

SISTER DISTRICT ACTION NETWORK PRESENTS

# STATE BRIDGES

FEBRUARY 7, 2024



SISTER DISTRICT  
ACTION NETWORK





## **ART REYES III (HE/HIM)**

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WE THE PEOPLE**

Art is the founding Executive Director of We The People. He was born and raised in Flint, MI and hails from three generations of proud UAW members. Before WTP, Art was the national training director at the Center for Popular Democracy. He spent much of 2016 working in Flint responding to the water crisis and helped launch Flint Rising. Understanding the Flint water crisis not as a policy mistake, but rather a crisis of power, he returned home to launch We The People, focused on building long-term multi-racial, working class power. He has a BA from Michigan and MPP from Harvard where he taught a community organizing class with Marshall Ganz. He lives in Metro-Detroit with his wife Ashley, two little ones Emilio & Nico, and their giant dog named Kona the Coney Dog.



[wethepeoplemi.org](http://wethepeoplemi.org)



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WE THE PEOPLE MICHIGAN

# WHO WE ARE



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# WHEN WE ORGANIZE, WE WIN!

Protecting & Strengthening  
a trifecta that delivers for  
our communities.



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WE THE PEOPLE MICHIGAN

# LOOKING AHEAD



BUILDING &  
STRENGTHENING OUR BASE



MAXIMIZE OUR POWER IN THE  
LEGISLATURE TO DELIVER ON  
OUR ISSUES



ORGANIZED COMMUNITIES FLEX  
THEIR POWER IN ELECTIONS



LONG TERM ORGANIZING IS SERIOUS AND  
SHIFTING THE ELECTORAL SPACE



WIN IN MARGINAL RURAL DISTRICTS  
ON OUR VALUES



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# DANIELLE ATKINSON

## FOUNDING AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MOTHERING JUSTICE

Danielle Atkinson is the Founding Director of Mothering Justice and Mothering Justice Action Fund, two national organizations working to improve the lives of families by equipping the next generation of mother activists. Atkinson is a nationally recognized speaker with extensive experience as a church-based, electoral, and community organizer. Her early days working with organizations such as America Votes, State Voices, Population Connection, and The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now prepared her to found Mothering Justice, a leadership development and advocacy organization in 2012. To date, Mothering Justice has trained more than 1000 women, reached more than 500,000 mothers in voter engagement efforts, led Mama Conversations around the country, and drafted the Mamas' Agenda, a policy priority plan addressing financial stability issues of mothers in Michigan. Mothering Justice has been a part of winning campaigns to strengthen breastfeeding rights, licensure for Michigan Midwives, protecting federal safety net programs, and earned sick time in Michigan.

Atkinson also helped lead a successful ballot initiative to raise the minimum wage in both Florida and Michigan and establish a paid leave law in Michigan.



# WHO WE ARE

Our programs are designed to **empower**, engage, and organize mothers of color, to build power around policies that brings justice to mothers of color in America.

We **engage** mothers of color in America through our leadership development programs and events.

We **organize & build power** around equitable policies that will improve the quality of life for families of color in America with the community & our partners.





# 3 THINGS WE ARE EXCITED FOR!

IF I HAVE TO NAME JUST 3!

- ▶ Paid Leave
- ▶ Mamas' Caucus
- ▶ Mamavist





# LOOKING AHEAD



## RESEARCH

Building a narrative that brings different communities together under a shared message that resonates across ethnicities and races.

## ALINEMENT

Grow and deepen our relationships with organizations that share our values.

## SCALING OUR PROGRAM

Long term sustainable grassroots programs layered program ballot initiative strategy.

## CANDIDATE REPRESENTATION

We want our members to be running in races that can make a difference on our issues.





## ROBERT KRAIG

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CITIZEN ACTION OF WISCONSIN, HE/HIM

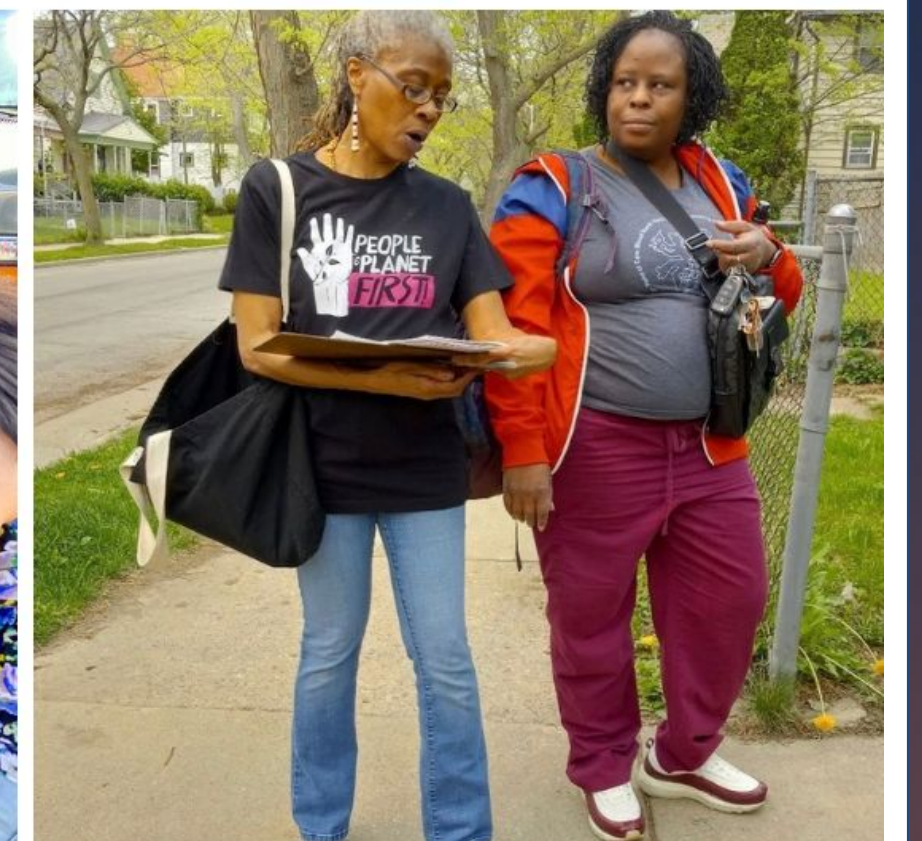
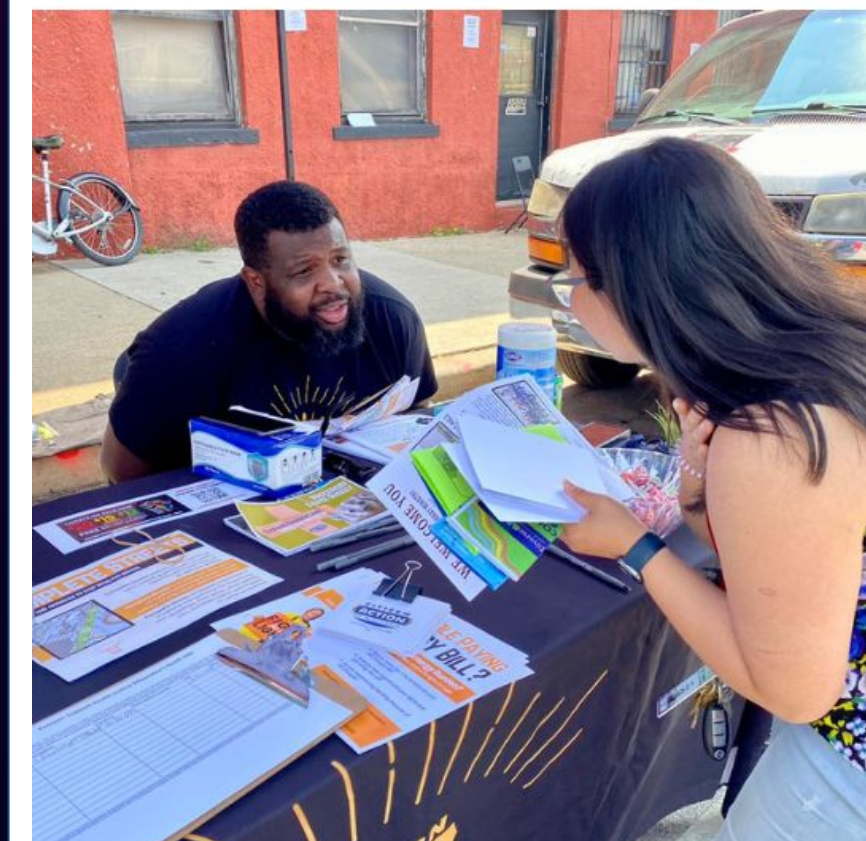
Dr. Robert Kraig serves as the Executive Director of Citizen Action. Robert took the helm in September 2009 at the height of the Great Recession, when Citizen Action was in virtual bankruptcy, and has led a dynamic team of organizers in rebuilding it into one of the leading progressive forces in Wisconsin. Robert is a leading strategist in the Wisconsin progressive movement, and is especially known for developing innovative approaches to strategic communication and issue campaign design and implementation. He has also appeared on major national and international media outlets such as MSNBC, Fox News and Al Jazeera, and has been quoted in national newspapers and magazines such as the New York Times, Washington Post and The Atlantic. Robert is the author of several major academic articles on American political rhetoric in Rhetoric & Public Affairs and other academic journals and collections. His book, *Woodrow Wilson and the Lost World of the Oratorical Statesman* (Texas A&M Press), topped a Wall Street Journal list of the five best books on presidential rhetoric.



# ABOUT CITIZEN ACTION OF WISCONSIN

Citizen Action is one of the oldest and most respected organizing groups in our state. We are committed to achieving social, racial, economic, health, and environmental justice, operating all across the state.

We are building power by working on big issues that can be the basis for creating a community of interest across the state. We believe the pathway to progressive power in Wisconsin is multiracial organizing that bridges the urban/rural/suburban divide.





# 3 THINGS WE ARE EXCITED FOR!

- ▶ **BASE BUILDING!** Many people are just waiting for their get off the couch moment, and we have to be ready to accept them and help them grow! From canvassing to phone banking to rallies and lobbying to donations, we've got a place for YOU!
- ▶ **BRINGING PEOPLE IN!** We continue to train candidates, campaign managers, and volunteers. We will expand our paid field team even further, and give anyone interested in learning about politics and how voters operate a chance to do so.
- ▶ **DEEP CANVASS!** Our deep canvass model moves voters using listening skills, shared stories, and Race Class Narrative messaging. We continue to deep canvass on doors and phones to talk to voters and bring them into the movement and the organizing revival.





# LOOKING AHEAD

## SPRING FORWARD

Our spring primary is less than two weeks away and general is in just under two months. This is the time to begin bringing people - voters and volunteers - into Citizen Action.

## FIELD TEAM

We had an excellent field team last year that was able to boost our voter outreach efforts across the state. We want to be able to consistently demonstrate that we are in communities around the state not just a few days before an election.

## ALL EYES ON US

We also know that, once again, all eyes are on Wisconsin - from new maps to a pathway to November and beyond. We must be ready for attention - and to use every moment we want to use moments to bring people in.

## MOTIVATION

Our strategy for success will continue to be meeting people where they are without judgment. From voters to volunteers to elected officials, we're all looking for the same justice, equality, all of it.





# **DAVID LINERS**

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WISDOM**

David Liners has led the WISDOM network for nearly 25 years. In that time the network has grown to include a dozen local social justice groups, as well as FREE, an organization of justice-impacted people, and Menikanaehkem, an organization on the Menominee Reservation. WISDOM brings together people who are directly impacted by systemic injustice, along with progressive faith communities. WISDOM includes hundreds of ordinary people working together to do extraordinary things.



# WHO WE ARE

A statewide network of 13 affiliates who organize diverse communities of faith to work on different social Justice issues.

Top issues and accomplishments:

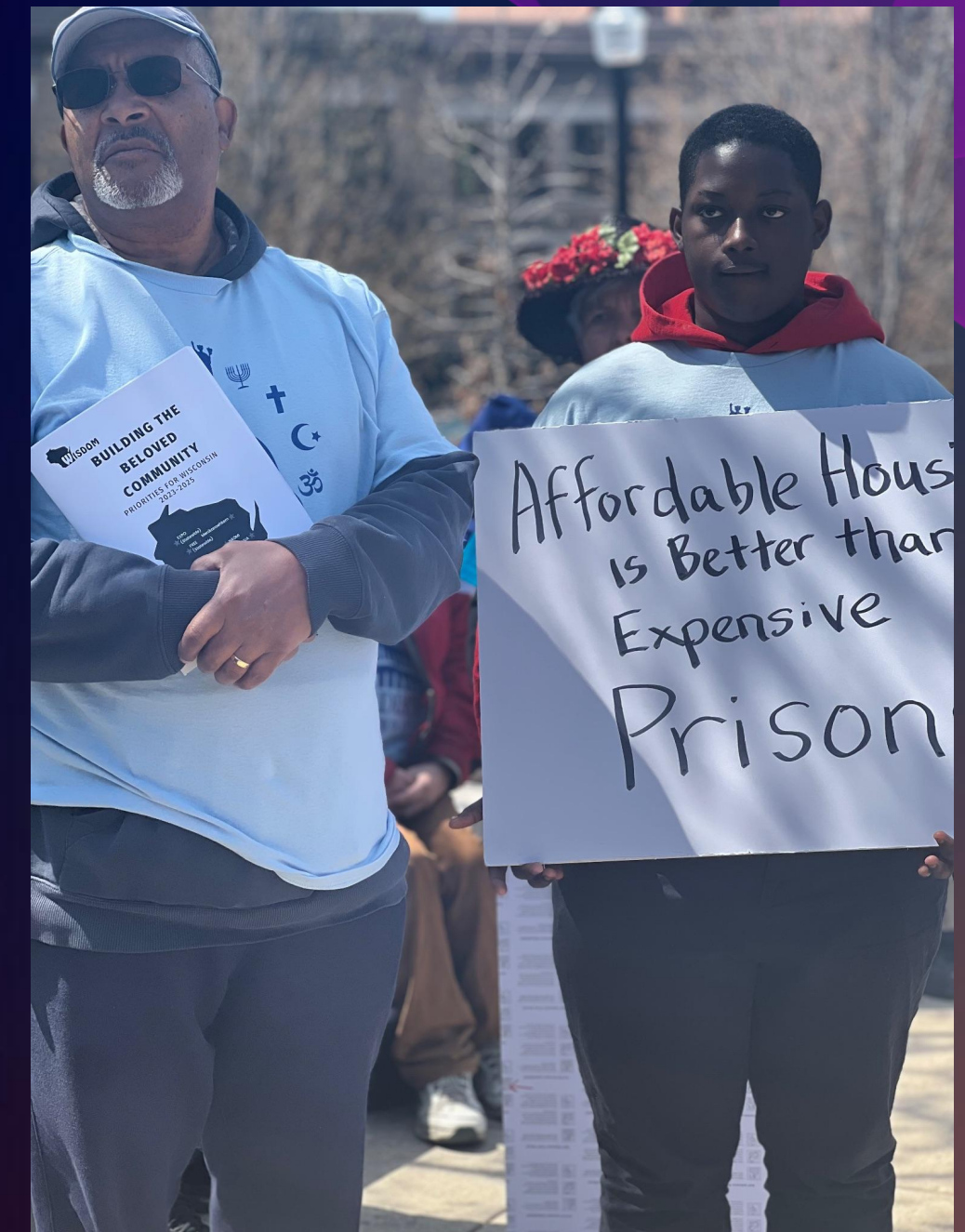
- Criminal Justice
- Environmental Justice
- Immigration





# 3 THINGS WE ARE EXCITED FOR!

- ▶ Fair Maps at LAST!
- ▶ Our increased capacity for upcoming LOCAL elections
- ▶ Geographic expansion of new rural and small town members





# LOOKING AHEAD

## Expanded RVP

Working with directly impacted people to use their issue to move friends, Family and neighbors to rush to the polls to increase civic engagement

## Going on the Offense

Crafting and advancing narratives of abundance, inclusion, and restorative justice, while expanding the electorate in key regions of the state.

## Outreach to 1 Million Wisconsinites

Door to Door, Tabling, Phonebanking , SIP, School of Democracy, Forums, Town halls, Events and Trainings

## Prison Outreach/Relational Voter Program

Budget: \$183,000

Received as of 02/01/2024: \$105,000

Budget Gap: \$78,000