
THE AMPLIFIER

FORCE MULTIPLIER: YOU X ME = DEMOCRACY

Momentum = Mass x Velocity: A Formula for Democracy

In just two months, the U.S. has abruptly moved from a competitive democratic election to the first attempted authoritarian takeover of the federal government in our history. The work of Force Multiplier has evolved to counter this threat.

Here's how we see the present moment and the actions we need to take to meet it.

Where are we?

One expert described three stages of autocratic transformation¹:

1. Autocratic attempt. A period when autocracy is still preventable, or reversible, by electoral means
2. Autocratic breakthrough. When the very structures of government have been transformed and can no longer protect themselves
3. Autocratic consolidation. When the autocrat is firmly in power and starts consolidating that power and amassing more wealth and more power

Force Multiplier believes we are **at the stage of an autocratic attempt** that is very close to achieving a breakthrough. We believe we can still bring about change using electoral means, but need to broaden our activities to support groups working to defend democracy and civil society and to ensure the survival of the electoral process.

How can we turn back an authoritarian attempt?

A research project on more than 600 anti-authoritarian movements around the world showed that these were successful when they engaged 3.5% of a country's population within a one week period. In the case of the U.S. today, that would be about 12,000,000 people.

The authors developed a formula to illustrate the dynamic:

- **momentum = mass x velocity**
- where **mass** = the number of participants in an event
- and where **velocity** = the number of events in a seven-day period

What is Force Multiplier's role in the movement?

Our role is to **help build the mass of this anti-authoritarian movement** by helping to fund it, recruiting new members, and engaging them in strategic actions.

We are recommending support for groups that defend democracy, groups that innovate and build the strength of our movement, and candidates in critical elections.

In developing this strategy, we have been talking to and learning from a wide range of organizations including America Votes, the Movement Voter Project, The Democratic National Committee, Indivisus Swing Left, and other grassroots fundraising groups. Our goal is to collectively build strength and momentum for the '26 midterms, which will be critical to reversing this democratic backsliding.

Four things you can do today:

1. Show Up in your community on May 1st: [May Day Strong](#)
2. Give to groups protecting democracy in court through the [Defending Democracy Fund](#)
3. Work towards the midterms by supporting [FM's Midterm House](#) and [Senate candidates](#)
4. Get Involved: Become a [force for Force Multiplier](#).

In recent weeks we have seen extreme acts of authoritarianism met with courage and resistance from members of Congress, federal judges, university presidents, law firms, and more than three million people who participated in the 1,300 Hands Off rallies around the country on April 5.

Trump now has the lowest 100-day approval rating in 80 years. Jennifer Rubin writes that we cannot yet tell "if Donald Trump's assault on democracy, decency, and truth has definitively shifted momentum toward the pro-democracy movement or just temporarily sidetracked Trump's march to autocracy." What we do know is that what we do in this moment matters.

We are all part of the equation.

¹Cited in [Surviving Autocracy](#) by M Gessen.

²Erica Chenoweth, [Civil Resistance](#): What Everyone Needs to Know.



(Still) Defending Democracy in the Courts

The litigation groups in Force Multiplier's Defending Democracy Fund have been winning cases and putting sand in the gears to slow implementation of authoritarian actions.

Just last week Trump **threatened** to weaponize the IRS against one of our groups, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), claiming it was "going after Donald Trump." Public Citizen, another of the groups, said "We proudly stand in solidarity with our friends at CREW in rejecting President Trump's threat to weaponize the IRS against those with whom he disagrees."

We are honored to have Noah Bookbinder, President and CEO, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) and Robert Weissman, Co-President, Public Citizen, join us to report on the current status of litigation and answer questions.

Wednesday, May 7, 7:00-8:00 pm ET on Zoom

Defending the Constitution is a non-partisan activity.

These are tax-advantaged 501(c)3 organizations.

Your donation is tax-deductible. If you would like to donate by check or have a DAF or other tax-advantaged account, please email us at info@forcemultiplierus.org.

[DONATE/REGISTER HERE](#)

Suggested donation \$100. If you can give more, please do. If not, just give what you can and join. Your contribution will be divided among the four groups in the Fund.



Warning: May Cause Civic Engagement (Spread the Word about Force Multiplier!)

In these frightening times our strength is based on increasing our numbers. Here are some ways you can help Force Multiplier be part of building a larger anti-authoritarian, pro-democracy movement:

- **Host a Force Multiplier Zoom House Party.** These are hour-long informational events – *N* fundraisers. You invite your friends, we take care of the rest. We make it easy. Our speakers, Force Multiplier leaders, will explain FM’s strategies and plans. They are engaging and informative. Guests are usually grateful to learn and most agree to receive our emails. This is a powerful way to help grow our community. Interested? Email us at HParty@forcemultiplierus.org.
- **Become an official “Multiplier!”** Our Multipliers forward invitations to our Zoom events as informational emails to their friends and families. When people learn about candidates, groups and actions from people they know and trust, they pay attention.. Because of special formatting, we can track who responded to your email and we’ll let you know. Approximately 65% of funds raised by our events come from Multipliers’ efforts, so you can have a big impact. Interested? Email us at info@forcemultiplierus.org.
- **Follow Force Multiplier** on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to join our ongoing efforts to save democracy

Already following us? **THANK YOU!** Your engagement makes our community stronger. New to our social channels? Remember that every comment, like, and share helps amplify our message and expand our reach.



Let's get social!

While we cherish our in-person moments — like the powerful April 5 Hands Off! demonstrations that united supporters worldwide — we can stay connected every day through social media!

1,000+ Facebook Followers! Thanks for helping spread the word.



Support Georgia Senator Jon Ossoff for re-election in '26

Jon Ossoff was elected to the Senate in 2021 in a dramatic run-off victory over incumbent Republican David Perdue. While Democrats will defend 13 Senate seats (of 35 seats to be filled in 2026, this one is generally considered the most competitive of four vulnerable Democratic

seats: Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, and New Hampshire.

A former investigative journalist and filmmaker, Ossoff has quickly distinguished himself in the Senate as a strong advocate for improving the lives of his Georgia constituents and all ordinary Americans. In his first two years in office, he led passage of more stand-alone bills than any other freshman Senator.

FM anticipates creating a full Senate slate as races solidify and as primaries are completed in the next several months. You will be hearing from us as the campaigns emerge.

Donate



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Force Multiplier does the research so you don't have to + We never share your emails +
Your donation goes directly to the candidates or groups you have chosen through ActBlue.

For further information go to www.forcemultiplierus.org

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