Protect Our Vote Presentation

0:00-0:03

- **[slide 1]** Every election season, we say and we hear that “this is THE most important election of our lives.” And every year over the past decade that has been true. Those of us who value democracy, who racial, gender, climate and economic justice, who value peace and fairness, who want our government to serve the many and not the few are in THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES against a coalition of authoritarians, billionaires and White Christian Nationalists. This coalition rules with fear and oppression, and wants our government to enrich the wealthy few at the expense of the rest of us. They have shown in their lawlessness and willingness to kill us through billions of dollars in funding cuts or even by guns in broad daylight.
- **ASK:** What are some examples of how you’ve seen the other side's values manifest in the last 2 years? (How is the other side taking action to create their vision of the world?)

0:03-0:08 Billionaires’ Playbook / Peoples’ Playbook

- Today, we’re going to talk about why the November midterm elections are a critical opportunity to turn the tide in our movement’s favor.
- **[slide 2]** I know you all value democracy but imagine for a second that you’re a president of a huge country. And you’ve been making billions of dollars in personal profit off being president. And you love power and want to keep that power! Unfortunately for you, there are elections coming up. With these elections coming up, **how do you hold onto your power?** Shout out your responses!
    - Take 3 responses
    - You would be terrifying as authoritarians! Glad you’re in the fight with us.
- **[slide 3]** And you’re completely correct. The main takeaway here is that authoritarians have 2 main strategies to ensure they win.
- **[slide 4]** The first strategy is to break a lot of rules, sow chaos and confusion, and change the rules in their favor. Most of this will happen before the election, and much has already been happening.
    - **ASK: What are some examples of ways you’ve seen them do this so far?**
- **[slide 5]** Their second strategy is to reject the election results. If this happens, it will happen after the election.
    - **ASK: What are some ways they might do that?**
- **[slide 6]** We don’t expect them to cancel elections outright. Instead, they’ve been working hard to cheat to secure the results they want.
- **[slide 7]** All of this is based on the Big Racist Lie. The Big Racist Lie is that the 2020 election was stolen.
    - **ASK: WHY IS IT** a racist lie?
    - [The subtext is that we can’t trust Black and Brown people; they voted illegally for Biden to win and thus we must ensure they never vote again.]
- **[slide 8]** We know that voting alone won’t solve everything. And the truth here is that they are terrified of people like us voting. They are doing everything they can to make

sure we don't get in their way of seizing more power and control. Voting is one step towards developing a multiracial democracy, and the world we all want to see.

- **[slide 9]** Let's take a breath together. This is heavy stuff. Now let's move into the plan to actually do something about it. Trump is not the first authoritarian ruler; many countries around the world are facing similar or much worse repressive conditions. The good news is: There is a PEOPLE'S PLAYBOOK!
- **[slide 10]** Our pro-democracy movement's strategy:
    - **Maximize turnout.** Make the election **Too Big to Rig**. It is harder to steal when it's not close.
    - **Prepare for Mass Mobilization to defend the vote.** We will need to be organized at a scale necessary to interrupt the economy on November 4 and the days afterward. We must begin that preparation work now.
- Let's move through these one by one

00:08-00:10: Maximize turnout

- **[slide 11] Maximize turnout.** Make the election **Too Big to Rig**. It is harder to steal when it's not close. The MOST EFFECTIVE WAY we can turn people out to vote is to have conversations with people we already know who might not vote. This means each of us taking responsibility for talking to 3-10 people in our lives who might not vote, about voting this November. Then, we get as many other people as we can to organize their own 3 people to vote ("vote tripling").
- We are also urging people to VOTE EARLY! That way, your vote is cast ahead of any attempts to disrupt election day itself. And it frees you up to volunteer on election day!
- *SHARE HERE ABOUT ANY SPECIAL TURNOUT ORGANIZING YOUR INSTITUTION IS DOING - Faithful Fridays, Souls to the Polls, etc.*

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00:12-00:14: Mobilize at mass scale and disrupt the economy if the election is stolen

- **[slide 12]** It is not likely that Chicago will see major interference in our elections. **Ask: So why would we take action here?**
    - **[**Chicago is a hub of the global economy. If we can interrupt business as usual, if we can stop goods from flowing, we can cost big corporations who are in cahoots with this regime a lot of money.]
- If they cheat or interfere or rig the rules in Michigan, or Georgia, or Pennsylvania, we don't need to travel there, we need to take to the streets right here in Chicago. Our goal is to move the spotlight. To make the election sabotage visible across the country and make it politically and economically costly within hours, not days. Imagine if hundreds of thousands of people occupied Wall Street in NYC, LaSalle Street or the rail yards in Chicago, and Hollywood in LA. We need sustained mobilization across the country that creates enough economic pressure on key corporations so that they call the White House and tell him he needs to stand down and respect the will of the people.
- **[slide 13]** That is what prompted the beginning of ICE's withdrawal from Minnesota. After the day of Truth and Freedom on Jan 23, the largest economic blackout this

country has seen in decades, corporate CEOs began calling the white house and asking them to calm things down.

- **[slide 14]** How do we get to mass mobilizations? We build our communications infrastructure starting TODAY. Imagine you're watching the election results come in, and there is breaking news, and it's one of the scenarios we discussed today. You're going to reach for your phone wanting to know what to do. Let's have our systems in place to be ready to communicate with each other right away and able to move TOGETHER! There is power and safety in numbers.
- We all saw how rapid response networks kept us safer during Midway Blitz. Being connected to neighbors through trusted communication networks is a vital part of the infrastructure.
- ONE Northside is investing in this by developing our own broadcast channel that we will exclusively use to send out updates about election defense work based on information we are getting from a coordinated table with organizations across the city. This will include calls to action, key voting deadlines, and verified information about election interference.
- We recommend that your congregation/neighborhood/community also develops a Signal chat. The point of developing this chat is to have a way to connect with the people you know so that you can share critical information and move together if and when the time comes.

00:14-00:20:00 Closing and next steps

- During Midway Blitz we saw terrifying and heinous ways our federal government treated our people in broad daylight. We also saw the beautiful and incredible ways everyday people came together to protect and care for one another. We've done it before and we can do it again.
- Please complete a voter pledge card so that we know you are ready to vote this November. [wait for one minute]
    - You'll notice that the second pledge is a pledge to talk to people you know to help maximize our impact! Can xxx people tell me how many people you wrote down and how you're going to reach out to them?
    - If you want to volunteer on election day, we will connect you with opportunities.
    - Finally, check the last box to join our signal thread so we can be ready to communicate and move together when the time calls for it.
- **If not doing the spectrogram:** Thank you so much for coming everyone. As the pledge says, we make our future! I am grateful to be part of this community and look forward to seeing the community and beauty we will create together even amidst these dark times.
- **If doing the spectrogram:**

00:20-00:30 Spectrogram [optional depending on time] *(if on Zoom and for people who are unable to move, use italicized instructions)*

- We've been in our heads, now lets get into our bodies.

- **[slide 10]** This is a lot! Who here has done a spectrogram activity before? [pause] Great! This is a tool we use to see how everyone is feeling; remember that no matter where you fall on this we want you in this work. We're going to get up and move around a little bit. *If you're unable to move around or if you're on zoom, we'll have instructions for you as well.*
- Let's learn how to do this! We're going to pose three statements. This side of the wall means you totally agree, that side of the wall means you totally disagree. You can stand anywhere on this spectrum *or hold up fingers anywhere from 1 to 5.* Does that make sense to people? [do any clarification necessary]
- Amazing! We're going to get right into it with the first of three prompts.
    - **[slide 11]** I feel clear about the consequences for my own life if Trump and his regime block people from voting and seize more power and control. [right is yes, left is no]
        - Can I hear from someone on each side of the spectrum and maybe someone right in the middle?
        - **Respond to comments, transition into next prompt, repeat this process for the three prompts**
    - **[slide 12]** I am ready to call in sick or sacrifice my usual routines and income in order to participate in mass protests and economic non-cooperation if and when they interfere in the elections. . [right is yes, left is no]
        - Can I hear from someone on each side of the spectrum and maybe someone right in the middle?
        - What are some supports you would need to have in place in order to participate?
        - Not everyone will have to be out on the streets. There are going to be roles for everyone – from respecting boycotts of particular companies to helping provide childcare and meals so others can be at protests. What's important is that we all start thinking about how we can contribute so that it's not just 'business as usual' if and when they interrupt or refuse to respect the results.
    - **[slide 13]** I'm ready to talk to 3 people I know in the next month about how voting in November impacts our lives directly and to help them prepare to join mass mobilizations. [right is yes, left is no]
        - Can I hear from someone on each side of the spectrum and maybe someone right in the middle?
- Let's move back to our seats. Thank you for taking the time to test