

June 2023

# 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.**

## ACTING ON HOPE

**“If we focus on winning instead of worrying, we will win the 2024 election in solid fashion.”**

CELINDA LAKE | DEMOCRATIC POLLSTER + STRATEGIST

by Tom Hallock, FM Co-Chair

**There’s certainly enough to worry about:** gun violence + climate catastrophes + war in Ukraine + Republican attacks on abortion rights + LGBTQ+ rights + voting rights + public education + a rightwing Supreme Court + the likelihood of Trump or another MAGA candidate as the Republican nominee.

### Here’s what gives us hope:

- **Democrats have done well in key 2023 elections in places like WI + PA.** Having a progressive majority on the WI Supreme Court + a Democratic majority in the PA House means two more battleground states will protect the vote in 2024.
- **There are more Democratic-leaning voters than Republican-leaning voters.** The last three elections saw a historic increase in turnout with millions of new Democratic voters who rose up to reject the MAGA agenda. If they turn out again, we will win.
- **The House is within reach.** We need a net gain of only five seats to flip the House. While redistricting in NC + OH may cost us five or six more, the recent Supreme Court decision upholding the Voting Rights Act could give Democrats four or five seats in states affected by the ruling. There are also 18 Republicans holding seats in districts Biden won + several others, like Lauren Boebert, who are vulnerable.
- **Early data on three tough Senate races.** Sherrod Brown (OH) has a +9 approval rating. Jon Tester (MT) has 58% approval rating + Ruben Gallego (AZ) has a decisive lead over both Sinema + a Republican challenger.
- **People’s lives are improving under D leadership.** Under Biden a record number of jobs have been created, we have the lowest unemployment rate since WWII, lowest poverty + uninsured rates ever and have made a \$4 trillion investment in programs that benefit low- and middle-income working families.

**Presidential approval ratings don't predict how people vote.** Mike Podhorzer tells us these ratings measure broad dissatisfaction with our political parties + governing institutions. What they don't measure is how people actually vote.

**We've been a full democracy for only 58 years, since the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. Our country is still a work in progress.**

**If we act from a position of hope + focus on winning in '24, we can all be part of rebuilding our democracy + creating a more just + sustainable + inclusive world.**

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**Coming soon to your screens! Please mark your calendar.**



Meet freshmen

**Representatives Eric Sorensen + Marie Gluesenkamp Perez + Gabe Vasquez**

Learn what it's like to campaign + legislate from a purple district in a blue state.

**Thursday, June 22, 7:00-8:00pm ET**

All these first term representatives face strong headwinds at this stage of the campaign. What has it been like to be in the minority? What challenges do they face in their reelection campaigns? Join us at the event + you can ask these + other questions on the 22nd.

**Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez (WA 03)**, a fifth generation working-class Washingtonian, co-owns an auto repair shop with her husband. **Rep. Sorensen (IL17)**, was a popular + trusted television weatherman who has championed causes like LGBTQ rights, health care for vulnerable communities + climate action. **Rep. Vasquez (NM02)** is a first-generation American whose leadership as an activist + advocate has been effective in promoting child well-being, protecting public lands + supporting economic development to lift families out of poverty. Biographies of each are [here](#).

**REGISTER + DONATE**

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**JON TESTER**



**MONTANA**

Monday, July 10, 7:00-8:00pm ET

Tester is a true Montanan. He has served in the U.S. Senate from Montana since 2007 + is a third generation Montanan farmer + a former school music teacher. Tester brings a strong voice for Veterans Affairs + is an advocate for family farmers, small businesses, ranchers, public lands + Tribal Nations + government transparency.

Sen. Tester wasn't expected to win in '18 but pulled it out + became the only Democratic senator from a Republican leaning state to win reelection – even after voting against Trump's Supreme Court picks. It is crucial that Tester is re-elected so we can hold onto the Senate in '24. Sen. Tester's biography can be found [here](#).

REGISTER + DONATE

## A WIN WIN! Tax-deductible giving

Most donations made to Force Multiplier candidates + voter empowerment groups are not tax deductible because they are intended to support partisan causes, specifically electing Democrats.

**BUT DID YOU KNOW** FM also provides an easy way to make charitable, non-partisan contributions that help ensure that people **CAN + DO VOTE**. You can donate to Force Multiplier-endorsed, non-partisan 501(c)3 grassroots voter education + registration groups working in communities that share our values.

Currently we're recommending four groups working to increase voter turnout among women, young people + native people in Montana + Ohio. For info on the groups this fund supports [click here](#). *ActBlue Charities will email you a charitable contribution tax receipt.*

DONATE TO THE MONTANA + OHIO FUND

**ANOTHER WAY OF DONATING** Donate from your Donor Advised Fund, the Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, a family foundation, or by stock transfer. *Force Multiplier has a partnership with The Amalgamated Foundation to handle these donations. They will email you or your financial advisor a charitable contribution tax receipt.*

TO GET MORE INFORMATION

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to voter registration + education groups working year-round in local communities. **Although these are non-partisan efforts, we know that the more marginalized people vote, the more likely we are to win.**

## 501c3 VS 501c4

### DEFINITION

A 501c3 nonprofit organization is typically created for religious, charitable, educational, scientific, and/or educational intent.

A 501c4 is a "social welfare group." These groups can advocate for causes and propositions and can also endorse specific candidates.

### CHARITABLE STATUS

Donations **are** tax-deductible.

Donations **are not** tax-deductible.

## POLITICAL LOBBYING

Nonprofits **cannot** publicize endorsements in favor of or in opposition of a candidate.

Nonprofits **can** publicize their support of or opposition toward a public candidate.

## POLITICAL VIEWS

Nonprofits **can't** post partisan political messages to the public.

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## FREEDOM TO INFLUENCE

Nonprofits **can't** compare their position on issues with that of a candidate.

Nonprofits **can** compare their position on issues with that of a candidate.

A SHARED



COMMUNITY

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

## Everyone in our community wants to share.

That's pretty clear from the great response we've had to our event **TAKEAWAYS** feature in the last four issues. It's great to hear from FMers around the country + we hear that our community loves to read the thoughtful comments of those that attended our events.

To that end we're adding a new feature this month; **OPEN BOOK**, where FMers from around the country will share their recommendations in each issue for political reads + sources.

Next month we'll also add another feature; **TOP OF MIND**, where individuals have 150 words to write about their top of mind thoughts on democracy, politics, the myriad of issues or political life in their neck of the woods.

We hope that you'll **jump in + join the conversation** with like-minded people around the country who are coming together for change in America.

Steven Krugman, a longtime FM community builder will serve as your connection + can guide you through the submission process.

If you would like to submit something please contact Steven [here](#).

## TAKEAWAYS from You

We asked people who attended our event on May 30th with grassroots groups in Ohio + Montana what was your **TAKEAWAY** from the event? Thank you to all who responded. Missed it? go [here](#) for a recording.

"... the event gave us hope for the future of democracy. We were very impressed with the enthusiasm + expertise of the participants. They used sophisticated data analysis to inform a strategy + tactics that were targeted to the specific needs + demographics of their states. It also highlighted the complexity of the political/electoral



it's hard to imagine the Dem Party operatives traveling the distances, meeting the people at events + having the bonding with the populations that need to be reached." [BAMBI, Brookline MA](#)

What impressed me was how well organized and enthusiastic these four young people from Montana and Ohio were. It makes me optimistic that we can get this country back on track. As usual the overall event was very well run. Thanks for what you do." [ROGER, Longmeadow, MA](#)

"There is some hope for these states as good things are being done by educated, articulate, dedicated, young + ethnically diverse advocates to try to make people aware of what is at stake + vote." [CAROL, Washington, DC](#)  
For more TAKEAWAYS click [here](#)

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## OPEN BOOK

**What are you reading?**

**What are your sources of political information? Favorite blog? Podcast?**

**Steve Krugman of Brookline, MA shares his favorite political sources.**

American History professor [Heather Cox Richardson's](#) daily "Letters to an American" provide deep knowledge of the roots of racism and anti-democratic forces at work since the founding. Her accessible analyses illustrate how our contemporary political struggles are continuations of centuries-long battles for rights.

Retired lawyer [Robert Hubbell's](#) "Today's Edition" is also available by subscription on Substack. He brings an activist's take on how to engage with challenges to democracy and is deeply connected to the grassroots community.

[Simon Rosenberg's](#) "Hopium" is a regular blog also on Substack. He is a longtime Democratic strategist and shaper of progressive thinking about building our grassroots movement. Early on he challenged the myth of a potential Republican "red wave" in the run up to the midterms, exposing false news that was based on questionable polling and an effort to suppress Democratic turnout.

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

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**GOOD NEWS!** The US unemployment rate today is 3.4%, the lowest peacetime unemployment rate since WWII + the lowest since 1969.

**THANK YOU!!!!** \$44,000 has been raised for four grassroots groups in [Ohio + Montana](#). They are working to register + mobilize + lift up the voices of youth + women + native people in these two states. **More than 80 people joined the Zoom call on May 30th.**

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## Go Forward + Multiply

"Multipliers" are people who have told us they are willing to simply forward our event invitations to their community members.

We now have about **160 active Multipliers** many of whom got involved at our Zoom House Parties, after attending an event, or are recruited by members of our Force Multiplier community.

**Our Multipliers are the beating heart of all we do at FM.** If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a Multiplier contact [Bill ~~here~~](#)

## How can you help?

1. **Think about people in your network** who may be likely to be receptive + open to getting more involved.
  - Talk with them about FM.
  - Ask them to come to an event.
  - Ask them to forward our next event invitation to their friends + family.

2. **Host a Zoom House Party.** We make it easy for you to organize a small Zoom House Party with like-minded people who want to learn about FM. Let's get started! Send your questions [here](#).



## House Parties 101

Curious about having a FM house party of your own?

Do you want to show a prospective host what a house party looks like + entails?

Join a Zoom event where they will hear from Community Building volunteers about the details of hosting a house party.

Wed., July 12, 7:00-8:00pm ET

Mon., July 17, 8:00-9:00pm ET

RSVP [here](#).



## Where are they now?

Catching up with a couple of our favorite previous candidates.

**Tom O'Halleran**, who represented Arizona's 1st District from 2017 until his defeat in 2022, will be a senior adviser at the Department of Agriculture for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which oversees major conservation programs. **Cindy Axne**, who represented Iowa's 3rd District from 2019 until she lost to Republican Zach Nunn, will be senior adviser for rural engagement, delivery and prosperity at USDA. **Kind of Cool!**



## kinda silly...

We recently had a full volunteer potluck to celebrate our sixth year of FM work. The food was yummy + we had fun breaking into teams to write limericks. Thought we would share...

There once was a blue group that craved action,  
And became a great "DO SOMETHING" faction.  
We started in Mass,  
And mushroomed quite fast.  
We're amazed at the force of our traction.

We all have friends who are worried,  
And their vision is often quite blurred.  
We say "Get off the fence!"  
Give your dollars + cents!  
And those MAGA folks will get buried!"

In lockstep Republicans do vote  
For things that get stuck in our throats  
But we found the grassroots  
And they'll put on their boots  
And kick up a blue landslide of note!

We're old + have many gray hairs  
And politics gives us nightmares  
But there's Tom + there's Laura  
Who needs any more-ah  
They're our great + inspiring  
co-chairs.



Laura Weisel +  
Tom Hallock +  
better yet,  
bring a friend!



**Meet Tom**

Wed. June 21, 7:30-8:30pm

Thurs. July 6, 12:00-1:00pm

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 through ActBlue. For further information go to [www.forcemultiplierus.org](http://www.forcemultiplierus.org)

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