



Indivisible Bainbridge Island Newsletter

Nov. 20, 2023

Guided by Indivisible's [Practical Guide to Defeating MAGA](#)

Help progressives win seats in state legislatures and Washington, D.C.

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Quote of the Week: "A second Trump term would be a watershed in a way the first was not. Victory would confirm his most destructive instincts about power. His plans would encounter less resistance. And because America will have voted him in while knowing the worst, its moral authority would decline. The election will be decided by tens of thousands of voters in just a handful of states. In 2024 the fate of the world will depend on their ballots." From an article in *The Economist* published yesterday entitled "[Donald Trump poses the biggest danger to the world in 2024.](#)"

On the Calendar

- Nov. 20, President Biden's birthday. [Send](#) him a birthday greeting via the DCCC.
- Nov. 22, 2 pm, [Postcards on Wednesday](#) **Cancelled**, resuming Nov. 29
- Nov. 26, 1 pm, Kiana Lodge, Remembering Sherry Appleton. [RSVP](#)
- Nov. 28, [Deadline for commenting](#) on proposed updates to the rules governing on-site sewage systems in Kitsap County. Sign up by Jan. 9 for the public hearing that will be held by Zoom on Jan. 10.
- Nov. 30, 5 pm, Zoom, Vote Forward's Data & Research call. Zoom link coming soon.
- Dec. 1, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm, Zoom, [Politics with David Harrison](#), hosted by the [Bainbridge Island Senior Center](#) (date to be confirmed)

In This Newsletter

- Holding Trump Accountable - Fani Willis disappoints
- Do Something - Support Pres. Biden's call to eliminate junk fees
- Elections - Emily Randall is running to represent CD-6
- President Biden and His Administration - Met with Xi
- In Congress - Mike Johnson believes a depraved' America deserves God's wrath
- In the Courts - The GOP thinks DePape is funny

- In the States - The Washington Post broke the journalist's rule
- In the World - Evangelical Christians support Israel because Christ is coming
- Daily Actions - Tell our members of Congress what you think

This newsletter is prepared weekly by Indivisible Bainbridge Island. Previous newsletters are archived [here](#).

- [Kathy](#) and [Holly](#)

Holding Trump Accountable (ordered by trial date)

Using the 14th Amendment to keep Trump off the ballot

•Colorado:

- Closing arguments were heard on Wednesday. On Friday, the judge found that Trump committed insurrection but also found that the oath of office taken by U.S. senators and representatives is different from the oath taken by the president and that, therefore, the 14th amendment does not apply to the president. She also found that the president is not an officer. The plaintiffs have three days to appeal.

•Minnesota:

- Judge says Trump can't be kept off primary ballot but left the door open to a subsequent challenge should Trump be selected as the Republican nominee in the general election.

•Michigan:

- Michigan judge lets Trump stay on ballot; Free Speech for People vows to appeal.

NY Attorney General Letitia James' Case Against the Trump Organization; trial started Oct. 2.

- On Thursday, Trump's defense called real estate expert Steven Laposa. Under cross-examination on Friday Laposa appeared to contradict his own testimony from the previous day, which brought his testimony to a halt.
- Elise Stefanik (R-NY) stepped up for Trump:
 - While Trump and his lawyers were under Judge Engoron's gag order preventing them from commenting on Judge Engoron's principal law clerk, Stefanik issued a statement on Nov. 4 attacking the law clerk for being "far left," a major Democratic donor (she donated \$100) and biased. Note that Judge Engoron's law clerk is a female lawyer simply doing her job as proscribed by the State of New York - of which Stefanik and attorneys Alina Habba and Chris Kise are ignorant.
 - Stefanik referred Michael Cohen to AG Merrick Garland for perjury charges.
- An appeals court judge temporarily lifted the gag order that prevented Trump from attacking court staff while the order is under appeal. That Trump has sued Judge Engoron is part of this legal tangle. Stefanik claims an unearned victory. The gag order will be heard on Nov. 27.

- Trump posted a tirade against Judge Engoron and his law clerk hours after the gag order paused. Trump aide, Jason Miller, posted that Engoron's law clerk is a "Democratic Operative." ALL of this is to undermine the judicial system, a key step in the authoritarian playbook.
- Trump called for a "citizen's arrest" of New York Attorney General Letitia James and Judge Arthur Engoron.
- Trump has demanded a mistrial ruling in this case but on Friday his motion was denied by Judge Engoron as being 'utterly without merit.'

E. Jean Carroll's next defamation case; trial set for Jan. 15. (This is the first case she filed while Trump was still president. She filed a second case after he left office; that case has already been adjudicated.)

- No news.

Class Action Multi-level Marketing, Pyramid Scheme Case; trial date set for Jan. 29

- No news.

Jack Smith's Jan. 6 case; trial date set for March 4, 2024

- Earlier, Trump filed a motion to cut Jan. 6 insurrection language from the indictment in this case as "inflammatory." Today, Judge Chutkan denied that motion.
- A ripped-up note could give Jack Smith what he needs to prove Trump's Jan. 6 intent.
- **Gag Order**
 - A hearing will be held on Monday before a three-judge panel to decide the fate of Judge Chutkan's gag order.
 - In their filing, prosecutors urged the D.C. appeals court to reinstate the gag order.
 - Trump's final brief contains a new theory that as long as nobody dies or is injured based on his violent attacks on prosecutors and witnesses, he's free under the first amendment to do and say as he pleases. Watch attorney Michael Popok discuss.
 - Attorney General Brenna Bird (R-IA) and 18 other GOP state attorneys general, filed an amicus brief with the D.C., appeals court asking the court to strike the gag order.
- Trump tried to pull a fast one to get TV cameras in courtroom but Jack Smith fired back.

Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg's Falsified Business Records case; trial set for March 25, 2024

- **Refresher:** DA Bragg has indicted Trump with 34 felony counts falsifying business records related to the hush payment made to adult film actress Stormy Daniels. On Oct. 6, Trump filed a motion to get this case dismissed. In a court filing Thursday, DA Bragg opposed Trump's motion, saying Trump is seeking "special treatment" he does not deserve.

Jack Smith's Documents Case; trial set for May 20, 2024

- Judge Cannon's latest ruling will almost certainly delay the Mar-a-Lago trial past May.

DA Fani Willis Election Interference Case; trial date requested for Aug. 5, 2024

- This week, DA Willis asked for an Aug. 5, 2024 trial date and said her trial of Trump and the remaining co-defendants could go into 2025.
- This week, the attorney for Misty Hampton admitted to leaking the videos of the proffer sessions for Jenna Ellis, Sidney Powell and Robert Hall. Willis thinks the videos were released to intimidate

witnesses, or has Hampton's lawyer said for "transparency." Willis had already requested a protective order for evidence in this case, but Judge Scott McAfee had not acted on it. McAfee issued a protective order on Thursday.

- Ex-Trump allies detail efforts to overturn election in Georgia plea videos.

- In the Ellis video, she says that Dan Scavino (the former Trump golf caddy elevated by Trump to be deputy chief of staff of communications) told her "we are not leaving" and "the boss is not going to leave (the White House)."

According to former federal prosecutor Glenn Kirschner this is a knockout blow pertaining to Trump's state of mind and admissible evidence because of the word "we." Anyone saying Trump really believed he won the 2020 election would be hearsay and not admissible. To get that belief into evidence, Trump would have to testify himself and be subject to cross-examination on this and any other topic - something he is unlikely to ever do.

- After his hearing this Tuesday, co-defendant Harrison Floyd could be in jail.

Other Trump News

- The Economist says "Donald Trump poses the biggest danger to the world in 2024," and list all the reasons why.

- Why Trump's authoritarian language about 'vermin' matters.

- Nevada's attorney general has launched an investigation into Trump's false electors.

- New SEC disclosure shows that Trump's "Truth Social" has lost \$73 million in less than 2 years. Or make that \$60.5 million.

- Trump's eldest sister, Maryanne Trump Barry, died at age 86. She retired from the New Jersey federal appeals court to avoid an investigation into whether she violated judicial conduct rules by committing tax fraud to inflate the inheritance she received from Fred Trump's estate.

- 'Disoriented in a new way': Former federal prosecutor raises fresh worry about Trump.

Enablers

- Defamed Georgia poll workers want Giuliani to pay up to \$43M for telling election lies.

Do Something

- Thanks to Pres. Biden's call to eliminate junk fees, the Federal Trade Commission is now making a rule that could eliminate the use of junk fees industry wide. Use MoveOn.org's form to send your comment to let the FTC know: Junk fees have to go!

- In honor of "Red Cup" day (when Starbucks rolls out their annual holiday cups), use MoveOn.org's form to tell Starbucks managers to respect worker organizing!

- Sign the Daily Kos petition: Keep guns from domestic abusers

Elections

- GOP presidential primary**

- Tim Scott (R-SC) dropped out this week. Trump, Chris Christie, Nikki Haley, Vivek Ramaswamy and Ron DeSantis are left. Some unknowns are still in: Ryan Binkley, Doug Burgum and Asa Hutchinson.

- The Federal Election Commission sent Donald Trump's presidential campaign committee an 88-page list of contributions it says appear to exceed federal limits. The list includes 72 donors who "gave relatively small amounts so often — sometimes multiple donations on the same day — that they appear addicted to giving the former president their money."

- U.S. Senate**

- New Jersey's first lady, Tammy Murphy (D), announced she is primarying the indicted Robert Menendez for his U.S. Senate seat. Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ) is also primarying Menendez.

- U.S. House**

- Washington State Sen. Emily Randall (D) is running for Congress in CD-6. Hilary Franz is also running for this open seat now that Rep. Derek Kilmer has decided not to run for re-election.

- The Jan. 6 "QAnon Shaman" is running for Congress in Arizona as a libertarian.

- Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) is running for Virginia governor in 2025.

- Pro-Israel groups target US lawmakers critical of Israel's war ahead of primaries

- "Squad" members Jamaal Bowman (D-NY), Corie Bush (D-MO), Summer Lee (D-PA) and Ilhan Omar (D-MN) are already facing primary challengers in 2024, with American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) reportedly looking for similar challengers for Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) and Ayanna Pressley. Details Thomas Massie (R-KY) may also be targeted for his recent vote against military aid for Israel.

- AOC says AIPAC is an "extremist organization that destabilizes US democracy."

- Underreported Nov. 7 election result:** Trump's endorsed candidate for Pennsylvania's Bucks County Commission, Pamela Van Blunk as well as the other GOP-er in the race for a seat on the commission, lost on Nov. 7. The board controls drop box locations, governs the counting of in-person and mail ballots and certifies the vote. More info here.

- Former GOP congressman, Dave Reichert, is running against Democrat Bob Ferguson for Washington governor with a 2 point lead. Donate.

- How ID requirements harm marginalized communities and their right to vote.

- Redistricting for 2024**

- The Louisiana legislature has until January 15 to enact a new congressional map.

- The New York Court of Appeals heard arguments this week on a lawsuit to require fair maps that don't violate the state constitutional. Three of the seven justices seemed dug in against new maps, but there is a new justice giving the court a Democratic majority. A decision is expected in December. The state's independent, bipartisan redistricting commission would produce the new maps if ordered. This could be a 4 to 6 Democratic pick-up. Watch voting rights attorney Marc Elias discuss.

- Voting rights attorney Marc Elias is using lesser known portions of the Voting Rights Act to protect voters by filing new lawsuits in Wisconsin, North Carolina, Georgia and Washington state (!)

- Project 2025**

- Meet “put-more kids-in-cages” Mike Davis, one of 53,999 people Trump loyalists are vetting for a second Trump administration. Davis could be Trump’s next attorney general. Watch
- Trump would conduct sweeping raids, create concentration camps and conduct mass deportations if elected. NYTimes subscription required.

President Biden and the Administration

- Pres. Biden says 'real progress' was made on Chinese shipments of fentanyl into the US after meeting in San Francisco with China's Xi Jinping this week. Watch his 20 minute press conference.
- He also met with the president of Mexico, Andrés Manuel López Obrador to close out the APEC summit on Friday.
- Biden promises a better economic relationship with Asia, but he’s specifically avoiding a trade deal.
- White House blasts Elon Musk for promoting ‘Antisemitic and racist hate.’
- Right-wing figures - Elon Musk, Charlie Kirk, Tucker Carlson - go all in on Antisemitism.
- Pres. Biden signed the bill averting a government shutdown for now, with Israel and Ukraine aid still stalled.
- On Nov. 1, VP Kamala Harris attended UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s AI summit and urged the international community to focus on the ‘full spectrum’ of artificial intelligence risks, including bias and discrimination.
- Virtually nobody seems to recognize what Biden accomplished with his emergency child money ... and he might even be saddled with the blame for how it all ends.

The Administration

- Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers released Tuesday showed consumer prices rose 3.2% from October 2022 and were unchanged from last month. The annual inflation rate also was 0.5% lower than September's reading.
- Slowing US inflation boosts hopes the Fed is done with rate hikes.
- The FDA has recalled eye drops made by Kilitch Healthcare India and sold at CVS Health, Target, Rite Aid and other national retailers who said they would be removed from store shelves. Last month, U.S. health inspectors found factory workers not wearing masks, gloves and gowns and working barefoot in areas that are supposed to be sterile.
- The USDA released the Fifth U.S. National Climate Assessment on November 14. It finds that the U.S. is warming about 60% faster than the world as a whole. Since 1970 the lower 48 states are up by 2.5 degrees and Alaska is up 4.2 degrees compared with a global average of 1.7 degrees. The assessment

unequivocally blames the burning of coal and oil and gas for climate change. The Biden administration has invested \$6 billion to strength climate resilience.

- The FDA is proposing a ban on hair relaxers with formaldehyde due to cancer concerns.
- FCC adopts rules to eliminate 'digital discrimination' for communities with poor internet access.

In Congress

The Senate

- On Wednesday, the Senate passed the stopgap funding bill the House passed on Tuesday. The bill funds about 20 percent of the government—including the Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation and Veteran Affairs departments—through Jan. 19, and everything else through Feb. 2. It does not include aid to Ukraine or Israel.
- All nine Democrats on the Senate Rules Committee voted to change a rule for the duration of this Congress to prevent a lone senator like Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) from holding up military promotions - now numbering over 400. There are eight GOPers on the committee (Deb Fischer (NE), Mitch McConnell (KY), Roger Wicker (MS), Katie Britt (AL), Ted Cruz (TX), Cindy Hyde-Smith (MS), Shelley Moore Capito (WV), and Bill Hagerty (TN)). All the the GOP-ers present voted “no.” The measure requires 60 votes to pass, meaning at least nine Republicans would have to support it on the Senate floor.
- “Stand your butt up!” Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), a former MMA fighter, claimed he was acting in honor of his home state's "values" when he challenged Teamsters President Sean O'Brien to a brawl. Then Mullin defended caning, saying later that “you used to be able to cane,” a reference to the infamous 1856 caning of Senator Charles Sumner (R-MA), by House member Preston Brooks (D-SC) over Sumner's anti-slavery views. It took three years for Sumner to recover and he suffered debilitating pain the rest of his life. Brooks, of course, accused Sumner of faking the seriousness of his injuries.
- Tough border negotiations endanger Ukraine aid.

The House

- Ethics report shows that George Santos (R-NY) used campaign funds on OnlyFans and Botox injections.
 - Ethics Committee will not recommend punishment for embattled Rep. George Santos.
 - Santos says he will not run for re-election.
 - Today, chair of the House Ethics Committee, Michael Guest (R-MS), introduced a resolution to expel Santos from Congress was filed today. This will be the third attempt to expel Santos.
- Democrats proved once again they are the responsible party by helping Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) pass a two-tiered funding bill at 2023 levels by a vote of 336 to 95. Of the 95 who voted “no,” 93 were Republicans. Two Democrats also voted “no” because the bill did not include money for Ukraine.
 - The bill funds about 20 percent of the government—including the Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation and Veteran Affairs departments—through Jan. 19, and everything else through Feb. 2. It does not include aid to Ukraine or Israel.

- The far-right is holding back on Johnson ouster threat — but are plotting other payback.
- Having accomplished so much, the House GOP left two days early for their Thanksgiving recess.
- Before Johnson formulated his two-tier plan, here is what Democratic minority leader, Hakeem Jeffries said to make clear to Johnson the Democratic Party position. “To be clear, House Democrats are not going to pay a single right-wing ransom demand. We’ve not done it in the past, we’re not going to do it today, we’re not going to do it tomorrow, we’re not going to do it next week. It will never be done. The only way forward is to come together in bipartisan fashion in order to meet the needs of the American people. And if Republicans are unable to do that over the next few days, then the only approach is to pass a continuing resolution at the fiscal year 2023 levels. Period. Full stop.” Watch the full video here.
- This week, during a hearing of the House Homeland Security Committee, FBI Director Chris Wray (a Republican appointed by DJT) was the target of the ire of Clay Higgins (R-LA), who ranted that ‘ghost buses’ filled with FBI informants incited the insurrection on Jan. 6.
- Elbow Gate
 - Matt Gaetz (R-FL) filed an ethics complaint against Kevin McCarthy for allegedly elbowing Tim Burchette (R-TN) in the kidney. Burchette was one of eight GOP-ers that cost McCarthy the speakership.
 - In his recently released memoir, former GOP Rep. Adam Kinzinger says McCarthy “shoulder-checked” him twice.
- Speaker Mike Johnson**
 - Believes that a ‘depraved’ America deserves God’s wrath.’
 - Says he is having all the Jan. 6 video recorded by Capitol Hill cameras posted online - thereby weakening security at the Capitol by making camera locations known to future insurrectionists.
- Watch this “must-see” interview with Nancy Pelosi on topics from the Nov. 7 election results to the new speaker.

In the Courts

•The Supreme Court

- With Its Release of a New Nonbinding Code of Conduct, the Supreme Court Fails on Ethics Again
- SCOTUS rejected an appeal for a man who spent years in solitary confinement without exercise.
- SCOTUS is reconsidering its entire approach to the Internet. Uh-Oh.
- SCOTUS needs to decide these Trump cases ASAP to prevent a Jan. 6 repeat.

•Lower Federal Courts

- A three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals issued an order affirming the precedent of using coalition (a combination of Black and Latino) districts to meet the requirements of the Voting Rights Act, but then asked the full Fifth Circuit panel to overturn that precedent.
- David DePape was found guilty of federal charges in his assault on Paul Pelosi.
 - DePape burst into tears on the witness stand, testifying that far-right conspiracies influenced him in his attack.
 - On Sept. 29, Trump mocked the attack on Pelosi and the GOP audience in California laughed along.
- Hunter Biden asked a judge on Wednesday to approve subpoenas for documents from Donald Trump and former Justice Department officials related to whether political pressure wrongly influenced the criminal case against him.
- Jury selection began on Oct. 30 in the trial of an ex-police detective Brett Hankison, who is accused of violating Breonna Taylor's civil rights in the deadly March 2020 raid. Today, a mistrial was declared after the jury failed to reach a unanimous verdict. Federal prosecutors will decide if they want to retry Hankison.
- The D.C. federal appeals court heard Steve Bannon's attempt to overturn contempt of Congress conviction on Nov. 9. The court was "skeptical."

•In State Courts

- Voters approved a state constitutional amendment to protect reproductive rights, so Ohio GOP-ers are trying to strip Ohio courts of jurisdiction over abortion.

In the States

- U.S. Starbucks workers are striking nationwide.
- This week, the Washington Post broke the practice of not showing crime scene photos by publishing photos of mass shootings. The article, entitled "Terror on Repeat, a rare look at the devastation caused by AR-15 shootings," does not include photos of dead bodies, but it does include a photo of body bags.
- UAW-General Motors contract has enough votes for ratification.
- Apple, IBM, NBC Universal and its parent company, Comcast, Disney and EU and others to pause advertising on X after Musk backs antisemitic post.
- In **California**, the Los Angeles freeway closed after fire will reopen by Tuesday, ahead of schedule, governor says.
- In **Florida**, DeSantis is being sued by students and the ACLU over his pro-Palestine crackdown on campus.
- In **Georgia**, Roslynn Carter, first lady who championed mental health, died.

•In **Texas**, Pope Francis removed conservative Texas bishop Joseph Strickland from office. Strickland was one of several “renegade Catholic clerics who shamefully backed Trump’s Big Lie.” For example, Strickland participated in the Jericho March, a pro-Trump “Stop the Steal” rally on Dec. 12, 2020.

•In **Washington**

- Bainbridge Island School District seeks input on ways to cut its budget up to \$4.5 million.
- What we know about the suspicious powder sent to WA elections offices.
- Emily Randall announces campaign for Derek Kilmer's Sixth Congressional District seat.
- Two new roundabouts and a fish barrier removal project are coming to Highway 305.
- Deaths among Bremerton's homeless community worry advocates as winter approaches.
- Seattle's new Marion Street Pedestrian Bridge opened; the old walkway is set to come down.

In the World

•**Israel/Hamas War**

- These evangelicals are cheering the Gaza War as the “End of the World.”
 - On Tuesday, 300,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C., to show their support for Israel.
 - Included in the line-up of speakers was Texas evangelical pastor, John Hagee, known for his hatred of gays, Muslims, Catholics and Jews. In a 1999 sermon, Hagee famously remarked that “God sent Adolf Hitler to help Jews reach the promised land.” By that, he was referring to the evangelical belief that the return of Jewish people to Palestine and the creation of the state of Israel fulfilled a requirement that must happen before Christ can return to Earth to start the Rapture. During the Rapture, Jews will either convert to Christianity or will be killed by Satan (and Christians will be joyous). Trump went along with this evangelical belief when he recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capitol and moved the U.S. Embassy there.
- An Israeli airstrike killed a renowned Gaza doctor and relatives sheltering together.
- The Canadian Israeli humanitarian, Vivian Silver, was confirmed by Israeli authorities to have died in a safe room when militants set her house on fire on Oct. 7. She had previously been thought to be a hostage of Hamas. Silver volunteered to drive Palestinian children from Gaza into Israel for medical treatment and helped start the activist group Women Wage Peace who say “we will not rest until we achieve the goal to which you dedicated your life’s work. May her memory be a blessing.”
- Israel approves daily entry of fuel into Gaza after U.S. pressure.
- IDF says it is 'close to dismantling the military system' in northern Gaza.
- Israeli anger at Netanyahu erupts at hospital bedsides. One reason, he tried to take over the judicial system, just as Trump would do if given a second term.

•**Ukraine/Russia**

- Ukraine claims gains against Russian positions on Dnipro east bank.
- Putin is pulling off deadly schemes during Israel's war in Gaza.
- Ukraine arrested officials on treason charges over Giuliani effort against Hunter Biden.

- Belarus linked to forcible transfer of Ukrainian children.
- Russian artist Alexandra Skochilenko jailed for seven years over anti-war price tag protest.