

How We Win 2026

A tiny guide to elections when everything feels broken



Use this zine to start a conversation

Will elections even... happen?

When Republicans push laws to disenfranchise millions and seize ballots, it's easy to wonder.

• Yes, there will be elections. Counties, states, and local officials still run most of the process.

• Even authoritarian governments hold elections: rarely fair, but they create chances for pressure, organizing, and exposure.

• Our job is to use every election we still have and be ready to defend them.

• Support groups that guard the process: election-protection hotlines, League of Women Voters, Democracy Docket cases, etc.

• Be ready to document and protest if anyone tries to cancel, delay or overturn results.



Pick three of these and text a friend to join you!

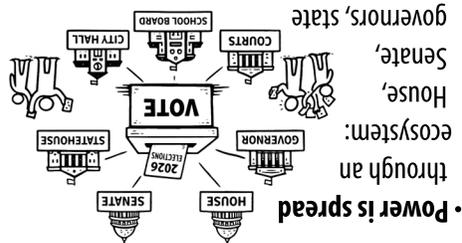


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- ### Your 2026 Action Checklist
- Knock doors for a candidate
 - Make calls for a must-win race
 - Write postcards for a special election
 - Text voters to check their voting plans
 - Chip in for a down-ballot campaign
 - Phonebank for a key race
 - VOTE in every election
 - Sign up to be a poll worker
 - Help register new voters
 - Get training in curing ballots
 - Share election info on social media
 - Host a small house party for a candidate
 - Volunteer with a democracy group

Elections = An Ecosystem

When we say "the 2026 elections," we are not just talking about one big race.



• Power is spread through an ecosystem: House, Senate, governors, state legislators, courts, school boards, city councils, secretaries of state, and more.

• Republicans showed us they will abuse every lever they control: state laws, gerrymandered maps, courts, local boards.

Our mission in 2026:

1. Take some of those levers back.
2. Build new ones they don't control yet.

- When we win local races, we:
- Build lasting **infrastructure** instead of campaigns that fly in and vanish
 - Boost **turnout** up the ballot
 - Grow the **bench** for future leaders



Local Races: First Line

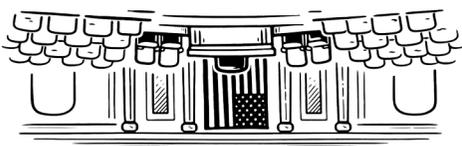
Local races are the ecosystem **closest to daily life**. Many of us once thought, "I only care about who is President or Senator." The right wing never made that mistake. **They invested** in school boards, city councils, sheriffs, secretaries of state, and election boards that:

- Decide what kids learn in school
- Choose where and how people vote
- Enforce or ignore civil-rights protections

Flipping the House: The Most Winnable Lever

To flip U.S. House will take just about **five seats**.

- A Democratic House can:
- Block extremist bills and budget riders
 - Run real oversight of corruption and abuse
 - Protect investigations and democracy-defending agencies



Good news: there are **winnable districts** where a few thousand votes make the difference. Think Arizona (HD 1, 6), California (HD 22, 48), Iowa (HD 1, 3), New York (HD 1), and Pennsylvania (HD 7, 10, 8). There are ~20 plausible R seats nationwide, plus a few D seats we'll have to defend in OH, TX, and ME.

Governors sign or veto those laws, appoint key officials, and can refuse to go along with anti-democratic schemes. State supreme courts are often the final word on gerrymandering, abortion bans, voting rights, and whether officials can refuse to certify election results.



- How easy it is to register and vote
- Abortion access
- LGBTQ+ rights
- Public schools and libraries

States: Where the Rules Get Written

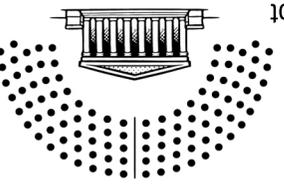
State power is where a lot of **democracy lives** or dies. State legislatures draw the maps that decide who gets a real shot at winning. They write laws about:

Senate & Courts: Playing the Long Game

The 2026 Senate map is rough. Republicans currently hold a majority; to take it back, Democrats need to defend GA and MI, and flip in tough races in ME, NC, AK, OH, and even IA and TX.

Why fight an **uphill battle**? Senate decides: Judges, including the Supreme Court

- Heads of Justice, Homeland Security, EPA, Labor, and other key agencies
- Treaties and national security posts



A hostile Senate can lock in voter-suppression judges and corrupt enforcers **for decades**. Even if we don't win them, every race we contest **builds power**.