



**ROOSEVELT  
INSTITUTE**

Let's  
*Reimagine*  
the Rules

It will take all of us to rewrite the rules.  
At Roosevelt, we make influencers more thoughtful and thinkers more influential. We also celebrate –and are inspired by– those whose work embodies the values of both Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and carries their vision forward today.

# *Agenda*

*Part A: Who we are & what we do*

*Part B: Learning how to **Power Map***

*Part C: Ethical Partnerships &  
**Coalitions***

The Roosevelt Network has **130 chapters** in **40 states** across the country, on **college campuses** or **in cities**. They're made up of current students and alumni.



# What does the Network do?

- Rooseveltters work on **social and economic** issues, trying to combat **inequality** that exists in their communities.
- We are a network of young researchers who work in **coalitions** alongside other organizations in their **communities** to solve the problems that exist.
- Our ideas promote **equity, justice, and opportunity** and they are **politically feasible**.





Attending rallies for **YesApply IL**



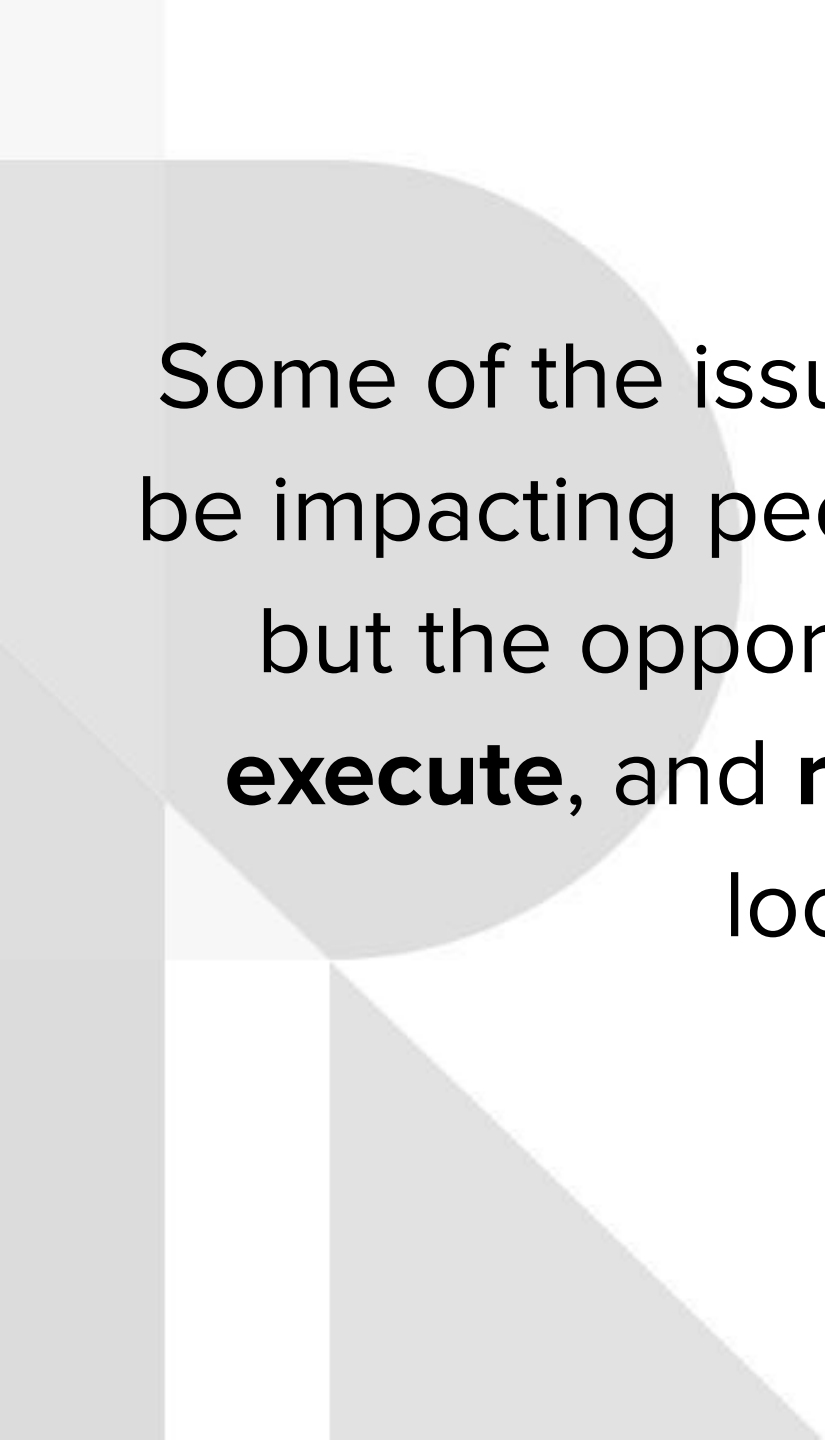
Lobbying in Albany for **Discovery for Justice & Let NY Vote**



Leading a training for **Spartans for Accountable Investment**



Conducting research for **Athens City Council on Aging/Meals on Wheels**



Some of the issues we care about may be impacting people across the country but the opportunity to **implement**, **execute**, and **resist** are at state and local levels.

# Scales of Change

## **Campus Level**

Work with school administration or student government for campus level reform

## **Local Level**

Working at the city/town level. There's a wide range of possibilities for policy projects + a high chance of success

## **State Level**

Build coalitions of Rooseveltors with other organizations to leverage our power

## **National/Federal Level**

Engage in key issue conversations with national-level coalitions of Rooseveltors



# Ideas Organizing Framework

## 1. Identify a problem

We should seek to identify *specific* issues, so that we can find a best-fit, actionable solution.

## 2. Build agency

We build agency around these issues in order to create a solution that equitably serves us all, understand its potential impacts, and start to generate some momentum.

## 3. Design a policy

With the understanding you've gained, it is time to organize it together to create a concrete recommendation for change.

## 4. Influence a decision-maker

To have your idea implemented, you will need to influence decision makers in the institution responsible for passing the change.

## 5. Solve problem

Solving the problem does not happen overnight, and we celebrate the milestones along the way that get us closer to our ultimate goal.

# *Power Mapping*

# WHY POWERMAP?

- Power Maps are helpful in **identifying and visualizing key players** (i.e. influential individuals) **and institutions** (i.e. organizations or systems, like schools, or government offices) to create policy change
- *Helps you know who to talk to to*
- *Helps you understand how people/organizations relate to each other*
- *Helps visualize and connect research*
- Helps to answer the question: *What does success on the policy initiative look like for your specific project?*

1. The strongest policies are built from the most perspectives
2. You need people to mobilize people for the work to be sustainable long-term
3. All of us always have more to learn!

When you join a coalition, you may be giving up a small part of your “individual power”, but **you gain a large amount of collective power.**

# Ethics & Partnership

We all have a broad range of interests, and recognize the way that many of the issues we see are **intersectional**.

*From affordable housing, universal health care, gender and LGBTQ+ equality, racism, criminal justice reform, voter suppression, immigrant rights, tax policy, infrastructure reform, to money in politics...*

It's important to acknowledge many of these issues are **not new**. Although our solutions may be innovative, there are often others already working to address the same problems.

# Communities have fought for **decades** on these issues.

Coalitions, advocacy groups, and movements' infrastructure have accumulated years of experience.

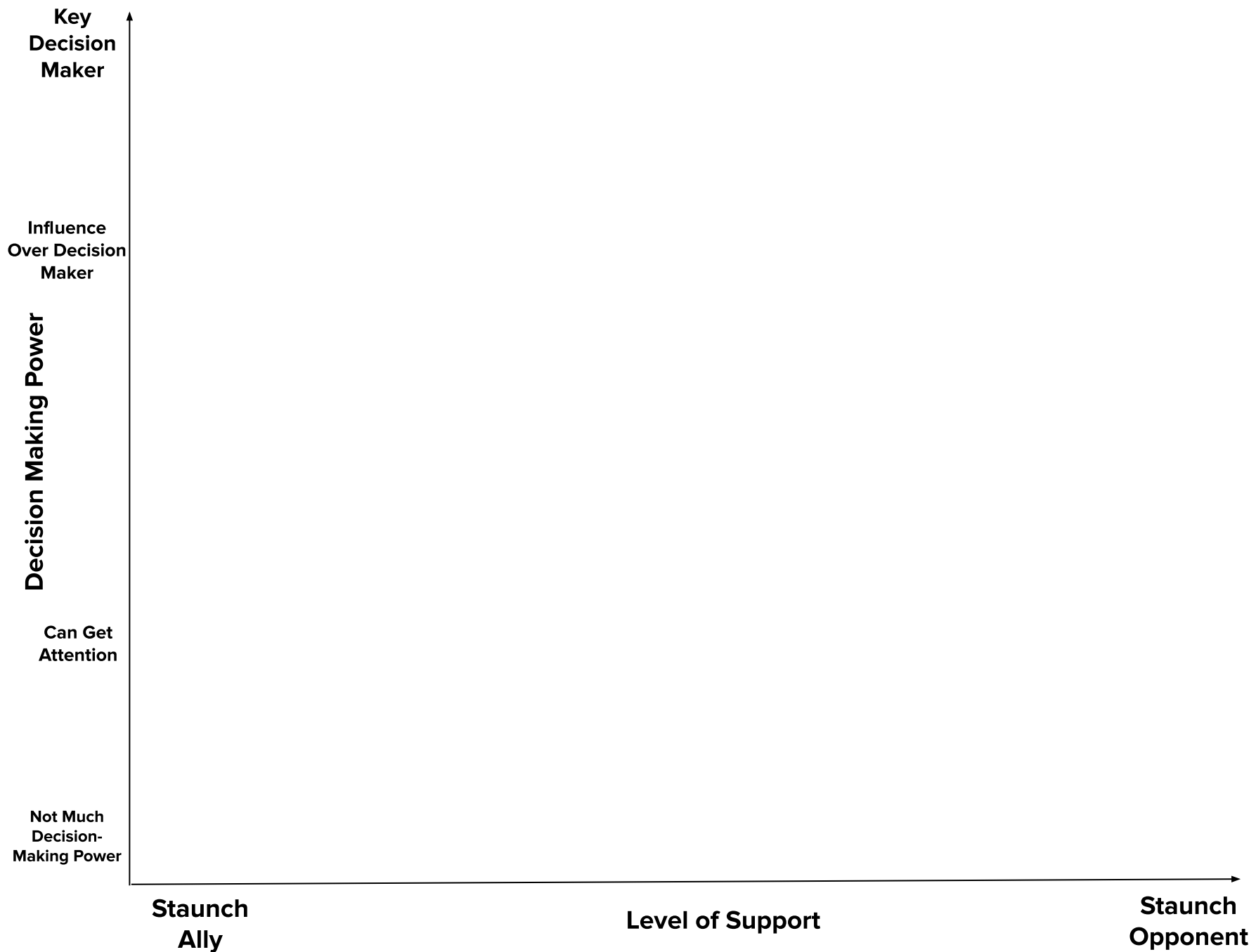
Community members will oftentimes have the best understanding of how this issue has been addressed in the past, if at all, and what they would like to see in the future.



# What does it mean to practice **good allyship?**

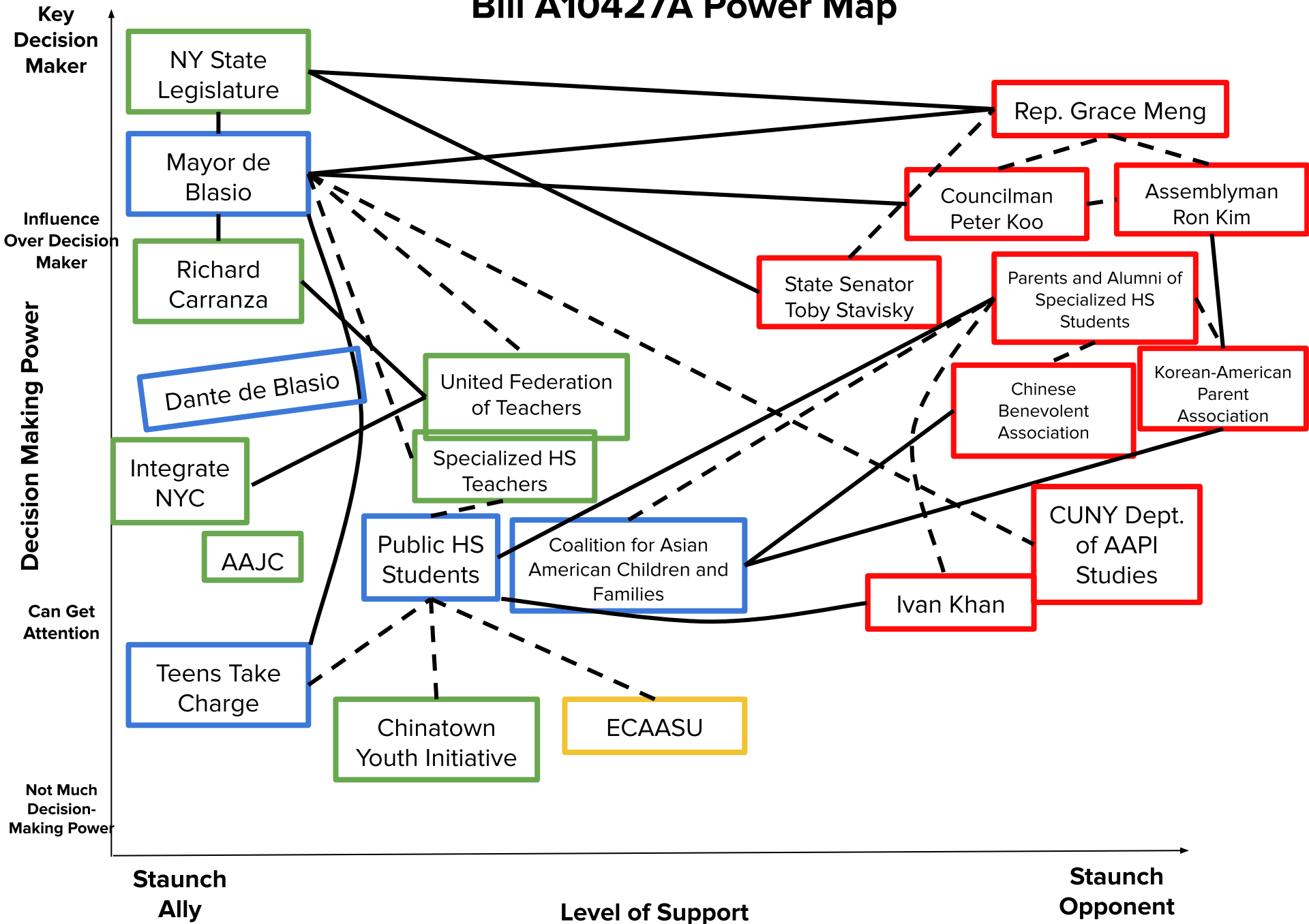
**Allyship is not a self-prescribed identity**—it is a lifelong process of **building relationships based on trust, consistency, and accountability** with marginalized individuals and/or groups of people. **Allyship is not self-defined**—our work and our efforts must be recognized by the people we seek to ally ourselves with.

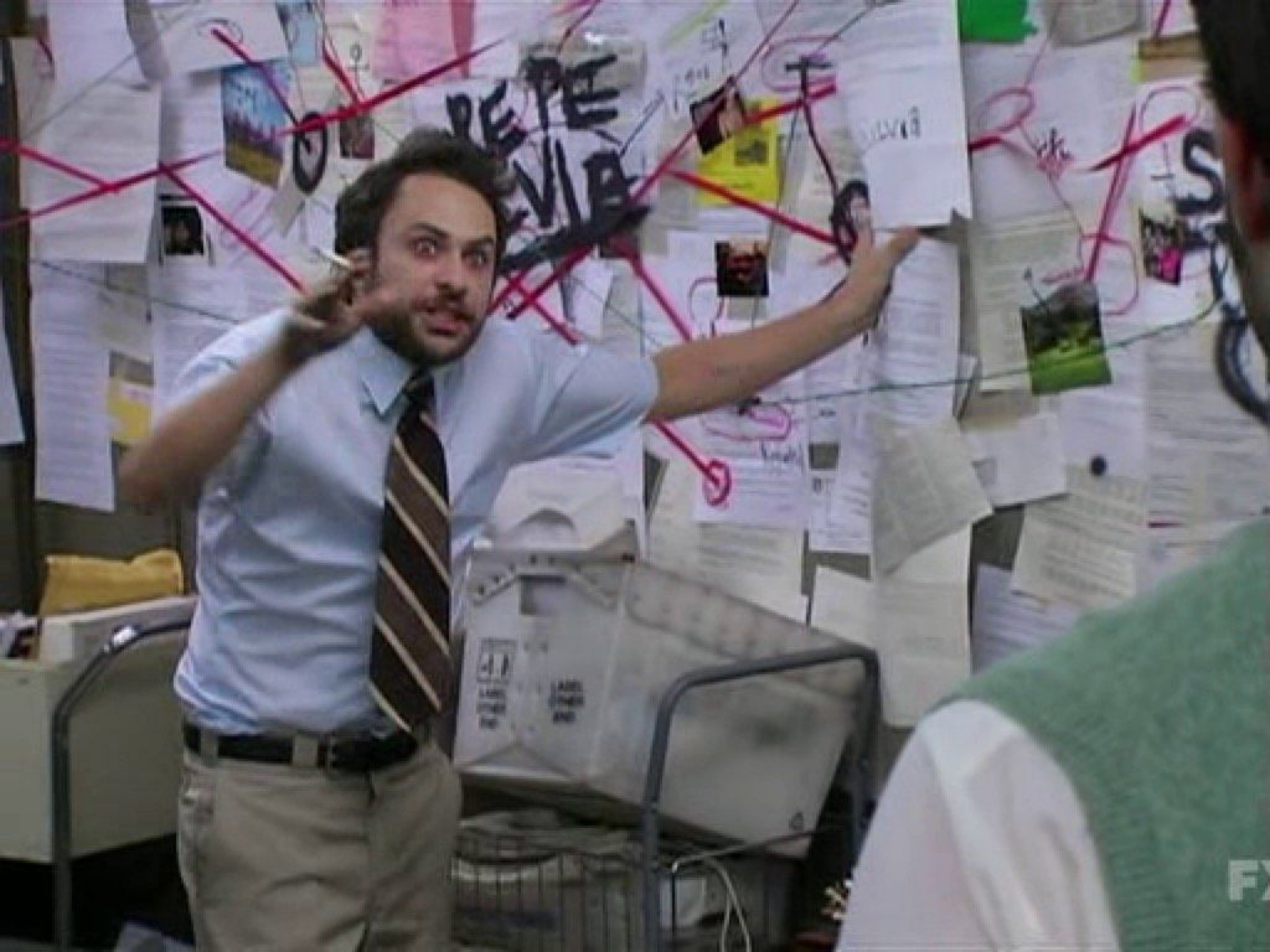
*Adapted from the Anti-Oppression Network*





# Bill A10427A Power Map





# On your powermap, you can put:

- **Individuals/single people** (i.e. me, my best friend, the mayor, my local representative, etc.)
- **Formal organizations** (i.e. Guttman Community College, GrowNYC, etc.)
- **General groups of people or stakeholders** (i.e. Students, teens, elderly residents, working mothers, etc.)

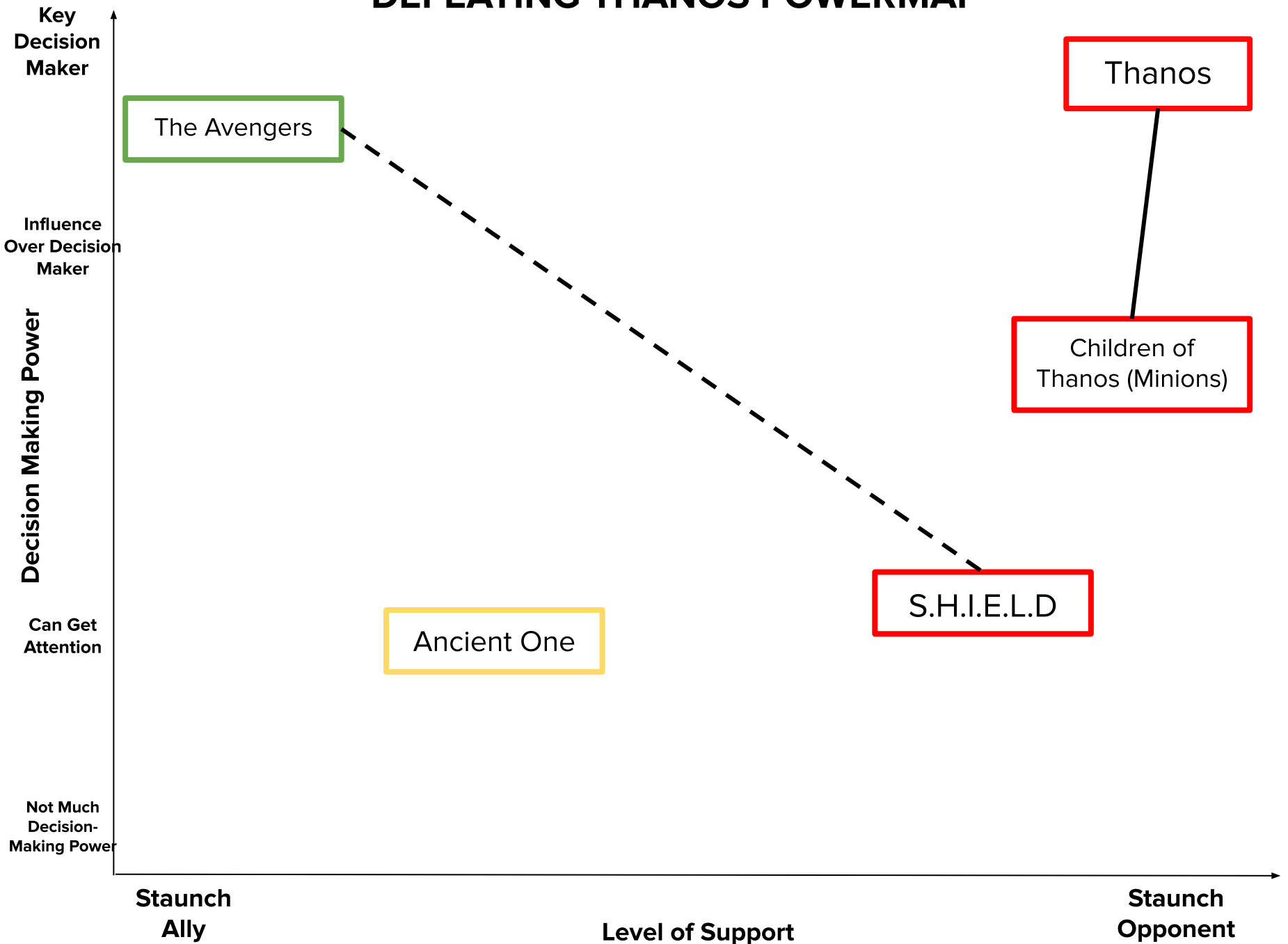
**As you begin to fill out your Power Map,  
some key things to identify:**

- 1. Who are the individuals to **target**?*
- 2. Who are the coalitions/organizations that are working on this (**allies**)?*
- 3. Who are the organizations working against this (**opposition**)?*
- 4. How are people connected?*

# Some questions to ask yourself as you powermap...

- **How much power does this person/group/organization have?** What kind of power?
  - Power can take many forms – do they have immediate decision-making power? A lot of influence over other decision makers or in their community? A lot of money?
- **What is their history on this issue?** Have they worked on it – or related issues– in the past? Have they spoken about it before?
- **Why do they care?** What are some of the reasons behind their position on this issue? How might it affect them or people that they care about?

# DEFEATING THANOS POWERMAP



# OUR EXAMPLE:

An illustration showing two hands holding white papers at the top, a ballot box in the center, and a ballot being placed into the box. The background is a light teal color.

**NEW YORK IS CONSISTENTLY RANKED AS ONE OF THE WORST STATES FOR VOTER TURNOUT AND EASE OF ACCESS TO THE BALLOT.**

**VOTER TURNOUT IS LOW ACROSS THE BOARD, BUT ESPECIALLY SO FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR (WORKING CLASS AND IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES).**

# WHAT'S CAUSING THE PROBLEM?

## WHAT STOPS NEW YORKERS FROM VOTING?

- Outdated voter registration system that relies solely on paper forms to register or update information
- No early voting or automatic voter registration
- Absentee ballots are difficult to obtain; you need to provide a “legitimate excuse” for why you cannot vote in person on election day
- No same-day voting registration
- Closed primaries
- Lack of available information about candidates and their platforms for residents with Limited English Proficiency
- Insufficient and chaotic polling locations
- Insufficient number of poll workers who can provide translation services
- Inconsistencies regarding when election day actually happens (federal and state primaries are on different days) and polling hours
- Cost of travelling to and from your polling site before or after work
- Needing to re-register to vote in certain situations (you are a formerly incarcerated felon, random voter roll purges etc.)
- Widespread corruption in state level politics
- Working class New Yorkers cannot afford to take time off to vote



# WHAT COULD FIX THE PROBLEM?

## HOW CAN WE MAKE THE BALLOT MORE ACCESSIBLE?

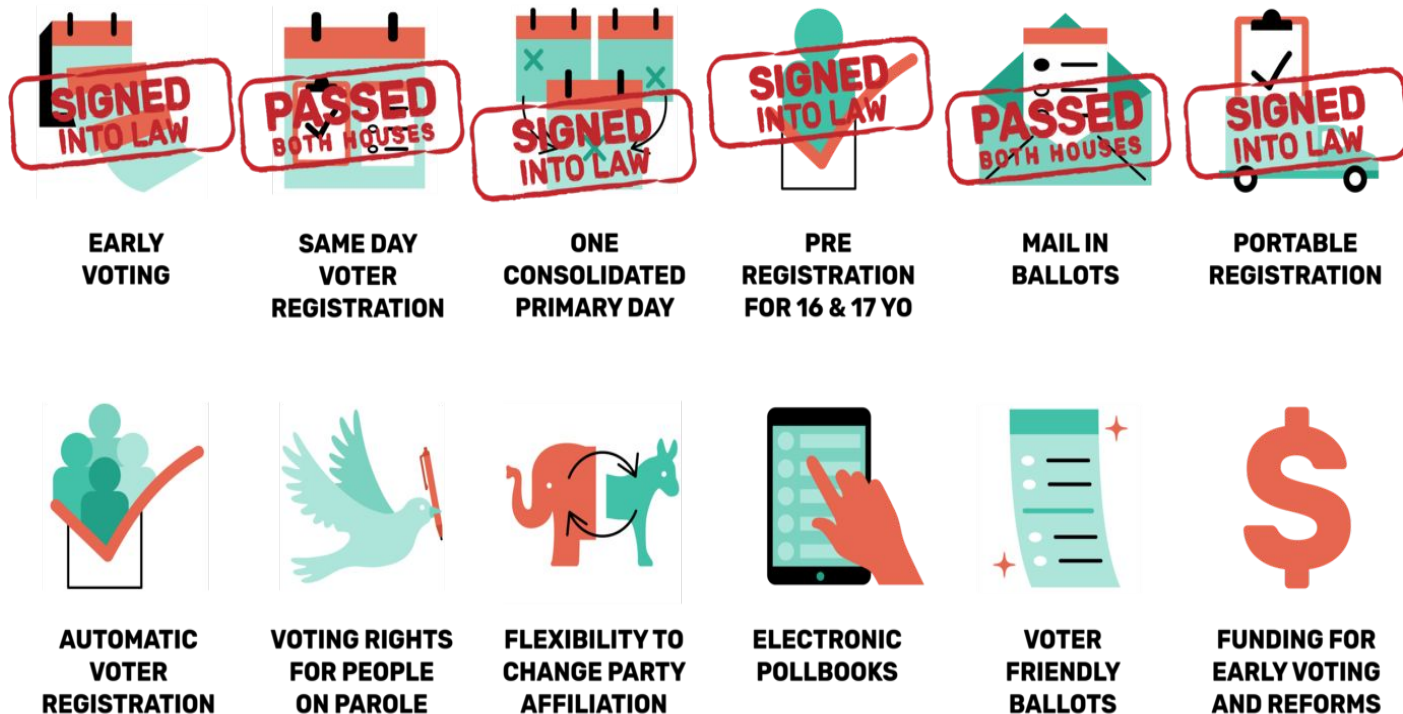
- Extend polling locations and hours
- Make voter registration an “opt-out” process rather than an “opt-in” one
- Same day voting registration
- Integrate an online system for voter registration and applying for absentee ballots
- Institute “no-excuse” absentee voting
- Consolidate election days so individuals don’t need to cut into work hours on multiple days
- Increase language accessibility of the ballot and informational booklets (expand the number of languages materials are translated into; increase community outreach to get native speakers to volunteer at the polls; increase the stipends poll workers receive)
- Automatic restoration of voting rights for those released from prison, including those on parole
- Make election day a state-level holiday
- Allow voters to switch party affiliation closer to election day or have open primaries
- Tackling income disparities in the state
- Address chronic corruption in the state

# WHO'S ALREADY WORKING ON THIS?



**Let NY Vote is a nonpartisan, statewide coalition** of grassroots networks, civil rights and civil liberties organizations, re-entry communities, good government groups, unions, social service providers, immigrant rights groups, and everyday citizens fighting to modernize New York's elections. Their goal is to pass simple solutions to improve our elections and make registering and voting more accessible and equitable for every eligible New Yorker.

# LetNYVote works on many different ways to make voting more accessible for New Yorkers



Today, we're going to focus on just two that make it easier for people to get their vote in.

# LET'S PRACTICE

## HOW CAN WE MAKE THE BALLOT MORE ACCESSIBLE?

- **No-excuse absentee voting:** Allowing anyone to request an absentee ballot for any reason instead of requiring an excuse deemed “valid” by the Board of Elections.
- **Same-day voter registration:** Voters can show up on election day, register, and then cast their ballot rather than needing to register over a month in advance.



**BREAKOUT**

