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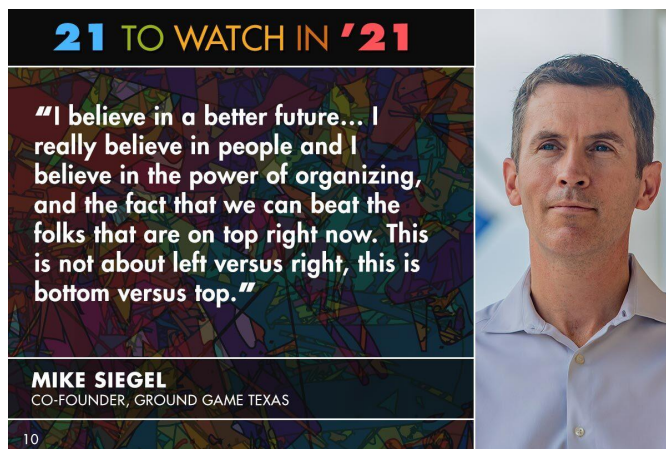
Welcome to another installment of **21 to Watch in '21** – a biweekly series where we spotlight and introduce you to some of the people and issues to keep your eye on in the progressive movement this year.

Our tenth spotlight belongs to **Mike Siegel**, former TX-10 Congressional candidate and co-founder of Ground Game Texas.

During his two runs for TX-10, Mike took on one of the richest members of Congress in a deeply gerrymandered district and built an impressive movement for change.

He then decided to take his expertise and start Ground Game Texas in June of 2021. The organization – which focuses on year-round, grassroots organizing across the Lone Star State – aims to improve voter turnout and build progressive power through ballot initiatives on popular policies like cannabis legalization.

Since Mike isn't currently running for office, we're not asking for a contribution this week, we're asking you to like, comment, and share his story on social media to boost his message.



Check out a few highlights from his interview below:

[On using local ballot measures to drive turnout and help flip Texas blue:](#)

"We're putting really exciting issues on the ballot [next November], and that could be marijuana decriminalization, it could be jobs programs, it could be housing . . . We could be contributing hundreds of thousands of votes to the statewide bucket . . . And if we can do that in multiple cities, it really starts to add up. And so we feel like this is a nitty-gritty tactic that could really yield big gains and it would excite the left."

[On his DFA values:](#)

"[DFA] is fighting for real progressive reforms. It's not just the idea that 'any blue will do,' right? because we're a big tent party and not all of our ideas are progressive. So, to be standing

alongside an organization that's fighting hard on criminal justice reform, fighting climate change, fighting for Medicare for all. . . that's important."

On keeping the faith, even when elections don't work out in our favor:

"I believe in a better future... I really believe in people and I believe in the power of organizing, and the fact that we can beat the folks that are on top right now. This is not about left versus right, this is bottom versus top."

There was so much good stuff from my interview that we couldn't fit into this email – like Mike's favorite places to eat in TX-10 – so be sure to check out the full video [here](#), and then share our clips to social media to boost his message.

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