



Indivisible Bainbridge Island Newsletter

May 24, 2024

Guided by Indivisible's [Practical Guide to Defeating MAGA](#)
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This newsletter is prepared weekly by [Holly](#) and [Kathy](#).
Past newsletters are archived [here](#).

In This Newsletter

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- **(Just One of) This Week's Big Stories** - The trial days 19 and 20
- **Do Something** – Phone bank, write postcards, donate!
- **Holding Trump Accountable** – What the GOP is doing to erase DA Willis
- **Elections** – Fear of Trump's dictatorship may finally be sinking in
- **President Biden and His Administration** – 200 federal judges confirmed
- **In Congress** – Senate to vote on birth control
- **In the Courts** – Alito's flag problem
- **In the States** – Understanding late term abortions
- **In the World** – War and war
- [Daily Actions](#) - Tell our members of Congress what you think! We have topics for May.

On the Calendar

- **May 25, 10 am to 5 pm, [Indivisible Bainbridge Island's Yard Sale at 8824 NE New London Ct, near the intersection of Finch and Wyatt](#). All items donated by Indivisible Bainbridge Island members. We're raising money to buy stamps to keep writing to voters in swing states for a happy Nov. 5!**
- Coming soon! If Trump Is Convicted rally sponsored by the "Not Above the Law" Coalition. We'll send out date, time and location info as soon as we get it.
- May 29, 2 pm to 3:30 pm, [Postcards on Wednesday](#) with special guest, Brynn Felix. Brynn is running to be LD 23's state representative. Bring your questions!
- June 7, 1:30 pm, Zoom, [Politics with David Harrison](#) (date to be confirmed)
- June 15, 4 pm to 5:30 pm, [A Reception in Support of Emily Randall for Congress](#) (WA-6) at the Maher-Sherman residence, 5743 Old Woods Lane, Bainbridge Island.
- June 29, 2024, 9 am to 2 pm, [Free Scrap Metal and Small Electronics Recycling, Kitsap County Fairgrounds](#).
- July 20, Kitsap Pride at Kitsap County Fairgrounds.

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

- **Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg's Criminal Election Interference Case**, Judge Juan Merchan presiding.
 - For context, here's the [timeline of events](#).
 - [Day 19](#), Monday
 - On redirect, Michael Cohen admitted that he stole \$30,000 from the Trump organization because he was mad that Trump stiffed him on his bonus. (Cohen pocketed \$30,000 that was supposed to go to a company called Red Finch.) Cohen also said he did some legal work for Trump in 2017 and 2018, but never billed anyone for it.
 - The prosecution rested their case, and the defense brought two witnesses to the stand.
 - The first presented a spreadsheet with phone numbers.
 - The second was Robert Costello, who in 2018 tried to become Michael Cohen's lawyer. Costello's testimony allowed prosecutor Susan Hoffinger to introduce into evidence emails sent by Costello indicating that Trump and Giuliani were trying to keep Cohen from flipping and were, [therefore, part of the coverup](#).
 - Costello's conduct on the stand prompted Judge Juan Merchan to clear the court and chastise him (as later revealed in transcripts). Judge Merchan [described Costello's behavior as "contemptuous"](#) (staring down the judge, rolling his eyes, muttering "geez" as the judge sustained objections and saying "strike it!" as if he

were the judge. Costello's behavior could [spark a complaint](#) before the New York bar association.

- [Day 20](#), Tuesday
 - Cross-examination of Costello continued, with Costello admitting that he emailed his law partner and said that we need to get Cohen on the right page without it looking like we're taking instructions from Rudy Giuliani and Donald Trump.
 - The defense rested its case. Trump, of course, did not testify.
 - The rest of the day was spent on jury instructions, with prosecutors and defense attorneys presenting their points of view to Judge Merchan, who has to get them right because erroneous jury instructions have led to many reversals. So far, Judge Merchan has ruled that
 - The jurors [do not have to agree](#) on whether it was a tax crime or violations of state or federal election law that has elevated these normally misdemeanor charges to a felony.
 - Defense attorney Emil Bove [urged Judge Merchan to give an instruction about "the involvement" of counsel](#), despite the judge's pre-trial rulings that Trump could not argue that he was convinced of the lawfulness of his conduct because lawyers were involved. To use an "advice of counsel" defense, Trump would have had to waive attorney-client privilege and turned over his lawyer's notes to the prosecution *before* the trial started. Too late, Donnie!
- The trial is paused due to Memorial Day weekend and the normal "no trial" on Wednesday when Judge Merchan attends to other cases. The trial is expected to resume Tuesday with closing arguments, jury instructions and jury deliberations.
- Appeals court [denies](#) defense's bid for judge's recusal.
- Trump attorney Alina Habba [thinks](#) 'No one is above the law' is a 'stupid little catchphrase.'

Do Something!

- **Take the Indivisible Bainbridge Island candidate preference poll!!!!** Do you prefer [Brynn Felix](#), [Greg Nance](#) or [John Gibbons](#) to represent LD 23, position 2, in Olympia next year? [Take our preference poll!](#)
- [Donate to Vote Forward](#) so they can mail more letters to voters. Your financial support will help fund the letter kit program. A \$20 donation will cover the cost of sending 20 letters to 20 registered voters encouraging them to vote.
- Register your complaint about the Supreme Court *to the Supreme Court* [here](#).
Suggestion: demand the recusal of Thomas and Alito from Jan. 6 related decisions.
- **Sign a petition**
 - [Sign the We Are Ultra Violet petition](#) telling our senators to support the Right to Contraception Act.

- [Sign the Indivisible petition](#) to our senators urging them to take a stand against Supreme Court corruption.
- [Sign the Sierra Club message of thanks](#) to Sec. of the Interior, Deb Haaland, for reforming the oil and gas leasing program and protecting 13 million acres of land in the Western Arctic.
- **Phone bank**
 - [Call CA Voters](#) in Support of Dave Min and Derek Tran to Take Back the House! (CA-47 and 48), Monday, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Hosted by Activate America
 - [Call Arizona Voters](#) in Support of Ruben Gallego, Monday, Wednesdays and Thursdays, hosted by Activate America
- **Text bank**
 - Learn about how Activate America's text banking works [here](#).
 - [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.
 - This week, we're writing for Rudy Salas in CA-22 and will continue to write to flip California CDs through July.
 - **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!

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 and indefinitely postponed.
 - On Wednesday [Cannon heard](#) co-defendant Waltine Nauta's motion to dismiss the charges against him for "vindictive prosecution." Jack Smith's team referred to the motion as "[garbage](#)."
 - In 2023, D.C. federal judge Beryl Howell wrote a [ruling](#) that was released this week in which the judge [took apart the claims of Trumps' lawyers](#) and demonstrated that, if not for Cannon's delay tactics, this case would already have been tried.
 - Judge Howell's ruling also reveals that [sensitive files were found in Trump's bedroom](#) four months after the FBI search.
- **DA Fani Willis Election Interference RICO Case;** no trial date
 - [Watch](#) Rachel Maddow's interview with DA Fani Willis. The GOP is doing everything they can to disqualify DA Willis, even though her relationship with Nathan Wade [in no way disqualifies her](#): So far:
 - The Georgia legislature has [passed a law](#) creating a commission (staffed by GOP appointees) to do oversight over district attorneys.

- The Georgia state senate has [started a special investigation](#) of DA Willis.
 - The chairman of the Fulton County Audit Committee has [demanded](#) that DA Willis respond to allegations that she “misused” funds.
 - Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) has [filed two ethics complaints](#) against DA Willis and called for an investigation.
 - Jim Jordan (R-OH) has [threatened DA Willis](#) with contempt if she doesn't comply with subpoena in federal funding probe.
 - Ron Johnson (R-WI) and Chuck Grassley (R-IA) are [conducting their own investigation](#) of DA Willis.
- **Arizona Fake Electors case**
 - On Tuesday, Rudy Giuliani, John Eastman, former Arizona GOP Chair Kelli Ward and her husband, Michael Ward; state Sen. Anthony Kern; Robert Montgomery, the former head of the Cochise County GOP; Republican Party activists Samuel Moorhead, Nancy Cottle and Loraine Pellegrino; Greg Safsten, the former Arizona GOP executive director; former Trump attorney Christina Bobb (now the RNC's "election integrity" point person); and Tyler Bowyer, the Republican National Committee's Arizona committeeman and chief operating officer of the Trump-aligned Turning Point Action were arraigned. Giuliani appeared via telephone and was required to appear in person within 30 days and post a \$10,000 bond. Mark Meadows, Boris Epshteyn, Michael Roman and Jenna Ellis remain to be arraigned. [Read the indictment.](#)
- **Enablers**
 - Rudy Giuliani
 - He has [agreed to stop spreading 2020 election lies](#) about Georgia election workers.
 - He's taken a page from Trump and is selling coffee now. [Reactions pour in.](#)
- **Other Trump news**
 - DJT closed at \$45.81 today. On Tuesday, DJT closed at \$44 in after-hours trading after [reporting a big loss and scant revenue.](#)

Elections

- **President Biden's campaign**
 - Remember when GOP-ers were in an uproar that Trump might not be on the Colorado ballot? So far, it looks like [Joe Biden won't be on the Ohio ballot](#) due entirely to GOP control of that state.
 - What's up with the [17% of voters who blame Biden](#) for the fall of Roe v. Wade?
 - The Biden administration is [canceling student loans](#) for another 160,000 borrowers.
 - Democratic and Republican pollsters are finding a shocking number of undecideds or Republicans who will not vote for Trump because of his talk of trying to make himself eligible for a third term, or eliminating term limits entirely, or elections entirely. The reason: The Supreme Court, including the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

These results are discussed in "A Hidden Variable in the Presidential Race: Fears of 'Trump Forever,'" by Joshua Greene at Bloomberg.com, but it's behind a firewall. Read a "[These 'undecided' voters fear Trump will never leave office if he wins,](#)" by Alex Henderson for additional discussion. Or [listen](#) to Keith Olbermann discuss.

- [Watch](#) Joe Biden respond to Trump's "united Reich" posting.
- Ohio governor Mike DeWine (R) has [called the state's legislature into session](#) this Tuesday to fix a little problem: if the legislature does not act, Joe Biden will not be on the ballot in November.

- **Trump campaign**

- Caught on video, Trump [says he's 'looking at'](#) restricting contraception access — then says he never said that but will have an "interesting" policy announcement "very shortly."
- Trump is now [fundraising off of boilerplate](#) that appears on every FBI search warrant stating that the FBI can only use deadly force if an officer or another person faces "imminent danger of death or serious physical injury." On that basis, Trump claims "Joe Biden was locked & loaded ready to take me out & put my family in danger." In fact, the FBI coordinated with Trump's Secret Service detail to make sure Trump was *NOT* at Mar-a-Lago when the search warrant was executed.
- The Trump campaign is [blaming "human printer" Natalie Harp](#) for posting a video on Trump's social media site that includes a fabricated news article in which it claims Trump's election will create a "[united Reich](#)." "No one spends as much time on this campaign around him as Natalie," one person told The Bulwark. "If people think she's an airhead because of her looks, they don't understand how smart she is and how much the president relies on her." The post was taken down after 15 hours.
 - 'Not an Accident': Trump's 'Unified Reich' video [alarms historians and fascism experts](#).
- Constitutional scholar, Laurence Tribe, [warns](#) that 'Trumpers' want to end major civil right: the right of privacy, from which the right to use contraceptives derives. In a 2022 video, Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) declares *Griswold vs. Connecticut* (which legalized the use of contraceptives) to be a "constitutionally unsound" ruling.
- Nikki Haley flamed out, saying [she will vote for Trump](#), the candidate she once called unqualified and unhinged.

- **U.S. Senate Races**

- Democratic Sen. Jon Tester [bucks Joe Biden](#) amid tough reelection fight.
- Kari Lake's MAGA lawyer [dodges disciplinary hearing](#) in effort to avoid disbarment.
- Maryland Gov. Wes Moore (D) stakes his reputation to [elect Democrat Angela Alsobrooks](#) to the U.S. Senate. She's running against former governor, Larry Hogan (R).

- **U.S. House**

- With the majority opinion written by Alito, by a 6-3 vote, the Supreme Court [let a racial gerrymander stand](#) in South Carolina's CD 1, currently held by Nancy Mace (R), by calling it a partisan gerrymander, which SCOTUS decided in 2019 is constitutional.

- This decision will hamper the ability of voters to fight unfair maps in the future because it [changes the standard](#) for bringing racial gerrymandering claims.
 - From the "Reagan Revolution," [Alito](#) and [Roberts](#) have a [long history of undermining the Voting Rights Act](#).
 - Justice Kagan [wrote a fiery dissent](#).
- **Which party will control the U.S. House in 2025?** After a shift in April, Democrats now lead by 1.2 percent (45.2 percent to 44 percent) in the [RealClearPolitics averages](#) of polls measuring generic congressional preferences and by 0.8 percent (44.5 percent to 43.7 percent) in the [FiveThirtyEight averages](#). Learn more [here](#).
- **In Oregon**
 - [Progressives flop in Oregon](#): 5 takeaways from Tuesday's primaries.
 - Top progressives [blame AIPAC and outside money](#) for defeats in Oregon.
- **In Washington**
 - Watch the Washington Indivisible interview with Emily Randall. Here are the links:
 - Audio/Podcast:
 - [Apple](#)
 - [Soundcloud](#)
 - Video links:
 - [YouTube](#)
 - [Facebook](#)
 - Remember to **vote NO** in November on the three initiatives funded by MAGA-millionaire, hedge-fund manager, part-time hobby farmer, former Californian, Brian Heywood. The initiatives 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. And **decline to sign** the builders association's [initiative](#) (I-2066) to block the phase-out of natural gas in Washington.
 - Candidates running to lead Washington's public schools debated Monday night on issues like student mental health, absenteeism and the role of parents in their kids' education. [Here are six takeaways](#).
 - Campaign watchdog ramps up disclosures for yard signs and AI-generated ads in Washington.

President Biden and His Administration

- Karim Khan, a prosecutor for the International Criminal Court, has accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant of war crimes over Gaza and has requested subpoenas for them. [President Biden is still supporting Israel](#).
- President Biden is [trying to confirm more than 234 judges](#) (the number confirmed during Trump's presidency).
- On Thursday, the DOJ [filed an anti-trust lawsuit](#) against [Ticketmaster](#) and parent company [Live Nation](#), seeking to break up what officials call an unlawful monopoly that's squeezing artists, promoters and venues while jacking up prices for fans.

- [WA joins Ticketmaster lawsuit](#), demands compensation for overcharged customers

In Congress

• Senate

- On Wednesday, with the Senate's confirmation of Angela Martinez to a U.S. district court in Arizona, [Joe Biden's 200th judicial nominee](#) was confirmed. Biden has surpassed the number of lifetime federal judges that Trump had confirmed by the same point in his presidency.
- Dozens of pro bono attorneys [back Biden's beleaguered court pick](#). Adeel Mangi.
- Congress to vote on [repealing a rule](#) that would save Americans \$1.5 billion a year on heating. The rule would raise the efficiency standards on natural gas furnaces, and builders are fighting back.
- Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) [unveils bill](#) to boost Justice Department's power to hold police accountable.
- Schumer plans [Senate vote on birth control protections](#) next month.
- Senate [Democrats urge the DOJ to rescind](#) Trump-era legal memo on executions.
- [Republicans unite to block border bill again](#). They were joined by Sens. Corey Booker (D-NJ) and Alex Padilla (D-CA). Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) was the only Republican to vote for the bill.
- Congress and campaigns [engage in tug-of-war](#) over gas prices as summer travel begins.
- U.S. Senate Democrats [tie state abortion bans](#) to fewer beginning physicians.
- As Memorial Day arrives, Sen. Patty Murray (D) and Thom Tillis (R) [unveiled a bill](#) to assist Purple Heart recipients.

• House

- Republicans [plan new criminal investigation](#) into Hunter Biden.
- James Comer (R-KY) and Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA) are [introducing a presidential ethics bill](#) that would require the president and vice president to disclose tax returns for two years preceding office, any foreign payments received, family members accompanying them on official travel and conflicts of interest.
- In a speech on the House floor, Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) said "a candidate for President of the United States is on trial for sending a hush money payment to a porn star to avoid a sex scandal during his 2016 campaign," and [got punished for it](#).
- [Less than 1% of bills](#) introduced this Congress have become law.

In the Courts

• Supreme Court

- No decision on Trump immunity claim.

- Alito
 - ["Why Was Alito Flying the Flag Upside Down After January 6?"](#) by Adam Sewer at The Atlantic.
 - The far-right, white nationalist "Appeal to Heaven" flag [was flown outside Alito's beach house](#). Also, the Supreme Court has known about the upside-down flag flown at Alito's Washington, D.C. home for months. And, remote learning was in effect in January 2021, so kids were NOT at the bus stop and did not see the oh-so-offensive "Fuck Trump" sign in a neighbor's yard.
 - Alito [sold Bud Light stock](#) and bought Coors stock during the boycott sparked by Anheuser-Busch's use of a transgender woman in an advertisement.
- Lower Federal Courts
 - [Judge's error scrambles](#) case against Paul Pelosi attacker. (She forgot to give DePape an opportunity to address the court before sentencing him.)
 - Norfolk Southern [agreed to pay \\$310 million to settle a lawsuit](#) filed by the U.S. Department of Justice over the train derailment disaster in East Palestine that spilled hazardous chemicals into nearby creeks and waterways.

In the States

- Understanding the [women who get abortions later in pregnancy](#).
- The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season will be 'extraordinary,' [forecasters warn](#).
- **In Alabama**
 - [Child workers](#) found on poultry company's kill floor *again* despite teen's death.
- **In Florida**
 - A federal judge has [blocked a key part](#) of DeSantis anti-immigration law.
- **In South Dakota**
 - Gov. Kristi Noem is [banned](#) from entering 20% of her state.
- **In Texas**
 - [Uvalde police chief resigns](#) as city settles with parents of shooting victims. Parents have filed a new lawsuit against Texas state troopers.
- **In Virginia**
 - Gov. Youngkin (R) [vetoed a bill](#) guaranteeing access to birth control.
- **In Washington**
 - With June 1 rent increases looming, [mobile home residents face uncertain future](#).
 - Lawsuit [seeks to block](#) Washington 'parental rights' initiative.
 - Health clinic [opens in vacant wing](#) of Kitsap's juvenile detention center.
 - A Kitsap Sun editorial: [Pining for the days when society had ethics](#).
 - Inslee [rejected a recommendation](#) to shrink the size of a massive wind farm; he told a state panel it went too far downsizing the project.
 - House lawmaker Michelle Caldier (R-Bremerton) accused of bullying [must complete 'remedial' workplace conduct training](#).
 - Why [no one knows](#) exactly how much old-growth forest we have left.

- [Keeping PFAS 'forever chemicals' out of the water](#) won't be cheap.
- [Capital gains tax receipts](#) in Washington tumble.
- Utility serving San Juan Islands [proposes to harness tidal power](#)

In the World

• Israel/Hamas War

- Norway, Ireland And Spain say they are [recognizing a Palestinian state](#) in a historic move.
 - The [impact of recognizing a Palestinian state](#).
- **In Israel**
 - Families of kidnapped Israeli women [released](#) a chilling hostage video.
 - ICJ [orders](#) Israel to stop Rafah offensive at South Africa's request.
 - [No sign Israel will change course](#) after Gaza ruling
 - Israel [tells negotiators](#) to continue hostage talks.
 - Two thousand aid trucks [stuck at Rafah border](#), aid group warns
- **In Gaza**
 - [Aid starts to flow](#) into Gaza through military pier after days of delays.

• Ukraine/Russia War - Day 819

- U.N. [halts all food distribution](#) in Rafah due to lack of supplies.
- Putin wants [Ukraine ceasefire](#) on current frontlines.
- Russia steps up attacks on Ukraine's east, while Ukrainian defenders [hold the line and strike back](#) at Russian ports, airfields and refineries.
- Nearly 11,000 people have been [forced to leave their homes](#) in the Kharkiv region since Russian forces began a cross-border ground offensive there on May 10.
- EU [seizes Russian profits](#) for Ukraine.

Indivisible Bainbridge Island

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