



# Indivisible Bainbridge Island Newsletter

June 29, 2024

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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This newsletter is prepared weekly by [Holly](#) and [Kathy](#).  
Past newsletters are archived [here](#).

## On the Calendar

- July 11, DJT to be sentenced
- July 12, 1:30 pm, Zoom, [Politics with David Harrison](#)
- July 12, last day to buy postcard stamps at .53 cents per stamp
- July 14, 1 pm to 3 pm, Meet Brynn Felix in Poulsbo. [Email](#) for the location.
- July 14, 5 pm, LD 23 Democratic candidate forum. Details to come.
- July 20, Kitsap Pride at Kitsap County Fairgrounds.
- August 6, Primary Day, ballots in the mail [July 19](#). Online and mail registrations must be made by July 29. In-person registration available through August 6.

## In This Newsletter

- **Understanding One of This Week's Stories** - The Debate
- **Do Something** – Take our poll!
- **Holding Trump Accountable** – Still waiting on SCOTUS
- **Elections** – New York and Colorado primary results

- **President Biden and His Administration** – Gun violence is a public health crisis
- **In Congress** – Working at home
- **In the Courts** – SCOTUS cranks out several awful decisions
- **In the States** – COVID surge in Washington
- **In the World** – War and war
- [Daily Actions](#) - Tell our members of Congress what you think! We have topics for June.

### Understanding One of This Week's Big Stories - The Debate

While President Biden got off to a slow start at the debate, was sometimes incoherent and too softspoken to be heard, Trump lied throughout. Here are a few of the biggest lies:

- Trump: Biden “wants to raise your taxes by four times... He wants the Trump tax cuts to expire.”
  - Half lie. President Biden *does* want the Trump tax cuts to expire. They added [\\$2.5 trillion to the national debt](#). If they expire, the top 1% of earners would see an [increase in taxation of 9.7%](#). In the debate. Biden stuck by his pledge not to raise taxes on households making \$400,000 or less.
- Trump: Biden is “destroying” Social Security by letting millions of people into the country. Trump also claimed that immigrants are getting Medicare and Medicaid.
  - Lie:
    - Social Security: “Undocumented workers are not eligible for Social Security benefits, period,” said Max Richtman, president and CEO of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. Documented immigrants are helping to save Social Security by increasing the number of workers who pay into it. Undocumented workers are saving Social Security by paying into it under a fake SSN but are unable to receive benefits. *Source:* [CNBC.com](#)
    - Medicare: Only immigrants who get permanent residency (aka a green card), are eligible for Medicare if they are 65, have paid into Medicare for at least 10 quarters and have lived in the U.S. for at least five years. *Source:* [SelectQuote.com](#)
    - Medicaid: “Undocumented immigrants are [ineligible to enroll in Medicaid or CHIP](#) or to purchase coverage through the ACA Marketplaces.” However, some states, at their own discretion, [offer](#) emergency services or services to pregnant people under Medicaid.
- Trump: “He decided to open up our border, open up our country.”
  - Lie. The border is not open. Under Biden, the federal government has added more sections of the U.S. Southern border walls, and there have been more military operations at the border. Expedited removals have been increased. *Source:* [NPR.org](#) Under Trump, illegal border crossings peaked at 4,300/day under Trump in 2019. Since Biden restricted the right for those crossing the border to claim

asylum, daily illegal border crossings have averaged roughly 2,000. That's a 47% decrease from May's average of 3,800/day. Source: [BBC.com](https://www.bbc.com)

- Trump: "He can take the life of the baby in the ninth month and even after birth" and added "he's willing to, as we say, rip the baby out of the womb in the ninth month and kill the baby."
  - Lie. Killing a newborn is illegal in every US state. Biden said he stands with Roe v. Wade. That means "During the second trimester, the state may regulate abortion only to protect the health of the woman. During the third trimester, the state may regulate or prohibit abortion to promote the interest of the fetus, except when it is necessary to preserve the woman's life or health." Less than 1% of abortions in the US happen from 21 weeks onwards. And 93.5% of abortions happen in the first trimester, so before 13 weeks. Source: [BBC.com](https://www.bbc.com)
- Trump: "He's got the largest deficit in the history of our country."
  - Lie. According to [data from the US Treasury](#), the deficit peaked while Trump was in the White House at \$3.13 trillion. Under Biden in 2023, it had declined to \$1.7 trillion but is likely to increase to \$1.9 trillion in 2024. Source: [BBC.com](https://www.bbc.com)

[Watch](#) CNN's Daniel Dale fact-check Trump's lies a few minutes after the debate ended.

**What do we do now?** As [Gavin Newsom said](#) (starting at 12:00) after the debate, "worry less and do more. ... [Panic] is unhelpful and unnecessary. We've got to go in and keep our heads high. We've got to have the back of this president. You don't turn your back because of one performance. ... [President Biden's administration] has been a masterclass. 15.6 million jobs - that's 8 times the last 3 Republican presidents combined. The only thing the last three Republican presidents have in common is recession. Democrats deliver. This president has delivered. We need to deliver for him at this moment. ... [Discussions about Biden's performance are] unhelpful to our democracy. The fate and future of this country, the world. They need us right now to step up."

Sen. John Fetterman (D-PA) was more succinct: "[Chill the f--- out.](#)"

Agreed. If Republicans can still rally around a twice-impeached, 34-count convicted felon who lost the popular vote in two elections, paid off two women to keep them quiet and faces 54 more felony counts, Democrats should be able calm down and carry on after a bad debate performance.

### **Do Something!**

- [Take the ongoing 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?
- In the unlikely event the orange guy wins, be ready to respond. Check out United to Protect Democracy's website, "[The Authoritarian Playbook for 2025.](#)"
- Want to learn more about how to help important campaigns in other states? Check the web site put together by the Pod Save America team: [Vote Save America Organize Or](#)

[Else](#). They'll email stuff to you.

- **Phone bank**
  - [Call CA Voters in Support of Dave Min, Will Rollins and Derek Tran](#) to Take Back the House! (CA 41, 47 and 48), Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Hosted by Activate America.
  - [Call Arizona Voters in Support of Ruben Gallego](#), Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Helping voters sign up for mail-in ballots. Hosted by Activate America.
  - Text bank
    - [Learn how Activate America's text banking works](#).
    - [Sign up for text banking](#) to be 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've finished our list for Sen. Sherrod Brown in Ohio and will be working on a list for Rudy Salas in California next. Of the two California candidates who ran in 2022 but lost, Rudy's loss was the closest at 48.5% to 51.5%.
  - **Can't make it to POW?** Click [here](#) for how to write postcards anyway.
  - **Can't write but want to help?** Many of our postcard writers provide their own stamps, but we can always use donations. We raised \$1,100 with our May 25 yard sale. (*Thank you to everyone who donated items!*) That's about 1/3rd of what we'll need to keep mailing an estimated 5,000 postcards through the November election, so any donations are welcome! Remember that the price of a postcard stamp goes from 53 cents to 56 cents on July 14.
  - Save the date! We're doing another yard sale on Aug. 24! Save your donatable items for the sale!
- Write for [Vote Forward](#). They have campaigns in Arizona, California, Georgia, Michigan, Montana, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New York, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Nevada.

## Holding Trump Accountable

Follow these cases at [LawFareMedia.org](#)

- **Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg's Felony Election Interference Case;** Judge Juan Merchan presiding.
  - Judge Merchan loosened his gag order Tuesday. Trump [can now talk about people who testified in this trial](#).
- **Special Counsel Jack Smith's Jan. 6 case;** Judge Tanya Chutkan presiding and currently suspended by SCOTUS.
  - Still waiting for the immunity decision. It's expected to drop Monday July 1.
  - SCOTUS's decision in Fischer v. United States should not affect this case, at least according to attorney Michael Popok. He says that the majority opinion in Fischer v. United States specifically says creating false documents (such as the fake elector certificates) *does* qualify under the obstruction of an official proceeding in Section

18 USC Section 1512(c). Therefore, the two obstruction counts against Trump in this case should withstand Trump lawyers' attempts to get them dropped, but all of that means more delay. [Watch](#) attorney Michael Popok discuss.

- **Special Counsel Jack Smith's Documents Case;** Judge Aileen Cannon presiding, no trial date set.
  - Cannon [dressed down a frustrated prosecutor](#) when he argued in favor of changing Trump's terms of release to prevent him lying about the FBI agents who conducted a lawful, court-ordered search: 'I don't appreciate your tone.'
    - Right-wing podcaster [files bizarre claim](#) to Judge Cannon in effort to stop Trump gag order.
    - Cannon [denied](#) Trump adviser Stephen Miller and America First Legal's request to challenge a potential federal gag order against the ex-president in his Mar-a-Lago classified documents case.
  - Judge Cannon held a hearing on Trump's motion to dismiss evidence obtained when Washington DC Judge Beryl Howell ruled that the attorney-client privilege between Trump and his attorney Evan Corcoran could be pierced based on the crime-fraud exception. Trump wanted an evidentiary hearing, which Cannon denied. But she allowed Trump to continue gathering evidence on the subject. [Watch](#) attorney Ben Meiselas discuss.
  - Shocking new photos [reveal chaotic storage of classified documents](#) at Mar-a-Lago.
  - In newly unsealed notes taken by Corcoran, [Trump expressed concern](#) that returning classified docs after subpoena could result in criminal charges.
- **DA Fani Willis Election Interference RICO Case;** Judge Scott McAfee presiding; no trial date set.
  - Misty Hampton, the former Georgia elections supervisor, who was charged as part of a broader investigation with trying to overturn the 2020 presidential election results in Georgia, [has had her case paused](#).
- **Other Trump News**
  - Trump Media & Technology Group's (DJT) [closed at \\$32.75](#), up from last Friday's close at \$27.66.
- **Enablers**
  - Steve Bannon's last ditch efforts to avoid jail for ignoring a congressional subpoena [have failed](#). He's due to report a minimum security prison in Connecticut on July 1 to serve his four month sentence.
- **"Tourists"**
  - Former 'Bob's Burgers' voice artist Jay Johnston [expected to take Jan. 6 guilty plea](#).
  - A man convicted for his role in the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol [will face monitoring again](#) following a decision from a federal judge.
  - SCOTUS's ruling in Fischer v. United States means that the obstruction of an official proceeding charges under Section 18 USC Section 1512(c) against ~300 rioters will have to be dropped. The DC trial court will have to review the cases of

every rioter charged under Section 18 USC Section 1512(c). Those whose only charge was obstruction will be let go and their sentences expunged. Those who had additional counts against them will have their sentences reviewed and adjusted. [Watch](#) attorney Michael Popok discuss.

## Elections

### • President Biden

- Biden [addresses poor debate performance](#), attacks Trump at Raleigh rally. Defiant Biden [admits](#) he got 'knocked down' by Trump. ""Folks, I don't walk as easy as I used to. I don't speak as smoothly as I used to. I don't debate as well as I used to, but ... I know how to tell the truth. I know right from wrong, and I know how to do this job," he told the roaring crowd. "I know, like millions of Americans know, when you get knocked down, you get back up."

### • Trump

- [CEOs at the Business Roundtable on June 14](#): Trump meeting: Ex-president 'meandering' and 'doesn't know what he's talking about.'
  - "[I Know What America's Leading C.E.O.s Really Think of Donald Trump](#)," posted at the NY Times, but behind a paywall.
  - "There are zero [Fortune 100 CEOs](#) — a group that historically leans Republican — that have donated to former [President Trump](#) this election cycle," according to [data compiled by Yale's Jeffrey Sonnenfeld](#).
- All of Trump's recent major campaign visits have included promoting other felons. In Philadelphia, Trump visited a cheesesteak shop owned by Anthony Lucidonio and his son, [both currently serving time for tax evasion](#). In the Bronx, Trump brought on stage Sleepy Hallow and Sheff G (indicted on murder and attempted murder charges). In New Jersey, he brought on stage [Lawrence Taylor](#), a registered sex offender. [Watch](#) attorney Ben Meiselas discuss.

### • Tuesday's election results

- [Colorado's primary results](#)
  - Jeff Hurd (R) will face Adam Frisch (D) in CO-3. Frisch nearly beat Boebert in 2022. No word on how crazy [Hurd](#) might be.
  - Sadly, Lauren Boebert (R) won her primary in her new district, CO-4 (formerly held by Ken Buck(R)) with 43.55% of the vote. She was endorsed by Trump. If three of the four other GOP candidates had the good sense to drop out, Boebert might have been defeated. The Democratic nominee, Trisha Eloise Calvares, has little chance of winning in this deeply red district.
  - Jeff Crank (R) won his primary for CO-5 with 67.9% of the vote. He's been waiting in the wings for his chance since Joel Hefley (R) retired in 2008 and the odious Doug Lamborn (R) grabbed the spot. Crank spent the in-between years at the [Koch-backed Americans for Prosperity](#). State GOP Party Chair,

Dave Williams, was endorsed by Trump and lost, and now the [GOP-ers are trying to get rid of him](#). The Democratic candidate, River Gassen, has little chance of winning in this deeply red district.

- [Utah's primary results](#)
  - John Curtis (R) seems to be the GOP nominee for the U.S. Senate seat left vacant by the retiring Mitt Romney (R). Curtis claims to be a moderate. He [defeated the Trump-backed Trent Staggs](#).
- [New York's primary results](#)
  - John Avlon (D) won his primary in NY-1. He aims to flip this seat currently held by Nick LaLota (R).
  - George Latimer (D) won his primary for NY-16, unseating Jamaal Bowman (D), thanks to millions of dollars spent by AIPAC.
  - State Sen. John Mannion (D) won his primary for NY-22, currently held by first-termer Brandon Williams (R), regarded as one of the most vulnerable Republican seats in the country.
  - Rep. Alexandra Ocasio Cortez (D) won her primary with 82.1% of the vote.
- American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) is the [biggest source of GOP donations](#) in Democratic primaries.
  - In 2022, AIPAC backed over 100 racist, white supremacist election deniers and extremist Republicans. Why? "They view [pro-peace progressive Democrats as threats](#)."

## President Biden and His Administration

- U.S. surgeon general declared [gun violence 'a public health crisis'](#).
- Federal judges in Kansas and Missouri on Monday [blocked the full implementation of a student-loan forgiveness program](#) proposed by the Biden administration that was set to launch July 1.
- Biden [pardoned U.S. veterans](#) convicted in gay-sex cases by military.
- Border arrests [fall more than 40 percent](#) after Biden's new asylum restrictions.
- Wikileaks founder Julian Assange walks out of court [a free man](#).
- DOJ
  - Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) has [filed a criminal bribery complaint](#) urging the DOJ to investigate former President Trump's solicitation of campaign donations from fossil fuel executives.

## In Congress

- **Senate** - [Back in session](#) Sept.9



- **House** - [Back in session](#) July 8.
  - Passed [H.R. 8774](#), making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 198 nays.
  - Passed [H.R.8752](#), Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2025.
  - Passed [H.R.8771](#) - Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2025
  - District work days - not re-convening until July 8.

## In the Courts

- **Supreme Court**
  - Why Justice Sotomayor's rare reference to Dobbs may be [a warning from liberals](#). She made this warning in her dissent of the decision announced last week in the case of a U.S. citizen's inability to get a visa for her Salvadoran husband.
  - In *Moore v United States*, issued last week, Clarence Thomas [signaled his intent](#) to blow up the entire federal tax code.
  - **On Wednesday, SCOTUS**
    - Ruled that a federal anti-bribery law does not make it a crime for state and local officials to accept a gratuity for acts that they have already taken. By sheer coincidence, this ruling concerns the sort of generous 'gifts' and 'gratuities' [justices have been known to accept](#).
    - Justices [side with Biden](#) over government's influence on social media content moderation.
  - **On Thursday, SCOTUS**
    - Overturned a [Purdue Pharma bankruptcy plan](#) that would have provided billions of dollars to help address the nation's opioid crisis in exchange for protecting the family that owns the company from future lawsuits.
    - Ruled against in-house Securities and Exchange Commission tribunals. The tribunals were a [critical enforcement tool](#) in fraud cases.
    - Blocked an Environmental Protection Agency air-quality initiative while appeals continue. What it means to [block enforcement](#) of the EPA's 'good neighbor' pollution rule.
    - Allowed emergency abortions in Idaho while that the case brought by the DOJ makes its way through the courts. The federal law, called the [Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act](#), or EMTALA, requires doctors to stabilize or treat any patient who shows up at an emergency room. Idaho's strict abortion ban when into effect in January. Since then, hospitals have refused to treat six women who were airlifted out to other states in order to save their lives. This decision was leaked/inadvertently posted a day early.
  - **On Friday, SCOTUS**



- [Rejected](#) bid by former Trump aide Steve Bannon to avoid jail in contempt case.
- [Overturned homeless rights](#). Advocates warn the decision frees states and cities to effectively ban homeless people.
- [Ruled in favor](#) of Jan. 6 rioters in obstruction case. [Watch](#) attorney Ben Meiselas discuss how this decision may impact Jack Smith's Jan. 6 case.
  - Barret [breaks with conservatives](#) over Jan. 6 obstruction charge ruling.
- Supreme Court [struck down Chevron](#), curtailing power of federal agencies.
  - "The justices just shackled Biden and every future president — and [created new messes for Congress to solve](#)."
  - Supreme Court [shifts power over federal regulations](#) from agencies to judges.
- **In Lower Federal Courts**
  - Prosecutors in Bob Menendez bribery trial may have [rested their case this week](#).
  - On June 14, a federal bankruptcy court judge in Texas [ordered the liquidation of conspiracy theorist Alex Jones' personal assets](#) but dismissed his company's separate bankruptcy case, leaving the immediate future of his Infowars media platform uncertain. Jones owes \$1.5 billion for his false claims that the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting was a hoax.
    - On Thursday, the federal bankruptcy court judge [stopped parents' effort to collect the \\$50 million Alex Jones owes](#) for saying Newtown shooting was hoax.

## In the States

- "How 3M discovered, then concealed, the [dangers of forever chemicals](#)."
- **In Alabama**
  - Black Alabama mayor [reinstated](#) after nearly four-year battle.
- **In Arizona**
  - False and misleading claims: Kari Lake and Mark Finchem [lost in court](#).
- **In Iowa**
  - On Friday, Iowa's Supreme Court [ruled in favor](#) of allowing the state's six-week ban to take effect.
- **In Texas**
  - Former Uvalde school police chief Pete Arredondo and former school police officer Adrian Gonzales [have been indicted](#) in the first ever criminal charges for their failed response to the 2022 mass shooting at Uvalde's Robb Elementary school
- In Washington:
  - Amid Washington [COVID summer surge](#), booster rates are low. Public health officials are calling on the public to get vaccinated and wear a mask in crowded

spaces.

- State revenues tumble nearly \$500 million but the shortfall is manageable [unless voters repeal](#) the capital gains tax this fall.
- WA's [gap between rent and wages](#) among widest in U.S.
- WA transportation projects [score nearly \\$90M in federal grants](#).
- Health care company [sues WA over ban on at-home sexual assault evidence kits](#). They were banned because they aren't admissible in court.
- As salmon season kicks off, some Alaska fishermen [fear for their futures](#).
- Washington [gas prices fell](#) from last week.

## In the World

### • Israel/Hamas War

- Pentagon is once again [removing the Gaza pier](#).
- Gaza's Health Ministry says [40 Palestinians were killed](#) and 224 wounded in the latest 24-hour reporting period.
- Israeli forces [targeted a water distribution point](#) in Gaza City.
- Hezbollah's plans, Israel's threats –[is either side ready for war?](#)
- Survivors of Israel music festival massacre [unite to build](#) a healing community.
- Gaza families describe [fleeing Rafah under Israeli fire](#).

### • Ukraine/Russia

- Putin's Kharkiv push fails to materialise as Ukraine begins retaking ground. [Watch](#) Maj. Gen. Rupert Jones discuss on Times Radio.
- Ukraine is giving the West a tactical 'masterclass.' [Watch](#) Phillip Ingram discuss on Times Radio.
- Putin's losses continue to rise as 'noose tightens' on his regime from sanctions. [Watch on Times Radio](#)
- Russia [pins Dagestan attack on Ukraine](#), ignoring religious tensions.
- Russia [blames US](#) for Crimea deaths and vows response.
- A year after mutiny, Kremlin [controls Wagner remnants](#) .

## 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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