

With a *Trouble***NATION** BY RED WINE & BLUE group, the sky's the limit! You can do anything you want to do, but of course we have some suggestions to get you started:

BEGINNER

1. Hold a meeting! This is a pretty important first step – your group needs to gel! So get together (either on person or on Zoom), mix, mingle, and plot. Get guidance in our [TroubleMaker's Guide](#).
2. [Rally Your Squad](#): If you live in MI, NC, OH, PA or VA, your group can make a huge impact on the elections! Make sure each of your members knows how to use Rally, then make it fun! Get together for a Rally Bank. Run a competition to see who can reach out to the most of their friends and family, or even compete to see who can recruit additional Rally users!
3. Form a giving circle: Decide together on an issue you care about, and pool your money to contribute to the cause! Get more info here: [What is a Giving Circle](#)
4. Have a watch party: The Red Wine & Blue [youtube channel](#) has dozens of videos, on all sorts of topics – choose one and get your group together to watch it and then discuss.
5. Host a postcard party: Write to your elected official(s) telling them how you feel about an issue. This can be a family event – you can send 4x6 index cards through the mail, so invite kids to decorate the backs of the cards while you write messages on the front.

INTERMEDIATE

6. Have an activist book club: Read a book about a particular issue, then think of an action you could take as a group to pair with it.
7. Join a Red Wine & Blue Day of Action: Sometimes, we make it easy for you! We'll create a Day of Action based on a certain issue or need, and all you need to do is join and add your own spin with an event, petition or other action that fits the theme. Visit the [TroubleNation](#) site to see the latest opportunities.

ADVANCED

8. Plan an Advocacy Day! Or just take a field trip to your legislature and meet with your representatives. We even have a [video training](#) to help you plan it!
9. Solve a problem: As a group, take a look around your community. Is there something that needs to be fixed? Decide what you want, who can provide that, and how to convince them to do it.
10. Keep an eye on your local government: if your members have the time and ability to get to them, take turns attending and reporting out on local government meetings (whichever interests you most – town, county, school board, etc). In an era where local journalism is waning, this could potentially also provide a valuable resource for your neighbors.
11. Create Your Own Voting Guide: Nobody knows your local area like you do, so who better to research candidates and let people know what they stand for?

With a **TroubleNATION** BY RED WINE & BLUE group, the sky's the limit! You can do anything you want to do, but of course we have some suggestions to get you started:

► **Build Your Community**

- Host Banned Book Bingo! We have lots of resources [here](#).
- Have a Happy/Unhappy Hour: Gather your group to celebrate good news and grouse about things that need to be changed. And then, of course, start planning how you'll work together to make that change happen!
- Spread some kindness: Especially in places where teachers, schools or marginalized students are under attack, adopt a school or two and send notes of support to the faculty, staff, and/or students.
- Table at community events (farmer's markets, fairs, etc.) to educate the public about an issue important to you and to recruit new members.

► **Get Educated**

- Decide on an issue you want to learn about, and assign one or more members to research it: what's the issue, why does it matter, what needs to be changed (or protected from change), and what elected offices control or contribute to that issue? Have them present their findings, and don't forget to leave time for Q&As and for a call to action!

****Tip:** our TroubleNation [Resources Page](#) is a great place to find issue info!**

► **Make an Impact**

- Get to know your elected officials: Learn how to look them up, find their contact information, and maybe even invite them to attend your meeting! You can also set up a time to visit them in their office to talk about an issue that matters to you.
- Write letters to the editor (LTE): Find out the guidelines for your local newspaper, and launch a LTE campaign! You may even time them out so every week, 1 or 2 of your members submits – this can keep your issue in the news longer!
- Keep an eye on your local government: If your members have the time and ability to get to them, take turns attending and reporting out on local government meetings (whichever interests you most – town, county, school board, etc). In an era where local journalism is waning, this could potentially also provide a valuable resource for your neighbors.

► **Get Out the Vote**

- **Rally Your Squad:** If you live in MI, VA, NC, OH or PA, your group can make a huge impact on the elections! Make sure each of your members knows how to use Rally, then make it fun! Get together for a Rally Bank. Run a competition to see who can reach out to the most of their friends and family, or even compete to see who can recruit additional Rally users!
- Party to the Polls: Meet up as a group to go vote together, then celebrate afterwards at your favorite place!
- Triple Your Vote: Spend some time at your polling location, asking people to text three of their friends to get them out to vote.

