The Never Again Action 2024 Post-Election Guide:

Build Pods to Fight Fascism

This guide has been updated! For a more up-to-date guide, visit: http://bit.ly/BuildAPod2025

What is this guide & how should I use it?

This is a guide to getting you and the people you care about ready for this election and its aftermath. The guide both serves to get you and your immediate circles ready to support each other in moments of political crisis, but also to give you the tools to look outward and support other members of your community who may be more directly impacted.

We examine the threats that this election brings and the lessons we can draw from comrades and ancestors for fighting fascism. We conclude with a step-by-step guide to organizing into 'pods,' structures that can help us understand the needs in our local communities and stand up for our neighbors.

This guide is a living document in a moment of fast-moving change. *Parts of it may be already outdated. Other resources will be added as they become available. Please continue to check for updates!*

What's in this guide?

1. What does this election mean for me and my immigrant neighbors?
    a. Fascist threats to election
    b. Threat of repression to our movements
    c. Threats to immigrant communities
2. Got Your Back: Getting into formation with Never Again Action
3. **Your guide to building pods**
    a. Steps to set up your pod
    b. Spaces for organizing your pod
    c. Resources to make your pod successful

What is Never Again Action?

Never Again Action is a movement of Jews, immigrants, and allies mobilizing to take direct action against the detention and deportation machine. We know that everyone has the right to live and move freely and safely, with no exceptions.

What do we fight for?

In memory of our Jewish, Queer, disabled, dissident, and anti-fascist ancestors, we are fighting fascism and deportation in the context of a broader movement to reject, disrupt and dismantle racial capitalism.

We fight for collective safety and liberation. We act from the knowledge that state violence and border militarization, from Palestine to Mexico, does not keep us safe. This year especially, those in power are misusing the notion of "Jewish safety" to justify violence against Palestinians in Palestine and to repress Palestinians, Muslims, Arab people, and others impacted by Islamophobia or anti-Arab discrimination in the U.S. Instead, our vision of safety is built through solidarity with displaced people and migrants worldwide.

We envision a world without borders, cages, anti-immigrant racism, oppression, and isolation, where all our communities can live with dignity.

Our role

As we flank immigrant organizers to take action against fascism, we act as a model for the Jewish community (and other communities) of what it looks like to reject, disrupt, and dismantle racial capitalism. We build relationships of solidarity and support with other groups that are targeted by racial capitalism and white supremacy, and we take direct action to intervene in these systems.

1. What does this election mean for me and my immigrant neighbors?

No matter what happens, our collective freedoms—and especially the rights and lives of immigrants—will be under attack.

Under the first Trump administration, we saw what the white supremacist assault on immigrants and democracy looked like, because we lived through his and his cronies' attacks on democracy and we know the plans they lay out in Project 2025. We could see political violence and disputed results. We could see a rise in mass deportations. We know that Democrats have not meaningfully taken action against the creep of fascism and the associated scapegoating of immigrants. Rather, many Democrats have actively pushed policies that deepen surveillance, detention, and deportation, expanding systems of oppression.

And we are grounded in the reality that the people can resist fascism and take back power when we unite. There are three major interrelated threats likely to emerge from this election and its aftermath:

- Fascist threats to elections
- Direct threats to immigrant communities
- The coming assault on our rights of free assembly and expression, which potentially has dire effects on our movements.

1a Fascist threats to elections

We know that Trump has historically not accepted the result of elections and even though he didn't have the chance to contest democracy this time, this remains a threat for the future. Not only did Trump encourage and celebrate the January 6th insurrection and try to pressure local election officials to illegally refuse to certify the election, but he has also indicated that he intends to continue to do so. While the election wasn't close enough to lend itself to contestation, we know that elections do not represent everyone who they impact.

We know that voter suppression has always been deeply baked into the U.S. electoral system. From the reinvigoration of Jim Crow-style repression, in Georgia and other states, to the 11 million undocumented people, 13.2 million Green Card holders, 4.4 million Americans with felony convictions, and 6 million incarcerated people who are excluded from voting. At the same time, the attacks on voting access have gotten worse. We have seen attempts to replace election monitoring officials, legislation to limit voting access, and conspiracy theories spreading fear, especially targeting immigrant communities. Unfortunately, we have failed to hold the leaders of the January 6th attack accountable or pass meaningful protections, such as the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. Where in the future can we find ways to protect access to the vote for more people?

1b Threats to our movements through repression of freedom of assembly and expression

With repression of the Stop Cop City movement, pro-Palestinian campus protests, and others, we see politicians show a frightening level of comfort with repression of our liberation movements. Both Donald Trump and his running mate, J.D. Vance, have consistently referred to the threat of "the enemy within." That's us!

Having floated the idea of using the 1792 Insurrection Act against Movement for Black Lives protesters during the summer of 2020, Trump now routinely proclaims that "enemies within" are a real problem. The Insurrection Act allows any sitting president to call for the national guard in case of domestic rebellions. As with white nationalist rhetoric that attributes all domestic problems to an imaginary invasion of lawless, undocumented people, this rhetorical move is both mendacious and dangerous. But a second Trump administration will have the power to implement violent repression against our movements. We know that this is dangerous for all of us, BIPOC and Queer folks most of all.

1c Threats to immigrant communities

Immigrant communities have already been targets of violence in this election cycle. Conspiracy theories about Haitians in Springfield, Ohio, for example, led to community-altering threats of violence for weeks. We saw Trump and his cronies spew hate in New York City, against Puerto Ricans, women, Jews, and so many others. **Now that Trump has one, similar claims will have access to the full powers of the bully pulpit.**

Beyond the moment of the elections and moving into the next administration, we know that the policy implications of elections also have deep and terrifying implications for immigrant communities. We know something from the last Trump administration about what threats to immigrant communities could look like.

And now we have even more details. The MAGA fascists have clearly laid out their anti-immigrant fever dream and Project 2025 makes it clear: they are laser focused on mass deportation.

The gross enthusiasm about deportation shouldn't be surprising. Dehumanization is a core principle of fascism, and **mass deportation relies on dehumanization** of people racialized as "foreign."—many of whom are in fact Indigenous to Turtle Island.We have seen Trump (across the U.S.), Abbott (in Texas), Netanyahu (against Palestine), and their cronies again and again, deflect responsibility, minimize, and cover up the amount of death and destruction they cause. They devalue life by brutal calculation. They say things along the lines of "did 40,000 people really die?' or "isn't it their own fault?". We know that we have to fight dehumanization of immigrants in order to fight fascism and protect our collective safety.

Where fascists devalue the lives of those lost due to their own brutality, we must mourn and fight for all of our survival. Unfortunately, that is not what we have been seeing from Democratic party leadership. Instead, the Biden-Harris administration has at best ignored and at worst enabled and encouraged right wing local politicians making life miserable for people without documentation. The current administration abandoned Texans to Abbott's

violent power grab of border control through Operation Lone Star. Instead of modeling a Democratic platform that claims to embrace the diverse fabric of the American tapestry, the Biden-Harris administration has adopted dehumanizing rhetoric and implemented greater restrictions on asylum. No matter what happens, immigrant communities will be and are experiencing threats and need support.

We know know the scenario we're facing, and the threat is terrifying.

Scenario	**Immediately after the election**	**In the next administration...**
A clear Trump win	Possible wide-scale mobilization from liberals + the left	Efforts towards mass deportation that will *either* be facilitated or blocked by localities; increase in repressive tactics against our movements

And there's a lot we don't know. So, **what is clear?** No matter how the new Trump administration plays out the fight will happen in local communities. Local militias might threaten election workers. Local sheriffs could facilitate deportations or local communities could clog up the deportation pipeline through action in solidarity.

Immigrant organizers have always fought back against attacks on their communities and have stood up for the wellbeing of immigrant families against towering odds. Can we get prepared to stand alongside them?

2. Got Your Back: Getting into formation with Never Again Action

"Courage? I quite don't know what that is. There's no such thing. It is in your mental character to do what you deem is necessary. Not so that you cover the manhole with your body. [You do it] because there are friends and you have to help them - it's not a matter of courage, but the result of friendship, solidarity, trust, love."

-Marek Edelmen, Warsaw Ghetto resistance fighter

It's true: we don't know what is going to happen and there is a chance that it could include political violence and/or the launch of a plan for mass deportations. **That's terrifying.**

Our fear could be exhausting or we could choose to channel it to motivate concerted action that protects and builds the world we want to see. One important way to do this is to lean on your community. Pods offer a structure for doing this successfully. **We build pods to protect one another and our neighbors when any of us are under threat**. We build pods so that we know what roles one another will thrive in so that we can be ready to confront something unexpected or deeply challenging **together.**

You can get in formation alongside Never Again Action by:

1. Build a pod to organize your own community to:
    a. Create community in the face of fear
    b. Find opportunities to protect against fascism
    c. Act in support of your immigrant neighbors
2. Becoming an NAA member to get and stay in this fight for the long haul.
    a. If you're a member and in a Never Again chapter, you have a ready-made pod! Come together with your chapter to check in on your partners and to assess whether and when it's time to take action!

b. If you are a member in a non-chapter area, you can find other NAA members in your area who can join you!
c. If you aren't finding other members to organize with, your next friends' get together is a great place to start. Use the sample agenda below to orient your first pod meeting.
d. Get access to our clearly laid out NAA Member Resources to find organizing resources that meet your local needs.

Note: NAA Member Resources are password protected and only available to registered members. Anyone who aligns with our values is welcome to become a member. Membership dues are both appreciated and optional.

In organizing to protect each other, we find hope

In grim November of 2016, two people organized a special session at the American Studies Association. It was weeks after the election and folks in this radically-inclined organization were feeling fairly hopeless. The session, on how to organize sanctuary campuses, was overwhelmingly well-attended; people sat on the floor as we spoke of how to protect our students. Many of us felt, for the first time in weeks, a sense of hope.

It is good to be together with like-minded comrades, it is necessary to have the "solidarity, trust, love" that Edelman describes above. Many of us left that conference resolved to work towards making our campuses safer for our undocumented students and colleagues. This work was not always successful, but it led us into collaborations and new relationships that helped us, collectively, organize against the menace posed by the newly empowered xenophobic white nationalism prevalent in our country.

- *Rachel Ida Buff, Never Again Action-Wisconsin*

3. Your guide to building Pods

Pods are small groups of people who can support each other and hold each other accountable to taking the action needed to keep all our communities safe and fight for our neighbors.

Pods can move us out of isolation, letting us take action with the deep trust and love needed to keep each other safe, even in the face of uncertainty. Pods keep us grounded in knowing that fascism is not normal. They can keep us in morally-centered accountability for continuing to fight a rise in anti-immigrant policy and hate.

Your pod is how you connect and prepare with the people who have already got your back. A pod is a group of 4-10 people who are ready to fight for immigrant justice, freedom, and democracy for all. **Ask yourself:** Who do I want to show up and throw down with me in the days, weeks, and months after the election? Who do I know who is committed to the Never Again member beliefs that, no matter the administration: no person is illegal, that ICE must be abolished, and the carceral immigration system must be dismantled?

Pods allow us to meet threats as they arise. As we laid out in section 1, the aftermath of this election includes many potential threats:. 1) We could see threats of far-right political violence and challenges to electoral results, 2) We could see threats of mass deportation realized, 3) We could see further repression of our political organizing and political expression. You can consider responses to each potential threat with your pod.

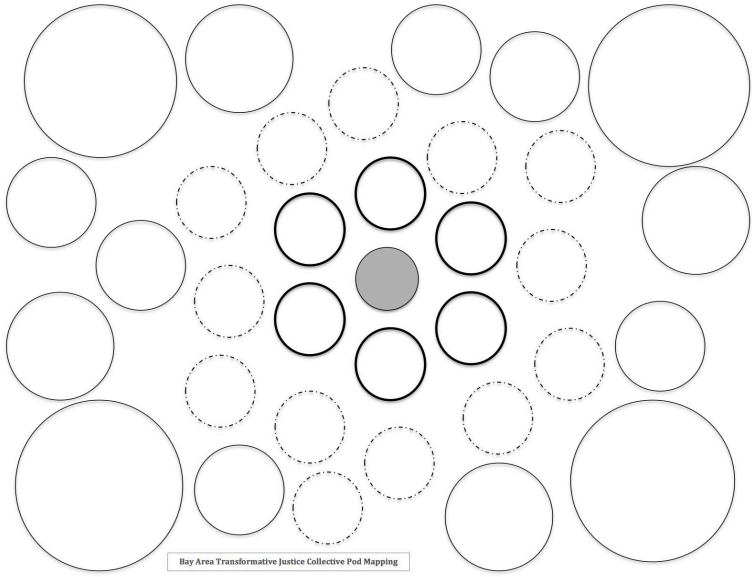
Pods are independent but mutually supportive. Every pod will act as an independent unit. At the same time, pods and chapters can be connected to each other and to Never Again's national resources for support and learning. If the moment requires action, pods provide the structure to allow us to support each other in meeting the broader movement's needs.

3a. So.... are you down to build a pod? Let's lay it out in a few simple steps...

Step 1: How Do I Build a Pod?

The first step to building your pod is asking yourself: *Who do you trust to have your back? Who do you want to bring into this fight with you by taking action together?*

We answer these questions by pod-mapping. To map your pod:



Pod mapping tool by:
The Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective

- Put your own name in the middle gray circle.
- In the bold-outlined circles, put the names of people who you definitely want in your pod. This could be friends or comrades you've already thrown down with, organizing buddies, etc.
- In the dotted circles, put the names of family or friends who are newer to activism or movable into action. These are people who you want in your pod but might first want to have a conversation with to build shared analysis, risk, trust, etc.
- In the largest circles around the edge, put the names of people who could support you or are part of your broader network or community.

You can find more detailed information on pod-mapping from BATJC and this mutual aid guide. Once you've mapped on your pod, it's time to recruit!

✴️If you aren't sure who you add to your map, ask for support in finding people in your area from the Never Again Action team by filling out this form.✴️

Step 2: Talk to your people

- ➔ **Reach out** to each potential member of your pod and ask if they'd be interested in having a conversation about supporting each other to take action in the aftermath of the elections.
- ➔ **Make a clear ask!** Explain what a pod is and that you are doing this as part of a nationwide movement of people committed to a fighting for a just and safe future for people of all immigration statuses, no matter what the elections bring.

This could look like:

- ➔ "Hi [Name]. I know this election moment is terrifying and might be especially for people without immigration status. Alongside Never Again Action, I'm building a 'pod' to bring together people in our city/town to see how we can fight for a just and safe future for all people of all immigration statuses. Would you be open to having a convo with me about joining my pod?"

Step 3: Bring the pod together! Set up a Signal group, plan a meeting time, and get ready to assess how your crew can strengthen local protections against fascism, whether that's by...

- ➔ defending attacks on election results and against state repression of activism or...
- ➔ by planning for deportation defense
  - ♦ This means being in relationship with directly impacted people in your area.
  - ♦ Review the deportation defense materials in your NAA Member Resources, including deportation defense resources.

Now, check out the spaces and resources needed to make your pod successful below. 🔽

3b. I've got my Pod!.... Now what?

Once you have your pod, you have a mission: find the ways your pod can keep your community safe. Set up two types of spaces to identify next steps and join a third national Never Again Action space.

Space 1: Set up a Signal chat.
Signal is an encrypted messaging app that is more secure than regular texting or emailing. Learn more about using Signal here. This is one example of ways to minimize risk and keep each other safe.

Use your chapter Signal group to:

- ➔ Stay in touch with each other and plan meetings
- ➔ Share opportunities to plug in to support your local movement ecosystem
- ➔ Offer and ask for support

Space 2: Plan a meeting!
Meetings are critical to really think through and evaluate the needs in your local community and the ways that you can meet those needs. A sample pod agenda can be found at the bottom of this document.

As you think of what your pod can do, there are a few ideas that are important to remember:

- **There are roles for everyone!** Learn about each other's skills, resources, and relationships. Who could facilitate convos? Make action art? Offer emotional support?
- **Look around:** Whatever happens, we need to defend our communities locally. What are the needs in your community? What are the threats? Who is already doing work that needs support in terms of people power, money, communications, or care? What are the gaps?
- **Stand with people most directly affected:** Processing our emotions is important. At the same time, for those of us who have documentation, we face less risk than our

neighbors with less settled immigration status who, in moments of political violence and threats of mass deportation, face intense harassment, threats, and fear. How can you move your pod to both support each other and also move beyond talking and take meaningful action for your neighbors?

- Learn more about how to stand with directly impacted people with self-awareness as allies and support the guide's author here.

Space 3: Register your pod with Never Again Action to connect with other pods and chapters around the country

- **Fill out this form** to officially register your pod
- If enough pods register and you consent in the form to joining a Signal group, you will be added to a national Signal chat where pod and chapter representatives and leaders support each other.

3c. Resources for response

1. Learn about how to organize actions, events and people at Never Again Action's Member Resources
2. Get in formation by:
    a. Becoming an NAA member
    b. Connect with your chapter, form your own pod, or connect with others in your area also interested in a pod
3. Keep an eye out for upcoming Never Again Action and partner events on somatic self-care, understanding the impact of local sheriffs, and more!
4. Check out the sample pod agenda below 🔽

Sample pod agenda: First meet up

Grounding:

- How are you arriving to this meeting?
- If everyone doesn't already know each other, share: Who are you? What are your pronouns, if you use them? What do you want your squad to know about you?

Group Norms:

- Review NAA membership principles
    a. Which of these principles are most important to remember in this moment?
    b. What other norms or principles does this pod need to work together?
- How can we meet our group's accessibility needs?
- If your pod has non-directly impacted members, what does it mean to be responsible allies? Option to reference this guidance.

Scenario assessment:

- What do we know about what is happening nationally and locally?
    a. Are there emerging/growing threats to immigrant communities?
    b. Are there emerging/growing threats to the electoral system? Are there threats of violence from right wing fascists?
- Where is there uncertainty? What scenarios can we imagine happening in the near future?

Ecology assessment: The movement is like an ecosystem where everyone has different and vital roles. Let's find our place in that ecology.

- Who else is working to protect our local community against fascism and against election threats? (hint: consider checking in with the local ACLU, immigrant-led orgs, and anti-fascist groups!)

What can we do?

- What **resources** do we collectively have to offer? (This could be money, time, space, skills, connections, communities, etc. *For example: Could you get your synagogue to participate in a sanctuary program?*)

- How can we **leverage these resources**? (Activate other people to take action? Start mutual aid and fundraising projects? Plan for deportation defense? etc.)
- Are there ways we can **physically protect** the people who are most likely to be targets, especially people without documentation?
- What **risks** can we take on together? **Assess the risk** that you're ready to take personally. Risks may include:
    a. *Legal:* There can be legal risks to direct action. If you have questions about specific laws and risks around protest and direct action where you live, you can reach out to your local National Lawyers Guild chapter.
    b. *Physical:* What level of risk are we willing to take on when it comes to police brutality, COVID-19, and other physical threats? What are ways we can mitigate these risks?honor
    c. *Emotional:* We are living through an extremely tumultuous political moment. Again, how will you as a pod support each other, communicate, and care for one another?
- **Reassess your risk:** How can we honor our ancestors' experiences with fascism to embolden us into disruptive and sacrificial action?

Register your pod with Never Again Action to get on our listserv, national email list, and to get connected with other pods and chapters

- Register your pod here.

Close out

- What are our **next steps**? Who is moving them forward?
- If not already in place, make a Signal thread to communicate (Signal is an encrypted messaging app that's safer than texting). How often should we be checking/responding to it?
- When is the **next time we are meeting**?
- **Check out** question: What is giving you hope? What feels possible now that you've got people who have got your back?

If the logic of fascism is isolation and fear, we have to act on a logic of collective genius and power to hold our role and take on this moment. We've got each other's backs, so we aren't backing down.

Trainings and partner resources

Check out these partner-led events that might be powerful for you and your pod

Type of event	Date/time	Title and link	Hosts	Also, know...
Training	January 29, 2025, 5pm Eastern	Community Defender Training	National Immigration Project	
Training	January 30, 2025, 7:30pm Eastern	Somatics for Activists	Never Again Action, member-led	

This guide is an update of one created in advance of the 2020 election by the Never Again Action National Political Education Team. Thank you to Rachel Ida Buff and Geoff Adelsberg for contributing to the update of this guide and adding wisdom to meet the current moment. The pod structure was adapted from materials from the Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective, see the original and associated license here.