

# the scoop **FORCE MULTIPLIER NEWS**

**YOU X ME = DEMOCRACY** people talking to people is powerful!

**OUR MISSION** is to empower people + 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.**

## The Problem of the Supreme Court + What We Can Do About It

by Tom Hallock, FM Co-Chair

During its last two terms the US Supreme Court issued decisions undermining the voting rights act, abortion rights, LGBTQ protections, affirmative action, gun safety + consistently ruled against the government's regulatory authority, especially regarding the environment.

These decisions were made by justices with lifetime appointments but not governed by a code of ethics. Clarence Thomas, for example, refused to recuse himself from cases involving organizations with which his wife works + has accepted significant gifts from a conservative donor, gifts that include tuition payments for a relative, the purchase of a home for his mother + trips on private jets. He disclosed none of it.

In his recent book [\*The Scheme: How the Right Wing Used Dark Money to Capture the Supreme Court\*](#), Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), explains how we got here.

### It wasn't an accident.

The capture of the Supreme Court grew from a plan developed 50 years ago by a small group of right-wing billionaires intent on rolling back the social progress of the 20th century. Whitehouse estimates \$580 million dollars in dark money has been spent on the project, including \$17 mm from a single anonymous donor supporting the nominations of Gorsuch + Kavanaugh.

Their vehicle for capturing the court has been the Federalist Society. All six justices who constitute the conservative majority were promoted by the Federalist Society, which represents the corporate wing of the Republican Party. Its early donors included the Scaife Foundation + the Koch family foundations.

Electing a Democratic Senate majority to fill any Supreme Court vacancies that might occur in the next term is critical, of course. The role of Congress, however, goes beyond the approval of nominees.

According to a report from the non-partisan [Congressional Research Service](#), Congress has "substantial powers to regulate and otherwise influence the federal courts", including the authority to determine the size of the court. So far it has used these powers to require financial reporting + recusal in case of conflict of interest. Congress could introduce other measures for court reform that may be within their authority but have yet to be tested, such as a judicial code of ethics or term limits.

### There are two things we can do:

1. Support citizen efforts to reform the court through organizations like [The Brennan Center](#), [Campaign Legal Center](#), [Common Cause](#) + [Democracy Docket](#).
2. Elect members of Congress who will exercise their powers to nominate qualified judges not beholden to special interests + willing to find new ways to create a judiciary that is truly independent.



## Join Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI),

author of

[The Scheme: How the Right Wing Used Dark Money to Capture the Supreme Court](#)

**Monday, July 31, 7:00-8:00pm ET on Zoom**

Your donation will support the 4 incumbents on Force Multiplier's Senate Slate:  
Tammy Baldwin (WI) + Sherrod Brown (OH) + Jacky Rosen (NV) + Jon Tester (MT)

**Let's Hold the Senate + Protect an Independent Judiciary!**

**REGISTER + DONATE**

## Urgency in Ohio: It's All About Time + Money + Voting + Abortion Rights

There's an under-the-radar special election happening soon in Ohio that could upend abortion rights there. Force Multiplier is on the case to expand the electorate there + we hope you'll join us.

Earlier this year, the Republican-controlled legislature passed a 'heartbeat' ban on abortions. As Ohioans acted to amend the state constitution to ensure abortion rights (59% approval in recent poll), the legislature called a special election to make it more difficult to do that. **Their openly stated aim is to make it significantly harder for the abortion rights amendment to win in November.**

Republicans' best hope is low turnout, so they scheduled a special election on August 8<sup>th</sup>, a time when many voters are away on vacation. FM is supporting two of the leading grassroots tax-exempt organizations working to register, educate + turn voters out for the August special election. **They both need support immediately.**

**The Ohio Women's Alliance (OWA)** helped collect over 700,000 signatures (70% more than needed) in favor of putting abortion rights on the ballot in November. For the August special election, OWA is using digital messaging to reach + turn out its 13,000+ base of mostly women of color who will mobilize their networks of voters.

Regardless of the outcome in August, OWA will continue to register + educate + mobilize Ohioans in preparation for voting.

**Ohio Student Association (OSA)** members from campuses across the state are mobilizing young voters to

Please consider supporting OWA + OSA before the special election on August 8 by clicking the button below.

Or to donate by check or from a retirement account or donor advised fund, contact us [here](#).

**TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION to The Ohio Democracy Fund**



Please Like Us + Follow Us + Share Us...

Find FM on Social Media!

Social media is inextricably linked to politics – for better or for worse. Its importance can't be denied. With the help + expertise of new volunteer Nicole Victor, Force Multiplier is turning up the volume on our social media.

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram + LinkedIn have differing ways of informing + engaging users. Now Force Multiplier is available + active in all of these channels + we hope you will join + share content with family + friends both on + off line.

**We're using social media to:**

- provide information for readers from Democratic thought leaders, candidates + groups we support
- bring people into Force Multiplier
- identify other organizations fighting for democracy
- raise funds for our candidates + voter empowerment groups
- do our part to preserve our democracy

**Here are some reasons to like or follow us. You**

- will be joining a community of like-minded individuals that make a collective positive impact on national politics
- can read about our candidates + organizations + share your thoughts
- receive the latest recommendations to help you make donations that will have the most impact
- will attract younger, online members to our passion + mission

Find FM in any + all platforms you follow + help us spread the word. Though we have no plans to join TikTok or leave Twitter (yet) we are constantly evolving our social media presence.

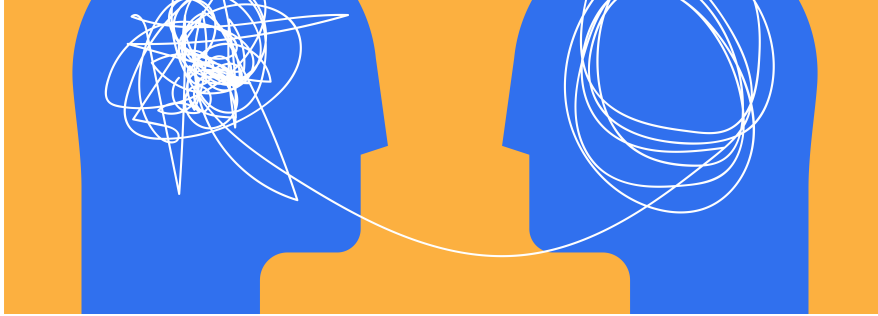
**Follow us here:**

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**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/FMultiplierUS>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/forcemultiplierus/>



## Talk the Talk

As you know, FM is a relational networking organization and our Multipliers build our networks. Most people rely, almost exclusively, on email. You can't beat it for getting the word out.

**Email is not very "sticky"  
It's easy for people to skim + not get the message.**

We'd like to get better at engaging our friends + relations with the work we do at FM so we encourage you to reach out + call some of your people on the phone!

### **Pick up the phone... it works!**

- Text them first, letting them know that you'd like to chat about FM.
- Prepare your thoughts in advance about why Force Multiplier works for you.
- Take notes and follow up.

Let us know how it goes, or if you'd like some coaching! Email Steven [here](#)

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## Still No Litmus Test!

It's important to keep in mind that the candidates FM endorses are running in conservative districts; many of those districts/states went for Trump in 2020. Our candidates won by the thinnest of margins + will be facing stiff opposition in 2024.

### **FM believes that any Democrat in Congress is better than a Republican.**

At our recent event for Jon Tester from Montana some FMers were surprised by Jon's conservative views. Jon has many progressive ideas on issues but when it comes to gun legislation, his views represent those of his constituency. He supports gun safety + background checks but does not support limiting automatic weapons. After meeting Jon Tester for an hour, it is clear that he is an effective US Senator + we are proud to support him.

While we may not agree with every vote that our endorsed candidates take, we appreciate that they vote with the President (aka their "Biden Score") more frequently than their most "moderate" Republican colleagues.

#### **Moderate Democrats**

**Jon Tester** (WY) 91%

**Jared Golden** (ME) 88.2%

#### **Moderate Republicans**

**Susan Collins** (ME) 67.2%

**Lisa Murkowski** (AK) 66.7%

**Our strength as Democrats is that we are *not* a monolith, but together we can move our country forward.  
We need Democratic majorities as a defense against authoritarianism.**

## THANK YOU!!!

Our Zoom event on June 2, featured three House incumbents up for reelection: **Representatives Eric Sorensen + Marie Gluesenkamp Perez + Gabe Vasquez**. Your donations raised about **\$35,000** for their campaigns.

On July 20 we hosted **Senator Jon Tester** of Montana who was introduced to our field office by the **Senator**



## Just A Few Words About FM House Parties!

**Attending:** eye-opening + inspiring

**Hosting:** easy + fun.

**“Come on board everyone;  
this is our political home!”**

Cindy Bencal

House Party enthusiast

We'll be picking up the pace after Labor Day with our one-hour informational House Parties which are great at spreading the word. You invite your people, we take care of everything else.

Contact Fern Fisher or Clint Strong at [HParty@forcemultiplierus.org](mailto:HParty@forcemultiplierus.org) for more info or to schedule yours.

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## A Note from A Seasoned Multiplier

By Chuck Cutler, New Jersey

After the 2016 election I realized that democracy in America was at risk in no small part because of lack of focused actions by concerned citizens. As a blue state resident, I looked for a strategic approach to make a difference in other key races. I found that Force Multiplier was just what I was searching for and the Zoom sessions with candidates + organizations stimulating and inspiring.

I became a Multiplier by regularly reaching out to about 35 friends who share my concerns. They value the information they receive + some have attended the calls and/or contributed through Force Multiplier. Others have contributed directly to candidates based on what they learned from Force Multiplier.

Even when people do not contribute, they often thank me for reminding them to stay engaged + contribute. Personally, I continue to feel inspired + more optimistic after the Zoom calls, by the candidates + voting rights organizations as well as the Force Multiplier community.

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## GOOD NEWS!

**The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projected in early 2021 that it would take until 2026 for unemployment to drop back below 4%. Instead, thanks to the President's plan to provide direct support to working-class Americans, the unemployment rate fell below 4% in 2021—five years ahead of what was estimated—and it has stayed there for the longest period in more than 50 years.**

White House Memo released 6/26/23

**Tell somebody!**

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*(touching base with FMers in all 50 states)*

## TAKEAWAYS

**We asked people who attended our Jon Tester event what was your TAKEAWAY from the event? Thank you to all who responded.**

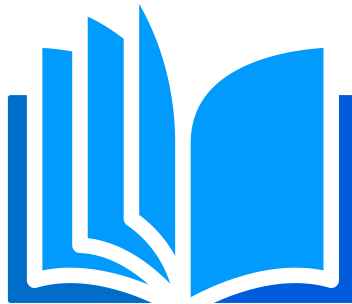
"The biggest takeaway for me was Tester's honesty. His refusal to come out against assault weapons, while not the answer some, if not most, of the audience wanted to hear, was refreshingly direct and honest. Montana is more than Bozeman and Missoula, and John Tester knows that. FM has stated that it does not engage in litmus tests when deciding which candidates to back. I hope this continues." JAMES, Portsmouth, NH

"My takeaway from the event, especially of interest was the brief info session on Force Multiplier and reviewing the website, is that Force Multiplier is exactly the type of organization I have been seeking so I can make more effective contributions. Thank you for your work!" DEBORAH, Gladstone, NJ

"I liked him until he said he was not in favor of making assault rifles illegal to individuals. He lost me on that point, enough to outlay the good things."  
ARNOLD, Northbrook, IL

"I feel I know him much better after the event. He is clearly an asset to Montana's people and to the democratic party. He seems to be a decent and ethically-grounded human being. I appreciated his honesty in claiming a position on assault weapons that lies at odds with mine and likely is with most on the zoom event. Rafael Warnock's introduction was a big plus as well." DAVID

For more TAKEAWAYS click [here](#)



## OPEN BOOK

**What are you reading?  
Your sources of  
political information?  
Favorite blog? Podcast?**

By Janine Sternlieb of Sonoma County, CA

***Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*** by Kristin Kobes du Mez

*If you wonder why the religious right supported Trump, here is your answer. **American Psychosis** by David Corn. We were surprised by Trump's victory; Corn shows us the steps along the way that made his victory inevitable.*

The roots of current book banning and CTR parents are in the women who enforced racial segregation after the Civil War.

...  
If you'd like to share 2 or 3 of your political reading materials with our community, reach out to Steven [here](#), for guidance.

## TOP OF MIND

What's on your mind? Share your thoughts with our community.

### SO PROUDLY WE HAIL

By Beverly Cooper-Wiele, Boston, MA

"...with liberty and justice for all." As kids, we stood up at the teacher's direction, placed our hand over our heart, and recited the Pledge of Allegiance, before we had any idea what it meant.

Older now, and more sophisticated politically, we have our own beliefs about these symbols, but there's little uniformity among Americans about their meanings. In the 60s, the flag became a divisive emblem. The left saw it as a symbol of both the aspirations and oppressions perpetrated by our government. To those on the right, it was a badge of patriotism.

By the 2000s, conservatives adopted public flag displays and recited the Pledge of Allegiance as visible tokens of membership. As other groups protested the failings of the American system, including questioning the flag as a symbol of unity, the right went in the other direction and began to "own" it even more. The flag became shorthand for their brand of patriotism. As a result, the moderates and progressives felt left out and thought, "I really want to show my flag, but people will think I'm MAGA," or "I don't need to prove my patriotism, but I still want a flag."

Let's reclaim our flag! Since Biden's election lots of Americans are raising their flags again. Sometimes they add a rainbow flag, a Black Lives Matter banner, or a green flag representing respect for nature.

We can be both inclusive and patriotic. So, buy your flag, and fly your flag, with Liberty and Justice for all!

...  
If you'd like to share what's on your mind with our community, reach out to Steven [here](#), for guidance.





### Meet Tom

Mon. July 24, 7:30-8:30pm

[REGISTER](#)



### Meet Laura

Mon., August 14, noon-1:00pm ET

Tues., August 22, 7:30-8:30pm ET

Wed., August 30, noon-1:00pm ET

[REGISTER](#)

These Zoom events, featuring one of our co-chairs Tom or Laura, provide an introduction to FM. The crowd is usually small but motivated. The event lasts as long as folks want to chat, but typically ends within an hour. If you know anyone who might be interested, please send them the registration link.



YOU X ME = DEMOCRACY

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 though ActBlue.

For further information go to [www.forcemultiplier.us.org](http://www.forcemultiplier.us.org)



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