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NEWS RELEASE**

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***Activism in the time of COVID: celebrating Wisconsin victory***

Indivisible Chicago quickly adapts to limitations of pandemic, campaign work continues

Indivisible Chicago was a proud partner in this week’s a victory in Wisconsin, where [liberal Justice Jill Karofsky won out over Trump-endorsed Dan Kelly](https://click.everyaction.com/k/17135946/183949809/-1771773153?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9UU00vVFNNRUEvMS83NzE4MCIsDQogICJEaXN0cmlidXRpb25VbmlxdWVJZCI6ICJiYTgzN2UwOC02NzdlLWVhMTEtYTk0Yy0wMDE1NWQwM2IxZTgiLA0KICAiRW1haWxBZGRyZXNzIjogIm1hcmpoYWxwZXJpbkBnbWFpbC5jb20iDQp9&hmac=sMVl2p5dpXPoAnwMwCWRwhG_x0Wbck0xLbyaZxQRVtA=&emci=46782d71-657e-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&emdi=ba837e08-677e-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&ceid=2103669). Thanks to the hard work of activist volunteers, this election was a victory of old-fashioned organizing over cynical voter suppression.

In November of 2019, a few dozen Indivisible Chicago members made their first trip to Wisconsin to knock on doors and talk to voters. As the calendar turned to 2020, this canvassing army grew to over 100 and Indivisible Chicago [launched a campaign](https://click.everyaction.com/k/17135947/183949810/947701516?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9UU00vVFNNRUEvMS83NzE4MCIsDQogICJEaXN0cmlidXRpb25VbmlxdWVJZCI6ICJiYTgzN2UwOC02NzdlLWVhMTEtYTk0Yy0wMDE1NWQwM2IxZTgiLA0KICAiRW1haWxBZGRyZXNzIjogIm1hcmpoYWxwZXJpbkBnbWFpbC5jb20iDQp9&hmac=sMVl2p5dpXPoAnwMwCWRwhG_x0Wbck0xLbyaZxQRVtA=&emci=46782d71-657e-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&emdi=ba837e08-677e-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&ceid=2103669) to send over 600,000 postcards to Wisconsin voters. As the day of the Wisconsin primary approached, volunteers had hand-written and mailed all 600,000 postcards and knocked on thousands of doors.

Then the pandemic hit. A total of 34 events were wiped off the calendar, as plans to get out the vote in Wisconsin through an aggressive canvassing schedule in the last few weeks were scuttled and Indivisible Chicago had to adapt. Organizers launched Phone Bank Socials, replacing in-person gatherings with “Zoom rooms” to train volunteers and maintain the sense of community that comes from working together on voter calls. Indivisible pivoted within a matter of days from knocking on doors to making calls, and made over 4000 calls to voters in the last two weeks, helping them secure and deliver absentee ballots.

As the results rolled in, it was clear: organizing had won.

“The grassroots power of Indivisible Chicago and other partner organizations can’t be underestimated, and we’re just getting started,” said Indivisible Chicago Board member XXX XXX. “Based on what we’ve learned in Wisconsin, we’re rolling out new phone bank opportunities and implementing other new strategies to reach voters in this time of crisis.”

Indivisible Chicago announced a May 1st launch of a new program to write two million postcards to send to voters in Wisconsin and Michigan. A phone bank program to reach voters in Michigan was tested this week. These calls are focused on encouraging voters to register for a newly-expanded absentee ballot initiative, the kind of vote-by-mail program that best protects voters’ health and their right to vote during this pandemic.

The core work of a good field campaign continues, as Indivisible Chicago activists find new ways to connect with voters, and vow to continue the work of rebuilding the Midwest Blue Wall right through to November.

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