

What's the Plan?: May 14, 2026



6
00:00:13.370 –> 00:00:14.870
Leah Greenberg: Hello, hello!

7
00:00:15.190 –> 00:00:16.620
Leah Greenberg: Welcome, folks!

8
00:00:17.220 –> 00:00:24.909
Leah Greenberg: Welcome in, welcome in. Put your, where you are coming from in the chat, so we can see all of the group folks coming from around the country.

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00:00:24.910 –> 00:00:38.040
Ezra Levin: And a reminder, this happens, if you don't... if you don't change it from the two from, host and panelist to everyone, then we'll get the message, but we, you know, the chat goes pretty fast, so we might not be able to see it, so be sure to change it to everyone.

10
00:00:38.460 –> 00:00:57.760
Leah Greenberg: That's right. All right, I see Happy Valley, Oregon, Tucson, Arizona, Woodbury, Minnesota, Farmington, Maine, Tucson, Staten Island, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Union, Michigan, Denver, Lynchburg, Virginia, Tempe, Arizona, Columbus, Ohio, Temecula, California, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

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00:00:58.120 –> 00:01:02.540
Leah Greenberg: Manhattan, Illinois! I did not know there was a Manhattan, Illinois. That's interesting.

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00:01:02.540 –> 00:01:09.040
Ezra Levin: One of the great things about having new Indivisible groups join every weekly is I learn about a lot of American geography.

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00:01:09.040 –> 00:01:17.959
Leah Greenberg: Yeah, no, that's true, it's true, it's real. Alright, I see some Alaska folks in the chat. Hello from Occupied Memphis, Indivisible Memphis on the line.

14
00:01:17.960 –> 00:01:23.040
Ezra Levin: Great, we were gonna talk about you, Individual Memphis. Stay tuned. You're gonna get a shout-out in just a little bit.

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00:01:23.040 –> 00:01:30.440
Leah Greenberg: Alright, let's go ahead and, kick off. I'll just do a couple of quick... some quick, background.

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00:01:30.440 –> 00:01:47.719
Leah Greenberg: Welcome, folks! You are joining What's the Plan? We are, having a really special What's the Plan? This, this conversation, because we have got LaTosha Brown, who is a legend in the voting rights and civil rights movement, joining us to talk about the response to Calais and the upcoming mobilization this weekend.

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00:01:47.720 –> 00:01:52.870
Leah Greenberg: We're gonna cover a little bit at the beginning. She's gonna pop in when she is available.

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00:01:52.870 –> 00:02:11.579
Leah Greenberg: About the bulk of the rest of the call is going to be Q&A. You can submit your questions for either us or LaTosha using the Q&A feature on your toolbar. We're going to be

taking... upvote the questions you most want to see answered with your little thumbs up icon. We will be taking them mostly from the top, with, like, a little bit of an eye towards making sure we've got a range of different questions and topics.

19
00:02:11.670 —> 00:02:28.609
Leah Greenberg: If you are in an Indivisible group, please let us know when you put your question in, because we like to know that we are answering questions from people who are doing the work around the country. This is going to be recorded, a link will go out to you if you registered. You can also now get the podcast version, which means you can also now rate the podcast version if you get it somewhere.

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00:02:28.990 —> 00:02:35.369
Ezra Levin: And actually, right now, literally everybody who has ever rated the podcast rated it 5 stars, so keep that going, y'all.

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00:02:35.370 —> 00:02:50.540
Leah Greenberg: Right, exactly. All the links we put in the chat are gonna go out to you in the follow-up email, so if you miss anything because the chat's moving fast, don't worry, it will be coming to you sooner or later. Finally, just a note in the chat box, we have thousands of people on these calls. We have, you know, between

22
00:02:50.540 —> 00:03:10.430
Leah Greenberg: 5 and 8,000 people usually joining us for What's the plan? That is incredible. We love the chat box, we love people, you know, sharing intel, figuring things out in real time, commenting, working it through strategy. We ask that people keep the chat box constructive and supportive. We are not always going to agree on strategy, we are not always going to agree on tactics.

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00:03:10.430 —> 00:03:16.759
Leah Greenberg: That's okay. We are a nationwide movement, we build together, and we do that with a lot of respect and care for each other.

24
00:03:17.250 —> 00:03:18.190
Leah Greenberg: And with that...

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00:03:18.190 —> 00:03:42.449
Ezra Levin: we have a first-timer joining. If you are new, let us know that you're brand new. We want new people joining. We want this to be a space that is welcoming to new people. Somebody asked, where can you... where can you rate the podcast? Normally, we ask people to rate it on Apple's Apple Podcasts. You can go in there and rate it. It does take... you gotta log in, and then you gotta actually put your rating in. I will say, it does help. We've talked to the folks who produce the podcast. They're like, yeah, if you could get more people to rate it, then more people see it.

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00:03:42.450 —> 00:04:07.429
Ezra Levin: So it is a useful thing to do. But also, I think part of the fun of being here is being part of the actual discussion, being part of the chat, being able to ask questions, being able to vote. So please, welcome new people in. We're trying to, you know, build a pro-democracy community in this country. I think this is the largest distributed grassroots movement of pro-democracy leaders all around the country. We are trying to build a movement that does

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00:04:07.430 —> 00:04:10.869
Ezra Levin: indeed welcome people in, so let them know about the Zoom, and invite them out.

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00:04:11.800 —> 00:04:17.700
Ezra Levin: Leah, and speaking of that grassroots community, I believe there are new individuals the last week.

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00:04:17.700 —> 00:04:28.959
Leah Greenberg: Yes, absolutely! Please join me in welcoming Carla with Millbrae Indisible in Millbrae, California, Jennifer with California... Indivisible California Green Team in Los Angeles, California. Lisa!

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00:04:29.610 —> 00:04:36.849
Leah Greenberg: Lisa with Indivisible East SGV, Covina Glendora Sandimas in Covina, California. Christopher!

31
00:04:36.850 —> 00:04:37.860
Ezra Levin: California groups.

32
00:04:37.860 —> 00:04:42.280

Leah Greenberg: A lot of California groups! Welcome, folks! I think there's some stuff going on in California.

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00:04:42.280 –> 00:04:46.120
Ezra Levin: I've heard there's a gubernatorial election that's getting quite a bit of energy out there, that's right.

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00:04:46.120 –> 00:04:56.450
Leah Greenberg: That's right. Alright, Christopher with Indivisible Windsor Locks in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. Diane with Indivisible Citrus in Inverness, Florida. Very cool.

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00:04:56.450 –> 00:05:11.400
Leah Greenberg: Sue with Indivisible of South Georgia in Thomasville, Georgia, Ellen with Indivisible Topeka in Topeka, Kansas, and Grace... oh, wait, no, two more! Grace with Indivisible Forsyth County, North Carolina, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

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00:05:11.400 –> 00:05:21.009
Leah Greenberg: Pam with Incline Indivisible in Incline Village, Nevada. Incredible! Welcome, folks! We are so happy to have you here. Thank you for joining the Indivisible Movement.

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00:05:21.430 –> 00:05:46.420
Ezra Levin: And for folks who are brand new, who are like, oh, I've never joined one of these Zooms before, just curious to see what it's up, you may or may not be connected to your local Indivisible group. What I would highly, highly, highly encourage you to do is find that local Indivisible group. If you look around, there probably is one near you. There are literally nearly 3,000 local Indivisible groups. These are locally owned and operated volunteer collectives of folks who are trying to fight for their democracy, and we have a philosophy about how to do this at Indivisible.

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00:05:46.420 –> 00:06:01.880
Ezra Levin: Which is, our power is geographically dispersed. That's how our representative democracy works. That's why it makes sense for you to belong to a local, indivisible group. And if you look around, you're like, there's not one nearby me, or the one nearby me isn't focused on the things that I and my friends would like to be focused on.

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00:06:01.880 –> 00:06:02.949

Ezra Levin: Good news!

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00:06:02.950 —> 00:06:27.040
Ezra Levin: you can start your own Indivisible group. Every one of the new leaders that you just heard from, that Leah just listed, these are folks who looked around and said, I guess I've got to organize my community. You aren't on your own if you do this. You will find both other people in your community who are going to be so appreciative that you got the group together, and you're going to find support from your local national organizer and Indivisible National to help you get through

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00:06:27.040 —> 00:06:40.920
Ezra Levin: All the process of, how do you start a local group? How do you organize them? How do you set agendas? How do you develop leadership teams? How do you put meetings together? How do you have advocacy campaigns and electoral campaigns? We can help you! We want you to start these groups because we have this

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00:06:40.920 —> 00:07:04.150
Ezra Levin: I don't know, maybe this naive belief that if you treat democracy as a participatory sport, democracy works better. That's what we believe, and so we're committed to it. Right or wrong, we believe that, so you'll have support to start those groups if you want to get it together. So, thanks to everybody over the last week that Leah just mentioned who decided to organize their community. That's the beating heart of this movement. It's what's allowed us to build and wield power

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00:07:04.150 —> 00:07:14.270
Ezra Levin: And we're going to keep building and wielding power, because the fascists aren't just going to give up their power. They are going to relinquish it when we demand it through the democratic process. That means getting involved and getting organized.

44
00:07:14.540 —> 00:07:18.360
Ezra Levin: Leah, shall we get into the major content of the day?

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00:07:18.360 —> 00:07:31.800
Leah Greenberg: Yes, absolutely. I want to know... LaTosha is with us, so Ezra is going to do a quick, better known and indivisible group before we, introduce Latasha and take your questions about, All Roads Lead to the South and the post-Cole response. Ezra, over to you.

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00:07:31.990 –> 00:07:49.180
Ezra Levin: You know, it just occurred to me, Leah, so we have been starting with Better Know and Indivisible Group, and this was a little nod to the way back when, when on the Colbert Report, there was Better Know a District, and now we have Stephen Colbert being kicked off the air by the corporate overlords listening to Trump. So we continue into.

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00:07:49.180 –> 00:07:52.279
Leah Greenberg: And we're dating ourselves by making that reference.

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00:07:52.280 –> 00:08:11.339
Ezra Levin: That's right. I guess that's right. I used to love the Colbert Report, though. Okay, so welcome to this week's edition of Better Known Indivisible Group. I'm going to take you all the way over to Tennessee with Indivisible Memphis. As everybody knows, in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's Calais decision, we've just seen this urgent rush

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00:08:11.340 –> 00:08:36.250
Ezra Levin: by states of the former Confederacy, that Confederacy of losers. You might know them as the folks who lost the Civil War and then couldn't get over it for over a century. Well, those states are back again, y'all! The Supreme Court is helping them out, and they are rushing to do everything they can to gerrymander black and brown folks out of political existence. And in Louisiana, I think folks probably saw this, the governor literally threw out tens of thousands of votes because

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00:08:36.250 –> 00:08:42.490
Ezra Levin: Man, he just couldn't pass up the opportunity to gerrymander himself into more congressional power.

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00:08:42.490 –> 00:09:07.160
Ezra Levin: Going into Tennessee, the Republicans and the white nationalists have teamed up to rush as fast as possible, bulldozing through this racial gerrymander for themselves, and stripping Democrats in the state assembly, in their state legislature, of their committee seats, literally saying, oh, you're opposing this, you're organizing against this, you're out! You can't even sit on committees in the assembly because of it. This includes Friend of the Pod and

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00:09:07.160 —> 00:09:20.019
Ezra Levin: former Indivisible Tennessee organizer, Afton Bain. It also includes state legislature Justin J. Pearson. Y'all might remember him as somebody who won national fame as one of the Tennessee Three. These were the three standing up against gun violence.

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00:09:20.030 —> 00:09:44.969
Ezra Levin: for gun violence prevention. This is back in 2023. He was expelled from the assembly for standing up in opposition to the Republicans on this. He was, two of the three were expelled, actually, two of the Tennessee three. You might also remember that the one who was not expelled was white. I'm sure that's just a coincidence, but that did not deter Justin J. Pearson. He immediately ran for and then won re-election, and

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00:09:44.970 —> 00:09:58.440
Ezra Levin: is now still a state legislature, which is how he was just stripped of his committee spots by the white nationalists and Republicans who control that state legislature right now. Now, one response to this that you could have to this attack on democracy is...

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00:09:58.440 —> 00:10:07.609
Ezra Levin: To give up. Look, the right-wing whack jobs are in control of just about every level of government in the state. They control that House and the Senate and the Presidency at the national level.

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00:10:07.930 —> 00:10:18.180
Ezra Levin: What can you hope to achieve? Why don't you just throw up your hands? Why don't you give in to doomerism? Well, giving up is not in Indivisible Memphis' DNA.

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00:10:18.200 —> 00:10:38.120
Ezra Levin: Within 48 hours of the new gerrymandered map being bulldozed through the legislature and signed into law, they organized this mass rally with the A. Philip Randolph Institute for Social and Economic Justice. They called it Memphis Won't Be Silenced, and at that mass rally, among the speakers was none other than Justin J. Pearson.

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00:10:38.230 —> 00:10:51.239
Ezra Levin: And following this, they have rallied around Pearson to be a candidate in Tennessee's 9th congressional district. Now, I'm not saying that's an easy road. It is a Republican-leaning district, but it ain't a Republican-dominated district, Dale. They are not giving up.

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00:10:51.240 —> 00:11:03.409
Ezra Levin: They are organizing. If you have ever asked yourself what you would have been doing 61 years ago when John Lewis and many civil rights leaders, faith leaders, union workers, pro-democracy organizers marched across that Edmund Pettus Bridge.

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00:11:03.410 —> 00:11:12.289
Ezra Levin: in Selma to push for the Voting Rights Act and win us the representative democracy that we know as American democracy today. The answer to that question is whatever you're doing right now.

61
00:11:12.290 —> 00:11:26.009
Ezra Levin: Indivisible Memphis is showing us what they would have been doing. They're doing it right now. And we should all be taking inspiration from it. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. We should all be given Indivisible Memphis that compliment. And on that note.

62
00:11:26.150 —> 00:11:34.129
Ezra Levin: We've got a special guest to talk about a historic event coming together for this Saturday, All Roads Lead to the South. Leah, I'm going to turn it over to you to introduce our guest.

63
00:11:34.130 —> 00:11:52.469
Leah Greenberg: Okay, it is my pleasure to introduce someone who does... does not need an introduction. She is a movement hero, movement visionary, Latasha Brown, but I am going to give you a quick, quick bio. Latasha is the co-founder of Black Voters Matter Fund, a power-building group based in the South, which has played a pivotal role in electoral politics.

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00:11:52.470 —> 00:12:00.460
Leah Greenberg: From the 2017 Alabama Senate race on, she has spent decades working to build Black political power and representation from the grassroots to the national level.

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00:12:00.460 —> 00:12:18.690
Leah Greenberg: We got to know each other real well during the charge for the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the Freedom to Vote Act during the Biden years, and we are tremendously fortunate as an ecosystem that she is leading the charge now as we face this vicious onslaught in the wake of the Calais decision. So, LaTosha, welcome!

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00:12:18.860 —> 00:12:26.190
LaTosha Brown: Thank you. Well, the first thing I did right was the day I started to fight. Keep your eyes

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00:12:26.670 —> 00:12:34.160
LaTosha Brown: the prize, and hold on, hold on, hold on, Keep going!

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00:12:34.370 —> 00:12:58.930
LaTosha Brown: And hold on, hold on. I know that's not what you asked me to do, but I want to start. Movements are rooted in spirit, and it's the spirit of our humanity, it is in our song, it is in our DNA. We were built for this moment. So I know people are feeling like what we gonna do in this moment, the people are gonna rise up. That's exactly the answer and the antidote to this hateful.

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00:12:58.940 —> 00:13:02.820
LaTosha Brown: Racist, fascist regime that is in office right now.

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00:13:03.490 —> 00:13:09.070
Leah Greenberg: Absolutely, absolutely. Oh, my goodness. Well, I'm seeing... I'm seeing all the love...

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00:13:09.070 —> 00:13:10.530
Ezra Levin: Can we hear your song now?

72
00:13:10.530 —> 00:13:19.230
Leah Greenberg: Yeah, you do not want that, you do not want that, let me tell you. We're gonna need to have LaTosha Beach. Come on, Leah, Leah!

73
00:13:19.230 —> 00:13:20.600
LaTosha Brown: Got a tune with me, come on.

74
00:13:20.600 —> 00:13:24.840
Leah Greenberg: Well, have Ezra get that guitar off the wall, and he can start playing.

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00:13:24.840 –> 00:13:30.609
Ezra Levin: That's a good response. I won't be doing that, and you won't be singing, and everything will be happier for, and we'll leave this to LaTosha, yeah.

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00:13:30.610 –> 00:13:53.080
Leah Greenberg: Well, let me ask you. So, a lot of the discourse on the Calay decision has focused on this immediate congressional redistricting fallout and this onslaught from Tennessee to Louisiana to Alabama, but the Calais decision has implications that are... go way beyond the 2026 congressional map. So, can you start just by grounding us with what this means for Black and brown political power and representation in the South?

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00:13:53.330 –> 00:14:00.869
LaTosha Brown: So there's a couple of pieces that I want to share, and one, I think the first piece is this can actually reshape the entire political landscape.

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00:14:00.870 –> 00:14:24.139
LaTosha Brown: There's a report that people want to get kind of the details. We don't have that much time, so I won't go through all of that, but you can actually go to our site, blackvotersMatterfund.org, or you can go to Fair Fight. We came together and did a report, and what... when we were looking at the report, based on what they're doing right now, there's the possibility of us losing one-third of the Congressional Black Caucus. That's about 19 seats.

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00:14:24.140 –> 00:14:29.529
LaTosha Brown: And across the South. That is huge. That will shape and shift

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00:14:29.530 –> 00:14:53.290
LaTosha Brown: political politic... the political landscape forever. And so that is extremely egregious for Black representation in the South. I want to raise some other layers, too. It is egregious for a political representation in the South, but also I want to show how it is egregious for America. Why? It's because when you look at Black elected officials, we have actually been on the right side of history most of the time. We've had a couple of outliers.

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00:14:53.290 –> 00:15:18.019

LaTosha Brown: when you look at progressive politics, there's no pathway to progressive politics that has not been anchored, supported, led, or even the base vote has been African American voters. So this is not just about what happens to Black voters, even though that in itself should be enough. The fact that we're looking at being deenfranchised in this moment. Some of the things that some of y'all may be following, when you look at Louisiana, Louisiana is a state

82
00:15:18.090 —> 00:15:41.719
LaTosha Brown: that now is one-third Black. And so, although there's growth, although you see in this particular Calais case, you had a group of citizens that identified themselves. Like, they were just racist, they just came on out with it. It was like, their only identification was a group of non-African Americans, right? As if anything with them. That is literally the group that sued for the Calais decision

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00:15:41.720 —> 00:15:58.869
LaTosha Brown: They name themselves, their identity, as non-African Americans. That's how egregious and how intensely racist they are. And so, in this particular case, you know, in the Calais case, in the state where it's one-third... one-third African American, there's only one competitive seat.

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00:15:58.870 —> 00:16:23.820
LaTosha Brown: one competitive seat, and when we say the districts are drawn in such a way for Black representation, it's not like it's given, it's not like it's automatic. Those candidates still have to appeal to the base of voters, both Black and white and whoever in that district. They have to work, they have to serve their districts. And so, ultimately, this is about, really about marginalizing Black voices, but it has an impact on all of us. When you look at Alabama, Alabama's a state

85
00:16:23.820 —> 00:16:40.579
LaTosha Brown: that one-fourth of the state is African American, and so 25% of the state, but what you've seen is a state, there's only been one seat that has been African American, and so it, as a result, there was a lawsuit in a Milligan case that just two years ago... let me tell you the significance of this particular ruling last week.

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00:16:41.000 —> 00:17:04.539
LaTosha Brown: Just two years ago, the Supreme Court even came down and said, listen, this is... this meets the criteria of Section 2. State of Alabama, you gotta do better. You got to draw some maps, right? You have got to get another district, for African American voters to be competitive in

the state. And the state was so racist, so egregious, that they refused, that this same conservative

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00:17:05.240 –> 00:17:24.260
LaTosha Brown: court had to tell the state of Alabama, you gotta... we gotta get a... they had to bring in a special master to draw it. So they were familiar, there's... on the record, they acknowledged the discriminatory practices, they acknowledged... and even the attorney general in the state said that... made an agreement that this would not be... no maps would be touched.

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00:17:24.260 –> 00:17:44.170
LaTosha Brown: until 2030. That was an agreement that the Republican side made. So what has changed? So this is a Supreme Court, the same exact Roberts Court. So what has changed in the last two years? Hmm, let me see. You all know what the answer is. It has been an administration. So what this... what this particularly last week.

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00:17:44.170 –> 00:18:07.570
LaTosha Brown: They actually went against their own ruling. So that tells you that this Supreme Court has been corrupted and captured, and it's capitulated to the executive branch. No longer do we have this balance of checks and balances between the legislative branch, the executive branch, and the Supreme Court. In fact, what we're seeing is that they are becoming instruments

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00:18:07.720 –> 00:18:26.879
LaTosha Brown: of this fascist regime, and they're no longer... they're actually no longer a independent justice body. So, given that, what we know is we have other options. When we don't have a House, when we don't have the Senate, and when we don't have the White House, we've got the most powerful chamber ever.

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00:18:26.880 –> 00:18:28.130
LaTosha Brown: We got the people.

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00:18:28.130 –> 00:18:52.619
LaTosha Brown: And so that's why it's important in this moment that we are the people. The Constitution says nothing about protecting the interests of political parties. This is not even about the Democrats or the Republicans. People are trying to make this be a state sale. Well, you still will have Democratic districts or Republican districts. How disrespectful that is to me. What

you're saying to me is that I don't have the right to choose, that you're automatically going to decide what side of law. You don't have that right, that this is really about

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00:18:52.620 –> 00:19:17.079
LaTosha Brown: I have the right that if God has given me, and I'm a person of faith, the power of choice, then who is this government to try to take away my choice? My choice to be able to weigh in on decisions being made about me and my family and my communities. So given that, part of what we've decided is, in a very grassroots, in the same kind of spirit of Indivisible, which is why I love my sister Leah, is that, ultimately, we are from the ground up.

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00:19:17.150 –> 00:19:41.500
LaTosha Brown: And you know, things that grow from the ground up got roots in the ground, and when you got roots in the ground, it doesn't matter how hard the storm comes, you may sway a little bit, right? You might bend a little bit, but you are rooted in the ground, you are not gonna break. And so, ultimately, that's who we are. We are rooted in the ground. This rich soil in the state of Alabama and all of these other racist Confederate states, that that soil is

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00:19:41.500 –> 00:19:57.920
LaTosha Brown: drenching with our blood, with our tears, with our sweat, but it's also drenching with our work and the memory of those who made and shifted in this nation. So we ask people to come and join us on this Saturday. Get your folks, get your folks together, and this is not a traditional protest.

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00:19:57.920 –> 00:20:01.419
LaTosha Brown: I do want to make sure that people understand this is...

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00:20:01.420 –> 00:20:19.719
LaTosha Brown: for all intents and purposes, I'll just say this is almost like the gathering of waters, that we are coming together in the spirit of solidarity, in the spirit of love, the only thing that's going to defeat hate is love. The only thing that's going to shift this political, mess that we're in is us leaning into our humanity.

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00:20:21.430 –> 00:20:43.779
Ezra Levin: LaTosha, when you speak, it just seems like everything's possible. I could just listen to you talk about where we're going all day long, and I actually want to listen to that a little bit more, so let me prompt you to tell us a little bit about this. I think we all, Indivisible and Black Voters

Matter, got particularly close around the last fight around the Voting Rights Act, around Freedom of Invoked Act, around the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, and...

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00:20:43.780 –> 00:20:57.620
Ezra Levin: I remember we were out in... we were out in Phoenix trying to push Kyrsten Sinema, that old villain of the fight, to get on board with the reform of the filibuster so we could outlaw gerrymandering, so we could get money out of politics, so we could make democracy actually responsive.

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00:20:57.620 –> 00:21:20.289
Ezra Levin: And so this is not a new fight for you. You've been in this fight for quite some time, in the legislative fight, too, and also, you were just speaking about this corrupt Supreme Court that we've got, that we've got structural factors that are against us. And so while legislation, simple legislation, protecting voting rights through legislation, is clearly... it's necessary, what's coming into focus is that it's not sufficient.

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00:21:20.690 –> 00:21:28.450
Ezra Levin: we actually need something more than this. Can you talk about what are these structural things that we need to fix to actually have a representative democracy that works for us?

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00:21:28.650 –> 00:21:38.070
LaTosha Brown: You know, in this moment, I want the people that are on here, I want, the leaders on here. I just want you all, for a couple of seconds, I want you to... to...

103
00:21:38.440 –> 00:21:41.699
LaTosha Brown: I want you to just to close your eyes for... just for a quick second.

104
00:21:41.860 –> 00:21:48.949
LaTosha Brown: And as you close your eyes, I'm gonna ask you two questions. My first question to you is, what would this nation look like

105
00:21:49.210 –> 00:21:53.550
LaTosha Brown: without racism, and sexism.

106
00:21:56.770 –> 00:22:08.689
LaTosha Brown: And then my second question to you is, what would this nation look like if all of the people in this nation were valued and respected? You don't have to like them, you don't have to love them, you don't even have to be with them, but that... just their humanity was valued and respected.

107
00:22:09.880 –> 00:22:11.500
LaTosha Brown: Now, open your eyes.

108
00:22:12.560 –> 00:22:18.470
LaTosha Brown: And so I know... I see a lot of people saying, Norway.

109
00:22:18.470 –> 00:22:20.040
Leah Greenberg: Bad news about Norway, y'all.

110
00:22:20.040 –> 00:22:33.129
LaTosha Brown: That is a good one. The truth of the matter is, there is nothing that has been created in the physical realm that wasn't first envisioned, and I'm saying that because I want us

111
00:22:33.130 –> 00:22:57.319
LaTosha Brown: in this moment to shift the frame of just seeing ourselves as citizens of a nation that didn't see the humanity of most of us, that didn't see the humanity of women, that did not even see the humanity of white men if you weren't wealthy and owned land. It did not see the humanity of my people and my ancestors. It did not see the humanity of our Indigenous brothers and sisters who actually were stewards of this land, right? It did not see the

112
00:22:57.320 –> 00:23:22.149
LaTosha Brown: the humanity of most of us, right? The vast, vast majority of us. And so, we've given them 250 years. They've had 250 years to do and put their vision. I believe that it is time for, as we're celebrating this 250, the next 250, we have to be the architects of that. For the next 250, we have to shift from seeing ourselves just as the citizens of a nation

113
00:23:22.150 –> 00:23:45.610

LaTosha Brown: that was shaped by those who had limited vision, that were not necessarily in the... and could not see the humanity of all people, and were not in the conditions in which we find ourselves now, that it is in our moment now that we've got to start planting seeds of what will the next 250 look like, and be the visionaries, and see ourselves as the mothers, you know, and the founders of the new nation, of the America that we all desire and we deserve.

114
00:23:45.610 –> 00:23:48.979
LaTosha Brown: Getting along... all of us are never gonna have the same belief system.

115
00:23:49.000 –> 00:23:53.769
LaTosha Brown: That's just not what... right. I don't even agree with myself in a food, right?

116
00:23:54.330 –> 00:24:18.989
LaTosha Brown: Right, so I understand, like, the conflict is not the problem. The problem is not that we don't know how to get along, we don't know how to fight. We don't know how to be in disagreement with each other, that there's civil discourse, that we actually can hold the humanity of each other while we have differences of opinion, differences in political ideology. We've reduced that now that everything is about whether you're on the blue side or the red side, and the humanity piece.

117
00:24:18.990 –> 00:24:19.580
LaTosha Brown: I don't

118
00:24:19.580 –> 00:24:44.410
LaTosha Brown: I'm not on either side. I'm on the humanity side. And whatever party, or whatever group, or whatever politicians actually support the interests of humanity, I'm down with them. And so we have to right-set this. This isn't about political party power. This is really about the people power. And in this moment, I think, Leah and Ezra, I think this is a moment for us to come together. I think there's a moment, you know, I've been honest and open about

119
00:24:44.410 –> 00:24:48.639
LaTosha Brown: You know, there has been a lot of hurt in the Black community of filling that

120
00:24:48.640 –> 00:25:05.609

LaTosha Brown: constantly, that when it comes to rights around... I can go from the abolitionist movement to the suffrage movement, to the education movement, all of those movements, we have been a part of those movements and have to anchor and even support, even at the expense of us being marginalized, right?

121
00:25:06.000 –> 00:25:11.840
LaTosha Brown: And in this moment, where we're seeing this blatant, racist, anti-Black attack.

122
00:25:12.030 –> 00:25:35.349
LaTosha Brown: on Black voters in the South, right? I think this is a moment that we can actually heal some of our wounds in our community. I think this is a moment that we can show a unified front, that the America that we see and we envision is multiracial, is multicultural, is multi-generational, that we can stand together just as we did during George Floyd. That was one of the proudest moments in my life when I saw the level of diversity of people standing together

123
00:25:35.350 –> 00:25:49.989
LaTosha Brown: raising their voice and saying, this is wrong. I think we're at this moment right now that that is a possibility for us to take advantage of this moment and stand with a community that has literally put everything on the line to try to build and strengthen this democracy.

124
00:25:51.080 –> 00:25:58.870
Ezra Levin: Just noting that there is a lot of LaTosha for president in the chat. I think that's the most common thing that I'm seeing right now.

125
00:25:58.870 –> 00:26:02.130
LaTosha Brown: That would be quite interesting, I would say.

126
00:26:02.130 –> 00:26:12.570
Leah Greenberg: Well, let me jump off of that comment, because, you know, Indivisible, we are a multiracial movement, and also, you know, we're aware there's a lot of white folks around who are

127
00:26:12.580 –> 00:26:28.179
Leah Greenberg: activated, and who are outraged and determined, and who want to show up in this moment, and who understand that this is a really important moment to be showing up for

Black folks who are under threat. So what do you think is important for white people, non-Black people who are organizing in this moment to understand and to do?

128
00:26:28.780 –> 00:26:53.080
LaTosha Brown: that we need your voice, and we need you to use your place of privilege. We need you to continue to resist with us. We need you to stand on the front lines with us. We need you to support our work. Oftentimes, it's very important that we're not silenced in this process. Part of the beauty of this issue... of this weekend, it is Black-led. That the All Roads Lead to the South has been Black-led, because the attacks have become primarily at

129
00:26:53.100 –> 00:27:10.099
LaTosha Brown: at discriminating and marginalizing the Black vote. But it's not... there's nothing that we have ever done, there's no movement that we have ever done that is about exclusion. That our movements have always been about inclusion, our movements have always been... everything that we've ever fought for has helped everybody else, is what it means.

130
00:27:10.660 –> 00:27:24.130
LaTosha Brown: So, I am saying that in this moment, what I believe that people can do is organize, organize, organize. We've got to use our collective power, we've got to use our collective voices. This is not a Southern issue. What I would say is.

131
00:27:24.130 –> 00:27:48.490
LaTosha Brown: you know, we're saying all roads lead to the South, but if you're under... if you're under Canada, you're pretty much living in the South about right now, right? We've seen this before, we've experienced this kind of fascist, concentration of power, and we also have learned a couple of tools on how to beat it back. And the way that we have actually been able to beat it back has been about organizing and leveraging our power in this moment.

132
00:27:48.660 –> 00:27:50.350
LaTosha Brown: Please do not be silent.

133
00:27:50.350 –> 00:28:14.759
LaTosha Brown: Please do not be in the space of... and we also have to get to a space that there is a different frame of how we're dealing with race in this country. We have not dealt with racism as we need to deal with. We have not dealt with the anti-Blackness. That is not a matter of getting along, it's a matter of we have to really transform our belief system. Every single thing in this

culture has reinstituted and reinforced this idea that some way, Black people are less than others. We commit more crimes.

134
00:28:14.760 –> 00:28:24.430
LaTosha Brown: We're more prone to what all the negative stereotypes. And so it's really important in this moment that we see this as an opportunity.

135
00:28:24.430 –> 00:28:41.299
LaTosha Brown: This is an opportunity for us to get this right. This is an opportunity, as we're going in the next 250 years, we gotta do two things. And I... really three. But the two things I'll say is block and build. We have to block the harmful legislation that is happening now, and this attempt to consolidate power.

136
00:28:41.300 –> 00:28:51.759
LaTosha Brown: That has to be blocked. By any means, we've got to block that. But we also can't just be blocking and say that we're gonna go back to where we were, because where we were was not good enough. Where we were got us here.

137
00:28:51.760 –> 00:28:52.100
Leah Greenberg: Yep.

138
00:28:52.100 –> 00:29:04.560
LaTosha Brown: We've got to actually make a quantum leap and really have the discipline, the rigor, the fortitude, and the ability and the humility to understand that there are a lot of things that we have not gotten right.

139
00:29:04.560 –> 00:29:29.370
LaTosha Brown: that we have to do racial healing and racial reckoning, that this country has created a major disservice on its minority citizens, particularly the Black community, that there has been an extraction of wealth, there has been an extraction and a constant fight and attack on our basic fundamental right as a human being in this country. And so I think that there is a moment that this can be an aha moment for all of us, that we make a commitment that we understand that the change starts with

140
00:29:29.370 –> 00:29:48.640

LaTosha Brown: us first, that we take this opportunity to be transformed from the inside out, and we work like hell to make sure that the out actually reflects what we have inside. If we have love inside, if we believe in the humanity, and we center humanity, what can stop us? Nothing can stop us. Governments!

141
00:29:48.900 –> 00:29:54.069
LaTosha Brown: are only as legitimate as those that they govern see them as. And so we.

142
00:29:54.070 –> 00:29:54.649
Ezra Levin: I have to understand.

143
00:29:54.650 –> 00:30:10.189
LaTosha Brown: and right-set this, that they can't tell us what to do, that we sent them... we tell them what to do. We sent them... they are in position to represent us, not the opposite, and we've got to hold them accountable. And part of the reason why we're where we are is because we have gotten complacent.

144
00:30:10.190 –> 00:30:26.320
LaTosha Brown: That we have gone about our daily-day lives, and we've worked, and we've done these things, and many... even within the nonprofit sector, that we've created, that we've got these different nonprofits that are in these silos, and we're going to be issue organizing, and it has come at the expense of weakening our movement.

145
00:30:26.320 –> 00:30:31.990
LaTosha Brown: But I can tell you, in this moment, we can build... it is a... we can create the beautiful mess.

146
00:30:31.990 –> 00:30:55.930
LaTosha Brown: We can create the beautiful mess in the beloved community that Dr. King talked about, the one that I believe in, the one that I love the diversity of ideas and the diversity of food and diversity of people. I love that. I feed off that. That is what gives us... that is what gives us purpose. And I so hope that in this moment, we understand that we are not so focused on those that seek to do us harm.

147
00:30:55.980 –> 00:31:13.210

LaTosha Brown: that we forget that we are the architects of what is next. So I'm hoping that we ground ourselves in this moment to see that this is a window of opportunity for us to take our country back and to shape it in such a way that it has room for everybody, including the people that we don't like.

148
00:31:14.680 –> 00:31:39.679
Ezra Levin: LaTosha, I think everybody who is listening to this is, like, I don't know how they could listen to you and not want to be part of this fight. I think they're itching to know what they can do. I know I'm going to be out in Alabama this week, and I know Indivisibles in Alabama are going to be showing up in Montgomery. I know people are taking buses from Florida and Georgia and elsewhere to get out there. I know the No Kings Coalition is throwing down and wants to drive as much attention and visibility as possible to show up at

149
00:31:39.680 –> 00:31:51.840
Ezra Levin: solidarity. For everybody listening, tell us, if you could wave your wand, and everybody take some action this weekend, what are they doing? What are you having everybody do this week? What are you having them do for the rest of this year?

150
00:31:52.110 –> 00:32:16.509
LaTosha Brown: There are three things. The first thing is those that have the ability and the means, we want you to join us and stand with us as our... we're like... the way I'm calling, thinking of it is like the altar call. We're just calling forth... it's a gathering of waters that we will come together in Montgomery, those of you that can join us. Those of you that are unable, and if you can join us, or even help organize some people to come and join us, and spread the word, right? The second thing is.

151
00:32:16.510 –> 00:32:21.610
LaTosha Brown: If you can't join us, because we know this is a very organic... this is... y'all, we playing this in 6 days.

152
00:32:21.610 –> 00:32:22.700
Ezra Levin: This wasn't...

153
00:32:22.700 –> 00:32:23.320
Leah Greenberg: Like,

154
00:32:23.320 –> 00:32:26.479
LaTosha Brown: This was a rapid response, the people just gonna show up, we're gonna ask.

155
00:32:27.020 –> 00:32:50.659
LaTosha Brown: And so, those of you that are unable to join us, that your participation is very important as well. There's a couple of things that you can do. We want to deem you as our activators. You are our activators. We want you to activate everybody in your name. Go through your cell phone and call all your girlfriends. Have a wine party. Do things that... actually, you use this moment to lift it up. We're going to be livestreaming it.

156
00:32:50.660 –> 00:33:02.570
LaTosha Brown: And so you can be able to get a group of folks to livestream it, or there are distributive actions that we're working with the individual chapters in 12 different places. So you can go be a part of a local action in your community.

157
00:33:02.570 –> 00:33:09.780
LaTosha Brown: Create a local action in your community, but stand in solidarity with us. The third thing that we're gonna say is this...

158
00:33:09.790 –> 00:33:26.889
LaTosha Brown: We... Saturday is not the end, it is not the... it's not the critical moment that if you're not here... no. What Saturday is, we're hoping that it is the spark that says, yes, the first leg of this fight was from Selma to Montgomery. The second leg of this fight is Montgomery and beyond.

159
00:33:26.890 –> 00:33:47.660
LaTosha Brown: That we're gonna pass with that. We're not gonna fight the same fight. We're not even gonna ask for the same thing. We're going further, we're asking for more, we're gonna be stronger, we're more diverse, all of those things. And so, in this moment, what we're asking is for us to gird ourselves up for what is to come next. That after Saturday, we're saying from now until the midterm elections.

160
00:33:47.660 –> 00:33:56.330

LaTosha Brown: Every living body that we can find, we're... everybody we know, we're gonna talk about voting, we're gonna organize like nothing before, because they're trying to steal this election.

161
00:33:56.330 –> 00:34:08.029
LaTosha Brown: Let's be clear, they are seeking to steal this election, and the mapping process, anytime in this country that they've wanted to... those people that are in power have wanted to take away rights.

162
00:34:08.030 –> 00:34:21.059
LaTosha Brown: or resources, they've always interjected race, because they know that race is such a vehicle in here, and not just take away rights and resources from Black people, they just use that as a smoke screen to take rights and.

163
00:34:21.060 –> 00:34:21.820
Ezra Levin: Yes, that's right.

164
00:34:21.980 –> 00:34:35.350
LaTosha Brown: All of us. So in this moment, while they're building mil... spending millions and millions of dollars to build a fancy, what is it, fancy dining rooms, right, and to share in money and corrupt

165
00:34:35.350 –> 00:34:43.249
LaTosha Brown: spend money with their friends. This is the moment that we have to use as the opening to come together to end this corrupt

166
00:34:43.280 –> 00:35:00.880
LaTosha Brown: captured court for us to talk and plant seeds about things that we need, like proportional representation going forward, about the elimination of electoral college, the new ideas, things that we can really talk about and discuss around what is the America that we want to see, that we will create.

167
00:35:00.880 –> 00:35:20.010
LaTosha Brown: for the next 250 years. We will be the architects of that, and part of what we need people to do is, come on, y'all, gird up, don't... this ain't the moment not to feel hopeful. This

is not the moment to say... to feel... feel dejected. Part of the... why we're seeing the intensified hits and coming so... the chaos is the point.

168
00:35:20.040 –> 00:35:37.749
LaTosha Brown: The chaos is to make us feel like we're isolated. It's to make us feel like we're fighting our own little fight and we can't win. The truth of the matter is, the people can always win. It's just, we've got to remind the people that it has always been the people who win. At the time that even when this country was founded.

169
00:35:38.000 –> 00:35:45.259
LaTosha Brown: England was the big dog in the world. Yes, and a group of people, like, was like, we're not paying no taxes on no teeth.

170
00:35:45.260 –> 00:35:58.629
LaTosha Brown: So we're not doing that. We're doing something different, right? And we know the story from there. My point is that every nation, every movement that ever has been started, it was a committed few that actually they were blocking.

171
00:35:58.630 –> 00:36:08.200
LaTosha Brown: But they knew they wanted to build something different, and they had a belief in something greater than the Constitution, than the Bill of Rights. They believed in the power of people.

172
00:36:08.200 –> 00:36:24.980
LaTosha Brown: And so I'm just asking us to lean into that. Please go on the website, allroadsleadToTheSouth.com. You can donate, you can volunteer, you can do text messaging. We did a text messaging, ev- we did a text, texting event

173
00:36:24.980 –> 00:36:31.079
LaTosha Brown: Two days ago, and we had members from Indivisible Aaliyah, and we did a million taxes.

174
00:36:31.480 –> 00:36:37.020
LaTosha Brown: live Texas in a short period of time, and one woman alone did $50,000. I still can't figure out how she did.

175
00:36:37.430 –> 00:36:38.200
Leah Greenberg: But she...

176
00:36:38.200 –> 00:36:42.240
LaTosha Brown: We did that, so some of y'all are on fire. I also say...

177
00:36:42.280 –> 00:36:49.849
LaTosha Brown: Let's pull up the... this... this is the soft science, but I really believe this. Let's pull up, like, love.

178
00:36:49.880 –> 00:37:09.790
LaTosha Brown: That the only... there's so much evil and hatred and, and fear, that the only thing that actually what Dr. King talked about is really love, and we know that. And so we're gonna have to love a little bit deeper, we're gonna have to love each other, we're gonna have to be patient with each other more, right? We're going to have to pull on those love streams.

179
00:37:09.830 –> 00:37:17.489
LaTosha Brown: as we build our movement, because I believe that the character of our movement will set and tone the character of the nation that we design will deserve.

180
00:37:18.960 –> 00:37:42.119
Ezra Levin: Right on cue, the love emojis are flooding us. Can't see anybody's faces because of how much love there is in this chat right now. Latasha, thank you for your leadership, for your inspiration. Thank you. Thank you for your strategic guidance throughout all this. You've been an incredible partner, basically, since Indivisible started, y'all were already there organizing, and it's been a real honor to be in this movement together, and we're gonna do everything we can

181
00:37:42.120 –> 00:38:00.689
Ezra Levin: to gird ourselves, as you say, to build on the spark that y'all are creating for Saturday, and to drive forward, not just to what we had, but to something better. So folks, as you heard from LaTosha, you can, go to, allroadsleadToTheSouth.com, you can go to Black

182
00:38:00.690 –> 00:38:13.430

Ezra Levin: VotersMatterFund.org. Get your community together for this Saturday and beyond. That's how we win. LaTosha, we're gonna be out there in the streets with you, and more to come. Thank you for joining us.

183
00:38:13.840 –> 00:38:14.300
Leah Greenberg: Thank you.

184
00:38:14.300 –> 00:38:17.390
LaTosha Brown: will not rest until it comes. Bye, y'all!

185
00:38:17.390 –> 00:38:17.890
Leah Greenberg: Bye!

186
00:38:17.890 –> 00:38:18.590
Ezra Levin: Sure.

187
00:38:20.240 –> 00:38:39.329
Ezra Levin: Whew! We could just stop there, I'm inspired, I want to go do a marathon. You know, it's just, you can't, you can't listen to LaTosha without all the barriers and all of the but what abouts just kind of melt away, and you think, wait, we can do this. This is possible, we just gotta do it. We just gotta do it. I'm jealous.

188
00:38:39.330 –> 00:38:52.620
Leah Greenberg: I'm jealous that you're gonna be in Montgomery this weekend. I think it's gonna be a really historic moment, and I know there are people who are on this call who are thinking, like, can I make it? Can I re... can I reorganize my weekend to be there? I will tell you, you should do that.

189
00:38:53.230 –> 00:39:04.799
Ezra Levin: It's gonna be incredible, and... but, good... good news, it's not the only opportunity to step up big, so we're building from this, as we heard from LaTosha. Okay, Leah, should we go to our live Q&A?

190
00:39:04.800 –> 00:39:12.029

Leah Greenberg: Let's do our live Q&A, and let's see if we can, like, kind of lightning round through a bunch of these questions, because I want to make sure we get your... that's always our ask.

191
00:39:12.030 –> 00:39:34.910
Ezra Levin: Always the goal, always the goal. We will try to lighten it. Okay, so as a reminder, we take these questions live. I usually learn these questions as I read them, and they are voted out by the people attending the Zoom, so if you're listening to the podcast, that's where they come from. If you would like to vote, or participate in submitting a question, gotta come to the Zoom. First question, top question, comes from Janice, who asks.

192
00:39:34.910 –> 00:39:52.090
Ezra Levin: Pete Buttigieg warns that if slash when the Dems take back Congress, they must not merely undo what Trump has done. That would just put us back at the state that got Trump elected. We must instead reimagine the country. Do you think the Dems are positioned to make this happen?

193
00:39:52.580 –> 00:39:59.479
Leah Greenberg: You could not design a question that is better... better positioned to make us fail the lightning round than this, because we.

194
00:39:59.480 –> 00:40:01.270
Ezra Levin: Oh, my...

195
00:40:01.930 –> 00:40:03.830
Leah Greenberg: So much.

196
00:40:03.830 –> 00:40:07.400
Ezra Levin: We talk about it so much. We do. You know what, Leah? We wrote an entire book on it.

197
00:40:07.820 –> 00:40:08.890
Ezra Levin: Six years ago.

198
00:40:08.890 –> 00:40:26.360

Leah Greenberg: That's right. The short version is, yes, we need to do that, and no, they are not remotely positioned yet to make it happen. We need accountability on a scale that has never happened for elites in this country. We need to end the, like, massive elite impunity.

199
00:40:26.500 —> 00:40:45.500
Leah Greenberg: We need structural reforms that fundamentally unreg our democracy, that do what LaTosha was talking about, recognize the Supreme Court has become a partisan instrument, and fundamentally restructure power in this country. And we need an agenda that actually meaningfully delivers for people so that they experience in their lives that democracy is making a difference for them.

200
00:40:45.870 —> 00:40:56.930
Leah Greenberg: And, we currently are... I would say that various pieces of that diagnosis are held by various parts of the Democratic Party, but heck no, it is not yet a firm consensus.

201
00:40:58.200 —> 00:41:22.799
Ezra Levin: I... at the risk of mansplaining and just saying what you just said, I'm gonna say the two things that are in my head. One is that it is good that somebody like Pete Buttigieg, who everybody expects is running for president, is saying something like this, because the way that you will get the agenda, regardless of who becomes the Democratic nominee, regardless of which Democrat ultimately wins in 2028 and becomes president in January 2029,

202
00:41:22.900 —> 00:41:46.569
Ezra Levin: The agenda that becomes H.R. 1, the first piece of legislation that makes it through the Congress, is going to be determined by that presidential campaign debate, by what is the fait accompli, what is the inevitable, well, obviously we have to do this because this is what all of the presidential debates were about leading up to that win. And so, it should not just be Pete Buttigieg saying this.

203
00:41:46.570 —> 00:42:11.329
Ezra Levin: Every single presidential candidate in the Democratic primary, which will kick off as soon as the midterms are done, there's a shadow primary already, but in full, it'll kick off after midterms, every single candidate should be asked, what the hell are you going to do about the Supreme Court? What the hell are you going to do about the collapse of independent and free media in this country? What the hell are you going to do about gerrymandering? What the hell are you going to do about money and politics that is subverting our

204
00:42:11.330 —> 00:42:15.449
Ezra Levin: democracy. What are you going to do to not just

205
00:42:15.450 —> 00:42:33.349
Ezra Levin: gloss over everything Trump has done, not just bring back some version of democracy that was already hobbled and allowed Trump to come back into power, but build a democracy that actually works. That should be the number one question in everybody's forced to face. And you know what I don't want to hear? We're gonna form a committee.

206
00:42:33.490 —> 00:42:56.709
Ezra Levin: We're gonna have a lot of interesting ideas and discuss it. - I don't want that. I want specific legislation that says what you're going to do, and we can debate. Do not send this to some boring committee and come back sometime in 2035 with ideas. It's not rocket science how to fix this democracy, y'all. Tell me what you're going to do. We should all be demanding that. That's one, but I don't want to let us off the hook.

207
00:42:56.710 —> 00:43:00.690
Ezra Levin: To say, this is all coming in 2027, or 2028.

208
00:43:00.690 —> 00:43:23.819
Ezra Levin: Whether or not we have a Democratic Party that is prepared to actually push the envelope, to actually do what it needs to do, is not being determined just in 2027 and 2028 and that presidential contest. There are Democratic primaries right now, y'all. We just heard about this. Indivisible Memphis is rallying behind Justin J. Pearson in a Democratic congressional primary to try to push

209
00:43:23.820 —> 00:43:48.629
Ezra Levin: not just a Democratic majority into reality, but what flavor of Democrat makes up that majority. And so right now, you should be asking Senate and House candidates who are asking for your vote in primaries, what are you doing about the Supreme Court? What is your plan for significant accountability in January when you get the gavel? We should be making those demands now. If you think we have a Democratic Party

210
00:43:48.630 —> 00:44:13.619

Ezra Levin: that isn't yet up to snuff. Good news! You are the Democratic Party. We all are. We are if we make demands. There's no shadowy room somewhere that is dictating all this. They will mostly do what they want to do, unless we're pains in the ass. It's our job to be a pain in the ass this primary season, and right up until we have a majority, and then when we have that majority, we've got to be a pain in the ass, too, to demand they do what we put them in office.

211
00:44:13.620 –> 00:44:14.279
Ezra Levin: to do.

212
00:44:14.770 –> 00:44:37.129
Ezra Levin: I think that's about as fast as we can cover that question. Leah, we could do a whole weekend on this. Sometime, maybe we will, but let's keep on going. Deborah asks, frankly, it seems like we're not doing enough visible displays of outrage. It actually feels like this movement is slowing down, and it's getting depressing. When are the next big actions that we can collectively take? Deg Cody from South County

213
00:44:37.130 –> 00:44:58.079
Ezra Levin: resistance in Wakefield, Rhode Island. I think something to pull out here, Leah, is something that came in on the group leader. We do a monthly group leader sync call, something similar to what's the plan, but just group leaders, but this basic issue came up. Leah, do you want to talk about how we engaged in that conversation among group leaders yesterday, and how we're thinking about this current moment?

214
00:44:58.080 –> 00:45:14.859
Leah Greenberg: Yeah, you know, look, we've heard that from a few folks, that this has been, you know, the last month or so has been quieter, that there's, you know, fewer new people showing up to the meetings, etc. And that tracks, I would say, with some of our own metrics, our ways of tracking activity, and

215
00:45:14.860 –> 00:45:26.899
Leah Greenberg: You know, I would say a couple things. The first is, there are gonna be periods during... when everyone is all in, when there is a crisis, when there is rapid response, when new people are flooding in.

216
00:45:26.900 –> 00:45:40.799

Leah Greenberg: And you're just treading water at best, trying to intake them and do everything you can. And there are gonna be some times when it's a little more still. We think about it as wave moments and, you know, calm moments, right, on the sea.

217
00:45:40.900 –> 00:45:43.969
Leah Greenberg: And that's... Kind of part of the natural, like.

218
00:45:44.870 –> 00:45:58.340
Leah Greenberg: sequence, natural order of, you know, how energy moves with this stuff, and so I wouldn't panic about it. I think that it is always a good moment prompt to think about, what is my group doing? Is it...

219
00:45:58.340 –> 00:46:05.559
Leah Greenberg: Plugged in and engaged on something that's locally relevant, where people really feel the benefit and the value of their work on an ongoing basis.

220
00:46:05.610 –> 00:46:11.130
Leah Greenberg: Outside and above these rapid response moments, but there's also no harm in just being like, hey.

221
00:46:11.130 –> 00:46:27.899
Leah Greenberg: I'm gonna take a couple weeks and be quieter and just rest a little myself, because Lord knows, we ask you all to do a lot, and we're going to be asking you to do a lot over the next 6 months. We are really fundamentally in the pretty brief lull before the full-blown general election season launches.

222
00:46:28.000 –> 00:46:31.840
Leah Greenberg: So, what I would say here is, don't panic.

223
00:46:32.180 –> 00:46:40.720
Leah Greenberg: always a good prompt to think, am I doing the right set of things? And also, you know, maybe just take a week to chill out before the full general election season starts.

224
00:46:40.910 –> 00:47:00.029

Ezra Levin: just to add to this, real talk, y'all, about, like, the tactics and strategy of organizing mass pro-democracy movements. Everybody on this call, everybody listening to this podcast, we are the weird ones who are thinking about this all the time. Every piece of news breaks, and we're like, holy shit, I can't believe the regime just did that.

225
00:47:00.060 –> 00:47:12.950
Ezra Levin: The vast majority of people, the vast majority of the time, are not paying attention to this stuff. This is a niche area of people who care about democracy, who care about what's going on in politics.

226
00:47:12.950 –> 00:47:26.539
Ezra Levin: And we can't pretend that everybody's gonna pay attention all the time. What we unfortunately can depend on is that Trump is gonna pull a lot of bad stuff between now and the midterms. He's openly talking about sabotaging the midterms.

227
00:47:26.540 –> 00:47:46.269
Ezra Levin: His regime affiliates are talking about mass deportation forces, like, we've not seen anything yet, even in the Twin Cities. They're planning to ramp up. Unfortunately, I expect things to get pretty bad between now and the midterms as the walls close in. And so, what we should be thinking about is, when the energy does spike again.

228
00:47:46.330 –> 00:48:06.719
Ezra Levin: How are we grabbing people and getting them into our movement? Because it is all well and good for a lot of people to show up on one day, even a No Kings Day, and say, I'm mad at historic numbers, I like that. But if that's all that happens, and we haven't done the legwork to pull them into our communities, that's one day. That ain't gonna change anything.

229
00:48:06.720 –> 00:48:31.180
Ezra Levin: So, in these calm periods, what I would say is, like, sure, maybe take a vacation, maybe watch a Netflix show, that's okay, but also think about what are you doing to prepare your community for newcomers, so when that spike happens, you got them in. There's a leadership role for them. There's something they can do. There's a meeting that's coming up that they can be part of, and you're building your community. That's work that you can do when things aren't blowing up. And I just want to reflect back

230
00:48:31.270 –> 00:48:53.950

Ezra Levin: To folks, it is true that the last month has been quieter in terms of movement energy. Probably the quietest month that we've seen in the last year or so, maybe since shortly after the election. That is real. I don't want to act like you're imagining it. That doesn't mean things are broken. That is how movements go. It's spiky. It's not constant up. The question is, when it spikes, are we prepared for the spike?

231
00:48:54.150 —> 00:49:11.989
Leah Greenberg: And one thing I do want to name on that is we are seeing a spike with the VRA fallout, right? We are in the moment, and it's not uncommon that, like, the mass reaction is not necessarily to the Supreme Court decision, it's as the consequences of that decision start to happen, people are like, oh, shit, the Republicans are just going full...

232
00:49:11.990 —> 00:49:36.960
Leah Greenberg: they're going full clan, they're going full hoods off, they are simply eliminating Black representation across a bunch of different states at a shocking speed and frosty, and so we're seeing the energy build there right now, as people are really, you know, seeing the full consequences of the decision play out in real time, and seeing the spirited pushback in all of those places. And so, you know, I think there's a moment right now that if you're thinking about what can galvanize and bring in new people.

233
00:49:36.960 —> 00:49:53.889
Leah Greenberg: This is a good example of that. We have an action this weekend, as you may have heard earlier on this call, to get back in. But also, you know, I think it's just a matter of, like, continuing to pace yourself and figure out when and how to plug into the moments that spike energy.

234
00:49:54.260 —> 00:49:56.110
Ezra Levin: Yep, that's right.

235
00:49:56.110 —> 00:49:57.550
Leah Greenberg: Failing the lightning test.

236
00:49:57.550 —> 00:50:13.189
Ezra Levin: I know, that was predictable. Kenneth asks, what are the plans for June 14th? We are thinking about a more social event. Is Indivisible national planning anything? That's Ken from

Minnetonka, Minnesota. Funny enough, Ken, we are indeed planning something. Leah, how much can I share about this?

237
00:50:13.190 —> 00:50:15.299
Leah Greenberg: Very little, is my understanding.

238
00:50:15.300 —> 00:50:37.840
Ezra Levin: Okay, I can share. We just had our national call with group leaders yesterday, where we gave highlights of what the plan is. What I can tell you is, we are planning something that is counter-programming Trump's ridiculous UFC fight on the White House lawn. He wants all the attention on him, he wants spectacle and attention. We don't have to give that to him. We are planning things.

239
00:50:37.910 —> 00:51:02.890
Ezra Levin: I don't want to take away energy from what we're doing this week in All Roads Lead to the South, so what I can commit to is by next week, for what's the plan, we will talk in greater depth. If you were looking, for planning purposes, I would hold June 14th on your calendar, that's a Sunday. I would particularly hold the late afternoon or early evening on your calendar for the plans that we have in place. I think it's going to be pretty cool.

240
00:51:02.890 —> 00:51:11.129
Ezra Levin: It is about community building, and I think people are going to want to participate in it. So stay tuned for next week, but for this week, stay focused on All Roads Lead to the South.

241
00:51:11.810 —> 00:51:30.620
Leah Greenberg: I want to pull two other scheduling and question... scheduling questions up from the chat. There's Mike with, will there be a 250 Years of No Kings Day on July 4th? And then there's another question, around whether we will be throwing in for the Good Trouble Lives On Weekend of Action week, July 17th through 19th. Really quickly, July 4th.

242
00:51:30.660 —> 00:51:36.389
Leah Greenberg: So, this is obviously a day of enormous, enormous significance. It is the 250th anniversary of our country.

243
00:51:36.390 —> 00:51:52.300

Leah Greenberg: And also, one of the things that we've talked about on this call a number of times is that July 4th is actually a uniquely tricky day for a volunteer-led movement to plan mass mobilizations or actions, and that's for a really obvious reason if you are yourself a local organizer and you think about it, which is that

244
00:51:52.300 –> 00:52:08.489
Leah Greenberg: you know, about a third of the people in this country travel on the weekend of July 4th, and so a lot of your organizing core and a lot of your event attendees are somewhere that they are not normally during that weekend, and are not necessarily available to either organize or attend in the places that they regularly would. And so.

245
00:52:08.490 –> 00:52:11.979
Leah Greenberg: You know, we've run into this challenge in previous years, where

246
00:52:11.980 –> 00:52:34.759
Leah Greenberg: it sounds like the right day to go all in. And also, it can be, actually, practically speaking, a pretty big challenge to route through a distributed network all over the country. So, which is all just to say, definitely thinking about narrative interventions. If you're in a town that's got a 4th of July party, I hope you're gonna get your No Kings float or your No Kings signs to march in the parade. Think about ways you can kind of inject that No Kings spirit

247
00:52:34.780 –> 00:52:39.410
Leah Greenberg: But, we are unlikely to do, you know, the next No Kings mass mobilization.

248
00:52:39.710 –> 00:52:52.420
Leah Greenberg: Second, we will definitely be part of Good Trouble Lives On. More information is coming soon, but in the meantime, you can actually join me on the Good Trouble Lives On Mass Call, which is tonight at 7pm. We will pop a link in the chat.

249
00:52:52.610 –> 00:52:55.970
Ezra Levin: And for podcast listeners, that was last night.

250
00:52:55.970 –> 00:52:57.619
Leah Greenberg: Okay, you cannot join me.

251
00:52:57.620 –> 00:53:22.600
Ezra Levin: But you can, you could go, go to NoKings.org and, or Indivisible.org and find a recording of it, if you'd like. Leah, I thought there was a funny, note that, that, that the interaction over, the June 14th was a very husband-wife interaction. For folks who are new to this Zoom or the podcast, a regular, a regular experience is me accidentally oversharing internal strategic plans before they are baked, and Leah, when we had this, call

252
00:53:22.600 –> 00:53:28.660
Ezra Levin: together, and we did it in the same room, would very quietly, but very firmly pinch me to tell me to shut up. But now, we're.

253
00:53:28.660 –> 00:53:29.370
Leah Greenberg: One reason.

254
00:53:29.370 –> 00:53:31.299
Ezra Levin: So it's more difficult for her to do that.

255
00:53:31.300 –> 00:53:39.970
Leah Greenberg: One reason to watch live, or to watch the video version of this, is you can see the slight facial reactions that I have when Ezra says something that we're not supposed to say on the air.

256
00:53:40.240 –> 00:53:45.780
Ezra Levin: This might surprise y'all, but Leah's actually a very good poker player, even though she has a terrible poker face.

257
00:53:45.780 –> 00:53:46.640
Leah Greenberg: Thank you, thank you.

258
00:53:46.640 –> 00:54:02.489
Ezra Levin: I regularly lose money to her. Okay, we answered the July 4th, question. We've got a question from Wendy. Hello from Indivisible Connecticut. An effective social media strategy is likely to enhance our work in election season and beyond.

259
00:54:02.490 —> 00:54:27.319
Ezra Levin: You'd indicated last year that you were going to hire a social media professional. Could you give an update on what's happening in this area? So, we've got a social media team that is stellar across many platforms. One thing that you might be pointing to here is actually our efforts to build up an entire class of creators within the Indivisible movement, and that exists, Wendy. And if you are not yet connected to the creator community.

260
00:54:27.350 —> 00:54:48.560
Ezra Levin: with Indivisible, you should be. The team that Antonio Arellano, who leads up our CARMS work, which includes our new media work, they have put together a series of creator trainings. These are how to build up your following for your Indivisible group. What are some tools of the trade? What are some best practices? How can you grow your following?

261
00:54:48.580 —> 00:54:51.640
Ezra Levin: I think everybody with an indivisible group should be doing this.

262
00:54:51.780 —> 00:55:02.879
Ezra Levin: I know it's scary and new for many people. I know new platforms like a TikTok or an Instagram or a Blue Sky might not be immediately obvious how to use. What I would tell you is, if you want to grow your movement.

263
00:55:02.880 —> 00:55:27.829
Ezra Levin: it is not enough to just be mentioned on Rachel Maddow. I love being mentioned on Rachel Maddow. I love that I see groups highlighted there. That can be part of it. We need traditional media, covering the movement as well, but for younger people who... and for reaching audiences who aren't as plugged into politics, you gotta meet them where they are, and they are on social media. So we would highly, highly, highly recommend, in addition to engaging with the MS Nails of the world, in addition to engaging

264
00:55:27.830 —> 00:55:37.300
Ezra Levin: with your local press and traditional newspapers. You should be building up your following. We do offer trainings there, and I think it's a good thing for any organizer to be doing.

265
00:55:39.850 —> 00:56:04.829

Ezra Levin: Claire asks, with what Tennessee did with redistricting and then removing Democratic state senators from committees and state assembly people, what about organizing some tourist boycotts to cities like Nashville? Isn't economics one way to get them to realize what they're doing is wrong? Leah, you've got this screen for boycotts. Can you, yeah, can you run this boycott proposal through your boycott and economic pressures

266
00:56:04.830 –> 00:56:05.690
Ezra Levin: screen.

267
00:56:05.690 –> 00:56:17.909
Leah Greenberg: Well, let me, let me say this. This is something that we are actively talking to folks from Tennessee and Memphis about, and in general, one of the kind of basic principles for any kind of

268
00:56:17.910 –> 00:56:31.519
Leah Greenberg: You know, any kind of boycott that's targeting a place is that you really want to have a very tight consultation and interaction with the people who live in that place, who are impacted by the harm, in order to be confident that the boycott is

269
00:56:31.520 –> 00:56:38.710
Leah Greenberg: You know, using leverage the right way, that the consequences for the impacted set of folks out would do not outweigh

270
00:56:38.710 –> 00:56:54.979
Leah Greenberg: the harm. So we should all say that it's definitely the kind of thing that we should be looking at, and also, we're going to want to look at what's emerging, specifically from places like Memphis. And I think one thing that's maybe just worth naming when we talk about the overarching, you know.

271
00:56:55.320 –> 00:56:57.440
Leah Greenberg: Crisis that we are facing here.

272
00:56:57.560 –> 00:57:07.530
Leah Greenberg: What we are seeing is the backlash and the organizing around this most recent episode of redistricting and the stripping of assembly members from their committees.

273
00:57:07.530 –> 00:57:22.270
Leah Greenberg: There's also, like, a broader crisis of blue cities' self-governance in red states. If you are familiar with a lot of these places, they are actively working to strip, kind of, the basics of ability to govern themselves from places like Memphis.

274
00:57:22.270 –> 00:57:26.799
Leah Greenberg: Ezra and I spend a lot of time in Austin, same dynamic with the Texas government.

275
00:57:26.800 –> 00:57:47.749
Leah Greenberg: Where they're really trying to, like, take away a lot of the discretion, or no, a lot of the authorities that a city has to set its own policies, to govern itself, to manage its own budget, etc. So there's kind of this double whammy of Memphis as being deprived of their federal representation at the same time that they are being deprived very much of, like, their rights to govern themselves. And so.

276
00:57:48.850 –> 00:58:08.110
Leah Greenberg: Long story short, we are definitely interested in thinking about, you know, economic consequences, either for major corporations that have been silent, or for the states themselves. Anytime you're gonna go in on a corporation, or a state specifically, there's gotta be heavy leadership from people who are within that state, or else it's just not gonna make sense.

277
00:58:08.900 –> 00:58:31.469
Ezra Levin: Larry asks, can you give us any specifics on what Indivisible is planning nationally to safeguard the right to vote on Election Day in November and to protect the election results? Leah, we often talk about, like, there are three stages to this year. It's, we gotta win the primaries to create a Democratic Party that can win and will fight. We've gotta crush the regime in the midterms by winning the elections in the Senate, in the House overall.

278
00:58:31.470 –> 00:58:37.950
Ezra Levin: And we've got to protect the results of that election, because we know Trump is going to engage in some shenanigans as he sees the walls closing in.

279
00:58:37.950 –> 00:58:56.939

Ezra Levin: We talk about this election protection a lot. You are our lead on election protection, and I can tell everybody, we have had a lot of internal planning around this, and are not yet but about to be ready to release something that is for the public. Do you want to talk about the overall architecture of our election security planning, Leah?

280
00:58:57.260 –> 00:59:13.099
Leah Greenberg: Yeah, absolutely. So, couple things. First, there... I break this down a couple of different ways. The first is a set of threats around potential collusion between the Trump administration, local MAGA state or local officials.

281
00:59:13.100 –> 00:59:21.579
Leah Greenberg: judges, et cetera, in places where there is a Senate race or a swing district that is significant to the possible Senate or House majority.

282
00:59:21.600 –> 00:59:40.830
Leah Greenberg: In a bunch of these spaces, in the places where we can, we are pulling together folks into an election protection corps with the goal of making sure that indivisibles are connected, trained, prepared on the ground, and working directly with the relevant coalitions that are going to be in states to push back on all of the different kinds of threats, because

283
00:59:40.830 –> 00:59:54.449
Leah Greenberg: you know, it's not one... it's not gonna be one threat. It's gonna be a bunch of different challenges to the conditions under which elections take place, who is allowed to vote, the, you know, the ability to early vote or vote by mail.

284
00:59:54.450 –> 01:00:18.329
Leah Greenberg: polling places, et cetera, as well as potential threats to elect... actual election day, and the actual count that follows afterwards. The overarching strategy that the Trump administration has is essentially to kick up enough shit around the process of voting, who's allowed to vote, how the vote unfolds, to generate the grounds for the legal challenges that a wildly partisan set of courts can then sustain in order for them to

285
01:00:18.690 –> 01:00:20.859
Leah Greenberg: maintain control of the House and Senate.

286

01:00:21.100 —> 01:00:27.769
Leah Greenberg: So, we want to intercept that early by having really organized folks on the ground in the places where there's going to be targeted attacks.

287
01:00:28.120 —> 01:00:41.230
Leah Greenberg: Simultaneously, what I would say for everybody else, we are going to be rolling out actions over the course of the summer around what you can do wherever you are to protect and sustain, protect elections, and also.

288
01:00:41.230 —> 01:00:57.120
Leah Greenberg: I would really encourage you to not think about there being one bucket that's, like, protect elections, and one bucket that's, like, all of the other organizing that I'm doing, because the things that you are doing right now in your group, wherever you are, that bring in new people, that build your group strength, that try new tactics.

289
01:00:57.250 —> 01:01:15.459
Leah Greenberg: you know, that take on new challenges, those are actually the muscles that you are going to bring to a moment when there is a mass challenge to the election. Because fundamentally, we're going to need to have targeted work in the places where the threats are most likely, and we're going to need to have a massive popular opposition and reaction everywhere else in the country. And so.

290
01:01:15.460 —> 01:01:19.670
Leah Greenberg: Part of what you are doing right now, with every other action that you're doing, from your community building.

291
01:01:19.930 —> 01:01:28.200
Leah Greenberg: to your Ice Watch trainings, to your local advocacy, is building the popular coalition that's capable of that massive public backlash.

292
01:01:28.820 —> 01:01:33.170
Ezra Levin: All Roads Lead to the South is election... protection...

293
01:01:33.170 —> 01:01:33.540
Leah Greenberg: Yes.

294
01:01:33.540 —> 01:01:34.120
Ezra Levin: work.

295
01:01:34.120 —> 01:01:35.390
Leah Greenberg: Exactly. Oh my god.

296
01:01:35.390 —> 01:01:58.230
Ezra Levin: Donating to Black Voters Matter is election protection work. Pulling together your indivisible group to organize its community is election protection work. There's no magic, we snap our fingers, and in November, we all protect the election. - the only thing that we've got is massive, non-violent, organized people power. The only question is.

297
01:01:58.230 —> 01:01:59.760
Ezra Levin: How much of it do we have?

298
01:01:59.760 —> 01:02:03.879
Ezra Levin: And you can't just build it at the drop of a hat, you build it over time.

299
01:02:03.880 —> 01:02:28.400
Ezra Levin: So that's what we're all doing here. We're gonna win the primaries. We're gonna build a Democratic Party that inspires and delivers. We're gonna crush the regime in the midterm. We're gonna take the House. We're gonna take the Senate. We're going to take the state houses. We're gonna take the governorships. Then, when they try to pull some shit in November, we're gonna protect the results. And then we're not going home, because in January, when the gavel switches over to Democratic in the House and the Senate.

300
01:02:28.400 —> 01:02:42.259
Ezra Levin: Those subpoenas are gonna fly because we're gonna demand that they fly. We're gonna get the hearings, we're gonna get the testimony, we're gonna crush this regime using the best tool we have, the democratic process, because that's how you crush an authoritarian regime, is by organizing mass people power.

301
01:02:42.260 —> 01:02:45.559

Ezra Levin: That's the plan, Leah, unless you got a different secret plan I'm not aware of.

302
01:02:45.750 –> 01:02:47.130
Leah Greenberg: That sounds like a good plan.

303
01:02:47.130 –> 01:02:48.200
Ezra Levin: That's the plan, y'all!

304
01:02:48.200 –> 01:02:48.639
Leah Greenberg: I'm on it.

305
01:02:48.640 –> 01:02:52.140
Ezra Levin: Another part of the plan is we'll see you next week for another

306
01:02:52.680 –> 01:03:08.059
Ezra Levin: edition of What's the Plan? And until then, you'll see Leah Thursday night, 7 p.m. Eastern Time, on the call covering All Roads Lead to the South. You will see me and many, many others out in Alabama this weekend on Saturday. Keep on building, y'all. Hope to see you in the streets.