

**the scoop** FORCE MULTIPLIER NEWS

YOU X ME = DEMOCRACY people talking to people is a powerful thing!

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# HOORAY!

## a mid term wrap up!

### We've done so much together

**We worked hard + dug deep + made a difference!**

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## “The People Have Spoken”

After winning five elections in two years, Rev. Warnock was finally elected to a full six year term by a margin of 2.8% in the December 6th runoff. His victory secured a Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate + returned his prophetic voice to Washington.

Together we raised over \$600,000 for Georgia this cycle, \$260,000 of it in just four weeks between the general election + the runoff. The funds supported both the Warnock campaign + the America Votes GA Runoff Fund. The 18 groups in the AV coalition knocked on more than 5.7 million doors + had 1.4 million conversations to “get out the vote” for the runoff. Evan Kost of AV reported, “The Georgia runoff was again defined by high turnout, especially among Black voters, Hispanic voters, Asian voters + young voters. We retained roughly 90% of the overall turnout from the November 8th election + even more remarkably, 93% of the overall turnout for Senator Warnock.”

In addition to this financial support, 16 volunteers from our community traveled to Georgia in

a runoff + the new Jim Crow rules that shortened the election period from nine weeks to four + the early voting period from two weeks to one.

***“There are those who would look at the outcome of this race +***

***say that there’s no voter suppression in Georgia.***

***Let me be clear, just because people endured long lines that wrapped around buildings***

***some blocks long, just because they endured the rain + the cold + all kinds of tricks***

***in order to vote, doesn’t mean that voter suppression does not exist.***

***It simply means that you, the people, have decided that***

***your voices will not be silenced.”***

***Senator Rev. Raphael Warnock***

As we look forward to the 2024 cycle, Force Multiplier is committed to making sure that voices of voters are heard + that the Senate remains in Democratic hands.

**Thank you for standing with Rev. Warnock + the people of Georgia.**

**Thank you for standing up for our Democracy.**

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**OUR MISSION** is to empower people and multiply their impact on democratic institutions + the electoral process by raising funds for **DEMOCRATIC** candidates for **FEDERAL OFFICE** + for groups that **DEFEND** + **EXPAND THE RIGHT TO VOTE**.

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## **The Red Wave That Never Happened**

*(Not a typical midterm election!)*

by Dale Smith, Co-chair of Political Research

What happened overall + how did Force Multiplier do in achieving our goals by directing donations where we determined they were most needed?

As a reminder, we support races that are competitive + where candidates need financial help. This summer we created preferred slates of candidates needing the most support. This worked well – 87% of donations to Senate candidates + 74% of donations to House candidates from late summer until election day funded our priority candidates. The remaining candidates were in competitive races, but generally had more financial resources.

### *What happened overall?*

**Incumbents won.** For the first time since 1914 every Senate incumbent of either party won. Many extremist MAGA candidates lost. It was the first time since 1934 that Democrats lost no Senate seats + lost historically few in the House.

Dems outperformed Biden 2020 in battleground states like AZ + CO + GA + MI + NH + PA, but dropped off from 2020 in the four largest states – CA + FL + NY + TX. This particularly hurt in CA + NY, where Dems lost seats that Biden won in 2020. Turnout in states without MAGA at the top of the ballot was low.

We learned that candidate quality does matter – the Republicans nominated some unqualified

challengers. Five won + three lost. Challengers Mandela Barnes (WI) + Cheri Beasley (NC) lost by painfully narrow margins, within 5% + Tim Ryan lost by a disappointingly large margin. In hindsight, we may have been too optimistic about his chances in Ohio. In August, we deemphasized Warnock + Kelly + Hassan because of their financial strength + focused our fundraising on the four challengers plus Catherine Cortez Masto.

**Force Multiplier's House Performance:** We invested in lots of House races this cycle, anticipating a broad battlefield. We are pleased with our results. Of the 29 races we supported in '22 (excluding races we supported pre-redistricting), our candidates won 18, or 62%. Ten of thirteen incumbents + eight of sixteen non-incumbents won. Of incumbents, none lost by more than 5%, but six won by more than 5%. Of our non-incumbents, only one, Christy Smith (CA-27) lost by more than 5%. Three won by more than 5%. Many of the races were painfully close + we had more success with open seats. Most of our candidates raised more money than their opponents. Force Multiplier provided a significant share of our candidates' funding – in 18 races the Force Multiplier community contributed more than 2% of their total fundraising!

We're also looking at races which we did not support in which the final margin was within 5% either way. In most cases our reasoning was solid – the candidate had a significant financial advantage. We regret not including some races in our slate, where the margin was small + the money we might have raised – often about \$100k for a candidate -- could have made a difference.

We will report again as data becomes available, including a review of how the grassroots groups we funded performed. Please feel free to contact [info@forcemultiplierus.org](mailto:info@forcemultiplierus.org) with questions.



smart people with fresh perspectives + big ideas

As we've done at the beginning of other election cycles, Force Multiplier will host a new season of "Community Conversations". The series will include four no-cost Zoom events in January + February with speakers who can help us understand what did + didn't happen in the Midterms + what we need to do next.

### FIRST COMMUNITY CONVERSATION





## Tom Bonier + Simon Rosenberg

“The Myth of the Red Wave + How it Shaped the Midterms.”

Wednesday, January 11, 7:00-8:00pm ET

### [Register for This Free Event](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the event.

Politico called Simon “the oracle of Democratic midterm optimism”. He is a former Clinton staffer + was a top advisor to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. In his current capacity as President of the New Democrat Network/New Policy Institute, Rosenberg advises leading politicians, administration officials + policy makers on a wide range of issues. He is a frequent commentator in the national media, appearing regularly in major newspapers + websites, political journals + on cable + network television.

Bonier is a pioneer in the introduction of “Big Data” into the progressive political space + currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of TargetSmart. He consulted for the campaigns of Senators Cory Booker, Elizabeth Warren + Jon Tester as well as President Obama’s 2008 campaign among others. He has also appeared as a commentator for The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal + Politico, as well as on-air on PBS NewsHour + “All Things Considered” on National Public Radio.

Bonier + Rosenberg will discuss how the red wave narrative took hold, why it was wrong + how we can take control of the information environment in 2023-24.

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## Meeting Our New Reps *in person!*

By Tom Hallock, FM Steering Committee Co-chair

I had the opportunity to meet the 22 new Democratic members of the House when they were in town last week for the Harvard Bipartisan Program for Newly Elected Members of Congress.

I was greeted with hugs + thanks from the ones we supported (and even a couple we didn't). They talked about how hard it was to get support in the face of the red wave media narrative + the negative effects of polls + ratings. Our timely support was a boost to their finances + their spirits.

Wiley Nickel + Greg Landsman told me how particularly important it was that we donated to candidates who don't accept PAC money. Eric Sorenson + his husband were especially excited that they had won despite Kevin McCarthy’s skepticism. McCarthy had bet Sean Maloney a steak dinner that “the weatherman” couldn’t win a seat in Illinois. He lost that one.

At a dinner afterwards emceed by our new whip, Katherine Clark, we heard from Mary Peltola +

It was truly inspiring to see a group of people who beautifully represent their communities + are deeply committed to serving them. And it was gratifying to see such tangible evidence of Force Multiplier's impact on the House in the midterms. There's much more to do + we'll be doing a lot with your help. **Stay tuned!**

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*Who really needs another tie? Silly socks? Fuzzy slippers?  
For those on your gift list that don't need anything...  
For the hard to fit or hard to please...*

As you + your family make decisions about end-of-year tax-advantaged giving, Force Multiplier recommends supporting **DEMOCRACY IN ACTION** and/or the **HEARTLAND FUND**. We have cards that we can send out to let your friends know about your gifts. Just send us an email and let us know where to send the card. [info@forcemultiplierus.org](mailto:info@forcemultiplierus.org)

NO WRAPPING. NO BATTERIES. NO ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

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## **WRAP UP:** Force Multiplier by the NUMBERS

**DONORS:** 6,435 donors contributed in the midterm election

**FUNDRAISING:** \$1,556,204 in 2021 + \$6,461,829 in 2022 for a grand total of \$8,018,000  
That's \$2,964,430 = House candidates + \$2,247,877 = Senate candidates + \$2,763,981 = VE

**MULTIPLYING:** 317 active Multipliers, who have 2,394 donors in their networks  
Those donors contributed \$3,277,600 to House + Senate + VE groups

**KEEPING IN TOUCH:** Since July 1, 2021 we have sent 1,400,000 emails

**EVENTS:** 11 fundraising events in 2021 + 23 in 2022 for a total of 34 events

**HOUSE PARTIES:** 164 People who hosted more than one House Party: 19

**INFO SESSIONS:** 20

**SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!**

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