ROOSEVELT
INSTITUTE

Agenda

Part A: Finishing up our **Power Map**
Part B: Ethical Partnerships & **Coalitions**
Part C: *What is **Advocacy**?*

Power Mapping

OUR EXAMPLE:

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?
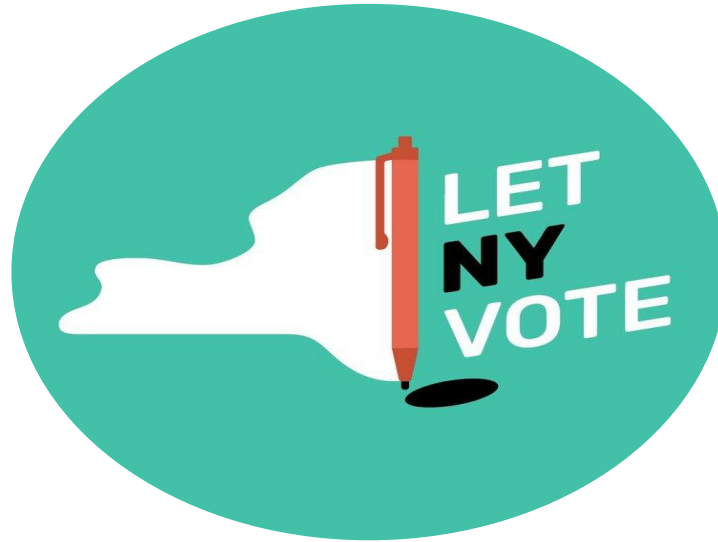
WHAT STOPS NEW YORKERS FROM VOTING?

- Outdated voter registration system that relies solely on paper forms to register or update information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?
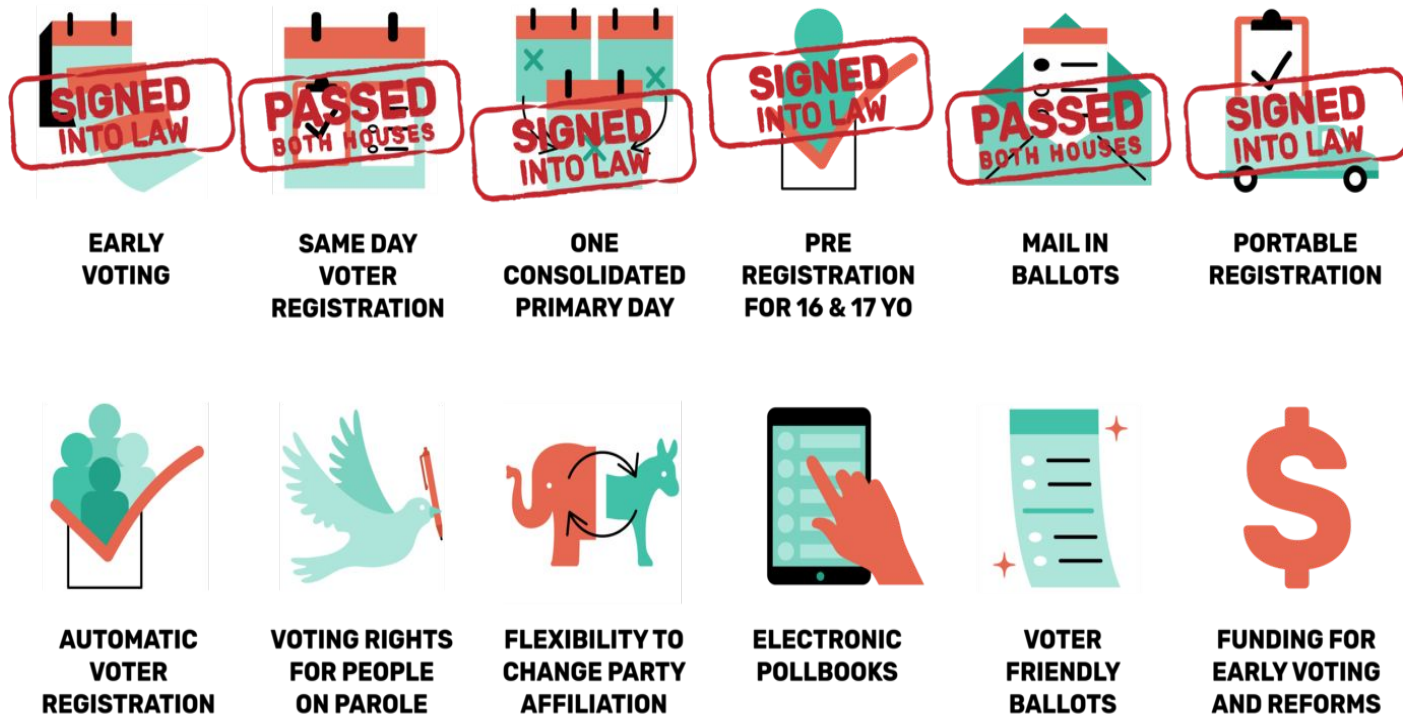
HOW CAN WE MAKE THE BALLOT MORE ACCESSIBLE?

- 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

SIGNED INTO LAW	**PASSED BOTH HOUSES**	**SIGNED INTO LAW**	**SIGNED INTO LAW**	**PASSED BOTH HOUSES**	**SIGNED INTO LAW**
EARLY VOTING	**SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION**	**ONE CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY DAY**	**PRE REGISTRATION FOR 16 & 17 YO**	**MAIL IN BALLOTS**	**PORTABLE REGISTRATION**
AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION	**VOTING RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE ON PAROLE**	**FLEXIBILITY TO CHANGE PARTY AFFILIATION**	**ELECTRONIC POLLBOOKS**	**VOTER FRIENDLY BALLOTS**	**FUNDING FOR EARLY VOTING AND REFORMS**

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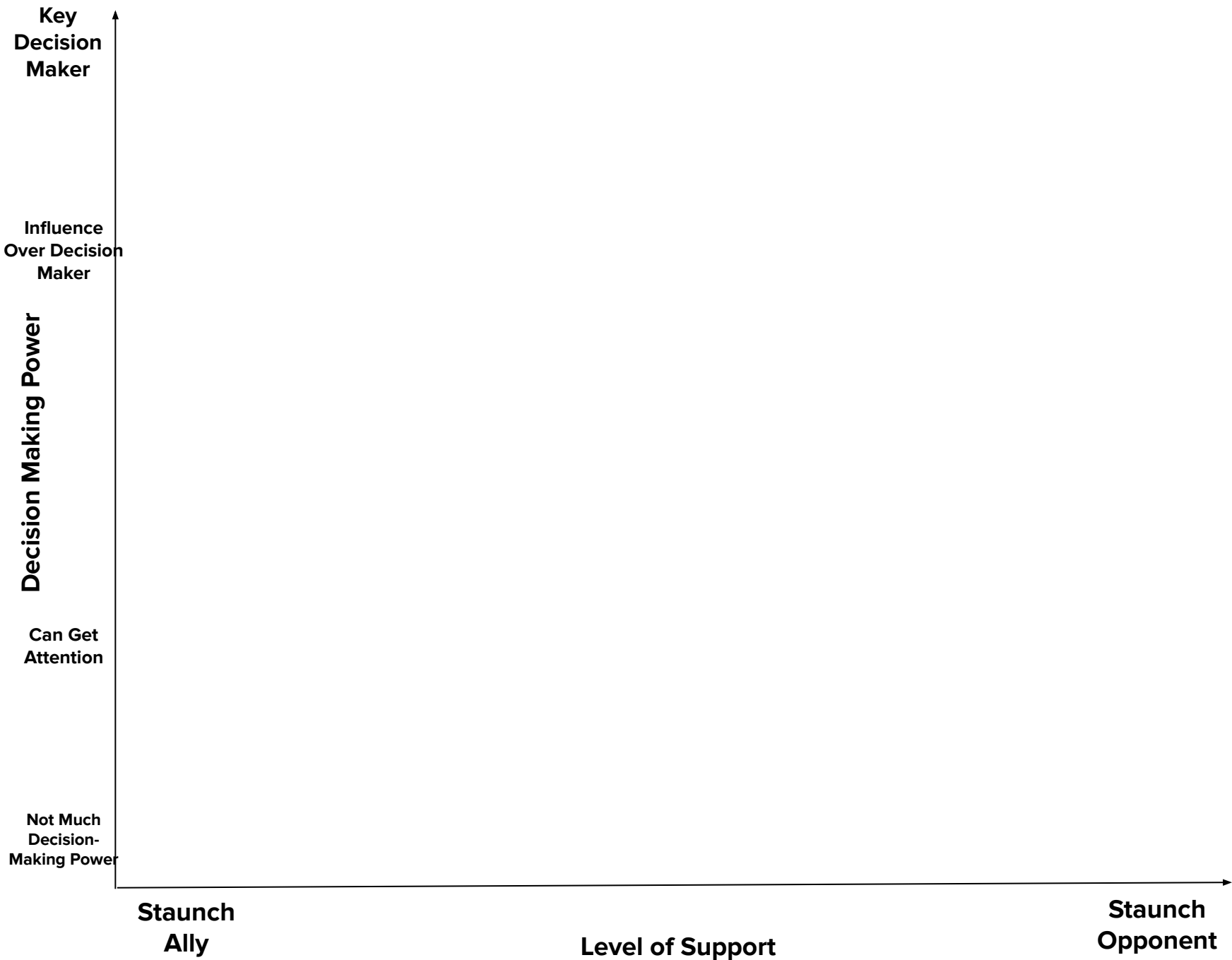
LET'S PRACTICE

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

Key Decision Maker

Influence Over Decision Maker

Decision Making Power

Can Get Attention

Not Much Decision- Making Power

Staunch Ally

Level of Support

Staunch Opponent

RECAP

- Power maps allow us to understand the political landscape we're working in – from our strongest allies, to our staunchest opponents.
- When we seek to make change, we need to identify the institution that is responsible for making that change, and understand what their process is.

QUESTIONS?

Partnerships & Coalitions

What is a **coalition?**

A coalition is an alliance between individual groups and/or individuals, brought together for **collective action** on **collective goals**.

We also partner with movement leaders to strengthen our capacity, and contribute to theirs:

But *why* coalitions?

Because we don't just believe rules need rewriting.

We believe the process of rewriting them has to be inclusive of the people impacted.

Working collaboratively is a **lifelong skill** for working in policy.

- Learning how to navigate and work within coalitions is a vital skill in policy making spaces, as **much of policy and legislative advocacy is accomplished through a coalition-based model.**
- We often come to work on issues for different reasons, and may **have overlapping (but not identical) interests**. Knowing how to look for – and understand – others' interests and how to work together even if you're coming from different sides of the table is critical.
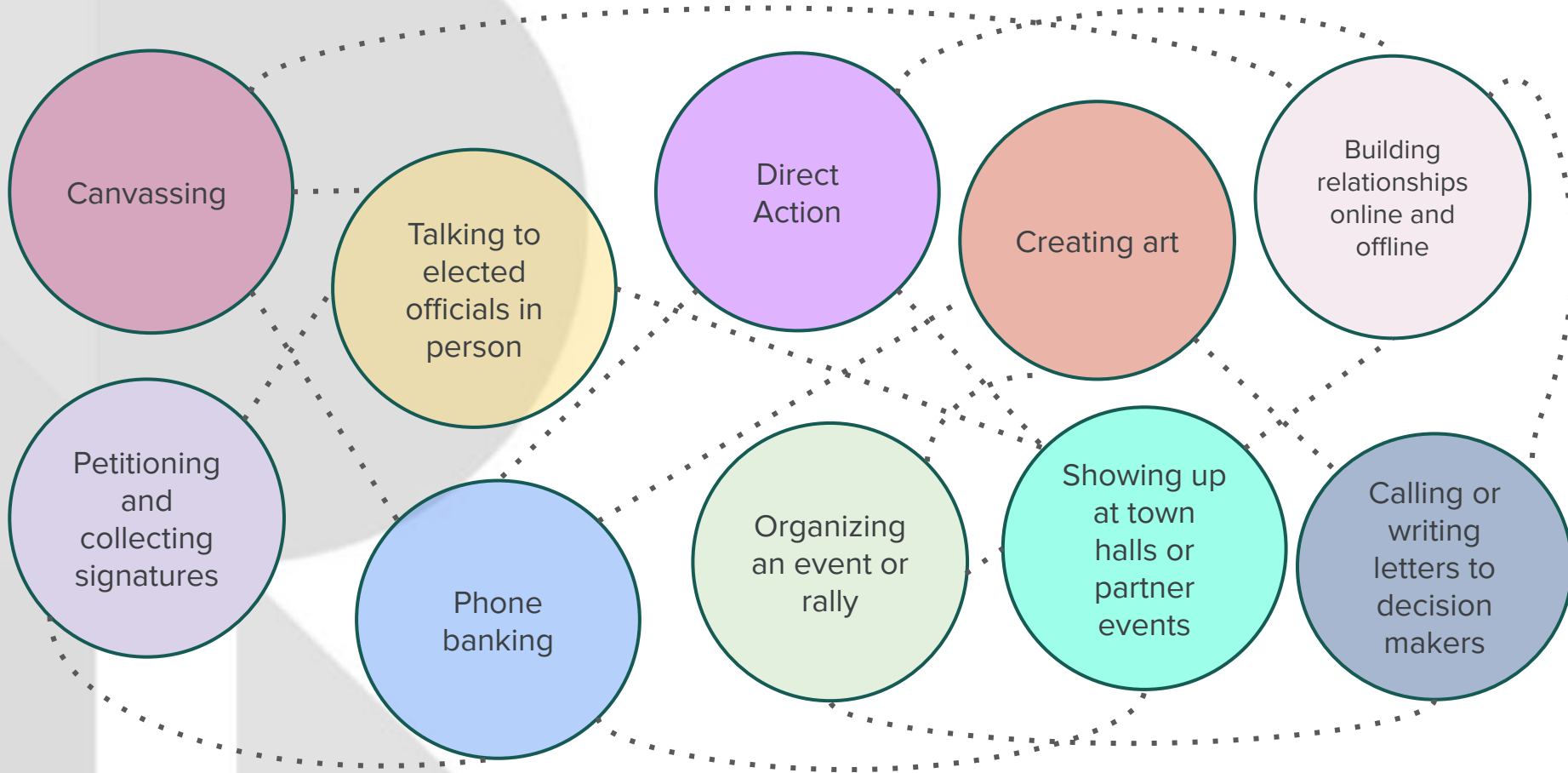
Advocacy

What is a **advocacy?**

Advocacy means actively working to promote an idea or cause with the goal of changing people's minds.

What does advocacy look like?

We all have a broad range of interests and skills.

Canvassing

Talking to elected officials in person

Direct Action

Creating art

Building relationships online and offline

Petitioning and collecting signatures

Phone banking

Organizing an event or rally

Showing up at town halls or partner events

Calling or writing letters to decision makers

We need to leverage everyone's strengths to put together a campaign that is **sustainable** and **impactful**.

What do we bring to the table?

In addition to the value you have as individuals with unique backgrounds, perspectives, and interests – **there are often particular things you have access to that you may not think of.**

Ex. Access to alumni networks, rights to physical spaces, access to professors & academic resources, voice on campus, etc.

BREAKOUT!

1. What are your **strengths** as individuals? In the groups you're involved in?
2. What are your **weaknesses**? Where do you need support?

Case Study 1: Ballot Amendment 4

What: Florida's ballot Amendment 4 sought to restore voting rights to former felons who had completed their sentence; the issue primarily affected black and low-income Floridians.

Allies: Second Chances Florida -- the organization that wrote the proposal and worked to get it on the ballot.

Opponents:

- Floridians for a Sensible Voting Rights Policy
- Florida Governor Ron DeSantis

Case Study 1: Ballot Amendment 4

What: Florida's ballot Amendment 4 sought to restore voting rights to former felons who had completed their sentence; the issue primarily affected black and low-income Floridians.

Student Involvement:

- Canvassing and collecting enough signatures to get it on the ballot
- Phone banking
- Organizing youth engagement
- Registering people to vote
- Talking to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals to make sure their perspectives were included and taken seriously

Case Study 2: Green Light Campaign

What: The Green Light Campaign wanted ensure equal access to driver's licenses for all residents of New York State, regardless of immigration status. Under their proposal, undocumented immigrants would be able to receive a standard driver's license.

Allies:

- Green Light New York
- Alianza Agrícola
- New York Immigration Coalition
- Make the Road New York
- 100+ local community organizations

Opponents:

- Jay Jacobs, the chairman of the New York State Democratic Party
- State Senate Republican Leader John J. Flanagan

STEERING COMMITTEE REGIONS

Worker's Center of Central NY

Columbia County Sanctuary Movement

Justice for Migrant Families

Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson

Neighbors Link

Worker Justice Center of NY

Minkwon Center for Community Action

NYIC

Make the Road

SEPA Mujer Inc.

Case Study 2: Green Light Campaign

What: The Green Light Campaign wanted ensure equal access to driver's licenses for all residents of New York State, regardless of immigration status. Under their proposal, undocumented immigrants would be able to receive non-federal driver's licenses.

Student Involvement:

- Showing up to weekly Alianza Agrícola meetings, taking and translating detailed notes
- Lobbying in Albany with the Green Light coalition; speaking directly to elected officials
- Highlighting the stories and experiences of undocumented agricultural workers
- Organizing across multiple campuses to get students involved
- Organizing a phone bank for constituents to call their representatives

Upcoming event!

On **October 19th (12pm-4pm)**, the NYC Campaign Finance Board & NYCVotes will be hosting a phone bank to help raise awareness about upcoming elections and early voting.

If you'd like to come and participate, let us know!

Planning Ahead

	Month 1
Key Results	Finalize our preliminary list of variables and meet with stakeholders/professionals who can offer guidance/direction.
Weeks 1-2	Consult with professors: Andrew Rich (Pending), Carlo Invernizzi Acetti (5/7), James Fontanella (5/7), Vicki Been (Pending, see below note), Stuart Ward (5/6)
Weeks 3-4	Attend Count Me in Rally May 15, speak with people already involved in the topic (NYC Construction Union)
	Follow up with ND Group from Incubator (Pending)
	Dr. Been put us in contact with Matt Murphy and Mark Willis, contact them
	Attend May 10th Fundraising/Annual event with Center against anti asian violence
	Attend May 13th City Council Meeting on Housing and Buildings (Corey Johnson)
	Follow up with Rachel to Schedule a Call/Meeting
	Month 2
Weeks 1-2	Continue meeting advocacy groups, join coalitions
Weeks 3-4	Attend events and meetings with the Coalation on Anti-Asian Violence and gain from their expertise in the lower east side and chinatown
	Attend city council meeting for committe on housing and buildings in June to follow up on how the issue is developing. Monthly meetings.
	Month 3
Weeks 1-2	Finally perform analysis in July/August
Weeks 3-4	With the help of Stuart Ward, develop a viable model for statistical analysis with our refined list of variables (Follow up with Joe throughout the process)
	Evaluate and process the data following analysis

Due by	Coalition Building	Publicity/Materials	Research	Team Building (@Roos)	
Friday June 7	Reach out to PHLUSH (succesful, they responded)				
Complete	Draft template letter to coalition partners				T
In Progress	Prepare for PHLUSH call (watch CBC doc, research Brit Community Toilet Schemes)				R
Stalled		Begin website/draft pages	Reach out to alumni groups		C
Not Started	First round of emails to potential coalition pa	First draft Op-Ed	Research bathroom apps	Reach out to NY regional coordinator / HR	C
Friday June 14					
	Follow up on emails	complete logo Final draft Op-Ed	Create bathroom access poll	Reach out to NYC chapter heads Meet/call with NY regional coordinator/HR	N
Friday June 21					
	Start meeting with potential partners	Complete Website Pitch Op-Ed to news sources		Speak to NYC chapter heads	
Friday June 28					
	Continue meeting, etc.	Create FB/Insta/Twitter	Photograph/examine public bathrooms in subways/parks	Speak with specific interested students/lead	
Friday July 5					
		Continue working on op-ed		Speak with specific students cont.	
Friday July 12					
		Draft petition language		Establish final list of team members	
		Make toilet meme, post petition in NUMTOT, etc.		Determine roles/timelines	

ABOUT US

THE ORGANIZATION

NYC Restrooms4All, a student-led coalition, advocates for public restroom availability throughout the city. The lack of public bathrooms impacts every New Yorker, including pregnant women, mothers with small children, people who are menstruating, senior citizens, the homeless, and New Yorkers living with incontinence and other related health issues. Clean and safe bathrooms are essential to human dignity, which is why NYC Restrooms4All is working toward free restrooms throughout New York City.

The organization was started by a group of NYC college students at CUNY, NYU, Columbia, and Guttman Community College. The advocacy campaign grew out of a policy written by Maeve Flaherty, a student at Columbia University, and published in *10 Ideas Journal*. The founding members are part of The Roosevelt Network, a nationwide campus network of student policymakers and policy advocates. The Roosevelt Network is a subsidiary of The Roosevelt Institute, a progressive think tank that aims to bring Franklin Delano and Eleanor Roosevelt's ideals into the future.

As progressive activists, the members of NYC Restrooms4All believe that the city of New York has a responsibility to provide New Yorkers with safe and clean sanitation services, allowing all New Yorkers the ability to move around the city comfortable in their ability to access and use a restroom.

OUR PARTNERS

Public Hygiene Lets Us Stay Human (PHLUSH)

The Simon Foundation for Continence

The Poop Project

Facilitated Learning for Universal Sanitation and Hygiene (FLUSH LLC)

Guttman Community College

The Roosevelt Institute

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What steps could you to take to advance your own projects?

RECAP

- Advocacy relies on multiple skills and approaches to an issue in order to create an effective campaign.

- Working with others in a coalition makes us more effective. We can utilize other skills we may not have and split responsibilities amongst the group.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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