

1/6: The Graphic Novel answers the question, “what if the January 6th insurrection succeeded?” The provocative and thrilling graphic novel series illustrates how close we came to authoritarian rule, and offers both heroes and hope for a better world, and a vision of how we can get there.

Because *1/6: The Graphic Novel* is designed to empower all of us to fight for democracy, [Western States Center](#) and the authors of *1/6* are accompanying its release with a forthcoming, complementary education and action guide. What follows is a preview of that education and action guide.

To learn more, visit www.OneSixComics.com, where you can sign up for updates, access the full action guide when it’s available, and purchase copies of *1/6: The Graphic Novel*.

1/6 : Disaster Averted, or the Beginning of the End for American Democracy? Together We Decide

JANUARY 6, 2021, was a chilling demonstration that anti-democracy, bigoted, and white nationalist activists are increasingly organized, and that they are using violence to build political power. And, with the months and years since the insurrection bringing new waves of political violence and anti-democracy organizing all across the country, it’s clear that these groups have not disappeared, but rather taken their work to the community level.

Americans who want to protect and strengthen our democracy far outnumber those who would see it crumble. We have the numbers, and we have solutions. Now it’s time for us to take action.

MAKE IT
PERSONAL,
LOCAL, AND
URGENT

We can all play a role in ensuring the January 6 insurrection does not fade from the public memory and in strengthening our collective commitment to democracy. Talking to people about these issues can feel intimidating, but *1/6*, the novel, is a powerful tool for reaching people.

This is a struggle for the values we share – democracy, dignity, and truth – but we can’t let those values feel abstract. The work of protecting democracy has real stakes for all of us, it’s happening in our own backyards as well as across the country, and it must be addressed now.

We can start by taking action in the places we live and with the people we know:

M A K E I T PERSONAL:

Anti-democracy and bigoted groups are increasingly taking control of local school boards, using public libraries as organizing spaces, and plotting to undermine voting rights. As you take action, focus on the practical ways that anti-democracy groups make our community spaces less safe, keep us from exercising our rights, and undermine our democracy. You can start by reaching out to your local library using guidance from [*Confronting White Nationalism in Libraries: A Toolkit*](#), reaching out to local teachers and administrators using [*Confronting White Nationalism in Schools: A Toolkit*](#), or talking to local organizers with [*Black Voters Matter*](#) to understand what they're experiencing and to ask what kind of support they need from the community.

Here's what you might say:

"The library is a safe place for our kids to hang out together after school. We can't let the same kinds of people who planned January 6th take that away from us by using it to organize for hate."

"After the recent hate crime in our community, we need all of our local elected, business, and civil society leaders to speak out against white nationalism. Will you consider issuing a joint statement stating that this kind of violence has no place in our community?"

"If we let racism and bigotry spread here, even in small ways, it will destroy what we love about our community. I'm going to organize a conversation after church next week to talk about what we can do to make sure everyone feels welcome in our town. Would you be willing to help?"

M A K E I T LOCAL:

After January 6, the groups that organized the insurrection shifted their work to the local level, and the next outbreak of violence could happen anywhere. You can use tools like Southern Poverty Law Center's [*Hate Map*](#) to understand who is organizing in your region and state, and monitor social media or attend government meetings to get the lay of the land at the local level. Use this information to pressure local elected officials and leaders to take action to preserve democracy and fight hate. [*Strengthening Local Government Against Bigoted and Anti-Democracy Movements*](#) has examples of the kinds of actions that local leaders can take.

M A K E I T URGENT:

When you learn about hate violence, white nationalist organizing, or similar events in your community, sound the alarm. On social media and in your conversations with friends and neighbors, raise the profile of the incidents and suggest immediate actions that people can take. [*The Community Guide for Opposing Hate*](#) has suggestions for getting started, and the [*Not Above the Law Coalition's Our Freedoms, Our Vote site*](#) has actions you can join and encourage others to participate in.

Be sure to also check out groups like [*The Opportunity Agenda*](#) for great communication tools, and the [*Brennan Center for Justice*](#) and the [*Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights*](#), for their solution-based resources.