



CEO LETTER

Thanks to you, 2022 marked Rise's best year yet. We helped launch or grow free college tuition programs in states like California, Michigan, and New Mexico--and successfully pressured President Biden to erase student loan debt for 40 million+ Americans. Despite voter suppression laws targeting youth, Rise programs helped rally another year of record youth voting that made the difference in key elections nationwide. As an organization, Rise recruited, hired and paid over 1,000 college student and young organizers and grew to a team of 23 full-time staff. The hard work of college students and young people to advance economic opportunity and strengthen democracy would not be possible without the donors and partners who make our work possible. From all of us at Rise, thank you.

Max Lubin, Co-Founder & CEO

OUR STATES

Arizona

California

Georgia

Michigan

New Mexico

Pennsylvania

Wisconsin

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IMPACT AT A GLANCE

500,000+

CONVERSATIONS WITH
YOUNG VOTERS

100,000+

PLANS TO VOTE MADE
BY YOUNG VOTERS IN
AZ, GA, MI, PA AND WI

1,000+

YOUNG ORGANIZERS
RECRUITED, PAID,
AND TRAINED BY RISE

40 MILLION+

AMERICANS WHO WILL
BENEFIT FROM
STUDENT LOAN RELIEF



OUR TEAM'S VOICES

IMPACT

"Growing up in a red county but seeing where I go to school being bright blue just made everything worth it."

- 2022 Rise Michigan Fellow

"I [worked with Rise] to make an impact and to help motivate people to be politically active because they want to be, not because someone told them too, and I feel like the election results really show that we accomplished that."

- 2022 Rise Michigan Fellow

INSPIRATION

"I like being able to connect with other students and encourage them to be proactive about our future... Our efforts really do matter."

- 2022 Rise Georgia Fellow

"I have worked with Rise before and I always feel empowered to continue this type of work and feel like I am helping other students."

- 2022 Rise Wisconsin Fellow



California

In California, 9 Rise student fellows helped win historic funding levels for public higher education, an expansion of free community college benefiting returning students, and an expansion of state financial aid that will help as many as 100,000 Californians.



Michigan

In Michigan, Rise staff and student organizers helped expand tuition-free community college statewide through programs such as Michigan Reconnect and Futures for Frontliners. We also championed the Michigan Achievement Scholarship that offers an additional \$4,000 per year to pay for college or university.



New Mexico

Working hand in hand with New Mexico's Governor, Rise organized 30 fellows to help win the most generous and inclusive free college program in the nation. Students can now attend any public college, public university, or tribal college in New Mexico tuition-free!



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FIGHTING CAMPUS HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS

Expanding our Student Navigator Network to Campuses Nationwide

Rise established the Student Navigator Network, our peer-to-peer case management program, in March 2020 to address the student basic needs crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. After connecting 10,000+ students nationwide to public benefits such as SNAP and Unemployment Insurance totaling over \$1M in benefits in 2020, Rise's focus shifted to campus-based partnerships. In 2022, our Student Navigator Team:

- Built foundational partnerships with 13 new institutions nationwide, half of which are Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs).
- Created 10 original professional development series for new Student Navigators and developed a pipeline of 14 new potential campus partners.
- Began consulting with the Illinois State Legislature on implementation of requirement for Benefits Navigator at each public college and university.
- Rolled out new campus-based programs in Q4, and have served over 500 students from California-based SNNs so far.



ERASING STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Rise led a multi-year campaign to win student debt relief for 40+ million Americans. Our work included:

- Persuading senior Biden staff by organizing meetings with student loan borrowers and the White House's National Economic Council, Domestic Policy Council, and Office of Public Engagement.
- Conducting partisan polling showing President Biden the political benefits of eliminating student loan debt ahead of the 2022 midterm elections.
- Running creative advertising campaigns including a building-size billboard in Washington, DC and newspaper advertisements in the President's local Delaware newspaper.

GETTING YOUTH OUT TO VOTE

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Delivering Winning Margins

In 2022, Rise focused on getting college students and youth out to vote in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. In each of those states, youth provided the margin of victory in key races for governor, U.S. Senate, or both. In Michigan, young people voted at record-breaking highs and helped flip the state legislature!



Doubling Our Impact Compared with 2022

While many youth engagement organizations faced budget cuts in 2022, Rise more than doubled our impact on the ground. Together, we recruited, trained, and hired over 1,000 young organizers, generated over 100,000 plans to vote, and had over 500,000 conversations with young voters in battleground states.



GOTV ORGANIZING DEEP DIVE

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Rise hosted 447 GOTV events



Rise partnered with 174 groups



Rise funded 27 campus groups



Rise recruited 1,221 GOTV shifts



Rise hosted 10 Black the Vote trainings



STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

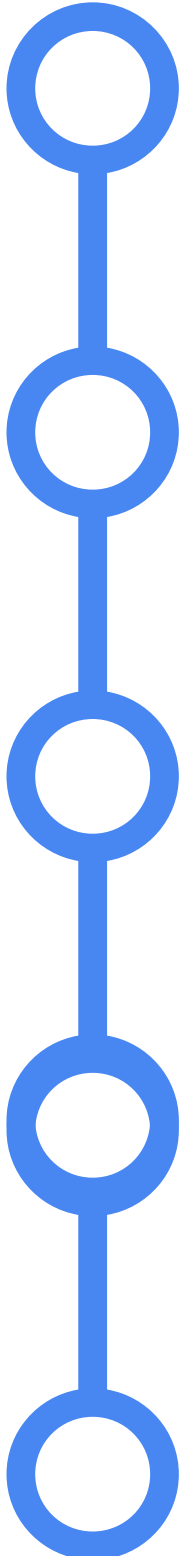
Challenging Racist Voter Suppression Laws & Policies

Rise continued our partnership with Marc Elias, Democracy Docket, and the Elias Law Group to challenge racist voter suppression laws designed to stop youth and specifically youth of color from voting. Our cases include:

- Ongoing litigation challenging SB202 in Georgia alongside the New Georgia Project and Black Voters Matter. We are challenging a law that curbs early voting, limits vote by mail, and stops groups from providing food or water to voters who are waiting in long lines.
- In Wisconsin, Rise challenged new restrictions on voting by mail that created additional hurdles for voters seeking to cast their ballot in this way. Rise helped stop right wing groups who sought to swing the election by limiting who could vote by mail at the last minute or throw out otherwise valid and legal votes.
- Rise has led litigation work in Georgia, Michigan, and Wisconsin and will continue to challenge voting rights laws that seek to limit or otherwise make it more difficult for college students and youth to participate in democracy.

OUR 2023 ROADMAP

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Rally at the Supreme Court to protect student debt relief

Rally young voters in WI's Supreme Court election

Establish Student Navigator Networks on 18 campuses

Expand tuition-free college in at least 3 new states

Grow our movement with 1,000 new student organizers





Over the last 5 years, Rise has grown from a grassroots student movement into a high-impact nonprofit organization capable of supporting thousands of college students and youth nationwide. Your generous support for Rise has allowed us to scale up and sustain our impact during turbulent times for our nation when this work is badly needed. We are so grateful for your support, and look forward to many more years of partnership and collaboration.



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This report represents work conducted by Rise, Inc., a 501(C)(4) nonprofit, and the Rise Education Fund, a 501(C)(3) nonprofit.