

## **Substack**

### **5 Phone Calls Can Stop American Fascism. Here Are the Numbers.**

**By Christopher Armitage**

**September 2, 2025**

Politicians have a secret math they don't want you to know. Something that is an open secret in politics was shared with the public by former congressional staffers who wrote the Indivisible Guide, here's how they actually count your complaints:

One phone call = 100-1,000 angry voters

One personal email = 10-50 voters

One form letter = maybe 1 voter, if they even count it

This is the economy of political pressure. The Congressional Management Foundation found that individualized contact influenced 94% of congressional offices on undecided issues. Mass email campaigns? 18%. Petitions? Worthless.

But here's the secret that changes everything: state officials are sitting ducks.

State Comptrollers generally receive 5-10 constituent calls per month. State Treasurers? Many have never experienced a coordinated campaign. District Attorneys? Only hear from victims and lawyers, not voters. State Legislators? They average 20-30 contacts per week

The magic happens at these thresholds:

10 calls in an hour = staff notices. 50 calls in a day = emergency meeting. 100 calls in a day = office shuts down to handle it. 500 calls in a week = policy change consideration. 1,000 calls = historical precedent shows this forces action

Academic research from Michigan State University found constituent contact increases legislator support probability by 12-20%. The Net Neutrality campaign's 1.3 million calls changed federal policy. The ACA defense campaign's 6,000 calls prevented repeal. At the state level, you need 100x fewer calls for the same impact.

Critical: Form letters, petitions, and automated messages go straight in the trash. Personalized calls are exponentially more powerful, with some studies estimating the impact could be as much as 70x more effective. One real phone call outweighs hundreds of form messages.

**Script for your District Attorney**

If you're in Manhattan: Call Alvin Bragg at (212) 335-9000. If you're in LA: Call Nathan Hochman at (213) 257-2000. If you're in Cook County: Call Eileen O'Neal Burke at (312) 603-1880. Everyone else: Google "[Your County] District Attorney phone"

Say this: "Hello, I'm [name] from [zip code]. When federal agents arrest people at churches, schools, or hospitals, that's a state crime. When they force doctors to report pregnancies or miscarriages, that's a state crime. When they build religious registries, that's a state crime. Presidential pardons don't work on state crimes. I demand our DA prosecute any federal agent who violates our citizens' constitutional rights. Will you protect us or collaborate with people destroying American values?"

### **Script for your State Comptroller/Controller**

If you're in California: Call Malia Cohen at (916) 445-2636. If you're in New York: Call Thomas DiNapoli at (518) 474-4044. If you're in Illinois: Call Susana Mendoza at (217) 782-6000. Everyone else: Google "[Your State] Comptroller" or "Controller" or "Auditor"

Say this: "Hi, I'm [name] from [zip code]. You control our state's money. You have the power to suspend information sharing with the IRS. You can redirect federal tax withholdings to escrow accounts. You can delay federal fund transfers pending constitutional review. When Trump cuts our disaster relief or defunds our schools for teaching real history, you have the power to respond. Use that leverage today or admit you're too weak to fight authoritarianism."

### **Script for your State Treasurer**

If you're in California: Call Fiona Ma at (916) 653-2995. If you're in Illinois: Call Michael Frerichs at (217) 782-2211. Everyone else: Google "[Your State] Treasurer phone"

Say this: "I'm [name] from [zip code]. Trump is using our tax dollars to fund mass kidnapping operations, private militias rounding up families, and his personal Gestapo. He's already started raiding Social Security to pay for concentration camps. You control billions in our state pension funds that are currently in federal bonds. You're literally funding fascism. Every day you don't pull that money out, you're financing raids on churches, hospitals, and schools. You're paying for the vans that disappear people. You're funding his brownshirts. Pull every penny out now or explain to retirees why you used their retirement savings to build America's concentration camps. Move our money today or admit you're being complicit in America's destruction."

### **Script for your Attorney General**

If you're in California: Call Rob Bonta at (916) 445-9555. If you're in New York: Call Letitia James at (800) 771-7755. If you're in Delaware: Call Kathy Jennings at (302) 577-8500. Everyone else: Google "[Your State] Attorney General phone"

Say this: "I'm [name] from [zip code]. Every corporation operating in our state needs your permission to exist. Tech companies are selling location data to bounty hunters and ICE. Pharmacies are sharing medical records with law enforcement in abortion investigations. CVS and Walgreens have already complied with warrants. Amazon Web Services is hosting Palantir's ICE targeting systems. Data brokers are selling location information of anyone who visits abortion clinics. This is documented. These aren't hypotheticals. This is happening now. These companies are choosing profits over our citizens' safety. You can revoke their business licenses. You can ban state contracts with any company that shares data for political prosecutions. So tell me: Will you strip their right to operate in our state for collaborating with fascism, or are you owned by the same corporations enabling these atrocities? Use your power now."

Impact: Democratic AGs have already filed 20+ coordinated lawsuits against federal overreach. When multiple states get similar calls, they coordinate responses.

### **Script for your State Legislators**

Find yours at: [openstates.org](https://openstates.org)

Say this: "I'm [name] from [district]. Federal agents are raiding schools and churches right now. They are tracking who visits abortion clinics through data brokers. They are prosecuting political enemies while pardoning violent criminals. They are using emergency powers to steal funds Congress allocated for disaster relief. They are building detention camps. They are surveilling journalists and protesters. This is happening today.

Pass nullification legislation this week. Declare federal raids at schools and churches void in our state. Make it a felony to enforce federal surveillance programs here. When they steal our disaster funds, have trigger laws already in place to automatically withhold our federal taxes. When they demand our pregnancy data, make compliance a crime. When they prosecute our citizens for peaceably assembling or exercising their freedom of speech, declare those prosecutions void and even better arrest those who are unlawfully arresting our residents.

Wisconsin's legislature declared the Fugitive Slave Act void. They didn't ask permission. Northern states made it a crime to enforce federal slave law. South Carolina nullified federal tariffs and forced Jackson to back down. States are successfully nullifying federal marijuana laws right now.

The Tenth Amendment gives you this power. The federal government is committing crimes against our citizens today. Pass trigger and nullification laws now."

The idea that this can actually make change isn't a fantasy. States have successfully defied federal authority throughout American history:

1832: South Carolina nullified federal tariffs. Jackson threatened military force. South Carolina prepared its militia. Jackson blinked. The tariffs were reduced.

1850s: Northern states nullified the Fugitive Slave Act. Wisconsin's legislature declared it void. Vermont passed laws making federal enforcement impossible. Federal marshals couldn't operate without local support. The law became unenforceable.

2013-Present: States nullified federal marijuana laws. The DEA lacks resources to enforce without state cooperation. Federal law became meaningless in legal states.

2017-2021: California passed sanctuary state laws limiting cooperation with ICE. Courts upheld these laws. Federal immigration enforcement became significantly harder.

2021-Present: Texas and Florida defied federal immigration policies, created their own border enforcement, bused migrants to blue cities, and sued the federal government repeatedly. They acted first and forced the federal government to react.

States that act first and dare the federal government to stop them usually win. States that ask permission first get nowhere.

Another important note, don't say "federal overreach." Say exactly what they're planning:

"Rounding up families at churches" "Tracking women's pregnancies" "Building Muslim registries" "Cutting off disaster relief over political affiliation" "Warrantless and illegal government agents kidnapping residents" "Forcing teachers and public servants to sign loyalty oaths to the President" "Kidnapping children and sending them unaccompanied by family to other nations" "Creating concentration camps" "Stealing our Social Security"

If You're in a Red State

Progressive policies win 67% of the time when separated from party branding. Add this to any script:

"The Tenth Amendment reserves powers to the states. Even conservative states have defied federal mandates they disagreed with. This isn't about party. It's about protecting

our state's sovereignty against federal tyranny."

## **The 30-Second Nuclear Option**

If you're nervous or short on time, use this for any official:

"I'm [name] from [zip]. Trump's building concentration camps, tracking pregnancies, and dismantling free and fair elections. You have the power to stop this in our state. Will you use your constitutional authority to protect us? Yes or no?"

## **How to Maximize Your Impact**

Best times to call:

Tuesday-Thursday (avoid Mondays and Fridays). 10am-noon or 2pm-4pm local time. Avoid lunch hour (12-1pm). Morning crisis effect: 50 calls between 9-10am forces emergency meeting by 11am.

Triple your impact: After calling, immediately:

Email the same message (shows you're tracking). Post on social media that you called (triggers others). Call back in 3 days if no response (shows persistence).

The multiplier effect is real:

1 person posting they called = 5-10 others call. 10 people posting = 100+ calls. 100 people posting = thousands of calls.

## **Social Media Scripts to Share**

Twitter/X: "Just called [Official Name] at [Number]. They control [\$X billion/prosecutorial power/corporate charters] that could stop Trump today. They weren't expecting constituent calls. If 100 of us call, we force action. Here's what I said: [paste script]. Your turn. #StateResistance"

Facebook/Instagram: "Just called my state [comptroller/AG/treasurer]. They had no idea citizens knew about their constitutional powers. The staffer was shocked by the calls coming in. This is working. Call yours now: [paste relevant script and number]"

## **If They Deflect**

They say: "We need to review the legal options..." You say: "Other states have already

used these powers. When will you?"

They say: "It's complicated..." You say: "It's not complicated. You have constitutional authority. Use it or admit you won't."

They say: "We're monitoring the situation..." You say: "I'm not asking you to monitor. I'm demanding you act in the interest of the people of (your location). Yes or no?"

If they hem and haw further, just say "noted, have a nice day" and hang up!

## **Document Everything**

Create a simple note outlining who you called. Date and time. Staffer name, asking for this always makes them nervous that if they don't take it seriously and it ends up getting their boss in trouble, they'll be the one who is blamed. Also document their response and when you'll call back.

Post it publicly: "Called [Official] at [time]. They said [response]. Calling back [date] if no action."

## **Why This Strategy Can Work**

The Constitutional Powers Are Real:

State officials can prosecute federal officials for state crimes (presidential pardons don't apply). State comptrollers can suspend cooperation with federal tax collection. State AGs can revoke corporate charters. State legislatures can nullify federal laws within their borders.

California, New York, and Illinois send \$119 billion more to DC than they receive back. These three states' comptrollers control \$650 billion in cash flow. Every Fortune 500 company depends on state charters to exist. The federal government cannot function without state cooperation.

The precedent is real. States have successfully nullified federal laws throughout history. Courts have upheld state sovereignty in numerous cases. The anti-commandeering doctrine prevents the federal government from forcing states to enforce federal law.

What is really incredible about this strategy, is that you're not calling Congress where 10,000 calls might not matter. You're calling state officials who never get this pressure. 100 calls will shut down their offices. 1,000 calls can force policy changes.

These officials have massive constitutional powers they've never been pressured to use. History shows that states that resist first and forcefully usually win.

Trump is 79, obese, and in rapidly declining health. When he dies, Vance inherits everything. You have a narrow window to force your state to build the legal walls that protect democracy.

Make the calls. Today. This is how you force people to do their damn jobs and defend our rights.

*Chris Armitage is the author of the Substack blog [The Existential Republic](#).*