



# Indivisible Bainbridge Island Newsletter

March 14, 2025

Guided by Indivisible's [Practical Guide to Defeating MAGA](#)  
Our goal is to help elect progressives in our state legislatures and in Washington, D.C.

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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**

- Any time, [Phone bank for Susan Crawford](#), hosted by Grassroots Democrats.
- March 15, 10 am, Tesla Takedown events at 2627 NE 46th St, Seattle; 17731 Pacific Highway, Lynnwood; Bellevue Square - corner of NE 8th and Bellevue Way NE; 700 S Grady Way, Renton; 3701 20th St E, Fife/Tacoma (a service center). [Details](#)
- March 15, The Ides of March Mass Postcard mailing event to tRump. Address your cards to "President (for now) Donald J. Trump, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, DC 20500". Recommended message: "You Suck."
- March 15, 10 am, Emily Randall Town Hall in Port Angeles. [RSVP](#)

- March 15, 1 pm, Protest ICE prison in Tacoma (1623 E J St, Tacoma). Hosted by La Resistencia.
  - March 16, 11 am to 12:00 pm, Weekly Rally and March in Poulsbo, meet at the Waterfront Park pavilion, hosted by Poulsbo for All/North Kitsap Indivisible
  - **March 16, 2 pm to 4 pm, Indivisible Bainbridge Island monthly in-person meeting at the Bainbridge Island Fire Station, 8895 N Madison Ave NE. Overflow parking at the First Baptist Church is restricted to the row nearest the fire station. Use sidewalks, don't walk on the grass.**
  - March 17, noon, Rally in Olympia, Balance Our Tax Code day of action. Meetings with legislators start at 9 a.m. More meetings with lawmakers after the noon rally. Learn more and sign up [here](#).
  - March 18, 5 pm, Emily Randall Town Hall in Aberdeen. [RSVP](#)
  - March 19, noon to 1:30 pm, Rally for America, the intersection of 305 and Winslow Way. Signs in support of Ukraine, Medicaid, Social Security, Medicare, you name it.
  - March 19, 2 pm to 4 pm, Postcards on Wednesday, upstairs at the T&C, last week to write for Susan Crawford in Wisconsin
  - March 19, 7 pm to 8 pm, WIN Schools Workgroup + WA Stop Moms for "Liberty" Register to attend [here](#). Fill out the 2025 WA WA Stop MFK Interest/volunteer form [here](#).
  - March 20, noon, Zoom, "What's the Plan," Q&A with Indivisible co-founders Lea Greenberg and Ezra Levin. [RSVP](#) March 24, 5 pm, Special Session/Open Public Meeting for Bainbridge Island School District candidate interviews to fill two vacant board seats
  - March 27, 4 pm to 6 pm, Indivisible Phonebank for Susan Crawford. [RSVP](#)
  - March 29, 10 am, Tesla Takedown event: 3701 20th St E, Fife/Tacoma (a service center). [Details](#)
  - April 4, 1:30 pm, Zoom, [Politics with David Harrison](#). Date to be confirmed.
  - April 5, National Day of Action (more to come)
- [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 Emily Randall and our senators for their NO votes on the dirty continuing resolution.
    - 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](#).

## Resources

Find trustworthy news outlets, reporters and commentators. This week:

- Heather Cox Richardson's [Letters from an American](#)
- Jessica Craven's [Chop Wood, Carry Water](#)
- Anand Giridharadas' [The Ink](#)
- Joyce Vance's [Civil Discourse](#)
- Jennifer Rubin's [The Contrarian](#)

**Legal Front** - Follow the cases at [JustSecurity.org](#).

- March 11, federal judge Amir Ali [ordered](#) the kakistocracy to pay 'unlawfully' restricted USAID funds. After the judge made that order, people at USAID [destroyed classified documents](#).
- A federal judge [reinstated](#) Susan Grundmann to the Federal Labor Relations Authority, which hears disputes between federal labor unions and the government, such as the dispute that's likely to emerge from the OG's statement on his first day in office that his kakistocracy would not abide by the Department of Education's union contract. The DOJ prosecutor in this case claims the law protecting Grundmann is unconstitutional.
- [Democracy Forward is suing](#) DOGE after it used U.S. Marshals to take over of the U.S. African Development Foundation.

## The Revenge Tour

- Columbia University
  - Last weekend, ICE agents grabbed Palestinian activist and green card holder Mahmoud Khalil from his Columbia University home in New York City and sent him to detention in Louisiana. (Khalil was involved in last summer's protests against Israel's war in Gaza.) On March 12, a federal judge held a hearing to consider the challenge to Khali's arrest filed by Khalil's attorney in New York. Rubio's State Department is relying on a rare foreign policy provision to [try to deport](#) Khalil.
  - The kakistocracy [canceled](#) \$400 million in grants and contracts with Columbia University.
  - 'My career is over': Columbia University scientists [hit hard](#) by cuts.
  - The kakistocracy [lays out demands](#) to Columbia University to restore the federal funding: ban masks, empower campus police and limit protests.
- The Washington D.C. U.S. attorney [targets](#) Georgetown Law School, saying he won't hire from any school with DEI.

- Loyalist criminals [are lining up](#) to receive a new wave of pardons. The White House has marginalized the pardon attorney's office, shifting control of much of the clemency operation to the White House Counsel's Office.

## Our Government

### • Nominees and Hearings

- The Senate Finance Committee [held a hearing](#) for Mehmet Oz, nominated to lead Medicare and Medicaid. When asked if he would follow an illegal order from the OG, he said the OG would never give him an illegal order.
- Vaccine critic, Dave Weldon, had his nomination to run the CDC [pulled](#) this week, likely because he didn't have the votes. (Susan Collins' staff was "hostile" to him, Weldon said.)
- NATO ambassador nominee [Matthew Whitaker testified](#) at his confirmation hearing.

### • Government Shutdown

- Nine Democratic senators and one Independent let the GOP-controlled Senate [pass](#) their dirty continuing resolution to fund the government through the end of September. The ten are Chuck Schumer, John Fetterman, Catherine Cortez Masto, Dick Durbin, Brian Schatz, Gary Peters, Maggie Hassan, Kirsten Gillibrand, Jeanne Shaheen and Angus King (I). Rand Paul also voted against the C.R. Democrats argued that a shutdown would only strengthen Trump's hand. The final vote was 62-38.

### • The Great Hollowing

- Judge Alsup [ordered](#) the departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense, Energy, Interior, Agriculture and Treasury to reinstate thousands of probationary employees who were fired last month to reinstate them. Then Alsup added [13 more federal agencies](#) to his list. Judge Alsup's order is an injunctive order
  - In a lawsuit brought by Democratic state attorneys general, Judge Bedar found that the Trump administration did not follow rules set out for large-scale layoffs, including providing 60 days' advance notice. Judge Bedar's order does not cover all of the agencies ordered Judge Alsup to rehire and it is a temporary restraining order.
  - Federal workers say [their future is uncertain](#) even after court rulings call their firings illegal.
  - Federal workers [ordered to return to offices](#) without desks, Wi-Fi and lights in [a shuttered sandwich shop](#), a storage facility and a closet.

- Kakistocracy official tasked with defending DOGE cuts [posted fashion influencer videos](#) from her office.
- EPA administrator [announces](#) huge rollback of environmental regulations.
- The kakistocracy [plans to cut](#) 80,000 employees from Veterans Affairs, according to an internal memo.
- USDA [canceled](#) \$1 billion in funding for schools and food banks to buy food from local suppliers and [fired pest control](#) experts that protect U.S. crops from destruction.
  - America's food safety is [now in the hands](#) of Don Jr.'s hunting buddy.
- Doge takeover of the Social Security Administration seemed '[based on myth](#)', says ex-senior official.
- The Pentagon is expected to [cut up to 10%](#) of all general and flag officers. Cuts [threaten programs](#) that secure loose nukes and WMD, as well as [inspection of Iran nuclear sites](#). (NYTimes subscription required.)
  - Meanwhile, Sec. of Defense Hegseth [ordered the scrubbing](#) of DEI pictures from military web sites. 26,000 images have been purged so far, including the Enola Gay and war heroes.
- The National Science Foundation has been told to [flag certain words](#) when deciding whether a scientific research proposal should receive funding, such as "victim," "women," "barrier," "prejudice," "gender" and "political." More words [here](#) on X.
- DHS [budgets](#) \$200 million in taxpayer money on ads that thank the OG.
- DOJ
  - Justice Dept. says [ending a Louisiana petrochemical](#) case in "Cancer Alley" helps 'dismantle radical DEI programs.'
  - DOJ official says [she was fired](#) after opposing restoration of Mel Gibson's gun rights. Plus, Gibson (a good friend of the OG) was the test case for creating procedure to illegally restore the gun rights of domestic violence offenders.

### The Economy

- On Jan. 20, 2025, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJI) [closed](#) at 43,487.83. Today, it [closed](#) at 41,488.19.
- Signs of weakness are [showing up](#) in spending on everything from basics to luxuries.

### Resistance

- Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz to [appear today](#) in Des Moines to highlight congressional race.

- [Watch](#) as Rep. John Larson (D-CT) demands answers from Musk-Trump and House Republicans on Social Security.
- [Watch](#) Bernie Sanders draw record crowds in rallies across the U.S. Sanders and AOC to hold rallies in [Arizona](#) and [Colorado](#).
- [Watch](#) Sen. Chris Murphy: Six weeks in, this White House is on its way to being the most corrupt In U.S. history.
- Sen. Patty Murray has been holding Zoom calls on the effect of the DOGE firings. On the [VA](#) and on [NOAA](#).
  - National Weather Service to [halt](#) weather balloon work in Maine.
- [Watch](#) CNBC's Steve Liesman calling Trump's tariffs 'insane.'

### Stupid Stuff the OG Did/Said

- **Tariffs**
  - House Democrats filed a bill to override the OG's tariffs, as provided by the National Emergencies Act, which the OG is using to slap and remove the tariffs that are breaking the economy. But the House GOP blocked the Democrats by passing a rule that redefines the word "day" as not a calendar day. "Each day for the remainder of the first session of the 119th Congress shall **not** constitute a calendar day for the purposes of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act." Here's a [more detailed explanation](#).
  - [What's on, what's off?](#)
    - **The EU:** This week, the OG placed a 25% tariff on imports of steel and aluminum from the EU. The EU announced a phase in of retaliatory tariffs: Starting April 1, the EU will reimpose \$4.9 billion worth of tariffs that date back to the OG's first term. On April 13, an additional round of new tariffs will be placed on over \$19 billion worth of U.S. goods, subject to approval of EU member states. They would include levies on agricultural products, industrial machinery and household appliances. Some tariffs in this round would specifically target products produced in Republican states, such as Kentucky bourbon, jeans and Harley-Davidson motorcycles. The OG responded with a threat to impose a 200% tariff on [European alcohol](#).
    - **Canada:** Earlier this month, 25% tariffs on most imports from Canada and Mexico took effect. The OG temporarily lifted the tariffs on automobiles and goods covered by the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, delaying enforcement until April 2. Canada responded with new retaliatory tariffs against the U.S. that took effect last Thursday, targeting \$20.6 billion in U.S. imports, including a 25% tariff on \$8.8 billion worth of U.S. steel products, \$2 billion in aluminum products, and other goods such as sports equipment, cast iron and computers. Ontario Premier Doug Ford [threatened](#)

[but did not impose](#) a 25% retaliatory tariff on electricity exports to Minnesota, Michigan and New York, and [warned that electricity could be cut off](#) entirely if the OG escalates the trade conflict. The OG threatened a 50% tariff on Canadian steel and aluminum but did not impose them. Canadian and U.S. trade representatives met on Thursday and expect to meet again next week. From the Oval Office, the OG [said](#) Canada could keep its anthem if it becomes a state.

- **Mexico:** President Claudia Sheinbaum [suspended plans](#) for retaliatory tariffs until April 2.
  - **China:** The U.S. 25% tariff on steel and aluminum applies to China. So far, China has not retaliated but has filed a formal complaint [with the World Trade Organization](#) and met with Walmart execs to discuss reports that Walmart is telling its Chinese suppliers to reduce prices to absorb the costs of the tariffs.
  - **India:** India preemptively cut tariffs on several U.S. goods, including Harley-Davidson motorcycles - a move seen as a goodwill gesture. India's trade minister traveled to Washington last week to negotiate exemptions, but walked away empty-handed.
  - **Brazil:** The U.S. 25% tariff on steel and aluminum applies to Brazil, which is the third largest exporter of steel and aluminum to the U.S. So far, Brazil has not retaliated.
  - **South Korea:** The U.S. 25% tariff on steel and aluminum applies to South Korea, which is the fourth largest exporter of steel and aluminum to the U.S, and has asked for an exemption. To ease tensions, South Korea has pledged to reduce its trade surplus with the U.S. by increasing energy imports and expanding shipbuilding contracts for American buyers.
- Army Corps [knew](#) the OG's California water release order was a waste.
  - In his March 5 address to Congress, the OG said \$8 million had been spent "making mice transgender." He may have confused "transgender" with "[transgenic](#)" mice, which are genetically modified rodents used in biomedical research and have been lauded as a "revolutionary research resource." Or he may have thought [these eight studies](#) using mice to help understand the effects of hormone therapy were worthy of derision.
  - The OG's executive order on birthright citizenship is written in a way that would [deny](#) the U.S. citizenship of Native Americans who live on tribal lands.

### Some Good News

- Stop these crazy bills': [Republicans join Democrats](#) to defeat anti-trans legislation in Montana.
- Judge rules that a Jan. 6 pardon [doesn't cover rioter's plot](#) to kill FBI agents.



## In the World

- Elon Musk again [says](#) the US should leave NATO, saying it 'doesn't make sense' for the US to pay for Europe's defense.
- Former president of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte is on trial, charged with charges of crimes against humanity. His lawyer says Duterte is too ill to testify at the ICC in the Hague.
- **Greenland's** prime minister [summons party leaders](#) after Trump doubles down on annexation.
- Kakistocracy [seeks options](#) to put troops in **Panama**.
- In a landslide victory on Sunday, **Canada's** Liberal Party [elected Mark Carney](#) as its new prime minister-elect. Carney is likely to call for a snap election that the Liberal Party is likely to win now that the OG has [united Canadians](#) against Canada's Conservative Party.
- **Ukraine**
  - "Hundreds of Dead": [Inside the fallout](#) from the OG's Ukraine intel pause.
  - U.S. government [revoked Ukraine's access](#) to certain commercial satellite imagery.
  - President Zelensky [agreed](#) to a US proposal for an interim 30 day cease fire, while Putin continues to attack Ukraine while thinking about the ceasefire. The BBC reports that a concerted European effort, led by UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, helped set the stage for the agreement.
  - The US State Department [announced](#) that the pause on intelligence sharing will be lifted and and security assistance to Ukraine will be resumed.
- From Canada to Europe, a [movement to boycott](#) US goods is spreading.
- European Union
  - France has a nuclear umbrella. [Could its European allies fit under it?](#)
  - Poland [plans military training](#) for every adult male amid growing European security fears.
    - Rubio [says](#) Poland should say "thank you."

## 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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