



Indivisible Bainbridge Island Newsletter

March 21, 2025

Guided by Indivisible's [Practical Guide to Democracy on the Brink](#)

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In this newsletter, "kakistocracy" stands for "Trump administration" and "the OG" refers to the "orange guy" or the "original gangster."

Things to Do!

- In Person, **Bainbridge Island events are in bold.**
 - Any time, [Phone bank for Susan Crawford](#), hosted by Grassroots Democrats.
 - March 21, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, [Federal Building Fridays](#), Jackson Federal Building, hosted by Troublemakers.
 - **March 22, 9:30 to 11:30, [LD 23 legislative update](#) with Reps. Tarra Simmons, Greg Nance and Sen. Drew Hansen, Bainbridge Island High School. Plus, before and after the Town Hall, a demonstration of how the GOP's SAVE Act will harm voters, especially women.**
 - March 22, 10 am, Tesla Takedown, Tesla Showroom, 435 Westlake Ave N, Seattle. [Details](#)
 - March 22, 10 am, Tesla/Musk Protest, University Village Tesla Showroom, 2627 NE 46th St, Seattle. [Details](#)
 - March 22, 10 am, Tesla Takedown Bellevue, Corner of NE 8th and Bellevue Way, 545 Bellevue Square, Bellevue. [Details](#)

- March 22, 10 am, Tesla Takedown Protest, 17731 Pacific Hwy, Lynnwood. [Details](#)
 - March 23, 10 am, Tesla Takedown No Musk Government, Lynnwood showroom on the Sidewalk, 17731 Pacific Hwy, Lynnwood. [Details](#)
 - **March 24, 5 pm, Special Session/Open Public Meeting for Bainbridge Island School District candidate interviews to fill two vacant board seats**
 - March 25, 1 pm to 2 pm, In-Person, Auditorium, Fourth Floor, Jackson Federal Building (enter from 2nd Ave.) In-Person meeting with Sen. Cantwell's staff. Hosted by Seattle Indivisible [RSVP](#)
 - **March 26, noon to 1:30 pm, Rally for America, the intersection of 305 and Winslow Way. Signs in support of Ukraine, Medicaid, Social Security, Medicare, Education, you name it.**
 - March 27, 4 pm to 6 pm, Indivisible Phonebank for Susan Crawford. [RSVP](#)
 - March 29, 10 am, Tesla Takedown, Lynnwood, 17731 Pacific Hwy, Lynnwood. [Details](#)
 - April 1, 1 pm to 2 pm, In-Person, Auditorium, Fourth Floor, Jackson Federal Building (enter from 2nd Ave.) In-Person meeting with Sen. Murray's staff. Hosted by Seattle Indivisible [RSVP](#)
 - **April 5, Indivisible National Day of Action with an event on Bainbridge Island. (Details to come)**
 - April 9, 1 pm to 2 pm, Zoom, Meeting with Rep. Adam Smith's staff. Hosted by Seattle Indivisible. [RSVP](#)
 - May 2, 1:30 pm, Zoom, [Politics with David Harrison](#), hosted by the BI Senior Center.
- [Boycotts](#)
 - March 21 to March 28, boycott Nestle.
 - April 7 to April 14, boycott Walmart.
 - April 18, second economic blackout.
 - April 21 to April 28, boycott General Mills.
 - [Call Our Elected Representatives](#) or use [5Calls.org](#)
 - Thank Rep. Randall and our senators for their NO votes on the dirty continuing resolution. *Tell our senators to tell Schumer to step aside.*
 - Call Rep. Randall and urge her to work to bring to the floor for a vote [H.R.1876](#), the "Keeping Our Field Offices Open Act" to put a moratorium on the closure of Social Security Field Offices for the rest of the kakistocracy and the ["Protecting Americans Social Security Data Act"](#). Details on both bills [here](#).
 - Urge our representative and senators to form a shadow cabinet and hold press conferences demonstrating how life in the U.S. would be different under Democratic control.
 - Tell our senators to vote NO on all nominations, such as Mark Meador (FTC), Michael Krastios (Director of the Office of Science and Technology

Policy), Steve Miran (Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors). Learn about them [here](#).

On the Legal Front - Follow the cases against the kakistocracy at [JustSecurity.org](#), which tracks all pending litigation classified according to specific Executive Orders or other challenges to Trump's actions. Rulings on Trump litigation are in many cases preliminary, or issued by lower courts, and may change after further litigation or appeal. *Big thanks to Simon for gathering this information.*

- On Monday, despite a valid [court order](#) from Judge James Boasberg that planes carrying hundreds of Venezuelans (including women) to a male-only El Salvadoran prison turn back, the planes did not turn back. The kakistocracy's lawyers believe the OG's invocation of the 18th-century wartime Alien Enemies Act allows federal agents to enter homes without a warrant.
 - Man [deported to El Salvador](#) under Alien Enemies Act because of some soccer logo tattoos. In fact, they believe use of the Alien Enemies Act is "unjusticiable" - that is, cannot be reviewed by the judiciary.
 - Today, Trump [said](#) he didn't sign the proclamation invoking the Alien Enemies Act.
 - Today, Judge Boasberg [held a hearing](#) to "get to the bottom" of whether the government defied his order to turn the planes around. Before the hearing, the DOJ informed the judge that top leaders in the kakistocracy are debating whether to invoke a "state secrets privilege" in response to the district judge's questions about the deportation flights.
- On Monday, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals [upheld](#) Judge Alsup's lower court order requiring the kakistocracy to rehire fired probationary employees from the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, Energy, Treasury, and Agriculture.
- On Tuesday, Chief Justice John Roberts [issued a sharp rebuke](#) to the President after the OG called for the impeachment of Federal Judge Boasberg because of his ruling blocking deportation flights invoking the rarely-used 1798 Alien Enemies Act (also used to justify Japanese internment). Roberts said: "For more than two centuries, it has been established that impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision...The normal appellate review process exists for that purpose."
 - Rep. Brandon Gill (R-TX) [says](#) he's introducing articles of impeachment against Judge James Boasberg for "knowingly and willfully us[ing] his judicial position to advance political gain." Boasberg is at least the fifth federal judge who is facing an impeachment attempt after issuing a ruling unfavorable to the administration.
- On Tuesday, federal judge Theodore D. Chuang [ruled](#) that Elon Musk and DOGE's shutdown of USAID "likely violated the Constitution in multiple ways, "

rejecting arguments that Musk's role was merely advisory. He ordered the agency's functionality reinstated.

- On Wednesday, the Institute of Peace and many of its board members [sued the kakistocracy](#), seeking to prevent their removal and stop Elon Musk's DOGE from taking over and accessing the building and systems of the independent nonprofit. With the help of D.C. Metropolitan Police, DOGE [entered](#) the U.S. Institute of Peace amid several days of staff resistance in order to install the organization's new, OG president. A federal judge [has declined](#) to immediately reverse the OG's moves at the U.S. Institute of Peace.
- On Wednesday, a New York federal judge [denied](#) the kakistocracy's request to throw out the pro-Palestinian activist Mahmoud Khalil's challenge against his detention and also rejected the government's effort to move the the case to a more conservative court in Louisiana where the 5th circuit would deny any appeal. Khalis is a permanent resident of the U.S., and he remains detained in Louisiana, even though his case has been [transferred](#) to New Jersey, which is where he was detained.
- On Thursday, Judge Ellen Lipton Hollander issued a temporary restraining order blocking DOGE from accessing Social Security records as part of its hunt for fraud and waste, calling the effort a "fishing expedition."
- On Thursday, a federal judge in Virginia [barred](#) the deportation of a Georgetown University academic who was arrested at his home by masked federal agents and is being held incommunicado in a Louisiana "staging center." DHS has accused him of having ties to Hamas.
- On Thursday, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order blocking DOGE from accessing Social Security records as part of its hunt for fraud and waste, calling the effort a "fishing expedition".
- **Other deportation efforts**
 - A 28-year-old Welsh woman on a backpacking trip to the U.S. was [detained](#) at the U.S. border with Canada and taken in [leg chains, waist chains and handcuffs](#) to the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma. She was there for 19 days where it was cold and there were no blankets. She's home now. Her parents think that when CBP asked if she had worked in the United States, she said she stayed with families for free and in return did "work around the house," a possible violation of her tourist visa. This is who we are now.
 - Fabian Schmidt, a German national and a permanent resident of the U.S. green card since 2007, was [detained](#) at Boston's Logan Airport on March 7 and is still being detained at an ICE facility in Rhode Island as of March 17. "Due to federal privacy regulations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection cannot disclose details about specific cases," the CBP says. Schmidt's mom has no idea why her son is being detained. "I feel helpless. Absolutely helpless," she said.

- Germany [tightens travel advice](#) to US after three citizens detained.
- Judge [bars](#) EPA from taking back \$20 billion in climate grants — for now.

Our Government

- **Nominees and Hearings**
 - Senate Democrats [call on](#) Medicare nominee Dr. Mehmet Oz to pay \$400,000 in avoided taxes.
 - On March 17, Bryan Bradford was [nominated](#) to run the FAA. He's the CEO of a regional carrier, Republic Airways. Bradford [has a history](#) of lowering air safety standards.
 - The OG [named](#) Doug Nikolai, Dan Clark, Senator Tommy Tuberville, Charlie Kirk, and Dina Powell to the Air Force Academy's [Board of Visitors](#) (aka Trustees); Major General David Bellavia (co-founder of Vets for Freedom, which Pete Hegseth mis-managed), Lieutenant General Dan Walrath, General [Michael Flynn](#) (felon, pardoned by the OG), Congressman Wesley Hunt, Maureen Bannon, and Meghan Mobbs to West Point's [Board of Visitors](#); but he saved the best for the Naval Academy's [Board of Visitors](#): [Sean Spicer](#), [Walt Nauta](#), Congressman ['Doc Ronny' Jackson](#), Congressman Derek Van Order, Senator Tim Sheehy, and Earl Ehrhart.
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 - Germany [tightens travel advice](#) to US after three citizens detained.
- How the OG's Executive Orders [line up with Project 2025](#). Author hails the OG's agenda as "beyond his wildest dreams."
- Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington DC [demolished](#). They didn't just paint over the words on the street; they're digging it up.

- DOJ [moves to take over](#) the OG's defense against Jan. 6 lawsuits filed by Capitol police. If the DOJ succeeds, the OG will be rid of one of the last remaining personal legal threats he faces.
- The OG [gains](#) first new appellate court vacancy of this term with the retirement of a 9th Circuit judge.
- The CDC [plans study](#) into vaccines and autism, despite [388 studies](#) that have already proven no link.
- Law firm Paul Weiss [groveled](#) and got out from under an executive order that would have prevented it from working on government-related cases. The firm will also provide \$40 million in pro-bono work from the OG's antisemitism task force.
- DOD [says](#) it 'mistakenly removed' Jackie Robinson and other content from website amid DEI purge, blames software.
- People named in JFK assassination documents (including one of the OG's attorneys) [are not happy](#) their Social Security numbers and birth dates were released in the OG-ordered document dump.
- Seattle activist attacked by Elon Musk [vows](#) to push back.
- Commerce secretary Howard Lutnik [begs](#) Fox "News" viewers to buy Teslas and Tesla stock in bizarre interview, while the OG [sold Teslas](#) on the White House lawn.

The Great Hollowing - Things They Broke This Week

- **Education** - "[I love the poorly educated](#)," the OG told a Nevada audience in 2016.
 - The OG signed an executive order on Monday that purports to eliminate the Dept. of Education, but that can only be done by Congress.
 - The Dept. of Education has three functions: 1) manage \$1.693 trillion dollars of student loans, 2) provide an average of 13.6% of funding for public K-12 schools to educate students with disabilities and 3) enforce [non-discrimination and civil rights laws](#) in schools that receive federal funding.
 - Closing the Dept. of Education puts '[American competitiveness](#)' at risk.
 - Republicans [have hated universities](#) for years. Anti-war protests gave them a reason to punish them.
 - For a guy who graduated from Ohio State University and got a law degree from Yale, JD Vance [sure hates](#) higher education. Watch Vance's [keynote address](#) to the second National Conservatism Conference, in which he said "we live in a world that has been made, effectively, by university knowledge," and we need to unmake that world, "honestly and aggressively attacking the university in this country," as it is "dedicated to deceit and lies." Read "Vance called professors the enemy" at the [Miami Herald](#).

- Columbia University [agreed](#) to the OG's demands in effort to restore federal funding.
 - Universities [are caving to the OG](#) with stunning speed and scope.
 - More than 50 universities [face](#) federal investigations as part of anti-DEI campaign.
- USDA [has halted](#) millions of dollars worth of deliveries to food banks.
 - The New York Times [reported](#) that the Pentagon was set to brief Musk on potential war with China today; the OG did not know about this meeting and put a stop to it; Musk showed up for the meeting but Pentagon officials say Musk [was there](#) for DOGE. Musk's SpaceX is likely in line for the [Golden Dome](#) the OG wants to build, and Musk probably doesn't want his [two Tesla manufacturing facilities in Shanghai](#) to be blown up.
 - OG aides are [circulating a plan](#) to completely revamp foreign aid programs.
 - The OG's [pardons of abortion clinic protesters](#) causes Blue states to [legislate for increased](#) abortion clinic safety.
 - The OG's order to cut main street lending program [earns](#) GOP rebuke.
 - DOGE [makes cuts](#) to bomb-sniffing dogs at TSA - no food, no vet visits.
 - The kakistocracy [axed](#) Voice of America, and China's state media are delighted.
 - DOGE [obscures](#) details of savings after posting error-filled data on its website.
 - Cuts to NOAA raise concerns over [earthquake monitoring](#) in the Pacific Northwest.
 - **Social Security Administration**
 - Memo [exposes plan to ruin Social Security](#) by closing field offices, requiring retirees to visit a field office to apply for benefits (one month wait times for appointments) and cutting people who answer the phone.
 - If Musk can't have Social Security data, neither can Social Security workers: the kakistocracy [threatens](#) to shut down Social Security over judge's DOGE ruling.
 - A federal judge [blocked](#) the OG's executive order barring transgender people from the military but put her order on hold until today to allow time for the government to appeal.
 - The OG illegally [fired both Democrats](#) on the Federal Trade Commission. Both plan to sue.

The Economy

- On Jan. 20, 2025, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJI) [closed](#) at 43,487.83. On Jan. 30, it peaked at 44,882.13. Today, it [closed](#) at 41,985.35.

Resistance

- GOP [bid to steal](#) North Carolina Supreme Court election heard by the state's Court of Appeals today. The GOP candidate seeks to toss the votes of

68,000 people in four Blue counties as well as military ballots.

- Allison Riggs [continues to fight](#) for the North Carolina Supreme Court seat she won last year by 734 votes. She expects she'll have to take the case to federal court and that it will take another year to resolve.
- [Watch](#) Bernie Sanders and AOC in Arizona yesterday.
- Like the Paul Weis law firm (see above), the law firm Perkins Coie has been targeted by an OG executive order but they are fighting it. Their case landed in the court room of Judge Beryl Howell and the OG's DOJ [wants Howell disqualified](#) because of her "pattern of hostility" toward the president.
- An overflow crowd at Rep. Randall's Bremerton town hall is a call to [stay engaged](#).

In the World

- **Ukraine**, thanks to Simon for gathering this information
 - President Zelenskyy [said](#) he accepted the U.S. proposal of an unconditional ceasefire on frontline in 'substantive' conversation with the OG. Still, a ceasefire is not in place
 - The Kremlin [said](#) it will halt strikes on Ukraine's energy sector after the OG and Putin talk and then [broke](#) the OG's hyped partial Ukraine ceasefire after one hour. Russia [continues](#) strikes on Ukraine as drones hit Odesa overnight.
 - As Russia continues attacks on Ukraine, European leaders [are skeptical](#) of the partial cease-fire, and Russia's commitment.
 - The OG has moved beyond the "minerals deal" and now [wants to acquire](#) Ukraine's nuclear power plant, Europe's largest. The plant is currently in Russian-occupied territory.
 - On Monday, the Ukrainian and Russian delegations will meet separately with the U.S. in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to [continue cease-fire talks](#).
 - Military planners from 31 western countries are meeting in the U.K. to decide which western forces might be deployed to protect Ukraine in the future if a peace deal is ever reached. UK Prime Minister Starmer [warns](#) Putin of "severe consequences" if he breaches peace deal.
- The Hungarian parliament [passed](#) an anti-LGBTQ+ law [banning Pride events](#) and authorizing use of facial recognition technology to identify participants. Thousands [take to the streets](#).
- Under-reported protests [against](#) pro-Russian leaders sweep Eastern Europe in Budapest, Belgrade and Bucharest.
- Canada
 - Allies [preserve unity](#) even as tariffs and Canada taunts overshadowed the G7 meeting in Quebec last week.
 - Ending on a happy note: Canadians are producing anti-Trump songs:
 - ["Not Your 51st"](#)

- [We Will Survive](#)

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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