



BUILDING BRIDGES FOR AMERICA

Unlock Your Political Power

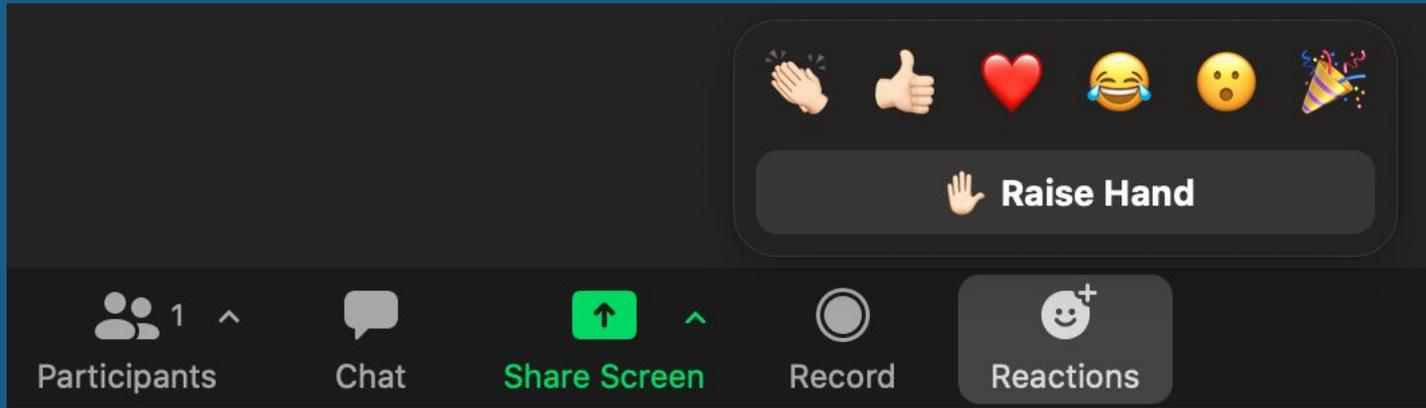
Welcome!

Thank you for being here.

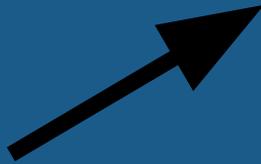
Friendly Norms

- Please keep yourself muted unless you are speaking
- Post questions in the chat
- There will be a Q & A at the end
- Meeting will be 1-hour
- Thank you for joining us!



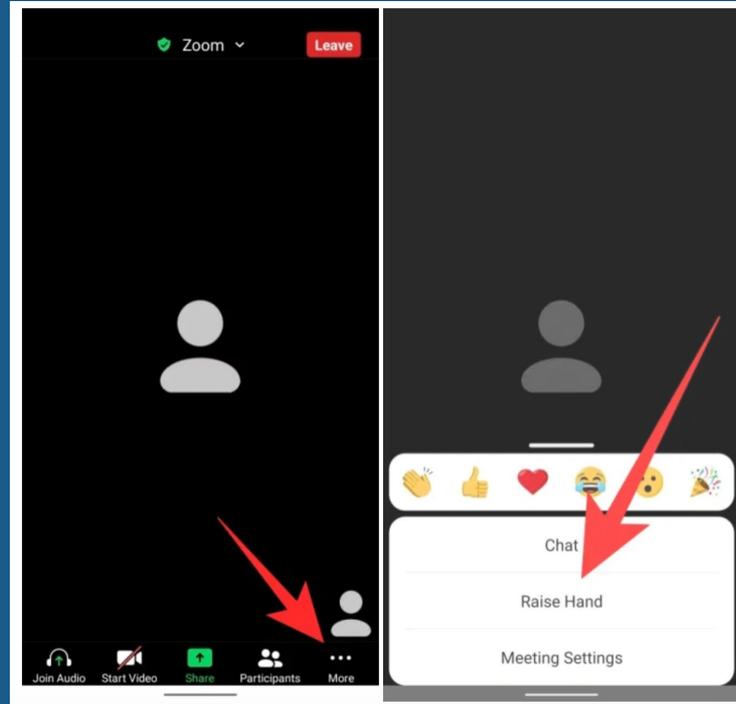


Chat



Raising Hand on a Computer/Tablet

Chat and Raising Hand on Phone





Caz Margenau
she/her

Volunteer work:
Building Bridges for America, Co-founder



Full time job:
Proposal Manager for aerospace



South Bend, IN



Ace/Aro



BUILDING BRIDGES FOR AMERICA

Our Mission

Guided by the principles of servant leadership, Building Bridges mobilizes and empowers networks of relational grassroots organizers equipped to support campaigns and causes based in progressive values.

Our Values

We recognize that the effort adds value, regardless of the result.

We are committed to the development of a broad and inclusive coalition.

We conduct our actions and are informed by the legacy of Pete Buttigieg's 2020 Campaign's Rules of the Road.

Our Vision

A just and equitable democracy, safeguarded by an informed and engaged electorate, where everyone is valued and belongs.

Respect Belonging Truth Teamwork Boldness Responsibility Substance Discipline Excellence Joy



Session Goals

ORGANIZE YOUR NETWORK

Follow the step-by-step process to identify and build a plan to intentionally talk with people you know.

IDENTIFY YOUR VALUES

Learn how to speak to others by connecting to shared values.

DEVELOPING YOUR STORY

Speaking from personal experience to show that politics matters to you.

ACTIVELY LISTENING

Pick up new habits to create space that allows for understanding.



What is Political Power?

Picture your phone ringing.

The call is from a candidate reaching out to you because you can deliver votes.



Once that person is elected, you call them with an issue in your neighborhood, They see your number and they answer your call.

What is Political Power?

Picture a loved one in your life who has lost faith and does not think politics matters.



Now imagine talking to them about politics in a way that made them listen. And their eyes light up with understanding!

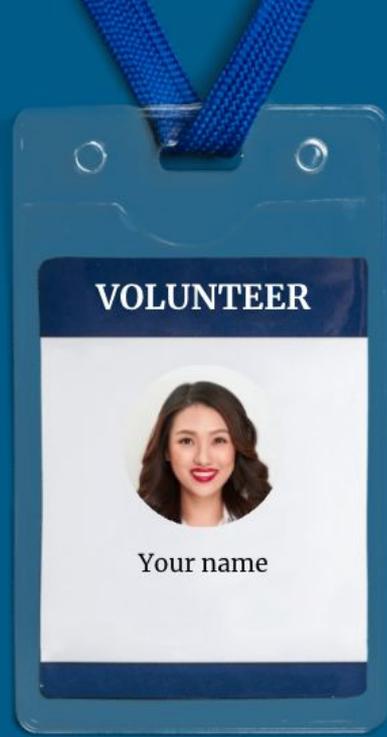
Now they have hope and are volunteering with you on a campaign.

Permission granted

You are an organizer.

Your job is to organize
the people you know.

Take responsibility for listening to and
talking with people you know and ensuring
that each person votes.



Question

In the chat, please type:

The name of the last adult person you spoke with today and your relationship to that person.

ORGANIZE YOUR NETWORK

Start making a list of people you know.

Make a plan to talk to each person.

Track who you talk to, how they respond.

Make a plan to reach out to them again.



Preparation Builds Confidence

Self Reflection

- Step ① **What are your core values?**
- Step ② **Recall a time that you felt one of your values.**
- Step ③ **Share how that values is reflected in a campaign or cause.**
- Step ④ **Why is it important to you that we act and get involved now.**



I feel _____ *(say it!)* _____

because _____ *(my core value)* _____ is important to me

and this affect my life because _____ *(my personal story)* _____.

What are values?

What do you value?

What is important to you?

Values \neq Morals
Values \neq Issues or Policy

We share values.

We may not interpret them exactly the same, but the gut feeling is the same.

Example: Freedom

What are values?

Issue

Economic inequality

Policy

Raising the minimum wage

Values

Justice

Equity

Freedom

Compassion

Resilience

What are values?



Issue

Economic inequality

Policy

Raising the minimum wage

Values

Justice

Equity

Freedom

Compassion

Resilience

DIG DOWN

How does an issue make you feel?

Why do you feel that way?

“It’s not fair!”
Justice, equity

“It is my right!”
Freedom

“We need to care!”
Compassion

“Give people a chance!”
Resilience



Grace	Justice	Respect	Leadership
Patience	Appreciation	Joy	Renewal
Forgiveness	Willingness	Forgiveness	Home
Self-Respect	Family	Goodness	Contentment
Service	Freedom	Involvement	Friendship
Reciprocity	Security	Wisdom	Courage
Enjoyment	Loyalty	Beauty	Balance
Entrepreneurship	Intelligence	Caring	Compassion
Happiness	Connection	Personal	Fitness
Harmony	Creativity	Development	Professionalism
Peace	Humanity	Teamwork	Diversity
Relationships	Success	Communication	Generosity
Knowledge	Belonging	Learning	Adventure
Patience	Truth	Excellence	Kindness
Growth	Resilience	Innovation	Clarity
Prosperity	Integrity	Spiritualism	Invention
Wellness	Love	Strength	Equity
Finances	Openness	Power	Perseverance
Gratitude	Transparency	Cooperation	Patriotism

 is important to me. [Start by getting people's head nodding in agreement!]

I feel _____ *angry* _____

because _____ *freedom* _____ is important to me

In the chat:

Type a value that is important to you.

Not a policy. Not an issue.
Type a core value word.

I feel _____ *angry* _____

because _____ *freedom* _____ is important to me

and this affect my life because _____ *as a teenager in the most defining moment in my life, I had the freedom to choose. There is no way I will let my kids not have the same freedom.* _____.

I feel _____ *angry* _____

because _____ *freedom* _____ is important to me

and this affect my life because _____ *as a teenager in the most defining moment in my life, I had the freedom to choose. There is no way I will let my kids not have the same freedom.* _____.

That is why I support _____ *The Kitchen Cabinet who unites us to fight and keep our abortion rights in Indiana* _____

I am _____ *going to The Kitchen Cabinet meeting Thursday* _____.
Will you join me?

Sharing Your Story

Use the common language of personal stories to connect, even with people who disagree with you.

We share: Values. Empathy for people we know. Personal stories.

We do not share: Morality. Logic. Interpretation of facts.

You cannot use these differences to make a connection.

Speak to what is most important to you by sharing a story about how an issue affects you or someone you love.

DO NOT USE:
FACTS
LOGIC
MORALITY

USE:
YOUR VALUES
YOUR STORY

STARTING THE CONVERSATION

Stay open and listen. You may have to fight your instinct to push back or defend. No matter what they say, you are curious and you respond with “Tell me more about that.”

Then you share your story. You speak about your values and your experience.

You continue to listen and stay open. You make a note of their response. Again, you do not react and get defensive, listen and share.

Now change the subject. You talk about something you have in common.

Lastly, make a commitment with yourself to reach out to them again.



ACTIVE LISTENING GUIDE

THE BEST WAY TO CONNECT AND BE HEARD IS FIRST TO ACTIVELY LISTEN.

AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZER'S GREATEST SKILL IS TO LISTEN. TO BE HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD FIRST YOU NEED TO OPEN THE DOOR OF UNDERSTANDING. PRACTICE THESE BASIC HABITS AND SKILLS TO SHOW YOU ARE LISTENING AND WATCH AS THE CONVERSATIONS YOU HAVE GROW DEEPER.

AVOID DISTRACTION

Set your intention to listening.
No daydreaming or multi-tasking.
Remove things, persons or animals that might keep you from paying attention.

DO NOT INTERRUPT

Allow the other person to finish what they are saying.

REFLECT, PARAPHRASE OR CLARIFY

Repeat back what you have heard
"It sounds to me like you are saying..."

USE DOOR OPENERS

Keep them engaged and talking
"Tell me more"
"That's interesting"

PAY ATTENTION

Do not use this time to prepare for a rebuttal. Ignore the divides and listen for the connections.

DO NOT ARGUE

"I can tell you are very upset/frustrated""I know that it has been hard for you to change gears"

ACTIVE LISTENING GUIDE

REFLECT AMBIVALENCE

"So, on the one hand you want ___ and on the other you don't think you can ___"

LOOK FOR COMMON GROUND

"Where do you think we could find common ground?"
"We agree on this, what else do we agree on?"

EXPRESS YOUR ATTENTION

Words and phrases like "Oh", "I see", "uh huh" and "hmm" show that you are listening.

CREATE DISSONANCE

"Tell me (describe to me) what your feeling are on ____"
"Can you tell me what is keeping you from supporting ___?"

SHOW EMPATHY FOR THEIR FEELINGS

"I am hearing you say that you are frustrated because ____"

WRAP UP

"Thank you for talking with me."
"I appreciate your opinion and understand your concerns."



ENCOUNTERING TENSION

Fight your instinct to defend.

Ask them, “Tell me more” to get them thinking and feeling for themselves.

Do not use facts or logic or morals.

The subject of the story should be you or someone they know.

Give yourself permission to walk away.



AVOID FATIGUE

**Just till the soil, plant a seed,
and touch on it over time.**

**Limit political talk to 20 minutes
at a time.**



Complete the Power series



Build your political power one conversation at a time.



COURSES & WORKBOOKS

Thursday 8pm ET



BUILDING BRIDGES FOR AMERICA
presents

Real Talk: Pop the Disinformation Bubble

FREE Course and Workbook

Next Tuesday 8pm ET



BUILDING BRIDGES FOR AMERICA

Organizing for Change: Conversations that Break Through

FREE Course and Workbook for Organizers & Activists

JOIN US!



May 26th
5:30pm ET

Hybrid Event

In-Person

Online

Main Library via Zoom

304 S Main St

South Bend, IN

Classroom E

The Kitchen Cabinet and BUILDING BRIDGES FOR AMERICA



How To Talk About Your Abortion Rights

Build your confidence to: Speak up
Express yourself
Take action





buildingbridgesforamerica.com

Every week on Tuesdays & Thursdays

BUILDING BRIDGES FOR AMERICA



Political Organizing Classes

11 free and accessible
courses and workbooks
for volunteers by volunteers.

IT'S GO TIME!

STEP UP AND LEARN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2022!

***Unlock Your Political
Power***

***Conversations that
Break Through***

***Making the Hard
Ask***

***Pop the
Disinformation
Bubble***

Civics for Everyone

Civics for Change

***Say This, Not That:
The Importance of
Effective
Messaging***

***Grassroots
Organizing for
Change***

Events for Change

***Facebook Activist to
Change Maker***

***Local Leaders and
Precinct Chairs***



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organizers, candidates,
and causes.

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www.buildingbridgesforamerica.com

Thank you for joining us.