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Labor and the People VS The Ultra Right

A Gigantic Battle in 2008

Version 1.2.3 National – January, 2008

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U.S. Casualties Grow in Iraq

Cost of Iraq War to exceed \$1 Trillion

Record Number of Americans without Health Insurance

Thousands of Chrysler Workers Lose Jobs

Katrina – Still Homeless after Two years

Jena 6 Defendant sent back to Jail

Immigrant Raids target Union Supporters

**Probe Justice Dept. Spying on Americans
Administration Officials Resign**

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6

If you're outraged by the direction the right-wing corporate Bush administration is taking the country

7

...there is something you can do!

8

In 2008 the elections for President and Congress could change the political map in our country...

9

...shatter right-wing Republican political control of the South, end right-wing political dominance of

rural **America...**

10

...create big new possibilities for workers to join and organize unions and give new voice to the disenfranchised.

11

The 2008 elections could usher in a new grass roots people's politics in our nation.

12

Ultra-right domination

For nearly three decades, since Ronald Reagan was President, the ultra-right has dominated the political scene

13

They enabled a rampage by big business and trans-nationals to destroy unions and dismantle public services

Ultra-right domination

14

Ultra-right domination

Unionized industrial jobs left.

Profits Soared...

42x worker's pay

1980

CEO Pay

364x worker's pay

2006

15

Ultra-right domination

42x worker's pay

1980

CEO Pay

364x worker's pay

2006

Wealth has consolidated in a very few hands creating poverty and insecurity for the rest of us.

16

Ultra-right domination

African American and Latino workers have been hardest hit by loss of good **union** jobs.

17

Ultra-right domination

The **agenda** under Clinton was dictated by compromise with the right-wing Republican controlled Congress

18

Ultra-right domination

Working people were hit with job losses under NAFTA and loss of safety net protection under welfare reform.

19

Ultra-right domination

But even this was not enough for the ultra-right.

20

Ultra-right domination

George Bush was installed as President in 2000 to accelerate the corporate imperial **agenda** and consolidate its power.

21

Ultra-right domination

In the last seven years, the contradictions of capitalism have continued to sharpen.

22

Ultra-right domination

The “American Dream” has turned into a nightmare for millions of families.

23

Ultra-right domination

Economic security, healthcare, affordable housing and higher education seem a thing of the past.

24

Ultra-right domination

More African American men are in prison than in college, reflecting the growth of structural racism.

25

The pursuit of profits has resulted in lack of action to address global warming.

Ultra-right domination

San Diego, Oct.-Nov., 2007

26

Ultra-right domination

At the time of the 9/11 attack
George Bush's popularity was at
rock bottom.

27

Ultra-right domination

The right-wing has cynically
used 9/11 to create a climate of
fear and division.

28

Ultra-right domination

Despite widespread opposition,
the war in Iraq was launched...

29

Ultra-right domination

...for control of oil and to dominate the Middle East on behalf of corporate interests.

30

Ultra-right domination

Lives lost and trillions of dollars spent began to take a toll.

31

Ultra-right domination

The abandonment of African Americans when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans shocked the country and the world.

32

2006 Upsurge

By 2006, millions were in the

streets to protest...

...immigrants for equal rights...

33

2006 Upsurge

...seniors for Social Security...

34

2006 Upsurge

...workers for healthcare...

35

2006 Upsurge

...in Atlanta, marching for voting
rights...

36

2006 Upsurge

...and escalating opposition to
the war.

Building on 2004, the labor movement launched the largest worker-to-worker get out the vote drive in history.

2006 Upsurge

Union households voted 75% to change Congress along with 89% of African Americans, 70% of Latinos, 66% of youth, 62% of women.

2006 Upsurge

Against all odds the ultra-right

was dealt a blow and the majority in Congress was changed!

2006 Upsurge

40

The Democrats represent a range of views, and their margin is slim.

2006 Upsurge

41

2006 Upsurge

In the House, there are 232 Democrats and 200 Republicans. In the Senate, there are 49 Democrats, 2 Independents and 49

Republicans.

42

2006 Upsurge

Most Democrats from traditionally Republican districts joined the Blue Dog Caucus (48 members) often voting with Bush on issues like Iraq and immigration.

43

2006 Upsurge

At the same time the **Progressive** Caucus is growing (73 members). Some of its members have led the opposition to Bush along with the

Congressional Black Caucus (48 members) and the Hispanic Caucus (21 members).

44

Turning the Tide

The excitement of changing Congress was quickly tempered by the lack of ability to override the President.

45

Turning the Tide

The right-wing Republicans set out to obstruct any **progressive** legislation including steps to end the war in Iraq.

46

Program for the first 100 Hours

- *9/11 commission recommendations (signed 8/3/07)*
- *Minimum wage (signed 7/24/07)*
- *Cut student loan rates (signed 9/27/07)*
- *Roll back Big Oil subsidies*
- Invest in renewable energy*
- *Stem cell research*
- *Lower prescription costs*
- *Ethics reform (signed 9/14/07)*

Turning the Tide

The 100 hours program of the Democratic majority passed the House but stalled in the Senate.

Turning the Tide

Public anger at Bush's veto of the minimum wage increase forced some Republicans to change votes.

Program for the first 100 Hours

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- *Stem cell research*
- *Lower prescription costs*
- *Ethics reform (signed 9/14/07)*

The bill was brought up again. It passed and was signed. For the

first time in over a decade 13 million workers got a small raise.

49

Turning the Tide

Growing opposition to the war forced some conservative Democrats and a few Republicans to break with Bush...

50

Turning the Tide

...but not enough yet to over ride a veto. New bills keep being brought forward as Bush threatens to attack Iran.

51

Turning the Tide

When Bush vetoed funds for children's health while requesting more billions for the war there was an outcry of protest.

52

Turning the Tide

The ultra-right hopes voters will simply blame the Democrats and forget who is responsible for starting the war, looting the economy and fanning the flames of racism.

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Turning the Tide

The Bush Administration's disregard for Constitutional rights and civil liberties has created great alarm.

Bush Officials
forced to Resign

- . *Karl Rove*
- . *Alberto Gonzalez*
- . *Donald Rumsfeld*
- . *Harriet Meiers*
- . *Dan Bartlett*
- . *John R. Bolton*
- . *J. D. Crouch*
- . *Rob Portman*
- . *Don Evans*
- . *Tony Snow*

54

Turning the Tide

Congressional hearings have

exposed massive abuse of power by top Bush administration officials. Many have been forced to resign.

Bush Officials
forced to Resign

- . *Karl Rove*
- . *Alberto Gonzalez*
- . *Donald Rumsfeld*
- . *Harriet Meiers*
- . *Dan Bartlett*
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- . *J. D. Crouch*
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- . *Don Evans*
- . *Tony Snow*

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Turning the Tide

To change the political balance

of forces and restore democratic rights the ultra-right Republicans have to be swept out of the White House and Congress both.

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Turning the Tide

The seats Democrats took in historically Republican districts in 2006 have to be maintained.

57

Turning the Tide

More candidates who come out of labor, civil rights and other movements are needed in Congress to swell the ranks of

the **Progressive**, Black, Hispanic, and Asian-Pacific Caucuses

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Turning the Tide

But even that, alone, will not end
the war or change priorities.

59

Turning the Tide

The growing independent united
political strength of labor and
people's organizations can turn
the tide....

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Turning the Tide

....with grass roots mobilization

on the issues and get out the vote.

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Turning the Tide

That is the challenge for 2008.

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A Gigantic Battle in 2008

The 2008 election is a referendum on the future of our country.

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A Gigantic Battle in 2008

Millions are looking for political leadership that breaks from right-wing extremism and capitalist globalization...

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...toward a society that upholds social and economic justice, racial, ethnic and gender equality, and peace.

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Voters are demanding that Democratic candidates oppose the war, & support universal health care and equal rights. More voters are staying independent.

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Polls show a drop from 90% to 45% approval rating for Bush among Evangelicals. They are hurt by losses in the war, a failing economy and pro-corporate hypocrisy.

(Pew 10/07)

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Less than 50 percent identify themselves as Republican, with most turning independent.

(Pew 10/07)

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One leader said, *"There are going to be a lot of evangelicals*

*willing to vote for a Democrat
because...*

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*"...there are 40 million people
without health insurance and a
Democrat is going to do
something about that."*

70

Two-thirds of voters in
Republican battleground districts
say the country is headed in the
wrong direction. (Democracy Corps 8.3.07)

June 14, 2007

August 1, 2007

42%

47%

44%

49%

Republican-held Districts

-5

+5

A Gigantic Battle in 2008

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A Gigantic Battle in 2008

Republicans are using extreme militarist, anti-immigrant and racist appeals to activate their right-wing base.

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A Gigantic Battle in 2008

Working class issues can win voters over.

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A Gigantic Battle in 2008

In 2006 the religious right was overpowered when the minimum wage was on the ballot. Some Republicans were defeated.

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A Gigantic Battle in 2008

The ultra-right is using anti-immigrant demagoguery backed up by hate crimes and workplace raids to divide voters and weaken labor's multi-racial mobilization.

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They blame loss of jobs on immigrants from Latin **America** to stir up racial profiling and keep workers from joining together to demand **union** rights for everyone.

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This issue can be turned around. The root cause of job loss is pro-corporate tax, trade and foreign policies.

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The right-wing is campaigning in states like Michigan for ballot

initiatives supporting “right to work” laws...

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...which prohibit **union** rights and result in lower wages and working conditions.

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It will take massive public education to expose and defeat these efforts.

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A Gigantic Battle in 2008

The right-wing will stop at nothing to maintain power. They

will continue to obstruct and steal elections.

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A Gigantic Battle in 2008

Dropping voters from the rolls in New Orleans' Ninth Ward is a recent example.

Protecting the vote is vital in 2008.

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A Gigantic Battle in 2008

The new battlegrounds in 2008 have the potential of dismantling the political base of the ultra-right.

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Arkansas

Louisiana

Florida

Georgia

Alabama

Virginia

Mississippi

Kentucky

Tennessee

North

Carolina

South

Carolina

West

Virginia

Maryland

The South

The Republicans' racist
“Southern Strategy” developed
by Richard Nixon to dominate
national elections could be
shattered in 2008.

A Gigantic Battle in 2008

84

Texas

Arkansas

Louisiana

Florida

Georgia

Alabama

Virginia

Mississippi

Kentucky

Tennessee

North

Carolina

South

Carolina

West

Virginia

Maryland

The South

Polls show 50% now favor
Democrats in the South and
South Central states. (Celinda Lake 7/07)

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Virginia

The South

The Senate seat in Virginia vacated by John Warner (R) could turn Democrat.

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Rural America

The Republicans' "family values" strategy to dominate rural **America** is losing ground .

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Rural America

Cost of fuel, healthcare, lack of good paying jobs and loss of family members in Iraq have become top issues for rural voters.

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Rural America

In 2004 Bush carried rural **America** by 19 points. By 2006 Republicans had only a 3 point lead at 51%. *(Democracy Corps 6/8/07)*

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Rural America

In 2008 Republican domination of Rural **America** could be reversed.

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The Republicans' strategy to dominate the Latino vote has backfired

Southwest and Florida

Arizona

New Mexico

Colorado

Nevada

Florida

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Southwest and Florida

Anti-immigrant policies and anti-Cuba family visitation policies are pushing Evangelical Latinos to vote Democrat...

Arizona

New Mexico

Colorado

Nevada

Florida

A Gigantic Battle in 2008

Arizona

New Mexico

Colorado

Nevada

Florida

Southwest and Florida

...which could flip five states from Republican to Democrat in 2008.

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A Gigantic Battle in 2008

Labor, African American, Latino, Women and Youth voters -- the core forces of the people's alliance that changed Congress in 2006 -- are even more committed to defeat the Republicans and set a new national **agenda**.

The goal of 2 million new Latino voters and 10 million votes cast can change 22 Congressional Districts from red to blue.

Key Latino voter states

The Latino Vote

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New Jersey

New York

Texas

California

Illinois

New York

The Latino Vote

Voter drives will increase turnout in five additional states where the large Latino population favors Democrats

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96

Texas

Arkansas

Louisiana

Florida

Georgia

Alabama

Virginia

Mississippi

Kentucky

Tennessee

North

Carolina

South

Carolina

West

Virginia

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The African American Vote –

If African Americans vote their percentage of the population in three Southern states, they would flip from red to blue.

South Carolina

Georgia

Mississippi

97

A Gigantic Battle in 2008

Texas

Arkansas

Louisiana

Florida

Georgia

Alabama

Virginia

Mississippi

Kentucky

Tennessee

North

Carolina

South

Carolina

West

Virginia

The African American Vote –
The 44 members of the Congressional Black Caucus represent over 40 million people. A major voter turnout effort is part of the new civil rights movement.

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The Youth Vote -
Young people now outnumber the baby boom generation. Their vote could increase by 2 million

in 2008.

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The Youth Vote –

On every major issue most young people disagree with the Republican **agenda**. And they are ready for an African American or woman president.

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The Women's Vote –

20 million single women did not vote in 2004. An effort to register 1 million new women voters is underway.

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The Women's Vote –

Women favor Democrats by an 18 percent margin, up from 12 points in 2006. Candidates are seeking this vote.

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Labor 2008:

The AFL-CIO debate of Democratic presidential candidates placed workers' issues front and center.

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Labor 2008:

25% of all voters in 2006 were members of unions. In 2008 more rank and file activists are involved.

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Labor 2008:

Worker-to-worker outreach is about the right to a **union**, health care for all and the economy.

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Labor 2008:

Coalition of Black Trade Unionists' members are canvassing neighbors where

they live.

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Labor 2008:

Oregon

Minnesota

Ohio

Michigan

Maine

Kentucky

Iowa

Indiana

Pennsylvania

The AFL-CIO's Working
America is canvassing voters in
nine states with key
Congressional races which can

flip from red to blue in 2008.

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A Gigantic Battle in 2008

Bringing grass roots movements and demands for peace, not-for-profit health care, workers' rights and democracy into the elections builds people's politics independent from corporate control.

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A Gigantic Battle in 2008

Sweeping the ultra-right out will usher in a new political era. Organizing can win real gains to rebuild **America**, change foreign

policy, and achieve “*no war & no warming.*”

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A Gigantic Battle in 2008

Passage of the Employee Free Choice Act would allow millions of workers in our country to win a **union** contract, building labor’s strength

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A Gigantic Battle in 2008

Labor, left and **progressive** forces will be in position to run their own candidates and help shape a future in which health care, housing, education and

living wage jobs are basic
human rights.

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WHAT YOU CAN DO

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WHAT YOU CAN DO

The 2008 elections can become
a breakthrough for independent
people's politics.

113

WHAT YOU CAN DO

It will take all of us to accomplish
this great task and make history.

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WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Volunteer with the Labor 2008 healthcare and
get out the vote drive in your **union** or
community

- Join with others in your neighborhood to discuss issues, register voters and get involved
- Participate in election protection efforts so every one can vote and every vote is counted
- Distribute the Peoples Weekly World to co-workers and friends in your workplace or neighborhood
- Host a house party with this slideshow, or have a showing at your organization.

How to get involved

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Help Make History!

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Follow developments in the 2008 elections.

Read the Peoples Weekly World / Nuestro

Mundo

www.pww.org