



Indivisible Bainbridge Island

We believe in democracy.

Join us!

Indivisible Bainbridge Island Postcards on Wednesday

April 18, 2025

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

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Upcoming Events

- Find April 19 Tesla Takedown events in the Puget Sound area [here](#).
- April 18, 19 and 20, Economic Blackout, organized by [People's Union USA](#). No big box spending, no big box shopping, but support local businesses.
- 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. Subgroup updates and planning.
- April 20, the [Trump-commissioned report](#) (to be prepared by DHS and DOD) is due on whether Trump can invoke the Insurrection Act.
- April 21 to 28, Boycott General Mills, organized by [People's Union USA](#).
- April 23, noon to 1:30 pm, Weekly Sign Waving to Save America at the corner of 305 and Winslow Way. Bring your signs in support of Abrego Garcia, immigrants, Medicaid, Social Security, Medicare, Education, you name it.
- April 23, 2 pm to 3:30 pm, Postcards on Wednesday, 2 to 3:30 pm, upstairs at the T&C on Winslow Way, laying the groundwork to flip more California CDs in 2026.
- May 2, 1:30 pm, Zoom, [Politics with David Harrison](#), hosted by the BI Senior Center.

- May 6 to May 12, Boycott Amazon, organized by [People's Union USA](#).
- May 20 to May 26, Boycott Walmart, again, organized by [People's Union USA](#).

Things you can do right now - [Call our senators and representative](#) 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 a voter registration because of a move - [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 Rep. Randall and thank her for voting NO on this bill when the GOP passed it on April 10.
- More things you can do daily [here](#).

Good News!

- Indivisible Bainbridge Island's Protecting People group continues to collect food and sanitary items for Kitsap Immigration Assistance Center (KIAC) including rice, beans, diapers, tampons and deodorant. Email protectpeople@indivisiblebainbridgeisland.org to arrange drop offs on Bainbridge Island.
- [Watch](#) Bainbridge Islanders, Ollie and Janice Pederson, explain Norway's Paper Clip Resistance during WWII and how the paperclip can become a symbol of unity today. Their web site is thepaperclipresistance.com.
- Unions [launch](#) Rise Up legal defense network for fired federal workers.
- Sen. Bernie Sanders and AOC [continued](#) their Fight the Oligarchy rallies in red states this week: Idaho (12,500) and Utah (20,000)
- Some of the nation's former solicitors general [are working](#) to defend law firms targeted by the Trump administration.
- **Caught!**
 - Tesla owners [file a lawsuit](#) against Tesla, claiming that the cars speed up odometers to avoid warranty repairs, [U.S. lawsuit claims](#).
 - Tulsi Gabbard declared her residency in Texas. Then she [voted](#) in Hawaii.

Why We Fight Back

- **Health Care**
 - Internal Trump administration document [reveals](#) massive budget cut proposal for federal health agencies. Programs on gun violence, injury prevention, youth violence prevention, drowning, minority health and others would be [eliminated](#) entirely.
 - Whooping cough cases [surge](#) as vaccination rates fall.
 - RFK's study of autism (to be conducted by a vaccine-skeptic) [will overlook](#) the real reason for an increase in diagnoses: better screening.

- **Rule of Law**

- The Supreme Court [will hear oral argument](#) on May 15 on Trump's effort to end the constitutional right birthright citizenship. Washington state is one of the lead plaintiffs challenging the order. Lower court orders barring enforcement remain in place pending Supreme Court action.
- **On the rendition of 238 Venezuelans to El Salvador on March 15:**
 - Before the flights to El Salvador took off, District Court Judge James Boasberg issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) preventing their departure. But the planes took off anyway. This week Judge Boasberg issued an order holding that there is probable cause to find the government acted with [criminal contempt](#) in violating his orders. After the planes landed, the Supreme Court vacated Boasberg's TRO holding the plaintiffs were in the wrong court and must seek habeas corpus relief in Texas.
- **Kilmar Abrego Garcia:**
 - Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) was in El Salvador and finally [met](#) with Abrego Garcia. Here's a [timeline of all the events](#) in this case.
 - Federal Judge Xinis [blasted](#) government inaction to facilitate Garcia's return after her order was upheld by the US Supreme Court 9-0. She ordered depositions of senior officials and "intense" discovery, saying "We're going to move. There will be no tolerance for gamesmanship and grandstanding."
 - The Federal Fourth Circuit of Appeals [upheld](#) Xinix discovery orders and issued a blistering decision against the Trump administration's "shocking" defiance of court orders. Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III, nominated by Ronald Reagan, wrote that he and his two colleagues "cling to the hope that it is not naïve to believe our good brethren in the Executive Branch perceive the rule of law as vital to the American ethos."
 - The decision had more choice words: "The government is asserting a right to stash away residents of this country in foreign prisons without the semblance of due process that is the foundation of our constitutional order. Further, it claims in essence that because it has rid itself of custody that there is nothing that can be done. This should be shocking not only to judges, but to the intuitive sense of liberty that Americans far removed from courthouses still hold dear."
 - The DOJ finally [released](#) documents detailing why they think Garcia is MS-13. It was his hoodie.
- A current list of citizens and non-citizens [detained, deported or barred](#) by the Trump administration.
- On Friday, federal District Judge Amy Berman, who has blocked the Trump administration from closing the **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau** [ruled](#) that the agency cannot go forward immediately with plans to fire 90 percent of its employees and cut off access to computer systems. A

DOGE employee was reportedly in the building trying to force through the terminations by Friday.

- This week, federal District Court Judge Mary McElroy (a Trump-appointed) [issued](#) a preliminary injunction blocking the Trump Executive Order (EO) freeze on funds appropriated under President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Multiple nonprofits, represented by Democracy Forward, sued to challenge the EO.
 - Federal appeals court [temporarily freezes](#) a multibillion-dollar Biden climate fund, preventing the funds from being disbursed. U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan had issued a preliminary injunction that temporarily barred the EPA from "unlawfully suspending or terminating" grant awards. The appeals panel said Judge Chutkan had not met the high bar needed to issue a preliminary injunction. The panel's order "should not be construed in any way as a ruling on the merits," the judges said.
 - D.C. federal District Court Judge Loren AliKhan [issued](#) a TRO blocking an EO against Susman Godfrey, a Texas-based trial firm that suspended security clearances, barred any federal agency interaction with the firm and barred the law firm's employees from all federal buildings.
 - Three law students have challenged the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) sending letters to Perkins Coie and 20 law firms, pursuant to Trump's Executive Order (EO) regarding their DEI-related hiring practices, including the personally identifiable information of lawyers employed with these firms and law students that have applied for positions at these firms.
 - Three law students have filed [a new lawsuit](#) asking a federal court to stop the handover of sensitive personal data of attorneys who work or applied to work at 20 law firms currently being targeted by the Trump administration. They are represented by the Democracy Forward Foundation.
 - Washington AG Nick Brown [has joined](#) a coalition of 21 state AGs supporting challenges to unconstitutional executive orders singling out law firms.
 - Trump thinks sending U.S. citizens to prison in El Salvador is a great idea - but [he has no authority](#) to so.
 - Federal employee [alleges](#) DOGE activity resulted in data breach at labor board.
 - White House [bars](#) AP from Oval Office event despite court order.
- **The Economy**
 - The impact on the US economy of Trump [defying the Supreme Court](#).
 - Compared with March 2024, single-family housing starts [declined](#) by 9.7% in March; multi-family decreased by 3.5%. The decline is attributed to higher interest rates, rising construction costs and labor shortages.
 - Trump [wobbled](#) the Dow Jones Industrial Average by threatening to fire Fed Chair, Jerome Powell, for not lowering interest rates this week. Can Trump fire Jerome Powell? The Humphries Executor precedent [says](#) NO.

- On Thursday, the DJI [closed](#) at 39,142.23, down 527.16 for the day and down 1,070.48 from last Friday's close. The 10-year Treasury yield was notably high at 4.40% as of April 17, 2025, and had previously reached a peak of 4.5%. The current average [30-year fixed mortgage interest rate](#) is 6.86%, up 6 basis points since the same time last week.
- Tariffs
 - Five businesses that rely on international imports [filed suit](#) in the United States Court of International Trade, challenging the implementation of tariffs under the authority of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, without Congressional approval. The businesses are represented by Liberty Justice Center.
 - Vietnam has [fast-tracked approval](#) for Trump resort to stave off tariffs.
 - Trump has [exempted](#) phones, computers and chips from tariffs.
 - Trump claims tariffs are bringing in \$2 billion/day, but Customs and Border Patrol [says](#) it's \$250 million/day.
 - Tesla [stopped taking new orders in China](#) for two US-made models that Musk imports into China.
 - Nearly 40% of Tesla's vehicle battery materials come from Chinese companies.
 - After "Liberation Day," Goldman Sachs [raised](#) the odds of US recession to 45%, the second hike in a week.
 - The U.K. and the U.S. [are discussing](#) a potential bilateral trade deal to avoid the Trump tariffs, while the EU and Canada are pursuing retaliatory tariffs.
 - The World Trade Organization said on Wednesday that [global trade will shrink as a result of the tariffs](#) while the International Monetary Fund [downgraded its predictions for growth because of them](#).
- **Education - [I love the poorly educated](#)** - Under the guise of fighting anti-Semitism, the Trump regime's "Joint Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism" is [attacking higher education](#), using threats of funding cuts to coerce 131 higher education institutions having endowments over \$1 billion to bend the knee. This week, Harvard was in the news:
 - **Harvard:** Trump began his onslaught with a series of demands several weeks ago. [What the Trump regime wanted](#):
 - Dismantle diversity programming, ban masks, derecognize pro-Palestine student groups, audit academic programs for viewpoint diversity, expel students involved in a 2023 pro-Palestine protest, reform its admissions process for international students to screen out students who support "terrorism and anti-Semitism," "full cooperation" with DHS by immediately reporting international students to federal authorities if they break University conduct policies, derecognize pro-Palestine student groups, reduce the "power held by faculty (whether tenured or untenured) and administrators more committed to activism than scholarship," install leaders committed to carrying out the administration's demands and

submit quarterly updates certifying its compliance. What acceding to these demands [would have meant](#).

- Last Friday, Harvard announced their [refusal to accede](#) to Trump's demands, calling them lawless and unconstitutional. Harvard professors [sued](#) the Trump regime to block review of [\\$8.7 billion](#) in federal research grants for future commitments to the University and several hospitals (Mass General, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Boston Children's). The professors want an immediate temporary restraining order to prevent the cut off of federal funding.
- The Trump regime [retaliated](#) by freezing \$2.2 billion in grants to Harvard and \$60 million in contracts and calling on the IRS to pull Harvard's tax exempt status. [They are on it](#), but it's [illegal](#) for a president to order the IRS to investigate or audit.
- Stanford [backs](#) Harvard's decision not to accede to Trump's demands.
- Harvard [applied](#) for a \$750 million loan when the Trump threats began. Trump-targeted universities can't use their billion-dollar endowments because they are mostly [tied up in nonliquid assets](#) that were earmarked for very specific purchases.
- **MIT**: On April 14, MIT's president [issued a statement](#) castigating the Trump regime for canceling student visas "that will damage American competitiveness and scientific leadership for years to come." (So far, the visas of roughly 1,300 foreign students and scholars have been rescinded nationwide.) MIT has joined two major lawsuits:
 - NIH budget cuts that would delay or end a new treatment for childhood leukemia and diagnostic tools for ovarian cancer. A federal judge in Boston [issued a nationwide injunction](#) in this lawsuit, but is under appeal.
 - Energy Department budget cuts that would severely disrupt or stop altogether much of MIT's nuclear science research.
- ◦ How other schools [have handled](#) the attacks: Cornell, Northwestern, Brown, Princeton, University of Pennsylvania, Columbia.
- ◦ US universities' faculty (including University of Washington) [unite to defend](#) academic freedom after Trump's attacks.
- ◦ The Trump regime [wants](#) Congress to slash \$1.1 billion from public broadcasting, including a claw back that would devastate rural PBS stations.

In Washington

- WA health care expansion for low-income immigrants on track to be [maintained](#).
- FEMA [denies](#) WA request for bomb cyclone disaster aid.
- Climate change coupled with migration of non-native species [pose threat](#) to Northwest fish.
- Washington Senate [passes](#) bill to require speed limiting devices for habitual speeders.

- Washington AG [defends](#) state's 'sanctuary' policy amid congressional scrutiny.
- Ferguson [criticizes](#) Democrats' \$12 billion tax plan as 'too risky.'

In the World

- Ukraine
 - On Palm Sunday, a Russian ballistic missile attack on the crowded city center of Sumy in Ukraine killed 35 civilians during Palm Sunday celebrations. Cluster bombs may have been used. The World Council of Churches joined in [condemnation](#) of the attack.
 - In commenting on the attack, Trump again [blamed](#) Ukraine for starting the war, calling the attack a "mistake."
 - Top U.S. officials [gave mixed signals](#) about the prospect of a Ukraine ceasefire on Friday: Rubio says U.S. should abandon peace talks while Vance is optimistic. Trump says U.S. will '[take a pass](#)' on Ukraine peace deal 'if parties make it difficult.'
 - Trump [may get what he really wants](#): that minerals deal. The U.S. and the Ukraine have signed a memorandum of intent as a path to a full "minerals" deal. Trump says the full agreement will be signed next week but that is not confirmed by the Ukraine. Details are scarce but the U.S. security guarantee sought by Ukraine is included. The deal would apparently create a reconstruction "investment" fund and could control of Ukraine's infrastructure, energy and gas, as well as minerals.
 - Russia [declared](#) the supposed 30 day moratorium on attacking energy infrastructure has expired as of Friday.
- **Hungary:** After banning the Budapest Pride festival, a [constitutional amendment](#) passed on 14 April allows the government to label LGBTQ+ gatherings a threat to children and to revoke the citizenship of dual nationals deemed a risk to "national sovereignty."
- **Italy:**
 - JD Vance [met](#) with far-right Italian Prime Minister Melloni in Rome to discuss tariffs. Melloni is an admirer of Mussolini and her party prides itself on its fascist roots.
 - Opposition parties in [Italy](#) have [complained](#) to the communications watchdog about a series of AI-generated images published on social media by deputy prime minister Matteo Salvini's far-right party, calling them "racist, Islamophobic and xenophobic"
- Analysis: Trump's alliance with the European far-right, designed to undermine the EU and the liberal European order, [is at odds with his trade war](#).
- Europeans fear US travel under Trump. U.S. tourist visits were [down 11.6%](#) in March. As international tourists pull back (particularly from Canada, the U.K. and Germany), \$90 billion in lost revenue [looms](#).

We are **Indivisible Bainbridge Island**,
working in 2025 to **save our**
democracy and elect common sense
Democrats who respect personal
freedoms.

add you to our list.

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