



Workers Rights and the diminishing power of the middle class.

The Wisconsin State Capitol in downtown Madison is center stage in the struggle between unions and a Governor the unions say is trying to destroy them. Tens of thousands of demonstrators have stormed the Capitol Rotunda this week. Public school teachers have refused to go to work. State Senate Democrats left the state to stop newly elected Republican Governor Scott Walker's anti-union actions. By all accounts, the cheese state has ground to a halt. And TheUpTake.org has been there, covering the events live.

TheUpTake.org journalists Jacob Wheeler and Oliver Dykstra join other Media Consortium members including The Nation, Mother Jones, Free Speech TV, GritTV, Truthout, the Progressive and In These Times, to bring you around-the-clock news from Madison. We'll camp out with demonstrators occupying the State Capitol, interview unionists, teachers, students, and both GOP and Democratic legislatures, and gain perspective from luminaries including The Progressive's Matt Rothschild and The Nation's John Nichols..

These issues are not unique to Wisconsin, many other states are facing similar battles. The project will focus on the states of Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida, Michigan and other states with similar issues, looking at the struggle between middle class working people and the power of large corporations. Video stories will be published daily at <http://www.theuptake.org>. Breaking stories will be streamed live.

The scope and breadth of this story requires significant resources and on-the-ground reports unlike many stories we have seen in this country. The magnitude and consequences of these events may change the entire fabric of the American political, economic and social makeup far into the future. Telling this story then needs to be taken on with the same magnitude and will take significant efforts by the partnering media organizations.

The UpTake will work in coordination with several partners to bring you this "Worker's Rights" coverage. The UpTake will continue our collaboration with The Nation, Mother Jones, Free Speech TV, GritTV and other media partners. Stories, videos and resources will be shared amongst the media partners to magnify the reach and distribution of these very important events.

For further information and inquiries, please contact:

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The UpTake

About The UpTake

The UpTake is a citizen-fueled news media organization that merges online video, social media strategy and cutting-edge technologies, tools and access to engage and empower professional and citizen journalists. Since its inception, The UpTake has explored the frontier of social media and news gathering. The organization seeks to innovate with common technology, using cell phone cameras loaded with remote live broadcasting software to instantly publish work to the Web, publicizing work using a large Twitter network, or illustrating the progress of reporters with online maps that show the location of the events being covered.

The UpTake is a non-partisan, non-profit organization.

What's in the budget? See attached spreadsheet

This budget is based on The UpTake's experience in covering large scale, multiple-week events with live video and edited stories. We've found you really need to have one team focused on just the live video, another on creating stories with more context, and a national team that coordinates the logistics and the overall storytelling. You also need enough redundancy built in so when something breaks or someone is unavailable, the whole system doesn't go down.

Added into this mix is a team to produce a live show interview show as we did in Madison for GRITtv.

We have three types of field teams: Regional, Jump and Remote Show Production

Regional Teams are meant to stay in an area for an extended period of time (more than a week) so they consist of four people. Two are reporters with cameras. One is a video editor who works on capturing and editing the constant flow of video two reporters will generate. The fourth person is a producer focusing on the overall editorial picture and logistics.

Jump Teams are meant to go into a breaking news situation and may move around between states. They are structured similar to a regional team, but since they are more narrowly focused, there are only three members: two journalist

who can also shoot and edit and one producer (who can probably also shoot and edit) who is focused on the overall story from the location and communicating with the national support team.

Remote Show Production Team is called in when there is a need to do live or live-to-tape programming from a location. This team has a director who can run a video switcher and has all of the equipment to do a live show stuffed into its suitcases. An audio operator will be hired locally for any show. The camera operator/editor handles video playback and recording for the show and then uploading the finished segments.

National Support Team is focused on weaving the work of all the other teams together in one coherent narrative and distributing it. The team is headed up by our Executive Producer who designates priorities for story coverage and allocates resources. The communications director works on promoting our coverage to other media and building media partnerships so the product gets wider distribution. The team provides tech support to the field crews on computer, livestreaming and video equipment issues with a set of equipment that duplicates what's in the field.