

Indivisible Bainbridge Island Newsletter

May 10, 2024

Guided by Indivisible's <u>Practical Guide to Defeating MAGA</u>
Our goal is to help elect progressives in Washington and nationwide.

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This newsletter is prepared weekly by <u>Holly</u> and <u>Kathy</u>
Past newsletters are archived <u>here</u>.

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- <u>Daily Actions</u> Tell our members of Congress what you think! We have topics for May.

On the Calendar

- May 12, <u>Bainbridge Island's 1st Asian Arts and Heritage Festival</u>
- May 15, 2 pm to 3:30 pm, Postcards on Wednesday, upstairs at the T&C
- May 15, 5 pm PDT, Zoom, <u>Persuasion to Power: Using Words that Win with Anat</u> Shenker-Osorio
- May 16, 5 pm PDT, Zoom, <u>Center for Common Ground Update Georgia and North</u> <u>Carolina</u>
- May 16, 7 pm, Zoom, WIN <u>Town Hall with Emily Randall</u>, candidate to represent us in Congress.
- May 19, 1 pm to 5 pm, the 8th Annual Re-Fashion Show, <u>Fashion in the Forest</u> at Islandwood.
- May 22, 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm PDT, <u>Trump NYC Trial w. Norm Eisen, Christian F. Nunes & Rep. Holtzman hosted by Not Above the Law</u>
- May 25, 10 am to 4 pm, <u>Indivisible Bainbridge Island's Yard Sale</u>. We're raising money to buy stamps to keep writing to voters in swing states for a happy November 5! (Note that the date has changed from May 27.)
- June 7, 1:30 pm, Zoom, Politics with David Harrison (date to be confirmed)

(Just One of) This Week's Big Stories - The trial

- Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg's Criminal Election Interference Case, Judge Juan Merchan presiding.
 - Since the trial began, Trump has been claiming that the mean judge won't allow him
 to attend his son Barron's graduation on Friday, May 17, even though Judge
 Merchan said he would decide later. On April 30, Judge Merchan said Trump can
 attend the graduation. Now it appears that <u>Trump will attend the graduation in
 Florida</u> and fly to Minnesota for a fundraiser that evening.
 - For context, here's the <u>timeline of events</u>.
 - Day 12, Monday
 - Judge Merchan held Trump in contempt of court for the 10th violation of the gag order. "Jail is the only option left because these fines are not serving as a deterrent to keep you from violating the gag order."
 - Jeff McConney, the controller at the Trump Org. He said Allen Weisselberg walked him through the \$360,000 reimbursement to Michael Cohen for the \$180,000 expense. McConney also testified that Trump had to approve all the invoices.
 - Deborah Tarasoff, the current accounts payable supervisor at the Trump Org. She testified that paying any expenses above \$10,000 had be approved by Trump, Eric Trump or Don. Jr. She also testified that when Trump was in the White House, checks were FedEx-ed to the White House for his signature and FedEx-ed back to the Trump Org in New York.
 - Day 13, Tuesday
 - Trump posted that it was unfair that witnesses were testifying against him and then deleted the post.

- Trump lawyers objected to Daniels' being allowed to testify about the sex she
 had with Trump but that graphic details should not be disclosed.
- Sally Franklin, VP at Penguin Random House testified to authenticate the books that Trump "co-wrote" because Trump wouldn't. In his own words, Trump said he's a penny-pincher, a micro manager and that he knows all things financial at the Trump Org.
- Stormy Daniels testified.
 - Daniels said she grew up with a single, neglectful mother in Louisiana on a low income and that she graduated in the top 10% of her high school class, edited the school newspaper, and was accepted to a Texas university to study veterinary medicine, but could not afford to attend. Instead, at the age of 17, she realized she could make more money in adult entertainment than anything else. She eventually became an adult film director.
 - Daniels testified that at the age of 27 (when Trump was 60) she first met Trump at a 2006 Lake Tahoe celebrity golf tournament for which her studio was a sponsor. She accepted a dinner invitation with Trump because it might be good for her career.
 - At dinner in Trump's suite, Trump asked Daniels about STD testing and talked about the possibility of her appearing on "The Apprentice." She went to the bathroom and when she returned, Trump was wearing boxers and a T-shirt and lying on the bed. He stood and blocked her exit. She testified that she didn't feel physically or verbally threatened but realized that he was "bigger and blocking the way."
 - "The next thing I know was: I was on the bed," and they were having sex, Daniels recalled. The encounter was brief but left her "shaking," she said. "I just wanted to leave."
 - Daniels testified that Trump did not tell her to keep things between them confidential and not to worry about Melania finding out because they sleep in separate bedrooms. In 2011, she learned that a magazine knew of their encounter and she agreed to do an interview for \$15,000 to make money and "control the narrative." The story never ran. It was only after Trump announced his candidacy in 2015 that he pays her \$130,000 and makes her sign a non-disclosure agreement.
 - At this point, Trump's lawyer, Todd Blanche, requested a mistrial.
 Judge Merchan denied the mistrial request and said he was surprised
 Trump's lawyers hadn't raised more objections to Daniels' testimony.
 - In cross-examination, Trump lawyer Susan Necheles suggested Daniels had been trying to extort Trump, was motivated by money and that she has changed her story over the years. Necheles: "Am I correct that you hate President Trump?" Daniels acknowledged she did. "And you want him to go to jail?" the lawyer asked. "I want him to be held accountable ... if he's convicted," she answered.
 - The defense pressed Daniels on the fact that she <u>owes Trump</u>
 \$122,000 in legal fees stemming from an unsuccessful defamation

lawsuit.

- Judge Merchan called Blanche for a sidebar in which Merchan said Trump was cursing and making faces during Daniels' testimony and told him to control Trump.
- The court handles other cases on Wednesdays, freeing Trump to campaign. But on Wednesday, May 8, <u>Trump hosted a dinner in Mar-a-Lago</u> for fans who spent \$4,653 to get 47 NFTs (\$99 each) and a piece of the suit he wore when his Fulton County mug shot was taken. <u>Buyers of 100 NFTs</u> got an invitation to a VIP predinner cocktail reception *AND* a piece of the tie he wore in the mug shot.
- o Day 14, Thursday
 - Cross-examination of Daniels continued with defiant testimony from Daniels as the defense accused her of lying and that the sexual encounter never happened. <u>Watch</u> Lawrence O'Donnell's account of how the day went, including repeated use of the term "orange turd." Or <u>watch</u> attorney Karen Friedman Agnifilo discuss the day.
 - Daniels admitted that getting money for her story was important to her, but she remained adamant that "I never asked for money from President Trump."
 - Necheles also sought to <u>impugn Daniels</u> more broadly, referencing her belief that she can communicate with dead people.
 - Blanche asked again for a mistrial, saying Daniels' testimony went too far.
 Judge Juan Merchan denied the request.
 - Blanche also requested that Judge Merchan modify the gag order now that Daniels has testified. The judge denied that request.
 - The grim cross-examination of Stormy Daniels <u>could double as a class</u> in how the law mistreats women.
 - Jurors also heard testimony from a Trump Org bookkeeper, a publishing executive and Trump's former personal secretary in the White House, Madeleine Westerhout. Westerhout said that Trump aide Dan Scavino was authorized to post from Trump's official account but that he would generally get approval before doing so. She also said that when she was working for the RNC, the RNC was in a panic after the release of the Access Hollywood tape and was considering replacing Trump on the GOP ticket. According to WaPo reporter, Philip Bump, Westerhaut's testimony dismantles Trump's 2016 claim that "If I become president, I couldn't care less about my company. It's peanuts."
 - The prosecutors announced they will not call Karen McDougal to testify. To former prosecuting attorney Glenn Kirschner, this is an indication that the prosecutors think Daniels' testimony was so strong that McDougal is not necessary.
 - The prosecution expects to be done next week. They have not been announcing who will testify each day precisely because of Trump's behavior toward witnesses.
 - <u>Few Republicans</u> have shown up to support Trump, but <u>Rick Scott (R-FL)</u>
 <u>showed up</u> on Thursday.

- Westerhaut was back under cross-examination and redirect in which she said she hadn't actually met Trump until a month after she said Trump was concerned about his family hearing about Daniels.
- Michael Cohen and Allen Weisselberg cellphone records and Cohen's text messages with Trump, Weisselberg, Hope Hicks and David Pecker were introduced into evidence.
- A summary that links the 34 felony counts to invoices and general ledger entries was introduced into evidence.
- Assistant District Attorney Joshua Steinglass <u>requested permission to</u> <u>introduce into evidence</u> Allen Weisselberg's \$2 million severance agreement with the Trump Organization. The agreement requires that Weisselberg keep quiet about the Trump Organization and buys his silence with eight regular installments, \$700,000 of which he has reportedly yet to receive.
 - Attorney Glenn Kirschner explains why <u>he does not think</u> this agreement is illegal
 - Judge Merchan suggested calling Weisselberg (currently serving time in Rikers Island jail for his second perjury conviction) to the stand outside the presence of the jury. Judge Merchan said he'll make a decision next week.
- Judge Merchan <u>ordered Michael Cohen to keep quiet</u> about Trump after Cohen posted a mocking video. He's likely to testify on Monday.
- All of the transcripts for this trial are available here.
- Odd bits:
 - In 2018, <u>Trump admitted to authorizing the payment</u> to Stormy Daniels, but denied that he had sex with her.
 - In 2018, <u>AMI said Karen McDougal's NDA was amended</u>, freeing her to respond to press inquiries about her relationship with Trump.
 - Five years ago, Jason Leopold, a reporter for Bloomberg News made a FOIA request to see Michael Cohen's First Republic Bank records. He just got them and has posted them here. A summary is here.

Do Something!

Contact our senators and urge them to call for a ceasefire in Gaza and oppose the invasion of Rafah. If Congress waits for a Rafah invasion to halt sending offensive weaponry to Israel, they will have missed the opportunity to ensure the approximately 1.2 million people sheltering in Rafah aren't targeted by missiles built in the United States.
 Email Sen. Murray. Email Sen. Cantwell. Call Sen. Murray at 202-224-2621. Call Sen. Cantwell at 202-224-3441.

Petitions

• <u>Sign the Common Cause petition</u> to the Supreme Court telling them to act quickly to shut down Trump's immunity claim.

- <u>Sign the MoveOn petition</u> to President Biden asking him to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Ruby Bridges who was six years old when she integrated an elementary school in the South.
- <u>Sign up</u> for the Zoom Washington Indivisible (WIN) Emily Randall Town Hall now and attend on May 16, 7 pm! (Last week's newsletter contained a link that didn't work. This link works!)

Phone bank

- Call CA Voters in Support of Dave Min to Take Back the House! (CA-47)
- Call Arizona Voters in Support of Ruben Gallego
- Sign up for Activate America phone banks happening on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 3 pm to 5 pm PDT

Text bank

- Learn about how Activate America's text banking works <u>here</u>.
- Sign up for it so you're notified when text banking starts later in the year.
- Write Postcards! Indivisible Bainbridge Island postcard writers meet upstairs at the T&C every Wednesday at 2 pm.
 - We're writing for Democratic Rep. Kim Schrier in WA-8 and Pat Ryan in NY-19.
 - Can't make it to POW? Click here for how to write postcards anyway.
 - Can't write but want to help? We can always use any stamps or stamp money
 you can donate! Help us buy stamps! We're holding a yard sale on Memorial
 Day weekend to fund stamp purchases. Got stuff to donate? Let Holly know!

Holding Trump Accountable (ordered by trial date)

- Special Counsel Jack Smith's Jan. 6 case; trial is stayed until SCOTUS makes a decision on presidential immunity. Oral arguments were heard April 25.
 - No news.
- Special Counsel Jack Smith's Documents Case; no longer set for May 20, 2024; Judge Aileen Cannon presiding.
 - Cannon <u>indefinitely postponed</u> the Trump classified documents trial. Her
 excuse: she has yet to decide eight substantive pending motions (because she has
 dragged her feet for months). Cannon said that deciding them will take at least until
 late July of this year.
 - National Public Radio <u>found that dozens of federal judges</u> have gone to legal seminars at luxury resorts, getting free rooms, free meals and free money for travel, and failed to file the required public disclosures. Judge Cannon was one of them.
 Her clerk says the <u>failure to report was a technical issue</u>.
 - Special counsel Jack Smith's team <u>acknowledged</u> Friday that some evidence in the prosecution of former President Donald Trump for hoarding classified documents at his Florida home may not be in the same sequence FBI agents found it.
- DA Fani Willis Election Interference RICO Case; trial date requested for Aug. 5, 2024
 - Trump won a <u>further delay</u> in the Georgia RICO case.

- Georgia <u>appeals court to review</u> ruling allowing Fulton County DA Fani Willis to stay on Trump election case.
- The FBI <u>investigated and has arrested</u> a California man, Marc Schultz, who on social media and a live feed threatened to shoot DA Willis "like a dog" picking up the dehumanizing language of Trump against all people of color who have or are prosecuting him. Schultz will be extradicted to Georgia and arraigned in June.

Enablers

- Steve Bannon is one step closer to jail after appeals court upholds conviction.
- Giuliani
 - Defamed <u>election workers ask bankruptcy judge to gag Rudy Giuliani</u> over continued attacks.
 - Giuliani's radio show canceled for election disinformation.

• "Tourists"

- Utah man sentenced to 6 years in prison for Jan. 6 breach on U.S. Capitol.
- 70-year-old Boston gynecologist pleaded guilty to attacking police on Jan. 6.

Other Trump news

- It is unclear whether Trump could lose his right to vote in Florida if convicted by DA Alvin Bragg in Manhattan. <u>Watch</u> former federal prosecutor Glenn Kirschner discuss.
- Trump's media company (DJT) <u>lost its third public auditor</u> in less than a year, with the most recent one being found guilty of a massive "audit churning" fraud scheme and now barred from certifying Trump's financial statements. DJT <u>closed at</u> \$50.99/share on Friday, up from the previous Friday close at \$47.93.

Elections

President Biden's campaign

- On Wednesday, <u>President Biden was in Wisconsin</u> to speak about Microsoft's opening of a \$3.3 billion AI data center funded in part by the president's CHIPS
 Act. The data center will be built on the empty Foxconn site touted by Trump, Scott Walker and Paul Ryan but never built.
- On Tuesday, President Joe Biden <u>attended a Holocaust remembrance ceremony</u> and condemned antisemitism.
- Watch President Biden's full interview with Howard Stern last week.
- Biden <u>visited Seattle</u> on Friday and Saturday, slamming Trump and hinting about Jay Inslee's next step. (Article behind the Seattle Times paywall.)

• Trump campaign

- Oil industry <u>writes</u> executive orders for Trump to sign and <u>asked Big Oil for \$1B</u> in campaign cash. <u>More on this story</u>.
- Nearly <u>22% of Indiana GOP voters</u> voted for Nikki Haley in Tuesday's primary.
- Trump vows to end protections for LGBTQ students "on day one."
- Barron Trump declines to be RNC delegate because of 'prior commitments.'

- North Dakota governor, Doug Burgum, <u>emerges</u> as an unlikely candidate to be Trump VP.
- There's a GOP plan for an execution spree if Trump wins the White House.
- Nikki Haley to <u>meet with her biggest donors</u> after her surprising showings in GOP primaries.

• RFK Jr.

· RFK Jr. says worm 'got into my brain and ate a portion of it.'

U.S. House Races

Democrats <u>Bernadine Clark and Carmela Conroy</u> have filed to run for Washington's
 5th CD, now an open seat with the retirement of Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R).

• U.S. Senate Races

- Sen. Bernie Sanders will run for reelection.
- Arizona's Kari Lake (R) keeps giving Republicans <u>new reasons to worry</u> about her electability.

• In Montana

- A federal court <u>blocked Montana's law</u> that requires voters to cancel their voter registration in other counties or states before registering to vote in Montana.
- In March, the Montana Supreme Court <u>struck down</u> four voter suppression laws.

In Nevada

 Republicans <u>file lawsuit to block count of valid mail ballots</u> received after Election Day.

In Washington

- Reminder to vote NO in November on the three initiatives funded by MAGA-millionaire, hedge-fund manager, part-time hobby farmer, former Californian, Brian Heywood. They are I-2109 to kill the capital gains excise tax, I-2117 to kill the Climate Commitment Act and I-2124 to kill WA Cares long-term care program.
- A Republican activist has convinced two Democrats, both named Bob Ferguson, to join the contest for governor. AG Bob Ferguson is the real candidate for governor. Republicans have pulled this stunt in Florida, where it worked.
- Kitsap County
 - Six <u>file for County Commissioner seat</u> being vacated by Garrido. Christine Rolfes is running unopposed.
 - Incumbent Rep. Tarra Simmons (D) will defend her 23rd District Position 1 seat against Republican and U.S. Navy veteran Kurt Robertson of Silverdale and Independent candidate Tiffany Attrill of Bainbridge Island.
 - Rep. Greg Nance (D) will face off against Democrat and Silverdale pediatric dentist John Gibbons, Republican Jaime Miles of Bainbridge Island, and Peninsula Community Health Services attorney <u>Brynn Felix</u> of Suquamish. <u>Shannon Turner</u>, who previously announced his candidacy for this position, has withdrawn.
 - The race to replace Rep. Derek Kilmer as representative for Washington's
 6th Congressional District includes State Commissioner of Public Lands

Hilary Franz (D), 26th District state Sen. Emily Randall (D), 35th District state Sen. Drew MacEwan (R) Janis Clark (R) and J. Graham Ralston (I).

In Wisconsin

- Wisconsin Supreme Court to consider reinstating ballot drop boxes for 2024.
- 1.3 million women in Wisconsin are in the reproductive age range. Abortions are allowed up to 22 weeks because a judge temporarily overturned the state's 1849 abortion ban. A new <u>CBS/Quinipiac poll</u> shows Trump ahead of Biden by one percentage point. It also shows Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D), leading Eric Hovde (R) 48% to 41%. <u>Podcaster David Feldman</u> (starting at 8:30) thinks Biden will benefit from voters preference for Baldwin and from Roe. 37% of registered voters in Wisconsin are either happy or okay with Roe being overturned. 63% of all registered voters in Wisconsin are angry or dissatisfied with Roe getting overturned.

President Biden and His Administration

- U.S. reportedly suspended a weapons shipment to Israel with Rafah invasion imminent.
- Israel:
 - No more bear hugs: Biden gives up on Netanyahu embrace.
 - Biden administration <u>punts on declaring</u> that Israel has violated international law with its State Department report.
 - On Wednesday, Biden said the US will cut off offensive weapons to Israel 'if they go into Rafah.'
 - Defense Secretary Austin <u>confirme</u>d the US paused bomb shipments to Israel, but commitment still 'ironclad.'
 - On Thursday, <u>Israel-Hamas hostage deal talks paused</u> amid Rafah fighting.
- Biden warns of a 'ferocious' surge in antisemitism in the U.S. and across the globe.
- The DOJ is seeking a 40 year sentence for the man who assaulted Paul Pelosi.
- The Commodity Futures Trading Commission moves to ban election betting, escalating fight over new market, sending its strongest message yet that election betting has no legal place in its markets.
- Pentagon orders all US combat troops to withdraw from Niger.
- Feds to spend millions to <u>contain bird flu outbreak</u> amid testing lag. Federal officials have struggled to gain access to farms to collect data.

In Congress

Senate

- Katie Britt (R-AL) has announced that she will introduce the More Opportunities for Moms to Succeed (MOMS) Act. The bill would create a registry of pregnant women, who would then be steered to support services that include "crisis pregnancy centers" — usually faith-based groups designed to shame or trick women seeking abortions into keeping their pregnancies anyway. Learn more here.
- The Senate <u>passed a five-year FAA reauthorization</u> Thursday night with overwhelming bipartisan support — except from the Virginia and Maryland delegations, who are furious about an expansion of flights at Reagan National Airport.
- Vulnerable Senate Dems are <u>lukewarm</u> on reported White House plan for Palestinian refugees.
- McConnell and GOP give Netanyahu backup as tension over aid spikes.

House

- Marjorie Taylor Greene's (R-GA) attempt to oust Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) failed on Wednesday. Just 11 Republicans voted to consider ditching Johnson. 196
 House Republicans voted to table the motion to vacate the speaker's chair, as did 163 Democrats.
- Mike Johnson <u>introduced</u> his Trump-supported Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act that would require proof of citizenship (birth certificate or passport) in order to register to vote. He <u>claimed</u> he knew "intuitively" that undocumented immigrants vote illegally - despite proof to the contrary and just days after 163 Democrats voted to keep Johnson as Speaker. The bill <u>would require states to</u> <u>change</u> their voting laws within 10 days
- Jim Jordan is making 'quiet moves' to become Speaker in 2025.
- Twenty-eight progressive Democrats want the administration to <u>finalize a HUD rule</u> they say is critical to ensuring access to affordable housing for people of color.

In the Courts

Supreme Court

- No decision on Trump immunity claim.
- Using the debunked independent state legislature theory, Pennsylvania
 Republicans ask the Supreme Court to help stop voter registration efforts.
- Kavanaugh thinks <u>consistency is the key</u> to rebuilding trust in the U.S. judicial system.

• Lower Federal Courts

 A federal judge in Delaware <u>denied Hunter Biden's bid</u> to throw out his felony gun charges on Thursday.

State Courts

- New York AG is suing anti-abortion groups over unproven pill claims.
- Court strikes down a New York county's transgender athlete ban.
- Washington AG Bob Ferguson <u>is investigating</u> the Catholic Church's role in clergy sex abuse.

In the States

- Study finds that anti-abortion laws are linked to an increase in domestic violence deaths.
- · How Republican plans will make us sicker.
- How Republicans keep U.S. guns and ammo flowing to Latin American drug cartels.
- A huge solar storm is hitting the US: 6 big questions and answers

In Arizona

Inside the Arizona grand jury that indicted Trump's allies.

In Missouri

• Man admits to killing hospitalized wife because he couldn't afford medical bills.

• In Virginia

• An education board in Virginia voted to restore Confederate names to two schools.

In Washington

- Class action lawsuit claims <u>biggest landlords in western Washington</u> are colluding to raise rents.
- New WSF leader <u>aims to flip the script</u> with success stories and worker empowerment.
- Military may help in war on Kitsap health care crisis.
- Washington is intercepting federal benefits bound for foster youth.
- More people landed jobs in Washington last month. More wound up jobless, too.

In the World

• Israel/Hamas War

In the United States:

- Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) <u>calls US report on Israel war conduct</u> 'woefully inadequate.'
- UN assembly <u>approves resolution</u> granting Palestine new rights and reviving its UN membership bid. The resolution was opposed by the US, Israel, Argentina, Czechia, Hungary, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau and Papua New Guinea.
- Police tear-gas protesters and <u>take down pro-Palestinian encampment</u> at University of Arizona.
- What's <u>happening with the pro-Palestinian protests</u> at the University of Washington.

In Israel

- Israeli leaders have <u>approved a military operation</u> into Rafah.
- Israel ordering new evacuations in Rafah, preparing to expand operations.

 Israeli whistleblowers <u>allege abuse of Palestinians</u> at Sde Teiman military base.

• Ukraine/Russia War

- Ukraine <u>needs</u> "hundreds of billions in order to win the war," says Justice
 Minister Denys Maliuska. The EU on Wednesday <u>approved a plan</u> to use the profits
 generated by investing frozen Russian assets in Europe to buy ammo.
- US to announce <u>new \$400 million military aid package for Ukraine</u> as Russia launches a major offensive in Kharkiv.

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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