



Transformational Politics Definitions

Business-as-Usual Politics

- Runs on money power, including corporate money
- Top-down, bureaucratic structure
- Candidates are people who pay their dues and have access to money
- Campaign on issues but don't act on them once elected
- Defines democracy as voting every two years
- Winning is its own justification
- Focused on swing districts that are considered winnable
- Staff- and consultant-driven
- All about the candidate
- Maintains the political and economic status quo
- Reliant on the political party organization

Movement Politics

- Runs on people power, primarily small dollar donations
- Bottom-up, grassroots structure
- Candidates are everyday people who come out of the movement
- Govern as you campaign
- Organizing day-in and day-out to build long-term community power
- Winning is a way to move our issues forward
- Doesn't write off any geographic areas
- Volunteer-driven
- All about the issues and the movement
- Challenges the political and economic establishment
- Reliant on people's organizations