



# Indivisible Bainbridge Island Newsletter

Feb. 21, 2025

Guided by Indivisible's [Practical Guide to Defeating MAGA](#)

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## Things you can do right now:

- [Call our senators](#) and demand they get loud about Trump aligning our country with Putin. [Get your ire up](#). It's time to call Republican senators, too! [Here's the list](#).
- Sign up for Emily Randall's Feb. 25 "telephone town hall." Call her D.C. office ([202-225-5916](tel:202-225-5916)) and demand a real, in-person Town Hall because this is a **COUP**.
- Indivisible Bainbridge Island is protecting people by collecting food for immigrants. Drop off dried beans and rice packaged in 1 quart zip lock bags at a home on Bainbridge Island. [Email Kathy](#) for the address. Personal care items are needed, too: deodorant, tampons, small bottles of shampoo.
- In addition to food and cash donations, Fishline in Poulsbo needs clean reusable plastic or paper bags. [Drop-off locations](#).
- [Read](#) "How to Organize Our Way Out of the Trump-Musk Putsch," by Ezra Levin and Leah Greenberg, founders of Invisible.
- Phone bank for the Democratic candidates, [Gay Valimont](#) and [Josh Weil](#), who are running for the U.S. House seats left vacant by Matt Gaetz (R) and Mike Waltz(R).
- Check out [Run for Something](#), dedicated to supporting progressive candidates nationwide.
- [Watch](#) Illinois governor J.B. Pritzger's State of the State speech.
- Click [here](#) for more things you can do that were added after this newsletter went out.

## Calendar

- Feb. 22, 11 am to 1 pm, Boycott Tesla. Defund Musk! Protest at U Village. [RSVP](#)
- Feb. 23, 12 pm to 3 pm, [Ukrainian support rally](#), marching from Pike and 1st (near Pike Place Market) to the Space Needle. March starts at 12 pm, rally from 1-3 pm at the Space Needle.
- Feb. 26, 2 pm to 3:30 pm, Postcards on Wednesday, upstairs at the BI T&C, writing to keep Wisconsin's Supreme Court Blue.
- Feb. 27, 2 pm to 4 pm, the first of seven Zoom meetings seeking public input for updating the new Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. This meeting is meeting covers Waste and Materials. [RSVP](#)
- Feb. 28, Nationwide Economic Blackout. Don't buy anything for 24 hours, especially not from Amazon, Walmart and Target. More info [here](#).
- Feb. 28, 11:30 to 1:30 pm, [Federal Building Fridays](#). Join the weekly "Troublemakers" gathering in front of the Jackson Federal Building, 915 2nd Ave, Seattle. Come for 5 minutes or 2 hours. Take the 10:25 am ferry.
- March 7, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm, [Zoom](#), Politics with David Harrison
- March 10, 7 pm to 8:30 pm, Zoom, Washington Indivisible monthly meeting. [Email for the link to RSVP](#). Say that you want the WIN monthly meeting link.
- March 16, 2 to 4 pm, Indivisible Bainbridge Island in-person meeting, BI fire station on Madison.

## In Congress

- **The Senate**

- Feb. 20, Senate [confirmed Kash Patel](#) as FBI director by a vote of 51-49. All Democrats, plus Lisa Murkowski and Susan Collins voted NO.
- At 83, Mitch McConnell says he's [not running](#) for re-election.
- [Watch](#) Sen. Murray grill Lori Chavez-DeRemer, the nominee for Sec. of Labor.
- [Murkowski calls on fellow Republicans to stand up to Trump](#).
- Senate Republicans [passed one of two budget bills](#), rejecting Democratic protections for Medicaid. Josh Hawley (R-MO) [says](#) he also filed an amendment to protect Medicaid. Senate Republicans claim their bills will be a back up if the House can't pass their single bill budget.
- Thom Tillis spoke on the floor of the Senate calling Putin a 'cancer,' 'greatest threat to democracy,' [without once mentioning](#) Trump's connection to Putin.

- **The House**

- Trump endorsed the House budget plan with Medicaid cuts he said he wouldn't touch earlier this week. It's one bill that [combines](#) border security, military funding and a sweeping package of tax cuts partially offset with major spending cuts.
- Democrats [hint at government shutdown](#) to stop Trump's axing at federal agencies. (*New York Times* subscription required.)
- The Intimidation begins: Trump's border czar takes [war on AOC to the DOJ](#). Trump's interim US Attorney for D.C., Ed Martin, has [launched probes](#) into whether Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Rep. Robert Garcia (D-CA) made threats against SCOTUS justices in 2020 and Musk, respectively.

### **In the Washington Legislature**

- [SB 5382](#) would require initiative signature gatherers to sign a declaration that initiative signers have provided accurate information and they were not paid for their signature. This bill would also require the Secretary of State to verify that the provided address matches the address on the voter's registration card. Read about this bill [here](#). This bill is currently in the Ways & Means Committee. Sen. Hansen sits on this committee. If you support this bill, [let him know](#).
- As a rent cap bill [moves ahead](#) in WA Senate, Republicans want to use "kit" homes to fix WA's affordable housing shortage, as well as [higher density housing development](#).
- Bill requiring clergy to report child abuse [advances](#).
- Educators and parents call on WA lawmakers to [up school funding](#).

### **Washington State News**

- Washington lawmakers [may tap brakes](#) on additional specialty license plates.
- Now five cats are dead after eating raw pet food that was [infected with bird flu](#) and made in Olympia, WA.
- Sanctuary policies [can't stop ICE arrests](#).

- WA asks a federal appeals court to [unblock a law setting standards](#) for detainee conditions at the Tacoma detention facility.
- Bracing for impacts on land, water and wildlife after the [feds fired thousands](#).
- Washington state bill would set [new standards](#) for wood stoves.
- Gov. Bob Ferguson
  - Ferguson has [withdrawn](#) two Inslee appointments to the WA Fish and Wildlife commission.
  - Ferguson got a bill ([SB 5434](#)) moving in the legislature that would give the legislature a way to [limit a governor's emergency powers](#).
- WA courts [work to vacate](#) hundreds of thousands of illegal drug convictions.
- 'Betrayal': Ukrainian-Americans in Seattle [slam Trump](#) and prepare to protest.
- Olympic College [breaks ground](#) on new health programs at Poulsbo campus. (*Kitsap Daily News* subscription required.)
- Western Washington's top federal prosecutor [removed from post](#) amid Trump purge.

### From the Trump Kakistocracy

- State of Destruction
  - USAID is down from 10,000 world-wide employees to [less than 300](#). At least 3,400 workers [lost](#) their Forest Service (USDA) jobs and a combined 2,300 lost their National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Dept. of the Interior) jobs. Bonneville Power Administration [lost](#) 400 workers, but 30 got their jobs back. Federal agencies employed more than 17,000 wildland fire staffers last year but [those jobs don't exist now](#). HHS is [losing 5,200](#) probationary employees with more to come.
  - USDA fired their bird flu workers but now is [trying to rehire](#) them, if they can find them. At the CDC [1,300 employees](#) are expected to be terminated. [More than two dozen](#) workers at the DOE's Hanford, WA site were let go. National Science Foundation [fires](#) roughly 10% of its workforce. Health agencies [lose staff members](#) in key areas as Trump firings set in; Trump cuts [threaten to undermine](#) decades of research. NIH [research funding drops \\$1 billion](#). Pentagon [prepares to fire thousands](#) of civilian employees in dramatic culling. IRS [fires](#) 6,000 employees.
  - Trump's [freeze on federal spending](#) has cut off funding for prescribed burns to reduce future wildfire risk.
  - Dept. of Education threatens to [yank funds](#) from schools that use race to make decisions.
  - Billions of dollars at stake for [farmers hit by Trump funding freeze](#) and freeze on foreign aid.
  - After 16 years of U.S. airlines having no accidents, since Trump took over, [there have been four](#). Another accident- [a midair collision between two small planes](#) - happened on Wednesday near Tucson, AZ. Some of the 400 jobs cut at the FAA [helped support air safety](#) by mapping flight corridors.

- Musk plans to "[check with](#)" the orange guy about sending Americans rebate checks with money saved through slash-and-burn DOGE cuts.
- **Our Standing in the World**
  - Ukraine
    - Trump suggested he would '[resurrect](#)' a deal for Ukrainian rare earth resources in return for military aid 'or things are not gonna make (President Zelenskyy) too happy' - a deal Zelenskyy was reportedly reluctant to accept. Zelenskyy described Trump as being "[caught in a Russian disinformation space](#)".
    - Trump [attacked](#) Zelenskyy as a 'dictator without elections' who duped US, after blaming Ukraine for Russia's invasion.
    - On Feb. 18, Sec. of State Marco Rubio, who once ran for the Senate as the "elect-me-because-I'm strong against Russia," [sat down in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia](#), to give Ukraine to the Russians. Neither Ukraine nor the European Union was invited to the talks.
    - On Feb. 12, Sec. of Defense Pete Hegseth spoke in Brussels at the meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group (EU and 57 countries). Hegseth [ruled out](#) NATO membership for Ukraine, Russia's return of the Ukrainian territory it has occupied (20 percent of Ukraine), and any presence of US troops to support Ukraine security.
    - On Feb. 14, VP Vance [shocked European leaders](#) at the Munich Security Conference with a blistering attack on European allies over issues of immigration, "free speech", disinformation, the poor quality of their democracies and other right-wing talking points, while completely ignoring the actual purpose of the conference: defending Ukraine.
  - European allies are [still reeling](#) from the dramatic reversals in long standing US policy. French President Emmanuel Macron responded with an emergency meeting that led to no consensus on whether to send troops to Ukraine to police a possible peace deal. Support for the Ukraine [has been reaffirmed](#), but specific plans are still under discussion.
  - This week, the CPAC conference gave Vance a standing ovation for his Munich Security Conference speech. "The greatest threat in Europe, and I would say it was the greatest threat in the U.S. until about 30 days ago, is that you've had the leaders of the West decide that they should send millions and millions of unvetted foreign migrants into their country," Vance told CPAC attendees Thursday.
  - [Watch](#) Jen Ruben interview Ambassador Susan Rice on Trump's wrecking-ball impact on international relations.
- **Health Care**
  - RFK says he will form a panel to examine childhood vaccine schedule after promising Sen. Cassidy he not to change it.



- Texas, New Mexico, Alaska, New York City, Rhode Island, and Georgia have a [measles outbreak](#). [Know the symptoms](#).
- **Stupid, Weird and Awful**
  - Orange guy [declares himself a monarch](#) as he claims to have killed the NYC traffic program. (The cameras are still on.)
  - Orange guy signed an [executive order](#) to give himself greater power over independent regulatory agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the National Labor Relations Board and, presumably, the SEC, FCC, FTC, FDIC and CFPB. The order [does not apply to the Federal Reserve](#) nor to the Open Market Committee.
  - [Orange guy aims to take over the USPS](#) and put it in the Commerce Dept. where he may attempt to privatize it.
  - Trump [speech at Saudi-backed event](#) in Miami highlights questions over his business ties.
  - U.S. [weighs](#) destroying \$500 million in stockpiled covid tests.
  - Orange guy [threatens Maine's federal funding](#) in tense exchange with Maine's governor, Janet Mills (D). Mills responded "[See you in court](#)."
- **State of the Courts**
  - Judge Dale Ho [appointed a respected conservative lawyer](#), Paul Clement, to argue against dismissal of NYC Mayor Eric Adams case. NY Gov. Kathy Hochul [announced](#) she will not start the long process required to remove Adams. If the case is dismissed, DA Alvin Bragg could take it up.
  - Judge lets Trump kakistocracy [proceed with mass recall](#) of USAID workers overseas.
  - AP [sues Trump officials](#) after being barred from White House events.
  - Birthright Citizenship
    - US appeals court [rejects](#) Trump's emergency bid to curtail birthright citizenship. WA's battle with Trump over birthright citizenship [moves closer](#) to Supreme Court.
  - DO[D]GE/Musk/Firings
    - Feb. 20, Federal judge Christopher Cooper [refused to temporarily block](#) Trump's mass layoff of federal workers, while a lawsuit brought by five unions moves forward.
    - Federal judge [turns down](#) attempt by Democratic AGs to block Elon Musk and DOGE.
    - Federal judge [extends order blocking Musk and DOGE](#) from Treasury payment systems.
    - New filing could force DOGE to [reveal how it operates](#). A federal judge in Washington, D.C. said he will likely grant federal labor unions' motion for expedited discovery into the extent and types of access DOGE and Musk have had into Dept. of Labor records. [Watch](#) attorney Marc Elias tell it.
    - Supreme Court [declines to intervene](#) for now in Trump's bid to fire head of whistleblower office Hampton Dellinger.

- Last week, federal Judge Amir Ali [ordered the administration](#) to allow the disbursement of U.S. foreign assistance. This week, Judge Ali says the Trump administration [hasn't complied](#) with his order. Is it a constitutional crisis yet?
  - Mass Deportations/Immigrants
    - Feb. 20, Federal judge Trevor McFadden [refused to block the administration's abrupt halt](#) to funding the nation's largest private refugee resettlement program in a setback to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
    - Seattle judge [blocks Trump order](#) on gender-affirming care.
    - Quakers and other religious groups ask federal court to [block ICE raids at places of worship](#).
  - Gender
    - A second U.S. judge [pauses](#) Trump's order against gender-affirming care for trans youth.
    - Judge [blasts DOJ lawyers](#) after they argue transgender people aren't discriminated against.
- Under the Radar
  - Having done his best to gut postal service, Postmaster General DeJoy [announced his resignation](#).
  - Trump and Jay Monahan [met at White House](#) as PGA Tour deal with Saudis gets closer.
  - Trump [installs](#) \$50,000 state-of-the-art golf simulator in the White House.
  - Trump Organization [leases brand](#) to two new projects in Saudi Arabia.
  - Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio [arrested](#) as former J6 prisoners stage triumphant return to the Capitol.
  - Ex-NFL punter [arrested](#) after calling MAGA a 'Nazi movement' at a City Council meeting in Calif.
  - Not the good guy some thought he was: Georgia Sec. of State Brad Raffensperger asks the DO and DHS to suppress voters. [Watch](#) voting rights attorney Marc Elias discuss what Raffensperger is up to.

### Some Solace

- Quinnipiac University Poll Feb. 12-17:
  - Trump's approval fell from 46% in January to 45%
  - Trump's disapproval rose from 43% in January to 49%
  - 9% of Americans trust Putin; 81% do not.
- Washington Post/Ipsos Poll Feb. 13 -18:
  - Who do you want to control the next Congress? Democrats 54%, Republicans 41%.
- Trump Approval Rating
  - CNN: -5%
  - Pew Research Center: - 4%
  - Reuters: -7%

- Washington Post/Ipsos: -8%
- Gallup Trump Approval/Disapproval Rating
  - January
    - Approve: 47%
    - Disapprove: 48%
  - February
    - Approve: 45%
    - Disapprove: 51%

### Heroes and Heroines who've [resigned](#) as of Feb. 20

- [Jim Jones](#), the director of the Food and Drug Administration's food division
- [Michelle King](#), the top official at the Social Security Administration
- [Steven Reilly](#), a lead engineer at the Technology Transformation Services arm of the General Services Administration
- DOJ
  - Senior prosecutor [Denise Cheung quits](#), citing pressure to probe Biden-era climate funds without adequate predicate
  - [Danielle Sassoon](#), acting U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York
  - [Hagan Scotten](#), assistant U.S. attorney with the Southern District of New York
  - [John Keller](#), acting head of the Justice Department's Public Integrity Section
  - [Kevin Driscoll](#), acting head of the Justice Department's Criminal Division
  - [Bradley Weinsheimer](#), a senior ethics official who was named associate deputy attorney general during Trump's first term

### Indivisible Bainbridge Island

We are **Indivisible Bainbridge Island**, working in 2024 to **save our democracy** and elect common sense Democrats who respect personal freedoms.

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