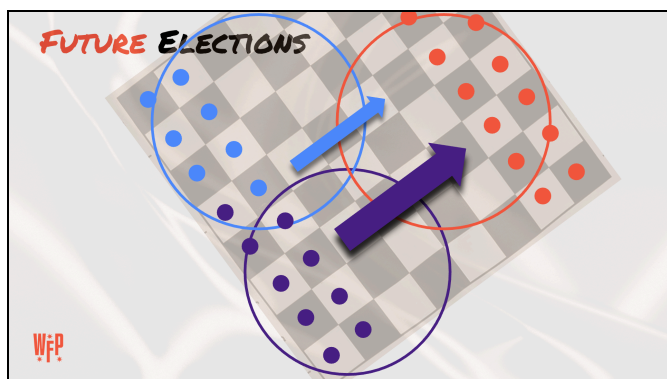
- Because of that, our electoral chess board is generally more two-dimensional.



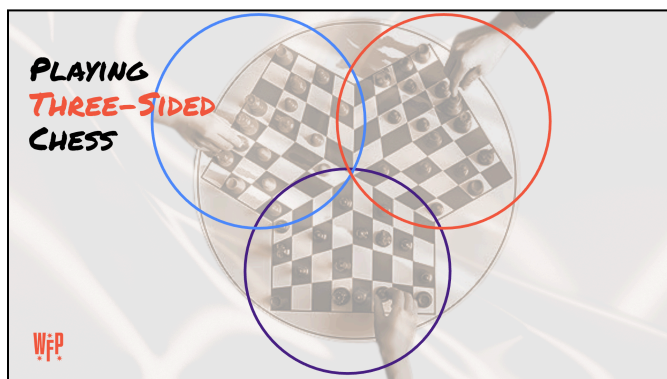
- And on that two-dimensional chessboard, at election time, we have to line up in formation and be part of a united front against the MAGA threat.



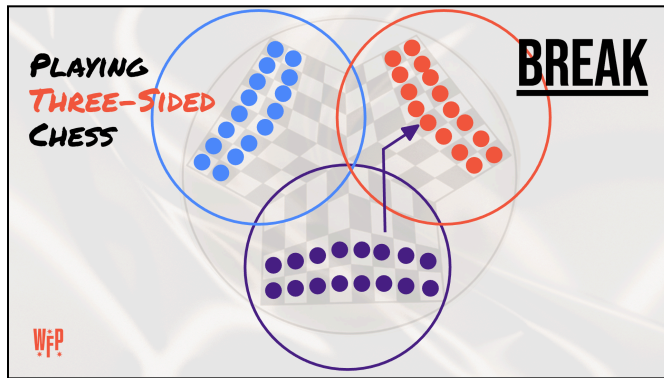
- Of course, in the last election, at the national level, we were the junior partner in the united front. That means, the Democratic Party had by far the most resources and they played the primary role in choosing – and then re-choosing! – their top-of-ticket candidate. Whether we liked it or not, they had control of the strategic direction of the campaign.



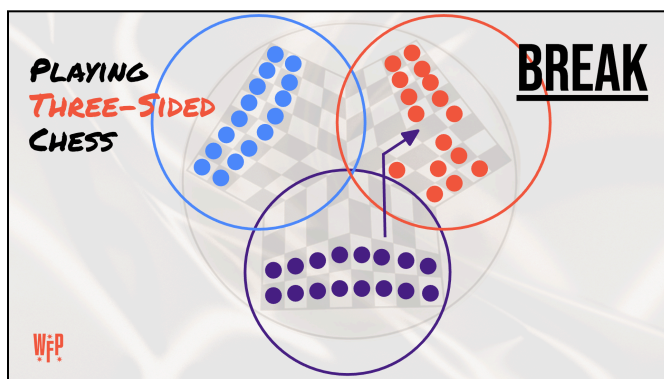
- We should not throw stones from the sideline. Our goal is to someday find ourselves in the **LEADING ROLE** in the united front. This is dependent on how much power we **BUILD in this moment**.
- And in case you are sitting there thinking this won't ever happen in your lifetime, I invite you to remember 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.



- On a past call we talked about the fact that now that the election is over, we find ourselves on a **three-dimensional** chess-board again.
- Three-sided chess is the same game as chess, except that instead of one opponent, we are playing against two. Sometimes we are going to be working with one of the other players in the game to advance our shared interests, but ultimately we are each holding down our own position.

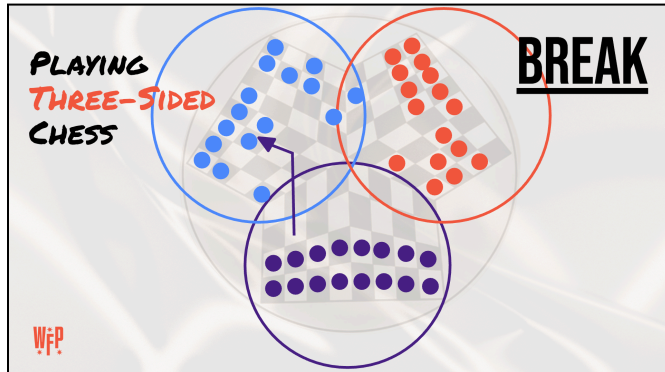


- From a WFP perspective, we have power moves to make on this new chess board. The first power move is that we need to look for strategic openings to **break** working class people away from the Republican coalition.
- We have got to pick smart fights in the coming months that signal that whatever lines Trump was selling about being a man of the people, about wanting to fix the economy in a way that benefits working families (and not just his billionaire buddies in the brologarchy) were 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 and laugh at the rest of us. He and his buddies are looking to make themselves richer and us poorer. They are building their power at our expense.

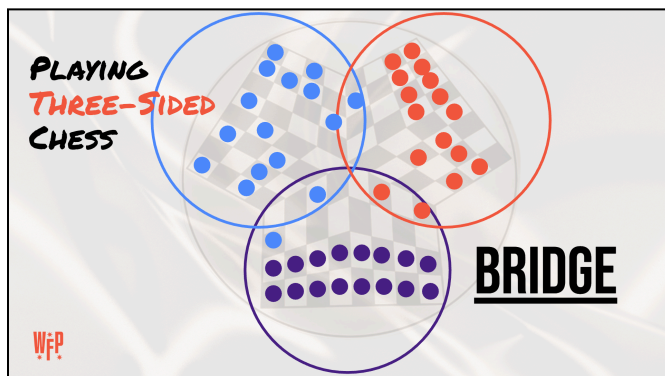


- In using some of these breaking moves on the Republicans, we almost certainly will be joined by the Democratic Party. They will be looking for ways to weaken the Republicans as they are thinking about strategy for the 2026 midterm elections.

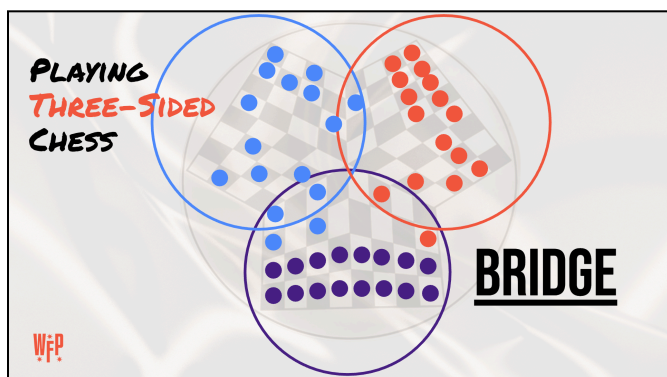
- From a WFP perspective, we will welcome this united effort with the Democrats because we recognize that the more directions this blocking is coming from, the more likely it is to land squarely on our desired target.



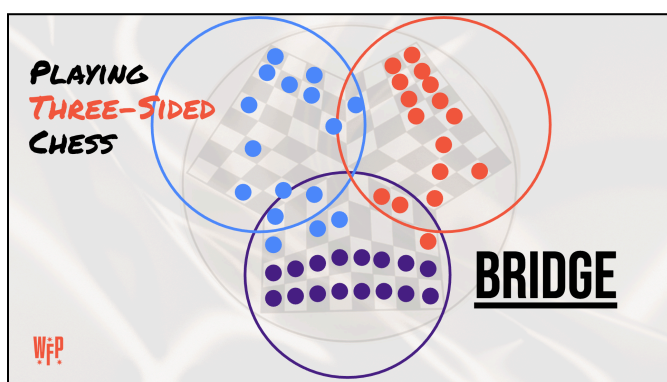
- But we won't stop there. We will also be looking for moves to wedge the corporate wing of the Democratic Party, and to minimize their influence over that party's direction.
- We will accomplish this through organizing, through candidate recruitment at the local level, and lifting up issues and picking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



- The next power move we will be using is **bridging**.
- 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 sick of politics and 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.



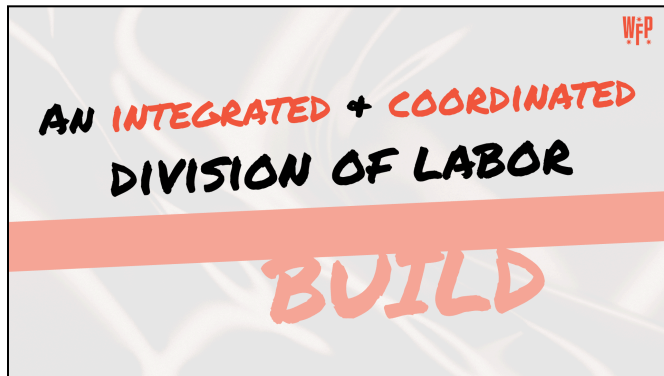
- And as time goes on, we will be pulling more and more people into our orbit.



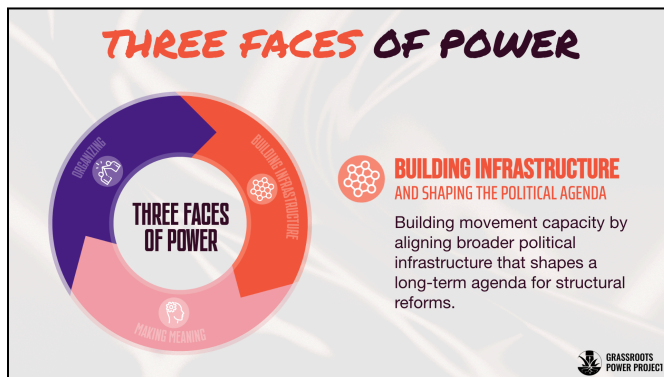
- We will become harder and harder to ignore.
- Of course, because this is a three-sided chess board, we should also be prepared for attacks to come against us – from both the Republicans and the Democrats. They may even **team up** to attack us. This is something we have seen happen many times before in the WFP's 26 year history.
- But when that's happening, we'll know that something we're doing is really working and we'll do our damndest to be prepared for it!
- This is just more reason for us to be thinking like chess players and planning many moves out. The path is not always clear, so we have to have the discipline to think and act strategically at all times.



- So whether or not you see yourself as being drawn to building a strong faction inside the Democratic Party, or you are drawn to the work of building an independent alternative, there is work for us to do together!
- Fascists depend on convincing us to give our power away and fall in line, that the fight is over and we lost. Fascists and corporate interests across parties would prefer that we spend more time fighting each other than building our power together. And while we must be clear-eyed about the threat, we must not do the fascists' work for them by giving them powers that we should be building for ourselves
- Trump wants to govern as a dictator, but he has the slimmest possible congressional majority and a grossly unpopular agenda. Winning an election with 49.9% of the vote (of those who voted) does not make him a Dictator for Life and does not make Project 2025 the law of the land.
- The truth is that political power resides in many places – from local, to state, to federal. To stave off the fascists, we must tap into that power in every corner of our country. We must organize ourselves to block their attacks, break MAGA's political strength, and build a winning majority coalition of our own. Somebody type, "our winning majority" in the chat! I felt that in my chest, y'all!
- No matter where you see yourself, we have to be committed right now to doing these things:
 - We have to **protect our people**.
 - We have to be prepared to **disrupt and disobey**.
 - We need to **defend our civic institutions**.
 - And we have to **build alternatives**.
- Leadership in this moment must come from regular people, not just politicians. We have concrete strategies and tactics that collectively will help us limit harm, win in 2026, rock out with our labor movement siblings on May 1st, 2028, throw MAGA out in November 2028, and build power for the next decade and beyond.



- In our next Mass Call on January 14th, we are going to keep talking about the work ahead. We are going to need to keep growing from the power being generated by calls like this to build an integrated and coordinated division of labor between organizations and people.
- We all have roles to play. And I hope you are starting to see what role you want to play!



- We are also going to keep digging into the concept of the POWER we have to build. We are going to look more deeply at the idea of the power of building movement infrastructure.
- This is the kind of infrastructure that allows us to align a whole lot of different organizations and issues into a unified front that has the ability to set the political agenda. It helps us push for real structural changes to our economy, our political system, and the system of who has power and who doesn't in this country.
- We are not talking about “super-organizations” or “Frankenstein coalitions” of convenience either. We are talking about doing the long term organizing work of knitting together something that has a real basis of unity. Something that allows for difference of analysis and tactics, but which is unified by a shared strategy and bonds of trust.

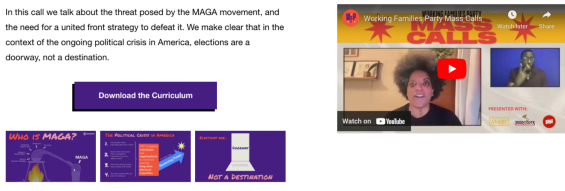
- The right wing has sometimes been very good at this kind of power-building work, and we need to get a whole lot better.
- So get registered and stay tuned for the next call on January 14th!

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)

- As always, 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. We'll drop the link to that in the chat.
- 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. We will drop that link for you in the chat one more time.

