



Indivisible Bainbridge Island

We believe in democracy.

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Indivisible Bainbridge Island Newsletter

April 12, 2025

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

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Things to Do!

- **In Person; local events are in bold.**
 - **April 13**, 12:45 to 2:15 pm, Calling for Peace in Palestine and an end of the Occupation. Across from the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art.
 - **April 13**, 7 pm, a showing of "The Encampments, Inside America's Student Uprising" at the Firehouse Theater in Kingston, followed by a discussion and speakers. Hosted by Kitsap Palestine Solidarity.
 - **April 14**, 7 pm, a second showing of "The Encampments" at the Firehouse Theater in Kingston.
 - **April 16**, noon to 1:30 pm, Weekly Sign Waving to Save America at the intersection of 305 and Winslow Way. Signs in support of Ukraine, Medicaid, Social Security, Medicare, Education, you name it.
 - **April 16**, 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 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 18, 19 and 20 [Economic Blackout](#), organized by People's Union USA.

- April 18, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, [Federal Building Fridays](#), Jackson Federal Building, hosted by Troublemakers.
- **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** [organized](#) by [People's Union USA](#)
 - Ongoing through April 17, Target
 - April 7 to April 14, Walmart #1
 - April 18, 19 and 20 Economic Blackout
 - April 21 to April 28, General Mills
 - May 6 to May 12, Amazon
 - May 20 to May 26, Walmart #2
 - June 3 to 9, Target
 - June 24 to 30, McDonald's
 - July 4, Independence Day Blackout
- [Call Our Elected Representatives](#) or use [5Calls.org](#)
 - **Call our senators and tell them to vote NO on H.R.22, the SAVE Act.** It will disenfranchise legal voters by requiring U.S. citizens to provide costly documentation (state-issued birth certificate, a passport or a photo ID) to prove their citizenship *in person* (for us, in Port Orchard) when registering to vote **or** when updating their voter registration because they have moved - and Americans [move a lot](#). One in ten Americans do not have access to a passport or birth certificate. This bill is especially harmful to women who change their names when they marry. Learn more [here](#). **Call Emily Randall and thank her for voting NO on this bill yesterday.**
 - **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 our senators and tell them to place holds on Trump's nominees.** Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) has [put holds](#) on 300 nominees and nine bills.
 - More actions you can do daily [here](#).

Good News!

- Democrats [announce](#) Town Halls in five red states during the two-week recess that starts next week, plus 36,000 [attended](#) Bernie Sanders' (I-VT) and AOC's Fight Oligarchy rally in Los Angeles today.
- Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) [has called](#) for a Senate Judicial Committee hearing on Trump's nomination of Ed Martin to be U.S. Attorney for Washington, D.C.
- Democrats [are launching](#) a 'war room' to push back against Trump.
- Democrats held their first of many "shadow hearings" this week.

- [Watch](#) Sens. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) hold a shadow hearing on Trump's DOJ with former DOJ employees Liz Oyer, Stacey Young and Ryan Crosswell as witnesses. Oyer was fired from her DOJ job for refusing to restore Mel Gibson's gun rights. She was also the target of an intimidation campaign to prevent her from testifying. Young left the DOJ in January and is now leading a group that advocates for department employees and Crosswell [resigned](#) from the DOJ over the Eric Adams case (although he was not directly involved). Rachel Cohen is a former attorney working at Skadden who resigned from Skadden because of the deal that company made with the Trump regime.
- This is exactly what our very own Jim McCormick asked for in his [open letter to Rep. Randall](#).
- A federal judge in Pennsylvania [ruled](#) this week that the case of the Central Park Five, who are suing Trump for defamation, can go forward. Trump's presidential immunity only applies to criminal activity, not civil. [Watch](#) former prosecuting attorney Glenn Kirshner discuss.
- [Watch](#) these grannies perform their Trump diss track.
- A Trump-appointed federal judge [ruled](#) the Trump regime violated the Associated Press' First Amendment rights when it revoked the AP's reporting privileges for refusing to change "Gulf of Mexico" to the "Gulf of America" in their style guide.
- National Park Service [restores](#) original Harriet Tubman, Underground Railroad web page.
- DOGE cuts at a Florida manatee refuge [have been reversed](#) — for now.
- If you've been seeing people wearing paperclips and wondered why, [here's the answer](#). (Hint: it involves the Nazi occupation of Norway during WWII.)
- Some humor! Things that are not fraud, waste and abuse, evidently
 - Doug Burgum [wants his cookies freshly baked](#), labels removed from his water bottles and to be helicoptered to meetings.
 - A multiagent bodyguard team [is protecting](#) FBI deputy director Dan Bongino 24/7.
 - Fraud: Education secretary, Linda McMahon, was invited to speak on a panel about artificial intelligence and [repeatedly pronounced](#) "AI" as "A 1."

Why We're Fighting Back

- **The Economy** - Without good jobs for every one, we'll never get to an equitable society
 - While inflation [dropped](#) to 2.4% in March, the Consumer Confidence Index [dropped](#) to its second lowest level since 1952, dragged down by fears of higher prices and unemployment.
 - On April 7, Goldman Sachs [raised](#) its odds of a U.S. recession to 45%; CEO of Chase, Jamie Dimon, [said](#) recession is the 'likely outcome' of

Trump tariffs.

- After the sell off in Treasury bonds (more below), the average 30-year fixed mortgage interest rate is [6.80%](#), up 15 basis points from a week ago.
- **Tariffs**
 - After three days of thousand-point losses on the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJI) and a Wednesday that looked just as grim, Trump said he would [pause](#) tariff hikes for 90 days, but not for China. The DJI shot up to close at [40,613.83](#). Then the market realized he was only pausing the "reciprocal" tariffs for 90 days, leaving the 10% "base" tariffs in place, and had also increased the tariff on products from China to 125%. That left the DJI to close down 1,015 points at 39,593.66 on Thursday. The 25% tariff on auto imports [remains in place](#) and tariffs on Mexico and Canada [are unaffected](#) by the 90-day pause. The EU [suspended](#) for 90 days its retaliatory 25% tariffs on U.S. goods after Trump's U-turn. Outgoing German economy minister Robert Habeck [offered](#) a brutal takedown of the U.S. tariffs, saying the underlying calculations were "nonsense," and "wrong," as he urged the U.S. to "stop the nonsense ... the mess you have made in the last week."
 - An acute selloff in the \$29 trillion U.S. Treasury market is likely [what made Trump blink](#). Japan and China, two of the largest holders of U.S. Treasury bonds, have been scaling back their demand in recent years. Falling demand for U.S. Treasury bonds [suggests](#) loss of financial confidence in the U.S. Bond investors [moved](#) out of U.S. Treasuries and into German bonds. When the dust settled, the White House [clarified](#) that the tariff on *most* goods from China is 145%.
 - On Friday, the DJI closed at 40,212.71, up 619.05. The sell off in U.S. treasuries [continued](#), with the yield on a 10 year bond at 4.486%.
 - Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) [accuses](#) Trump and friends of using tariffs on/tariffs off and social media posts of a massive 'insider trading scandal.' Too bad there's no one left to investigate.
 - Six GOP senators have [signed on](#) to Sens. Maria Cantwell and Chuck Grassley's Trade Review Act, an attempt to check Trump's trade authority. They are McConnell (KY), Moran (KS), Murkowski (AK), Tillis (NC), Todd Young (IN) and Collins (ME). Trump [threatens](#) to veto this bill.
 - On Friday, China [struck back](#) with 125% tariffs on U.S. goods.
 - It was Jared Kushner who brought tariff aficionado, Peter Navarro, into Trump world. Kushner was impressed by Navarro's book, "Death by China." In that book, Navarro frequently quotes that

famous economist, Ron Vara - an anagram of "Navarro" - who is Navarro himself. Full story [here](#).

- **Renditions, Deportations and Detention**

- In the case of the **mistaken deportation** to El Salvador of Abrego Garcia: The Supreme Court issued [an unsigned opinion](#) with no recorded dissents - effectively a 9-0 decision - [turning down](#) the Trump administration's request to block a ruling by U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis requiring the administration to "facilitate Garcia's release from custody in El Salvador and to ensure that his case is handled as it would have been had he not been improperly sent to that country." On April 11, DOJ lawyers were unable to tell Judge Xinis exactly where or how Garcia is. Judge Xinis [said](#) it was "extremely troubling" that the DOJ failed to comply with a court order to provide details on Garcia's whereabouts and status. She wants daily updates on what the government is doing to bring him home. On April 12, a State Dept. official confirmed that Garcia is alive and still in prison in El Salvador.
- In the case of the **Venezuelan renderings**, in a 5-4 vote, the Supreme Court [lifted](#) lower-court orders preventing non-citizen removal on the basis that challenge was brought in the wrong court (D.C.). Instead, non-citizens (in this case, the alleged Venezuelan gang members) must challenge their detention in Texas, using habeas corpus. The court also ruled that plaintiffs and others detained under the Alien Enemies Act are entitled to "notice and an opportunity to challenge their removal." When ACLU attorney Lee Gelernt asked a DOJ lawyer the minimum notice the DOJ would be willing to give, the lawyer said 24 hours - hardly enough time for a hearing. (Source: an interview on MSNBC.) The Supreme Court did not rule on whether it's legal for the regime to rely on the Alien Enemies Act to justify the deportations given that no war has been declared.
 - [Watch](#) last Sunday's 60 Minutes segment on the Venezuelan men rendered to El Salvador. They found that 75% of them were not criminals at all.
 - [Watch](#) a follow-up 60 Minutes segment: "What a photojournalist saw as Venezuelan migrants arrived in El Salvador"
 - [Read](#) Vanity Fair's article: "Trump administration deported 238 men to hellish prison in El Salvador. 75% apparently have no criminal record."
- **Three Venezuelans won a pause in efforts to render them this week.**
 - Daniel Matos had already been detained in Texas when ICE officers [tried to deport](#) him under the Alien Enemies Act. Matos filed a habeas corpus petition with a Texas court. Judge Fernando Rodriguez Jr., a Trump appointee who seems genuinely concerned

- that more people might mistakenly be sent to El Salvador, issued a preliminary injunction and set a hearing for April 11 to assess evidence of the government's claim that Matos is a member of a Venezuelan gang. This lawsuit [appears to seek relief](#) for all Venezuelans in the U.S. who could be subject to deportation under Trump's order and could finally [raise the question](#) of whether it is legal for Trump to use Alien Enemies Act for these actions.
- Attorneys for two Venezuelan men who are currently being detained in Orange County, New York, successfully [argued to block their clients' deportations](#) and movement outside of the state and the United States. U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein, appointed by President Clinton, granted the temporary relief and set a hearing date for April 22. The scope of this lawsuit extends only to Venezuelans within the federal court district.
 - The Trump-Bukele alliance [grows](#) as El Salvador offers to *imprison U.S. citizens* and deported migrants. [Trump is all in.](#)
 - [Who is Nayib Bukele?](#) Before he was elected president of El Salvador in 2019 with 53% of the vote, he was an ad man. Bukele's crack down on MS-13 and Barrio 18 gang members [caused](#) El Salvador's murder rate to plunge. In addition to jailing gang members, Bukele passed a law that made [bitcoin legal tender in El Salvador](#) and has promoted plans to build [Bitcoin City](#).
 - Commerce Secretary, Howard Lutnick, likes El Salvador so much that he's [moved](#) his crypto company, Tether, there.
 - In his rejection of an advocacy group's request for a stay, Trump-appointed federal judge Trevor McFadden [has allowed](#) the Dept. of Homeland Security to require that immigrants without legal authorization to be in this country register with the DHS or face fines and imprisonment. They must carry papers indicating they are registered. Canadian visitors who are in the U.S. for more than 30 days are also required to register.
 - Foreign students [are disappearing](#) from U.S. college campus. 118 international students' immigration statuses [revoked](#) across Texas universities.
 - On Friday, a Louisiana immigration judge [ruled](#) that legal U.S. resident Mahmoud Khalil can be deported for "antisemitic protests and disruptive activities, which foster a hostile environment for Jewish students in the U.S."
 - Rubio memo [cites](#) Mahmoud Khalil's beliefs in justifying his deportation - including his "expected" beliefs.
 - ICE director, Todd Lyons, [wants to run deportations](#) like 'Amazon Prime for human beings.'

- A mom and her kids were '[snatched](#)' from their house in Tom Homan's hometown. After 11 days and protests, they've been released.
- A U.S. citizen and attorney representing a student protester was [detained](#) by federal immigration agents at Detroit Metro Airport on April 9. The agents demanded that he give them his phone, which he refused to do. The attorney was finally let go after he let the agents look at his contact list.

- **The Hollowing Out**

- **In the matter of large scale RIFs of probationary employees:** On April 8, the Supreme Court [issued a stay based on the plaintiffs lack of standing](#). The plaintiffs (the AFL-CIO, the American Federation of Govt. Employees and other groups) had challenged the Office of Personnel Management's order to terminate probationary employees en masse. A federal judge, upheld by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, temporarily blocked the mass termination order and ordered the firings stopped and rescinded. The government appealed for the Supreme Court to remove that temporary block and so it has been stayed.
- A three-person appeals court panel [halted](#) the rehiring of 24,000 federal workers. They had been ordered by Maryland Judge James Bredar to be placed on paid leave.
- Orders to reinstate National Labor Relations Board member Gwynne Wilcox and Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) member Cathy Harris were [put on hold](#) this week when Chief Justice John Roberts, at the request of the Trump regime, issued an administrative stay on the reinstatements and called for a response by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15. The MSPB is a key recourse for terminated federal employees and has been hamstrung by the removal. The two cases put the 1935 precedent in *Humphrey's Executor*, which required "good cause" for the President to remove independent agency heads, at risk of being overturned, which seems to have been the goal all along.
- During Thursday's on-camera cabinet meeting, Musk revealed that the DOGE team has [cut just \\$150 billion](#) from the FY2026 budget - not the \$1 to \$2 trillion he promised.
 - Despite Musk's dubious claim, as of day 80 of the Trump regime, the Wall Street Journal [says](#) the federal government has spent \$154 million more than Biden during the same period last year. Maybe it's those weekly [\\$3.4 million trips](#) to Mar-a-Lago (in 2019 dollars).
- [Watch](#) Sen. Patty Murray described how DOGE's USDA cuts are hurting families and farmers.
- Washington Head Start staff [locked out and let go](#) due to Trump cuts.

- Untested new software installed by DOGE employees [is crashing](#) Social Security servers.
- Trump [targets](#) 'improper ideology' at the Smithsonian in latest effort to reshape the arts and history. The executive order [cites](#) the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) by name and argues that the Smithsonian as a whole is engaging in a "concerted and widespread effort to rewrite our Nation's history." Kevin Young, director of the NMAAHC and Culture [resigned](#) before the order was released.
- The Pentagon [is considering](#) a proposal to cut thousands of troops from Europe.
- Vice Admiral Shoshana Chatfield has joined a list of several leaders who have been [purged](#) from the military's highest ranks.
- Trump administration is under scrutiny as it [puts a major round of cuts](#) to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency on the table.
- The Treasury Dept. [plans to cut](#) up to 50% of IRS enforcement staff and 20% from other departments. Also, a startling number of high-level IRS officials [are leaving](#) because the agency has handed over sensitive tax data to immigration officials.
- **Retribution**
 - Trump [orders](#) probe against officials who opposed his election lies: Chris Krebs (Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency in Trump 1.0) and [Miles Taylor](#) (author of an anonymous *New York Times* op-ed and later a book about Trump 1.0).
 - DOJ [targets](#) its own lawyers for following the law: Senior career attorney, Erez Reuveni, truthfully conceded in court that the transfer of Kilmar Abrego Garcia to an El Salvadoran gulag — [despite a court order allowing the man to stay in the U.S.](#) — was erroneous. For that, he has been placed on leave.
 - Col. Sussanah Meyers, commander of the U.S. base in Greenland [was fired](#) this week for sending an email to the multinational base personnel saying that "the concerns of the U.S. administration discussed by Vice President Vance on Friday are not reflective of Pituffik Space Base."
 - From Rick Hasen at *The New York Times*: "[In Trump's Second Term, Retribution Comes in Many Forms](#)"
- **The Assault on the Rule of Law**
 - With no good options, Judge Ho [decided](#) to dismiss Eric Adam's corruption indictment with prejudice, meaning the indictment cannot be refiled in the future. [Watch](#) former prosecutor Andrew Weismann discuss why this is a victory for the rule of law.

- Leaving no stone unturned, Attorney General Pam Bondi's brother, Bradley Bondi, [is running](#) to be president of the D.C. Bar Association. That's the group that disbarred Rudy Giuliani and Jeffrey Clark.
- The DOJ [suspended](#) the attorney who admitted the truth when trying to defend the federal government's mistaken deportation of Abrego Garcia.
- Five more law firms [struck deals](#) with Trump to avoid executive orders.
- Justice Allison Riggs continues to fight for the North Carolina Supreme Court seat she won by 734 votes last November. She and the North Carolina State Board of Elections appealed a lower court's ruling that would have tossed out 65,000 valid ballots unless, within 15 days, voters added additional information to their voter registrations that wasn't required when they registered to vote. On April 12, the North Carolina Supreme Court [overturned](#) that lower court ruling and decided to accept 61,682 of the disputed ballots while also requiring that military and overseas absentee voters from four Democratic-leaning counties must prove their eligibility to vote within 60 days or be dropped from the count. All of this mess happened because North Carolina [instituted](#) a photo ID law in 2024.
- **Environment**
 - Documents reveal [Trump's plan to gut funding](#) for NASA and climate science.
 - Trump's energy executive order [puts](#) states' climate laws in the DOJ's crosshairs. [It's probably illegal.](#)
- **Health**
 - Things RFK Jr. said
 - That the Deep State '[is real](#)' and called FDA employees the 'sock puppet' of industry.
 - That the MMR vaccine [is "the most effective way to prevent measles"](#) (to the wrath of his supporters) after visiting with the family of the second unvaccinated child to die of measles. Yet [he's still touting](#) an inhaled steroid to treat measles.
 - That HHS would rehire thousands of fired workers. [That wasn't true.](#)
 - That he's 'not familiar' with the \$11 billion in cuts to state and local health departments.
 - How Kennedy [is already weakening](#) America's childhood vaccine system: DHS has cut \$2 billion from a program that supports vaccines for vulnerable children, forcing public health departments to lay off staff and cancel clinics.
 - Ousted FDA vaccine chief [says](#) U.S. measles elimination status is under threat as cases [climb past 700](#).

- How the Trump regime [is running](#) a war on kids.
- Scientists on cusp of cancer breakthrough are [hit with massive Trump layoffs](#).
- Medicaid remains on the chopping block with the House and Senate [reaching an agreement](#) on an FY 2026 budget framework on April 10. Mike Johnson still wants at least \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts over ten years so that tax cuts for the wealthy can be made permanent. A fifth of Americans [are on](#) Medicaid. Some of them don't know it.

New Legal Actions

- The ACLU [is challenging](#) Trump's sanctions against the International Criminal Court.
- Washington's AG, Nick Brown, [has joined](#) a lawsuit filed by 16 states against the Trump administration for its unlawful attempt to disrupt grant funding issued by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The lawsuit asserts that the NIH recently terminated large swaths of grants for projects that are currently underway based on the federal government disfavoring them — like projects the Trump administration deems as related to diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives or dislikes about vaccines.
- Washington [has also joined](#) 20 other states challenging the dismantling of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which supports public libraries and museums through grants, research and policy development; the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, which works to peacefully resolve labor disputes, and the Minority Business Development Agency.
- On Thursday, sixteen states, including Oregon, New York and Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia, [sued](#) the Trump Administration to restore access to \$1 billion in COVID relief funds for schools already promised by the Dept of Education but not yet spent.
- The Dept. of Education [has agreed to delay](#) until April 24 enforcement of a legally disputed directive seeking to ban diversity, equity and inclusion practices.

In the World

- **Gaza**
 - Israel controls over 50% of Gaza, [squeezing Palestinians](#) on their own land.
- **Ukraine:**
 - European allies [promised](#) €21 billion this week in military support for Ukraine. With peace out of reach in the immediate future, the German defense minister said the war " is between freedom and oppression, between the recognition of global standards and aggressive imperialism, between democracy and authoritarianism," and that Ukraine is the "epicenter of a broader conflict".

- Trump's envoy, Steve Witkoff, met in Russia with Putin for four hours. Meanwhile, Trump's Ukraine envoy, Keith Kellogg, denied suggesting that Ukraine could be partitioned. Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social that Russia must "get moving."
- Britain's Prince Harry [visited](#) the Superhumans Center in Lviv, a clinic that rehabilitates wounded military personnel and civilians, where he speak with patients and staff. Lviv is a frequent [target](#) of Russian missiles.
- [Watch](#) "Chinese soldiers captured in Ukraine and the Future of Warfare," a podcast with The Bulwark's Jonathan V Last and journalist Tim Mak. The future of warfare is drones, not the F-47 (!) Trump just [announced](#).

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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