



Indivisible Bainbridge Island Newsletter

March 31, 2025

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

[Unsubscribe](#)

Please share or encourage friends to sign up for their own copy of this newsletter at IndivisibleBainbridgeIsland.org.

Note: Please click any link in this newsletter to keep receiving it.

Things to Do!

- **In Person, Bainbridge Island events are in bold.**
 - Any time, [Phone bank for Susan Crawford](#), hosted by Grassroots Democrats.
 - April 1, 1 pm to 2 pm, Fourth Floor Auditorium, Jackson Federal Building (enter from 2nd Ave.) Meeting with Sen. Murray's staff. Hosted by Seattle Indivisible, [RSVP](#)
 - **April 2**, 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. This is a weekly event.
 - **April 2**, 2 pm to 3:30 pm, Postcards on Wednesdays, upstairs at the T&C on Winslow Way, writing to flip another California CD in 2026.
 - April 4, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, [Federal Building Fridays](#), Jackson Federal Building, hosted by Troublemakers.
 - **April 5, Hands Off! Bainbridge Island Fights Back!** Indivisible Bainbridge Island is joining hundreds of other Indivisible groups across the country on Indivisible's Day of Action. Rally starts at 305 and Winslow Way. Bring your "Hands Off" signs. Let us know you're coming: [RSVP](#)

- **April 9**, 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. This is a weekly event.
 - April 9, 1 pm to 2 pm, Zoom, Meeting with Rep. Adam Smith's staff. Hosted by Seattle Indivisible. [RSVP](#)
 - **April 9**, 2 pm to 3:30 pm, Postcards on Wednesdays, upstairs at the T&C on Winslow Way, writing to flip another California CD in 2026.
 - April 11, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, [Federal Building Fridays](#), Jackson Federal Building, hosted by Troublemakers.
 - **April 16**, 7 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm), Lynwood Theater, special screening of [American Dignity](#), a documentary commemorating the 60th anniversary of the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. *American Dignity* is an intergenerational reflection on the endurance of movements, the weight of history, and the courage required to keep marching—no matter what lies ahead. Hosted by Common Power.
 - **April 19**, 2 pm to 4 pm, Indivisible Bainbridge Island in-person meeting at the Eagle Harbor Congregational Church, 105 Winslow Way W, BI. Note the change to Saturday and the change in venue.
 - **May 2**, 1:30 pm, Zoom, [Politics with David Harrison](#), hosted by the BI Senior Center.
- [Boycotts](#) for caving to Trump on DEI
 - March 28, last day of [Nestle](#) boycott
 - Ongoing through April 17, [Target](#)
 - April 7 to April 14, [Walmart](#)
 - April 18, [Economic blackout](#)
 - April 21 to April 28, [General Mills](#)
 - May 6 to May 12, [Amazon](#)
 - June 3 to 9, [Target](#)
 - June 24 to 30, [McDonald's](#)
 - July 4, [Economic blackout](#)
 - [Call Our Elected Representatives](#) or use [5Calls.org](#)
 - **Call our senators and tell them it's time for Schumer to step aside.** Schumer excused his vote on the dirty C.R. by saying we [aren't](#) in a constitutional crisis "yet." A few days later, he said we [are](#) in a constitutional crisis. We need actual leadership in the Senate.
 - **Call Rep. Randall and urge her to work to bring to the floor for a vote two bills to protect Social Security.** [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 [H.R.1877](#), the "Protecting Americans Social Security Data Act". Details on both bills [here](#).
 - **Call our senators and tell them to vote NO on all nominations**, such as self-professed DOGE person, [Frank Bisignano](#), to run the Social Security Administration. [Watch](#) his hearing which was held this week. This month Sen. Cantwell voted to confirm Abigail Slater ([former advisor to JD Vance](#)) as an Assistant Attorney General to head the antitrust division and

[Michael Krastios](#) as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Good News!

- In a 7-2 decision on Wednesday, the Supreme Court [upheld](#) the Biden-era ATF rule that 'ghost gun' kits can be regulated as firearms. Thomas and Alito dissented, of course.
- On Friday, the Wisconsin AG [sued](#) Elon Musk for his offer to pay voters millions of dollars, calling it an "egregious attempt to buy votes" in the state's April 5 Supreme Court election.
- In a [special election in Pennsylvania](#) Tuesday, in which the party secured a narrow state House majority and flipped a state Senate seat that had been held by Republicans for over a hundred years. Republicans still hold a four-seat majority in the state's Senate.
- The Supreme Court refused to take up billionaire Steve Wynn's case against The Associated Press. If Wynn had won, he would have overturn the landmark 1964 case, *New York Times v. Sullivan* that defines press protections.
- From [Ben Rhodes](#): There is a way for Democrats to stop Trump and save America.
- From the Seattle Times, reposted at the Union Bulletin: Seattle activist verbally attacked by Elon Musk [vows to push back](#)
- From Jonathan V. Last at The Bulwark: "[How to Think \(and Act\) Like a Dissident Movement](#)"
- Heather Cox Richardson on the [evolution](#) of the Republican Party.
- A [Lesson on Fascism](#) by Rick Steves

On the Legal Front - Most of these rulings were issued by lower courts, are preliminary or temporary and may change after further litigation or appeal. *Many thanks to Simon Ffitch for gathering most of this information.* You can also follow the cases at [JustSecurity.org](#), which tracks all pending litigation classified according to specific executive orders or other challenges to Trump's actions. **Rulings marked in bold red favor the Trump regime.**

- On Monday, U.S. District Judge Deborah Boardman, [issued a preliminary injunction](#) barring the Dept. of Education, the Office of Personnel Management and the Treasury Department from disclosing the "personally identifiable information" of a lawsuit's plaintiffs and organization members to DOGE.
- On Monday, after being denied by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Trump regime [asked SCOTUS](#) to stay U.S. District Judge Alsup's March 14 order requiring the reinstatement of 16,000 federal employees to their jobs at Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Interior, and the Treasury. This emergency request is initially before Justice Kagan.

- **On Tuesday, the Ninth Circuit [allowed](#) the Trump regime to suspend entry of new refugees as a lawsuit plays out over the president's executive order halting the nation's refugee admissions system.** Conditionally approved refugees must still be processed. Also at issue is U.S. District Judge Jamal Whitehead's ruling that the Trump regime [unlawfully canceled contracts](#) with nonprofits that aid in refugee resettlement.
- On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth temporarily [restrained](#) the Trump regime from shutting down Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.
- On Tuesday, a federal judge [ruled](#) Columbia protester Yunseo Chung can't be detained as she fights deportation.
- On Wednesday, the ACLU of the District of Columbia [filed a class action lawsuit](#) against the Trump regime for its DEI executive order on the basis that the order violates the First Amendment and the Civil Rights Act. The suit is led by a federal worker in Maine.
- **The Venezuelan Deportees**
 - The estimated 261 Venezuelans deported last week [included](#) 8 women and a Nicaraguan man. They were returned to detention in the U.S.
 - ["You're Here Because of Your Tattoos:"](#) a hummingbird, a palm tree, autism awareness.
 - On Wednesday, a three-judge federal appeals court [denied](#) the DOJ's request to lift U.S. District Judge Boasberg's order preventing the Trump regime from using 18th century Alien Enemies Act to deport people to an El Salvadoran hard-labor prison without due process.
 - On Thursday, DHS Secretary Kristi Noem stopped off in El Salvador to [swagger past the cells](#) holding deported Venezuelans for a photo op before continuing to her next stop.
 - On Friday, Judge Boasberg extended his temporary block on Trump's ability to use the Alien Enemies Act for deportations through April 12.
 - Also on Friday, in an emergency appeal, Trump asked the Supreme Court to overturn Boasberg's ruling blocking him from using the Alien Enemies Act for deportations. Chief Justice John Roberts responded by [instructing](#) lawyers for the plaintiffs to file their response by 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 1.
- On Wednesday, the DOJ [asked](#) the Supreme Court to block lower federal court decisions that put on hold the Dept. of Education's cancellation of \$65 million in grants deemed objectionable because of DEI initiatives. The grants are an effort to reduce teacher shortages.
- On Thursday, U.S. District Judge Boasberg [ordered](#) officials including Secs. [Hegseth](#), Gabbard, Rubio, and Bessent, to preserve all "disappearing" Signal messages exchanged on the Yemen attack group chat that inadvertently included a journalist from [The Atlantic](#).

- On Thursday, the Associated Press [renewed](#) a federal court request to be reinstated to the White House press pool. The AP was barred for refusing to use the term "Gulf of America", calling the ban a fundamental attack on freedom of speech.
- On Thursday, a federal judge in Tacoma [blocked](#) enforcement of Trump's policy banning transgender troops in the military - the second nationwide injunction against the policy in as many weeks. The suit was brought by long-serving transgender members of the military.
- **On Friday in a [2-1 ruling](#), the D.C. Court of Appeals [blocked](#) the reinstatement of two fired officials, Gwynne Wilcox of the National Labor Relations Board and Cathy Harris of the Merit Systems Protection Board.**
- On Friday, Judge Amy Berman Jackson [blocked](#) the [dismantling of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#), finding the Trump regime acted "completely in violation of law" when it attempted [to quickly shutter the organization](#).
- **Trump's Attack on Law Firms**
 - As of March 28, Trump has targeted six large law firms with threats or executive orders terminating their employees' security clearances, preventing them from entering federal buildings (such as courts) and barring them from communicating with certain federal employees. Trump began by [revoking the security clearances](#) of lawyers at **Covington & Burling**. They were involved in the pro bono representation of former special counsel Jack Smith.
 - Next was Trump's [executive order](#) against **Perkins Coie**. Trump's reasoning: Perkins Coie hired Fusion GPS, which, Trump alleged, had manufactured a "false 'dossier' designed to steal" the 2016 election. Trump also expressed dissatisfaction with Coie's diversity, equity, and inclusion policies, its work with George Soros to "overturn popular, necessary, and democratically enacted election laws." Perkins Coie filed a lawsuit challenging the executive order, and their suit landed in the DC court of Judge Beryl Howell. On Thursday, Howell [denied](#) a DOJ demand that she remove herself from this case and explicitly accused the regime of trying to undermine the federal judiciary.
 - On March 14, Trump targeted **Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison** with an [executive order](#) for bringing actions against the J6 insurrectionists and for investigating Trump during his first presidential term. Paul Weiss capitulated and pledged at least \$40 million in free legal services to Trump's favored causes. In return, Trump [cancelled](#) the executive order against them.
 - This week, Trump used a pressure campaign to [extort](#) \$100 million in free legal work from **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom** without even aiming an executive order at them.

- On Tuesday, Trump [signed](#) an executive order stripping **Jenner & Block** attorneys of any security clearances they may hold and severely restricting any business they may have before the federal government. Why? Maybe it's because Jenner & Block recently [secured a preliminary injunction](#) against the Trump executive order that [reduced health care access for transgender youth](#). Or maybe it's because attorney Andrew Weismann once worked for Jenner and served as a lead prosecutor in Robert Mueller's Special Counsel's Office.
 - On Friday, Jenner & Block sued the Trump regime. D.C. District Judge John Bates granted a temporary restraining order and described Trump's executive order as "troubling" and "disturbing." He said it targets the firm's and its employees' First Amendment rights and rights to due process.
- On Thursday, Trump [signed](#) an executive order aimed at **WilmerHale**.
 - On Friday, WilmerHale, which [represents](#) eight of the illegally fired inspector generals, sued the Trump regime.
 - The same day, Judge Richard Leon [granted](#) a temporary restraining order partially enjoining the executive order that targets WilmerHale. Judge Leon said several parts of Trump's order clearly show "retaliatory actions based on perceived viewpoint" of employees of WilmerHale.
- **On Tuesday, Trump [signed an executive order](#) requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote.**
 - The order uses grants from the federal Election Assistance Commission as a cudgel to get states to require that people registering to vote to provide proof of citizenship, such as a passport or state-issued identification that indicates citizenship.
 - The order prohibits the counting of absentee or mail-in ballots that are received after Election Day.
 - The order also instructs the DHS, along with Trump megadonor Elon Musk's U.S. DOGE Service, to gain access to state voter rolls in order to ensure the voter lists are up to date. Those entities will also have access to immigration databases and states will be allowed to request DHS to verify if any noncitizen is on the state's list of voters.
 - Sophia Lin Lakin, the director of the ACLU's Voting Rights Project responded: "We will see President Trump in court."
- **Deportations**
 - From [Jasmine Mooney](#): "I'm the Canadian who was detained by Ice for two weeks. It felt like I had been kidnapped."
 - On Feb. 16, Kseniia Petrova, a Russian medical researcher on a J-1 scholar visa at Harvard was [detained](#) by ICE at Boston's Logan Airport

upon returning from France on a work trip and is still being held in a Louisiana. CBP says her visa has been revoked because she failed to declare the sample of frog embryos she was carrying from a French lab to her Harvard professor. Petrova protested the Ukraine war and fears being sent back to Russia.

- On March 18, DHS officials said that kidney transplant specialist Dr. Rasha Alawieh's visa had been revoked and that she had been [deported](#) to Lebanon for "openly admitt[ing]" that she supported a [Hezbollah leader](#) and had attended his funeral. U.S. District Judge Leo Sorokin issued an order Friday that an in-person hearing be scheduled Monday, with Alawieh brought to court, but she had already been deported. The former UW doctor was [remembered](#) as a compassionate professional.
- On March 25, U.S. District Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald [granted](#) a temporary restraining order preventing Yunseo Chung, a 21-year-old permanent U.S. resident, from being detained in her immigration case. The judge described the government's actions as "shocking overreach."
- On March 27, ICE [detained](#) Iranian national Alireza Doroudi, University of Alabama doctoral candidate studying mechanical engineering. His visa had been revoked.
- By March 28, answers were due as to why a Tufts graduate student, Turkish national Rumeysa Ozturk, was [detained](#) by federal agents. Ozturk is in the U.S. legally under a valid F-1 student status. The judge's order required that Ozturk not be moved outside the District of Massachusetts without 48 hours advance notice, but she had already been rushed to a detention center in Louisiana without access to the two medications she needs for her asthma. The judge [ordered](#) that Ozturk may not be deported without a court order.
- On March 28, a federal district court judge in Virginia [released](#) a Venezuelan couple who was detained last week, saying there was no reason for them to be detained. The couple was granted temporary protective status in 2022. The judge told the government lawyer, "If this was a criminal case ... [I'd throw you out of my chambers.](#)"

The Great Hollowing - Things They Broke This Week

- **Education** - "[I love the poorly educated](#)"
 - Teacher unions [sue Trump](#) over \$400 million Columbia University research cuts.
- **USAID**
 - By Sept. 2, USAID's operations will have been [substantially transferred](#) to the Dept. of State or otherwise wound down, leaving the [15 legally required positions in place](#), down from 10,000 employees.
 - U.S. to [end funding](#) for childhood vaccines in poorest countries.

- **Security** - The Signal flap goes on
 - Government watchdog group American Oversight [is suing](#) the national security participants for their use of Signal to discuss military actions, saying the chat violated the Federal Records Act (FRA).
 - On Wednesday, [Der Spiegel reported](#) that it was "particularly easy" to get phone numbers, email addresses and in some cases passwords for accounts belonging to national security adviser Mike Waltz (who also [left public](#) his Venmo Friends list), Defense Secretary [Pete Hegseth](#) and DNI Tulsi Gabbard from commercial databases and password leaks available online.
 - Washington's Joe Kent (R) [was also on the controversial Signal chat](#). Since losing again to Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D) in WA-03, Kent has been nominated (but not yet confirmed) to be the director of the National Counterterrorism Center.
 - Israel [supplied the intelligence](#) for the airstrike discussed in Signal chat, leaving asset exposed.
 - With JD Vance's hatred of Europe on display, it's no wonder that Europe's response to the Signal chat controversy [reflects a major shift](#) in transatlantic ties.
 - A few days after the Signal flap, the [Pentagon warned](#) that Russian hackers had cracked the app.
 - [Hillary Clinton's op-ed](#) in the *NY Times*: "How Much Dumber Will This Get?"
- Utah [bends the knee](#) becoming the first state to phase out universal vote-by-mail.
- On Friday, Trump [signed](#) an executive order ending collective bargaining rights for hundreds of thousands of workers whom Trump has deemed do "national security" work. If the policy survives a likely legal challenge, employees at the relevant agencies would no longer be covered by union contracts, losing a key barrier against unfair firings.
- Congressional Republicans [target](#) PBS and NPR funding in contentious hearing.
- **The Courts**
 - Speaker Mike Johnson (R) floats the idea of [eliminating certain federal courts](#) to solve Trump's legal problems.
 - Congressional Republicans are [reviewing ways](#) to take action against the federal judiciary, including through funding cuts and jurisdictional restrictions.
 - Alito and Thomas are [urged to recuse](#) from the case of *Federal Communications Commission v. Consumers' Research* because of their 'cozy ties' to right-wing kingpin, Leonard Leo. The case is an attempt to revive nondelegation doctrine that would prevent Congress from passing its legislative power to federal agencies. If affirmed, the doctrine

would cripple federal agencies' ability to govern consumer safeguards, Social Security, Medicare, and more while at the same time Trump regime is slashing federal agencies.

- On Monday, the Supreme Court [heard a case](#) dealing with a Louisiana congressional district that could give the justices an opportunity to eliminate the Voting Rights Act entirely.
- As Trump dodges court orders, Alito [suggests](#) obeying judges can be optional.

- **Taxes**

- Republican Senate Majority Leader, John Thune [wants to fully repeal](#) the federal estate tax, which could result in a \$100 billion giveaway for Musk and Trump heirs.
- DOGE-directed staff cuts at the IRS have sparked fears that [U.S. tax revenue could plummet](#) by 10 percent, or \$500 billion, this spring, reported [The Washington Post](#). The IRS unit that audits billionaires has lost 38% of its employees since January, [leaving audits unfinished](#).

- **Health**

- RFK Jr's preferred treatment for measles is cod liver oil (for its Vitamin A). Some measles patients in West Texas [show signs of vitamin A toxicity](#), which can irreversibly damage the liver.
- The Trump regime is [trying to get rid of ACA protections](#) for trans people.
- Dept. of Health And Human Services to [cut 10,000 job](#) and [close](#) five of its ten regional offices, but which offices scheduled for closure is unknown. One of the ten offices is in Seattle.
- Trump regime [halts](#) \$11 billion in states' public health funding.

- **The Economy**

- On Friday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average [closed](#) at 41,583.90, down 1,903.93 from its Jan. 20, 2025 close of 43,487.83 and down 3,298.23 from its peak of 44,882.13 on Jan. 30, 2025.
- Core inflation in February [hit 2.8%](#), higher than expected; spending increases 0.4%, below the 0.5% forecast.
- After pushing out immigrants, Florida considers [solving their labor shortage problem](#) by allowing children as young as 14 to work overnight shifts on week nights and ending guaranteed meal breaks for 16 and 17 year olds.
- On March 26, Trump [placed](#) a 25% tariff on Canadian auto-imports, saying "this is permanent." Earlier this month, Trump [warned U.S. automakers](#) not to raise prices in response to tariffs.
- Trump officials and allies [grow anxious](#) about April 2 tariffs.

- **In Washington**

- Lawmakers [condemn](#) protest at home of Democratic WA legislator, Rep. Tarra Simmons.
- **In the Legislature**
 - Democrats [shift approach](#) to parental and students' rights bills.
 - Enforcement provisions in the hospital price transparency bill [were removed](#) in the Senate.
 - Attorney General Nick Brown [backs gun permit bill](#) as it advances in state Senate.
 - Fate of bill to cap rent increases [now rests](#) on fine-tuning in Washington Senate.
- \$160 million in WA health funding [axed by Trump regime](#). Most of the money is congressionally approved COVID-era funding from the CDC that was being used to track infectious diseases, for mental health services and for drug addiction treatment.
- Eastern WA school district [files federal complaint](#) over state policy on trans athletes.

In the World

- **Ukraine:**
 - There is still [no mutually agreed cease-fire](#) covering any aspect of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This week, Russia continued to attack energy and other Ukrainian targets. French President Emmanuel Macron warned that Russia still shows a "desire for war," that Russia has tried to impose "new conditions," and that Russia has not responded to Ukraine's 30-day, no pre-conditions general ceasefire offer.
 - On Thursday, Macron [announced](#) a new €2 billion (\$2.15 billion) package of military aid for Ukraine.
 - On Thursday, The Netherlands [announced](#) it will send €2 billion in support for Ukraine this year instead of in 2026 and the remaining €1.5 next year.
 - Czech citizens [counter Trump](#) with a crowdfunded Black Hawk helicopter for Ukraine, plus another [1.5m artillery shells](#) for Ukraine from the Czech government.
 - Zelenskyy [says](#) Europeans agree to deepen intelligence ties with Kyiv.
 - On Thursday, European leaders [affirmed](#) their support for Ukraine at a Paris summit and agreed now was "not the time" to lift sanctions against Russia. Splits remaining on Franco-British plans for a "reassurance force" to help guarantee an eventual ceasefire.
 - **Ukrainian "minerals" deal**
 - A Ukrainian lawmaker [posted](#) that he has obtained a new draft of the minerals deal from the U.S., dated March 23 and that under the new draft the U.S. would be granted access to all existing and future mineral deposits across Ukraine, as well as oil and

gas throughout the country. The new deal [contains not a hint](#) of security guarantees.

- Trump pushes to control all of Ukraine's mineral and energy assets in sweeping new demands. The new proposal is [described as 'robbery'](#) and could block Ukraine's path to EU membership.
- According to the Financial Times, a [new proposal](#) would give the US first rights to purchase resources extracted under the agreement and that the US would recoup all the money it has given Ukraine since 2022, in addition to a 4% annual interest rate, before Ukraine begins to gain access to the profits.
- President Zelenskyy [told](#) reporters the US was "constantly" changing the terms of a proposed minerals deal, but added that he did not want Washington to think Kyiv was against it.
- Treasury Secretary Bessent now [hopes](#) for a final signing of the deal next week.
- North Korea [has sent](#) 3,000 more troops to Russia so far this year continues to supply missiles, artillery and ammunition. Of the 11,000 soldiers sent in 2024, 4,000 were believed to have been killed or wounded.
- **Greenland:** Usha Vance's charm tour of Greenland was called off, given that her advance team couldn't find any Greenlanders willing to welcome her. Instead Usha, JD Vance, Mike Waltz and Energy Secretary Chris Wright [visited](#) a U.S. military base in Greenland on Friday, amid Danish statements that they will not back down or hand over the people of Greenland against their will.
 - Trumps [says](#) "we have to have Greenland" and we will "[go as far as we have to go](#)" to get it. JD Vance [says](#) the US needs control of Greenland to fend off China and Russia and [claims](#) that Denmark has "not done a good job" in overseeing the autonomous territory.
- **Turkey:** Widespread street protests [took place](#) this week after the detention on corruption charges of Istanbul's popular mayor, [Ekrem İmamoğlu](#), who was set to announce his candidacy for the presidency. Under authoritarian leader Erdogan, Turkey has banned street protests.
- **Lithuania:** U.S. Army says [recovering 4 soldiers](#) missing in Lithuania "will be a long and difficult" operation.

Indivisible Bainbridge Island

We are **Indivisible Bainbridge Island**, working in 2024 to **save our**

You received this email because you signed up on our website or asked us to add you to our list.

democracy and elect common sense
Democrats who respect personal
freedoms.

[Unsubscribe](#)

