Ida Eskamani, Organize Florida

Preemption work has been housing in Organize Florida. We’ve been in cross-collaborating for a while on preemption.

Deathstar bill filed last session in FL

Coalition hadn’t existed before in a sustainable way to fight preemption, so when HB 3 surfaced, our different orgs formed this coalition.

As a collective we were able to stop some bad bills around preemption:

- HB 3, SB 432, HB 1299 (preemptions on predictive scheduling, wage theft and death star)
- Weakened HB 168 and HB 7103 (preemption on sanctuary cities and inclusionary housing)
- Some bills did pass are gardening and sun screen

Preemption is a key policy issue that impacts every single constituency group and unites folks across political parties, views and race.

**Preemption allows corporate interests to circumvent local gov’ts by focusing lobby efforts on a small number of lawmakers to centralize control at the state.**

We set norms, convene weekly and coordinate efforts:

- Lobbying
- Prep champions and spokespeople
- Legal analysis
- Press and media engagement
- Regional polling

**Key Takeaways from last session:**

- Corporate interests agenda has dominated legislature for a while
- Some nuances make room for people who were your enemy are your allies in other fights
- Immigrant advocates were able to weaken one of the Gov’s biggest priorities on sanctuary cities
- Opposition was not prepared for the coordinated efforts we brought
- Many of these fights are ongoing and we will see again
- Cross-issue coalition allows us to disrupt their efforts and shift the narrative long-term
- Using the messaging that concentrates on profits of major donors allowed for us to quiet down opposition

**Objectives for 2020:**

- Continue training and education
- Organize Rs
- Polling focused on corporate influence
• Expand communications and narrative shift
• Continue to build cross-issue table and rapid response to capitalize on everyone’s strengths and role in this work.

Joe Saunders, Equality Florida

HB 3 has been the catalyst in FL for forming the cross-issue we did.

When HB 3 dropped it became clear to everyone that this was speaker’s priority

What was HB 3?

• Established broad definitions for what it means for government to regulate different sectors
• It established sunsets for all those that was touched by this definition
• Overnight it would have repealed every LGBT ordinance we already passed (which 60% of state is covered).
• It would have effected zoning, housing, etc.

HB 3 brought everyone to the table and allowed us to start the convo from “we all don’t like preemption. It’s a bad solution.”

Early on we effectively said out loud that we rep different sectors, coalitions and movements and be driven by the fact that we cannot lose all the wins we’ve gained over time.

Strategy options:

• Amend it into oblivion
• Make the whole thing so stinky that no one wants to be part of

Let the idea be the enemy, not the bill itself. This allowed us to show our intentionality to make for narrative shift long-term about preemption. In conversations, we were able to tell the story of HB 2, RIFRAs and others that drew connections to why this was bad.

DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS

Internal Challenges:

• Capacity within orgs around the table, which is always the case.
• Table was a hub for info sharing, not an agenda to make decisions that could get hairy

How did y’all approach messaging?

• Everyone had the same TPs to share impact of the bill, and then each org/ person added specific impacts beyond the broad bad impact.
• We knew some constituency groups could speak better to economic impacts or other niche things, so we allowed folks to use their own messaging with their own bases.

Were folks overwhelmed by the large scope of the preemption bill?

• The bill was overwhelming but drove people to stop the culture of preemption that is alive in FL
• Because of that shared interest we rooted the work that way.
• The legal analysis that came with each different iteration allowed everyone around the table to greater understanding

In a D dominated state how would this work?

• Process of power mapping the folks you want to influence is the same across parties
• The hope is that in D circles with members there is more analysis for communities across constituencies.

Has opposition learned their lesson?

• It will always be a strategy of the right to start broad until they get what they want
• It doesn’t change what we do--- we build together and shift the narrative
• Legislators have the power to throw things against the wall to see what sticks, and leadership knows exactly what they want to pass, so it’s important to keep that in perspective.
• Short-term battles of bills against the long-term view of building movements—all are important!

Next month we will discuss repeal campaigns!