

Michael Jacoby Brown
training & coaching

*Helping organizations achieve their goals
through recruiting and motivating others*

Organizer's Edge ▶

Greetings!

Who Won the Election for Joe Biden?

One story we don't see in the main-stream press is how thousands of local organizers and activists, working with newly- formed organizations and networks that were not around 4 years ago,-- and outside the Democratic Party and the Biden campaign-- helped win the election for Joe Biden. It points the way toward not only how we can win elections every two or four years, but also change policy locally thru organizing and action.

Photo: Jessica Fratzola



This E-News highlights one of these organizers.

Jessica Fratzola, Northeast PA and PA Stands Up

Jessica Fratzola, 35, from Scranton, PA is one of the unsung heroes who won the election for Joe Biden.

"Until recently, Jessica said she was "fairly uninvolved in the political process. I watched the debates and cast my vote. I thought politics worked for the people. But as years went on, I realized we have a system that does not work for us, and hurts people in many ways."

"When I graduated from college, I had \$35,000 in student loans. My sister had the same amount and my parents had \$60,000 from students loans. I would not have been able to finish college if my parents had not borrowed."

“When I graduated, I could not get a job making more than \$10 an hour. I could not move out of my parents' house, and my parents had a hard time paying their mortgage with their student loan debt and ended up losing the house. I went back to school, got a practical nursing diploma and now make \$25 per hour. I get 4 paid days off a year and no health insurance.”

“In 2016 I thought Bernie Sanders was the only one who was talking about the issues that are affecting people: wages, health care, etc. Thru the Bernie campaign I learned how everyday people could be involved thru door knocking and phone banking, They taught me a lot of great skills, including how to share my own personal story with voters, how to talk about the things we have in common rather than our differences.”

“Lev Hirschhorn from [PA Stands Up](#) offered me a lot of guidance and support.”

“After Bernie ended his campaign, my intention was to focus on community issues, but it became obvious that who won the Presidency affected anything we could do, and we had to get Trump out of office. We had more chance for our movement with a Biden Presidency.”



"I worked 27 hours a week, thru [PA Stands Up](#) from July to November 2020. I never did anything thru the Democratic Party or the Biden campaign.”

“I recruited about 24 people to phone voters and I focused on northeast PA, because I was trying to start my own organization here. I was focusing on people I had a good chance to come in contact with again. **So that I could reach out to these people again, after the election, and keep them involved.**”

“Toward the end of the election, I was also recruiting people to help out with local issues. In Wilkes Barre, the community wanted a citizen police review board. I got people to write letters and call into the City Council meeting. I was trying to get these people to see there was something we

could do more than vote every four years. I wanted them to see that they really have power in the community and there are things they can do to influence change. Now these people have confidence they can call into city council.”

“People do have a lot more in common than the politicians would like us to think.”

“We all agree on many things. Everyone has the right to live in a clean environment. Someone who works full time should be able to put a roof over their head and food on the table So when we focus on what have in common, we can really make a difference.”

“This is not something that is easy for me. I am a shy person. But I forced myself to do it, because people like me who are not professional politicians should have our voices heard.”

Jessica Fratzola, age 35, Licensed Practical Nurse, has lived in Northeast Pennsylvania her entire life. She became active in community and political organizing in the Spring of 2019. She now works with [Put People First PA.](#)

Feedback Welcome

We want to hear from you, your reactions, ideas, what is at the edge YOUR "envelope." Just go to...

[Visit Our Website!](#)



Who else you will hear from.....

We are just starting, but so far you can expect to hear what the following people are thinking:

Jessica Tang: Boston Teachers Union, AFT

George Luse of the Mass Teachers Assn,

Scott Reed with the PICO Network, ,

Cathy Howell, in Oregon and El Salvador, formerly with the AFL-CIO,

Caesar McDowell of MIT,

Diana Bell of Community and Labor United,

David Hernandez of the California Education Assn,

Attica Scott, State Rep Louisville, Kentucky

Walter Davis, of the Tennessee, Health Care Coalition.

Debra Askenase, of Community Organizing 2.0,

Deb Fastino, of the Coalition for Social Justice in New Bedford, MA,

Rebecca Gutman, with SEIU-1199,

Tim Dean, of SEIU-1199,

Mary Ochs, long time organizer in Los Angeles

and others, hopefully, including YOU

Other Useful Links

[http://michaeljacobybrown.com/
Visions-Inc](http://michaeljacobybrown.com/Visions-Inc)



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