



Indivisible Bainbridge Island Newsletter

July 12, 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 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](#) Carollynn for the location.
- July 16, 6:30 pm, [League of Women Voters Candidate Forum](#) for County Commissioner District 2, Jeff Coughlin (D), Sean Murphy (R), Matt Macklin (D), Oran Root (R), Stacey (Spencer) Smith (D), Paul Nuchims (?)
- July 18, 6:30 pm, [League of Women Voters Candidate Forum](#) for LD 23 State Senator, Lance Byrd (R), Drew Hansen (D), Ace Haynes (R)
- July 18, 5 pm, Activate America webinar with Derek Tran. RSVP [here](#).
- July 20, [Kitsap Pride at Kitsap County Fairgrounds](#). Kick-off party July 19.
- 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.

III THIS NEWSLETTER

- **Understanding One of This Week's Big Stories - Eight Neurologist Visits**
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- **Holding Trump Accountable** – What the 25-day rule means
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- **President Biden and His Administration** – **75 years of NATO celebrated at the summit**
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- **In the States** – Buying bullets from vending machines
- **In the World** – War and war
- [Monthly Actions](#) - Tell our members of Congress what you think! We have topics for July.

Understanding One of This Week's Big Stories - Eight Neurologist Visits

On Monday, the *New York Times* added to its list of [over 200 anti-Biden stories](#) since the debate by publishing a story implying that President Biden has Parkinson's: "[Parkinson's Expert Visited the White House Eight Times in Eight Months.](#)"

The White House press corps (particularly CBS News' Ed O'Keefe) attacked White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre for not answering their questions when in fact White House policy prevented her from confirming that the neurologist named in the NYT hit-piece was Dr. Kevin Cannard.

Later that day, White House physician Dr. Kevin O'Connor [released a letter](#) in which he confirmed that the doctor in question was indeed Dr. Kevin Cannard.

Dr. O'Connor confirmed what Jean-Pierre had said: that Dr. O'Conner had seen President Biden three times in three years for his annual physical. The most recent annual physical was on Jan. 17. The results of this physical were [released on Feb. 28.](#)

The authors of the *New York Times* article (Peter Baker and Emily Baumgaertner) used [White House visitor logs](#) (which are public under Biden but secret under Trump) that provide the name of the visitor but not the purpose of the visit.

But they were too lazy to check President Biden's public travel log. Had they done so, they would have learned that President Biden was not in Washington D.C. on five of the eight days that Dr. Cannard visited the White House.



The authors updated their hit-piece after Dr. O'Connor released his letter. They accused Dr. O'Connor of lying about Dr. Cannard's White House visits:

"Instead, Dr. O'Connor *implied* that most of Dr. Cannard's visits were related to treating other people who work at the White House. 'Prior to the pandemic, and following its end, he has held regular neurology clinics at the White House Medical Clinic in support of the thousands of active-duty members assigned in support of White House operations,' Dr. O'Connor wrote." (Italics mine.)

Nearly two weeks ago, the New York Times editorial board [called on President Biden to step aside](#).

This week, the board finally got around to Trump, writing that [Trump is 'unfit to lead.'](#) They didn't call on Trump to "step aside." They called on voters to defeat him regardless of who his opponent might be. For once, we agree. [Read Politico's summary](#).

Do Something!

- Check the [League of Women Voters web site](#) for replays of the candidate forums.
 - The LD 23 representative position 2 forum was held last night. Brynn Felix (D), John Gibbons (D) and Greg Nance (D) participated; Jamie Miles (R) did not. A [link to the video](#) should be available within a few days.
 - The for **6th District Congressional** was conducted by Tacoma/Pierce LVW on July 10. A [link to the video](#) should be available within a few days. It presumably includes State Senator Emily Randall (D), Public Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz (D), Janis Clark (R), J. Graham Ralston (I) and current state senator Drew MacEwen (R) (who voted *against* a [law that created civil penalties for "stealthing."](#))

- [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?
- [Sign the MoveOn.org petition](#) urging the NY legislature to rename the Donald J. Trump State Park.
- SCOTUS
 - Call our senators and demand hearings on the corruption at the Supreme Court. Murray: [\(206\) 553-5545](#) (Seattle office), Cantwell: [\(206\) 220-6400](#) (Seattle). Call Sen. Dick Durban's office (he's chair of the Judiciary Committee): [202-224-2152](#). Here are some Illinois ZIP codes if needed: 60106 (Bensenville), 60131 (Franklin Park), 60611 (Chicago).
 - [Sign the Common Cause petition](#) to Congress demanding a REAL ethics code of conduct for the Supreme Court.
 - [Sign the Progressive Turnout Project's petition](#) calling on Alito to resign.
 - [Sign the League of Conservation Voters' petition](#) calling on Congress to pass the Judiciary Act to expand and rebalance the Supreme Court.
- \$\$\$\$ Maintain the Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate. If you can afford to donate, donate to these Democrats (they need the money *now*):
 - [Debbie Mucarsel-Powell](#) (D) to flip Rick Scott's (R) U.S. Senate seat.
 - [Colin Allred](#) (D) to flip Ted Cruz's (R) U.S. Senate seat.
 - [Angela Alsobrooks](#) (D) to retain the retiring Sen. Ben Cardin's Senate seat. She's up against Larry Hogan (R), Maryland's popular former Republican governor.
 - [Elissa Slotkin](#) (D) to retain the retiring Sen. Debbie Stabenow's (D) Senate seat.
 - [Lucas Kunce](#) (D) to flip Josh Hawley's (R) U.S. Senate seat. This is Kunce's second attempt, so he knows the ropes.
- **Phone bank**
 - Phone bank for Brynn Felix! [Email Jeff](#) for the next phone banking opportunity.
 - [Emergency SCOTUS response phonebank](#) to voters in Pennsylvania, sponsored by Indivisible.
 - [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 got a list in Spanish for Will Rollins running to flip a California CD and a list in English for Sen. Sherrod Brown (D).
 - **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. Reminder: July 13 is the last day to buy postcards stamps at the current rate of 53 cents each.

- Save the date! We've decided to do another yard sale on Aug. 24 so we can keep buying postcard stamps right through to General Election day. Please 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.
 - Good News! Trump's golf courses in New Jersey [were denied liquor license renewals](#) following his conviction on 34 felonies in New York. The golf courses have temporary licenses in the name of Don Jr. until Trump is actually sentenced.
 - Not having a liquor license will make these golf courses big money losers [according to attorney Michael Popok](#).
- **Special Counsel Jack Smith's Jan. 6 case;** Judge Tanya Chutkan presiding and currently suspended by SCOTUS.
 - The [25-day rule](#) means the earliest this case can be returned to Judge Chutkan is Aug. 2, a Friday or Monday Aug. 5.
 - The SCOTUS immunity decision gives Trump the right to interlocutory appeals, so any effort to get evidence into a "mini-trial" will be appealed. [Watch](#) Harry Litman discuss.
- **Special Counsel Jack Smith's Documents Case;** Judge Aileen Cannon presiding, no trial date set.
 - Judge Cannon [denied Trump aide Walt Nauta's motion](#) to dismiss his indictment.
- **DA Fani Willis Election Interference RICO Case;** Judge Scott McAfee presiding; no trial date set.
 - No news.
- **Other Trump News**
 - On Thursday, Putin's top European Union ally, Viktor Orban, [met with Trump](#) at Mar-a-Lago after Orban's NATO meeting in Washington, D.C.
 - On Friday, Trump Media & Technology Group's (DJT) was [trading at \\$31.15](#) up from last Friday's close at \$29.17.
- **"Tourists"**
 - Former Oath Keepers attorney and girlfriend of convicted Jan. 6 seditionist [to plead guilty](#).
- **Enablers**

- Judge says Rudy Giuliani's bankruptcy case is [likely to be dismissed](#). Giuliani has refused to comply with the bankruptcy process and has yet to pay a penny of the \$148M he owes Shay Moss and Ruby Freeman. If the case is dismissed, Moss and Freeman will be able to go after Giuliani's assets.

Elections

- President Biden
 - [Watch](#) President Biden's hour-long press conference. He mixed up two names but otherwise handled tough questions masterfully.
 - Biden to be [interviewed by NBC's Lester Holt](#) on Monday.
 - [Watch](#) President Biden's extemporaneous comments to the AFL-CIO this week.
 - [Watch](#) this interview with Yale historian Timothy Snyder.
- Trump
 - *The New York Times* editorial board [calls Trump 'unfit to lead.'](#)
 - Sixteen Nobel Prize-winning economists [warn a second Trump term would 'reignite' inflation.](#)
 - RNC convention [starts on Monday](#). They've released their "moderate" Trump-centric platform. Read it [here](#). Read an opinion of it [here](#).
 - From ProPublica: [How a militant anti-abortion activist is influencing GOP politics.](#)
 - This week, the ACLU [unveiled its plan](#) to fight potential free speech abuses if Trump is re-elected.
 - Ivan Raiklin, a retired Army Reserve lieutenant colonel and former U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency employee, who bills himself as the former and would-be president's "future secretary of retribution," has a [list of 350 Trump political enemies he wants to target](#). Raiklin wants "[constitutional](#)" sheriffs in rural, conservative counties across the country to detain Trump's political enemies. Or, as he says, carry out "live-streamed swatting raids" against individuals on his "Deep State target list."
 - Trump is trying to [distance himself from Project 2025](#) -- but its architects helped shape his RNC party platform.
 - Project 2025 contributor [makes ominous promise](#) to hackers.
 - Project 2025's plan for the DOJ and the Dept. of Education:
 - Refocus the Dept. of Justice, *source*: The ReidOut, MSBNC this week
 - Initiate legal action against local officials - including District Attorneys - who refuse to prosecute Trump's orders.
 - Vigorously prosecute "voter registration fraud" and "unlawful ballot correction."
 - Eliminate [existing consent decrees](#), often used to correct out-of-control police departments.
 - Enforce the criminal prohibitions against providers and distributors of abortion pills that use *any* delivery service.
 - Reorganize and refocus the Civil Rights Division.

- Enforce the death penalty.
 - Eliminate the Dept. of Education (*Source*: The ReidOut on MSNBC this week). Currently, the department provides [student loans](#) so young adults can attend college as well as [Pell grants](#) for low income college students; [grants to local school districts](#) to supplement funding from property taxes, [special education state grants](#) to help children with disabilities such as autism; and under Title 1, ensures equal access to education for every individual. Instead, under Project 2025, the federal government would
 - Block-grant federal taxpayer money to states, which will be free to give that money to private, often religious schools.
 - End Title IX enforcement. Title IX protects students from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities.
 - Enact a "parent bill of rights" ala Moms for Liberty
 - End federal funding of schools that teach about race, racism, gender and sexuality.
 - End administrator positions tasked with "diversity, equity and inclusion."
 - Restore "patriotic education" through reinstatement of the "[1776 Commission](#)," which was established under Trump to refute teachings on systemic racism, critical race theory, and deeper examinations of how slavery has affected American society.
 - Require that all public schools require that all of their high-school age students take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. That's the military entrance examination. This requirement would not apply to private schools.
 - More food, less regulation: Project 2025's [alarming vision for agriculture](#).
- **U.S. Senate**
 - Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)'s campaign [raised nearly \\$13M](#) in the second quarter.
 - The senator for Missouri, Josh Hawley (R), [loudly proclaimed](#) he's a Christian nationalist. Donate to his excellent Democratic opponent, [Lucas Kunce](#).
 - In Alabama, the state of Alabama had argued in a congressional redistricting case that only the federal government can bring suits under Section 2 of the Civil Rights Act. That is, that there is no private right of action under Section 2 of the Civil Rights Act. Today, a federal court refused to dismiss this case. [Watch](#) voting rights attorney Marc Elias discuss. This is Good News!
 - In **Arkansas**, abortion rights organizers vow to fight 'absurd' rejection of ballot measure that would have added abortion rights to the state's constitution. Arkansas Secretary of State John Thurston (R) [claimed](#) that organizers failed to provide the state with a list of all paid canvassers who worked to gather petition signatures for the ballot measure, along with other required materials.
 - In **Minnesota**, the [state legislature passed its own Voting Rights Act](#) to combat racial discrimination at the ballot box. It also expands polling places on campus, making it easier for students to vote, and allows voters to describe where they live in order to register to vote, benefiting those on Tribal lands and the unhoused. This is Good News!

- In Montana, organizers collected enough signatures to enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution. The GOP Secretary of State told county officials to change the rules and reject the signatures of inactive voters. A lawsuit filed today. [Watch](#) voting rights attorney Marc Elias discuss.
- In Nevada, the Washoe County Commission (Reno) with its 3-2 GOP majority voted against certifying two local recount election results. The Democratic Nevada AG said this is not acceptable and filed a case directly with the state's Supreme Court. This is important because the GOP strategy seems to be "gum up the process" to prevent state's election results from being certified, thereby upsetting the process by which a new Congress will be seated in 2025. [Watch](#) voting rights attorney Marc Elias discuss.
- In **Ohio**, enough signatures were gathered to put the [Citizens Not Politicians Amendment](#) on the ballot. If the initiative passes in November, Ohio will finally have the opportunity to undo years of Republican gerrymanders. This is Good News!
- In Utah in 2018, the voters passed Proposition 4 to ban partisan gerrymandering and require the use of an independent redistricting commission. The GOP repealed Proposition 4 and gerrymandered congressional maps. If Salt Lake City were districted fairly it would have a Democratic or at least be a swing district. The League of Women Voters and the Mormon Women for Ethical Government brought a lawsuit that was dismissed by a lower court. Today, the state's Supreme Court said the dismissal was wrong and sent it back to the lower court for trial. [Watch](#) voting rights attorney Marc Elias discuss. This is Good News!
- In Washington
 - Some staffers say Hilary Franz's DNR work [prioritized political gain](#). That's another reason to support Emily Randall in this election.
 - Six quotes to [sum up the second WA schools chief candidate](#) debate held Tuesday night.
 - Making WA's long-term care program optional (I-2124) [will create costs for state](#).
- In Wisconsin
 - The Court of Appeals upheld a ruling on what an address is. This is a big, big win for voting rights in Wisconsin because at stake was tens of thousands mail-in ballots. [Watch](#) voting rights attorney Marc Elias discuss. This is Good News!

President Biden and His Administration

- Good News! President Biden hosted the NATO Summit in Washington this week. NATO celebrated its 75th anniversary.
 - NATO leaders [move to 'Trump-proof' the alliance](#).
 - [NATO will take over substantial parts](#) of the various coordinating efforts for Ukraine aid from the U.S.
 - The United States and Germany [announced](#) on Wednesday they would [begin deploying](#) long-range fire capabilities in Germany in 2026, including SM-6, Tomahawk cruise missiles and hypersonic weapons with a longer range than current capabilities in Europe.

- Ukraine is on an ['irreversible' path to NATO](#). But only after war with Russia ends.
- Biden [announces \\$225 million weapons package](#) for Ukraine, including Patriot system.
- Faced with threats from Russia and its Asian supporters, [NATO and Indo-Pacific partners get closer](#).
- [Inflation slows](#), putting pre-election rate cuts firmly on the table.
- Thanks to President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, the [IRS collected over \\$1 billion](#) in past-due taxes from millionaires.
- U.S. and Canada [reach tentative deal](#) on 1960s Columbia River Treaty update to rebalance hydropower needs and address flood control and environmental concerns.

In Congress

- **Senate -**
 - Democrats on the Judiciary Committee found that Clarence Thomas [took free yacht, helicopter trips in Russia](#). They've asked the attorney general to investigate the "serious possibility of tax fraud." This is Good News!
 - In May, John Barrasso (R-WY) and 18 other Republicans introduced [S.4237 to eliminate the EV tax credit](#). Barrasso said the credit benefits the wealthy and therefore should be repealed.
 - Senate Republicans used the filibuster to [block](#) yet another reproductive rights bill. [S.4554](#) the Reproductive Freedom for Women Act, introduced by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA). It would have "expressed support for protecting access to reproductive health care after the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision on June 24, 2022." Forty-nine Democrats and Independents voted in favor. New Jersey senator Bob Menendez did not vote (he was attending his bribery trial), nor did Ed Markey (D-MA) and Kristen Sinema (I-AZ). Sen. Chuck Schumer voted against the bill in order to bring it up again at a later time.
- **House -**
 - AOC [filed articles of impeachment](#) against Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito. This is Good News!
 - GOP bill to fund legislative branch [fails on House floor](#). Democrats voted against it because it
 - House Republicans [voted to reverse new transgender student protections](#). The Senate is unlikely to take it up and Biden has said he will veto it.
 - The House [passed a redundant bill to ban noncitizens](#) from voting in federal elections. [Five Democrats voted in favor](#) of the bill. [H.R.828](#) also imposes voter roll purge requirements. "The bill prohibits states from registering an individual to vote in a federal election unless, at the time the individual applies to register to vote, the individual provides documentary proof of U.S. citizenship". President Biden has vowed to veto the bill in the unlikely event that the Senate takes it up and passes it.
 - Anna Paulina Luna's (R-FL) push to fine Garland \$10,000 per day over Biden-Hur tapes [failed](#).

- House Democrats [call for investigation](#) into federal funding of crisis pregnancy centers.

In the Courts

• Supreme Court

- Legal experts warn SCOTUS rulings [leave public vulnerable](#) to "horrible abuses" by big business.
- [Watch](#) Dahlia Lithwick, senior editor at Slate and much more, talk about this year's corrosive Supreme Court decisions.
- Senate Democrats ask AG Garland to name a special counsel to [investigate Clarence Thomas](#). This is Good News!
- A U.S. marshal who was parked near Justice Sonia Sotomayor's home shot a teenager suspected of trying to carjack him. [The right finds this "ironic."](#)
- Whoops! [How the climate movement can use the end of Chevron to close pollution loopholes](#). This is Good News!

• In Lower Federal Courts

- Former Democrat Bob Menendez's defense [ended its five-hour long closing argument](#) on Wednesday. Jurors were expected to begin deliberations by the end of this week.
- A federal judge in a Tennessee [ruled that a city can't fine a woman](#) for her profane yard sign.
- A [Trump-appointed federal judge in Alaska resigned Monday](#) after an investigation found that he had an inappropriate relationship with a law clerk and then lied about it, in addition to creating a hostile work environment that included graphic sexual remarks to colleagues. This is Good News!

In the States

- As reproductive rights are eroded, [abortion funds are running out of money](#).
- [Watch Robert Reich discuss Boeing](#). It's everything wrong with American capitalism.
- More states [enact salary transparency laws](#) to fight gender and racial pay gaps.
- In **California**
 - [Wildfires have burned five times the average area](#) so far this year.
- In **Colorado**
 - Emergency declared after [bird flu outbreak at egg facility](#).
 - Colorado health officials are [investigating a human case of bubonic plague](#) in Pueblo County. It's easily treatable with antibiotics, thanks to Science!
 - Colorado and Minnesota are [putting a fee on retail deliveries](#) in order to fund road maintenance.

- In **Texas, Oklahoma** and **Arkansas**, you can [buy bullets from vending machines](#).
- In **Washington**
 - Why Washington's [wolf count is under scrutiny](#).
 - Kitsap [launches youth opioid prevention program](#) using settlement money. This is Good News!
 - Some (but not Rep. Kilmer) [WA members of Congress weigh in](#) what President Biden should do.
 - Suquamish artist carving Chief Seattle–inspired pole [coming to Bainbridge waterfront](#).
 - Washington issues [burn ban on state lands](#).
 - Kitsap County finds families, friends of 7 people whose [remains were unclaimed](#).
 - WA [suspends intakes](#) at two youth detention centers due to overcrowding.
 - State grants will help [sustain behavioral health providers](#) in Kitsap County.
 - Union votes herald a [new era for workers](#) in Washington legislature.
 - Unemployment claims in Washington [increased](#) last week

In the World

- Out-of-control heat is making Earth more "weird" — and [more deadly](#).
-
- **Israel/Hamas War**
 - Civil Defence [recovers 60 bodies from Gaza City](#).
 - Biden says Israel was sometimes '[less than cooperative](#)' with the war against Hamas.
 - Israeli strike [kills 4 aid workers in Gaza 'safe zone'](#), UK-based group says.
 - Samantha Power, head of US aid agency, says [Israel has pledged to improve safety for humanitarian workers](#) in Gaza.
 - 'We have nothing': [Palestinians return to utter destruction](#) in Gaza City after Israeli withdrawal.
 - Israeli army [acknowledges Oct. 7 failures](#), including slow response and disorganization.
- **Ukraine/Russia**
 - UN says 'high likelihood' a [Russian cruise missile hit](#) Ukraine's main children's hospital.
 - Russian missile attack on Ukraine's largest hospital [complicates treatment of kids with cancer](#) .
 - US and Germany [foiled a Russian plot](#) to assassinate the CEO of an arms manufacturer that is sending weapons to Ukraine.
 - From Times Radio: [An interview with Bill Browder](#). 'Putin is scared' as Kremlin continues crackdown while losses increase in Ukraine.
 - Jailed Russian dissident Vladimir Kura-Murza has been [moved to prison hospital](#).

- Zelenskyy says to win the war, [US needs to lift limits](#) on striking military targets inside Russia.
- Russia [issues arrest warrant for Yulia Navalnaya](#), widow of Alexey Navalny, indicating that her efforts are threatening to Putin.

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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