



Indivisible Bainbridge Island Newsletter

Dec. 2, 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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On the Calendar

- Dec. 3, 5 pm, Interfaith Prayers for Peace at Pia the Peacekeeper, Sakai Park, N. Madison, BI
- Dec. 4, 2 pm, Zoom, "[Zero Waste for the Holidays](#)" webinar presented by Public Interest Research Group, PIRG.org.
- Dec. 5, 12 pm to 1 pm, Zoom, [Clean & Prosperous America's webinar on clean fleet legislation and funding in the Pacific Northwest](#).
- Dec. 6, 2 pm, [Postcards on Wednesday](#), writing to New York!
- Dec. 6, 5 pm, the [fourth Republican debate](#) with DeSantis, Haley and Ramaswamy. And maybe Christie.
- Dec. 7, 4 pm PST, Zoom, "[How Voter Suppression Works Today and What We Can Do About It](#)," hosted by Andrea Miller, Center for Common Ground.
- Dec. 7, 5 pm PST, Zoom, Indivisible December National Campaigns Call. [RSVP](#)
- Dec. 8, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm, Zoom, [Politics with David Harrison](#), hosted by the [Bainbridge Island Senior Center](#)
- Jan. 19, the stopgap funding bill for funding agriculture, energy and water, military construction, Veterans' Affairs, transportation, and housing expires.
- Feb. 2, the stopgap funding bill for everything else expires.

In This Newsletter

- Holding Trump Accountable – Colorado Supreme Court oral arguments this week
- Do Something – Help immigrants/help KIAC
- Elections – What Trump wants to do if re-elected
- President Biden and His Administration – Biden made the sign the cross when visiting Boebert territory

- In Congress – Hunter Biden calls Comer’s bluff
- In the Courts – Two SCOTUS cases that could blow up the federal government
- In the States – Cedar trees are dying in the Pacific Northwest
- In the World – A Netherlands shocker
- [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:**

- Oral arguments before the Colorado Supreme Court [are scheduled for Dec. 6](#). [Watch](#) former judge Michael Luttig clarify the issue: “the former president undertook or engaged in a rebellion against the Constitution. That was a violation of the Executive Vesting clause of the Constitution.” [Elsewhere](#), Luttig has said the Executive Vesting Clause “prescribes that a president will hold office for only a four-year term, unless and until he is re-elected to the presidency by the American people.” Luttig is also clear that it is important to say that Trump violated the Constitution – not that he fomented a rebellion against the United States. Attorney Michael Popok follows up with an in-depth discussion of how the 14th Amendment was written and how the district court judge got it wrong when she got tangled up in the differences between oaths in the Constitution and the definition of “support.”

• **Minnesota:**

- Trump [can stay](#) on the primary ballot. Plaintiffs can try to keep him off the general election ballot. No news on whether they plan to do that.

• **Michigan:**

- Trump [can stay](#) on the primary ballot, but on Nov. 17, the group that brought the case, Free Speech For People, filed an appeal of the judge’s ruling.

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

- On Thursday, a New York appellate court [reinstated the gag orders](#) that prevent Trump and his lawyers from commenting about court personnel other than Judge Engoron himself. (In a previous filing, Trump’s lawyers included the name and photos of Judge Engoron’s law clerk.) Trump [expanded his attacks](#) on the ‘judge’s wife and family’ within hours of the reinstatement. “I

intend to enforce the gag orders rigorously and vigorously," Engoron said, "and I want to make sure counsel inform their clients."

- Trump has been [attacking Judge Engoron's wife](#) by referring to anti-Trump X posts he claims she posted, but Trump's claims about the judge's wife were shot down by a court investigation.
- A Deutsche Bank executive [testified](#) for the defense this week that she really, really, *really* wanted to do business with the Trump Organization. She referred to it as 'whale hunting.'
- Throughout the trial, Trump has claimed he had nothing to do with the gross overvaluation of his properties, such as the square footage of his penthouse. However, in a new audio recording of a 2015 interview between Trump and a Forbes magazine reporter, Trump recited the false square footage numbers of the penthouse and boasted about his assets.
- After Trump Hotel's Chief Financial Officer testified that the court appointed monitor, Barbara Jones, looking at 2022 and later found no fraud when she took over, Trump's lawyers sought to have the former judge take the stand. Her testimony would not be relevant because the trial covers the period of 2014-2021, so Judge Engoron risked being reversed on appeal and [denied Trump's motion](#).
- On Friday, [Trump lawyer Chris Kise argued](#) that "once you are in the private bank, you are in this sort of rarified air" that can't be compared with "the outside air." Prosecutor Kevin Wallace snapped back that Trump gained access to that "rarified air" by committing fraud. ABC News [summarized](#) Friday's testimony.
- Eric Trump is [scheduled to testify](#) on Dec. 6. Trump is [scheduled to testify](#) in his defense on Dec. 11 as the last defense witness. Former prosecutors [say](#) putting Trump on the stand could backfire badly. Or bigly?
- Judge Engoron [set](#) Jan. 11 as the date for closing arguments in this case. He plans to issue a verdict a few weeks after the trial ends.
- The court-ordered financial monitor for this case, Barbara Jones, [caught Trump](#) moving \$40 million from the Trump Organization into a personal bank account —seemingly so he can pay his whopping \$29 million tax bill. He is supposed to report such transactions to her.

E. Jean Carroll's next defamation case; trial set for Jan. 15. (This is the first case she filed when Trump was still president. She filed a second case after he left office; that case has already been adjudicated and is only being held to determine monetary damages.)

- 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

- On Friday, Judge Tanya Chutkan [rejected Trump's motion to dismiss](#) based on his claim of absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions taken while president. Trump is likely to appeal.
- This week, Judge Beryl Howell, who served as chief judge of the D.C. District Court and supervised the judges who heard the cases of Jan. 6 rioters, [warned](#) that the US faces a very real authoritarian threat.
- Unsealed court filings [show](#) that Pennsylvania congressman Scott Perry (R) was very involved with Trump's White House efforts to overturn the 2020 election.
 - Details of Scott Perry's role in Trump efforts to stay in power were [briefly unsealed](#).
- When a new Trump court filing is boiled down, it appears that Trump is now arguing that he is entitled to documents so Trump can determine how the Russians got him elected in 2016. (!) [Watch](#) attorney Michael Popok's in-depth review of the filing.
- Judge Chutkan [denied](#) Trump's 'fishing expedition' to subpoena Jan. 6 committee records.
- These upcoming deadlines were set in August:
 - Dec. 4, Notice of evidence
 - Dec. 11, Expert witness lists
 - Dec. 18, Exchange of witness lists
 - Feb. 19, the final witness lists made public
 - [Watch](#) attorney Ben Meiselas discuss the most important witnesses. They are likely to be Mark Meadows (with immunity), Pence and Bill Barr.
- A letter sent by Trump lawyers to Jack Smith in October shows how Trump is trying to blackmail the United States government by imperiling national security. In the letter, Trump attorneys demand the Russian and Iranian advanced persistent threat actor activity reports, including risk to elections information, as well as "all documents relating to incidents when Russian, Chinese, and Iranian government-affiliated actors materially impacted the security of networks associated with or pertaining to US political organizations, candidates, and campaigns during the 2020 federal elections." They also want "documents relating to 'claims' that Venezuela, Cuba and China 'owned, directed, or controlled election infrastructure used in the 2020 federal elections.'" The letter was attached to Trump's motion to dismiss for selective and vindictive prosecution. [Watch](#) attorney Ben Meiselas discuss the letter.
- The Supreme Court to [decide whether to hear](#) Jan. 6 cases that could affect Trump's prosecution.
- **Mike Pence**
 - Pence [considered not presiding](#) over the Jan. 6 vote certification.

- The plot now [thickens](#) on a Mike Pence vote recusal, including a Chuck Grassley timeline.
- As Senate pro-tem, Chuck Grassley (R-IA) was [ready to take over](#) for Pence (and likely do what Pence refused to do).
- Former acting solicitor general, Neal Katyal, [thinks](#) Pence will testify against Trump.

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

- Previously, Trump filed a motion to dismiss this case. This week, Alvin Bragg filed a 99-page motion refuting every false claim Trump made in his filing to dismiss. Bragg's filing identifies which crimes are the predicates that bump the charges up to felonies. [Watch](#) attorney Karen Agnifilo discuss.

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

- [Attorney Jennifer Little warned Trump](#) 'it's going to be a crime' if he didn't comply with subpoena for classified docs. This obliterates his "I relied on legal counsel" argument.
- A series of Judge Cannon's recent rulings will deny the DOJ the ability to try the case without revealing top-secret classified information or use the "silent witness" rule to introduce classified documents against Trump, before the election. She is [delaying the hearings](#) that will be necessary to figure out which and how classified documents can be presented in court until March 1. It may take months to sort that out, thereby necessitating a delay in the May 20 trial. She has also required that a SCIF for the viewing of classified documents be built in her district; it won't be usable until early 2024. [Watch](#) attorney Michael Popok discuss.
- Last week, Judge Aileen Cannon [entered three secret orders](#) in this case. The orders were immediately sealed "until further notice."

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

- On Friday, [lawyers for the fake elector co-defendants argued](#) before Judge Scott McAfee that the state has no power to bring charges against them for being fake electors.
- On Friday, [Trump lawyer Steve Sadow](#) argued before Judge Scott McAfee that it would be "election interference" to try Trump in August 2024 and that the state cannot prosecute him until 2029 if he wins in 2024.
- Georgia prosecutors [oppose](#) plea deals for Trump, Meadows and Giuliani.
- John Eastman [says](#) he wants a sooner plea deadline than Georgia prosecutors have requested (currently June 21), and he suggested that Trump be tried separately from the remaining 15 co-defendants.

- On Nov. 15, the Georgia Supreme Court refused to approve rules for a new commission to discipline and remove state prosecutors, meaning the commission can't begin operating.

Other Trump News

- On Friday, a three-judge panel of the D.C. appellate court found that Trump was acting "in his personal capacity as a presidential candidate" when he urged his supporters to march to the Capitol on the day of the riot. U.S. presidents are immune from civil lawsuits only for official actions. This means that lawsuits filed by lawmakers (such as Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA)) and Capitol Hill police can proceed. This decision is consistent with Judge Chutkan's rejection of Trump's immunity claim in the Jan. 6 criminal case. Trump is likely to appeal to the full DC appellate court or the Supreme Court.
- A former server at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, New Jersey has filed a lawsuit against the club. She claims her supervisor coerced her into sex and that Trump lawyer Alina Habba strong-armed her into signing an illegal NDA.
- The *NY Times* reported this week that Trump's pardon of loan shark and convicted marijuana distribution operator, Jonathan Braun, ended an FBI investigation into predatory lenders in the merchant cash advance industry. Braun, who had barely begun serving his 10-year sentence, likely came to Trump's attention through Alan Dershowitz and Jared Kushner's father, Charles. (Braun attended the inaugural class of Kushner Yeshiva High School, which was founded and funded by Charles.) As we learned from the Jan. 6 Select Committee, in the last days of the Trump administration, Jared was too busy running the pardon desk to worry about mass resignations from the Justice Department. Braun's pardon came through on the last day of Trump's presidency. This Rolling Stone article summarizes the *Times* reporting.

"Tourists"

- The feds nabbed another Capitol rioter thanks to his beanie.
- Feds seek 13 months in prison for ex-Chicago firefighter who stormed US Capitol with right-wing militia group.

Do Something

- Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center (KIAC) wants to give \$25 WINCO grocery gift cards, plus personal hygiene products (shampoo, etc) to families in need at their upcoming holiday distribution. Help them do that by purchasing WINCO grocery gift cards at their new store in Silverdale's Kitsap Mall and dropping them off at KIAC's Bremerton office at 3627 Wheaton

Way at the back of the building in Suite 106 from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. KIAC hopes to receive your donation by Dec. 4.

- [Sign the Demand Progress Petition](#) to President Biden and the IRS: Stand up to TurboTax. Make tax filing free for all! Intuit (TurboTax) receives more money each year in tax subsidies than it would cost for the IRS to run its own direct tax filing system.
- [Tell Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland](#) to take action to STOP the aerial killing of gray wolves in Idaho.
- Join former Labor Secretary Robert Reich in becoming [a grassroots sponsor of the Stop Child Labor Act](#).

Elections

- [“Nobody is coming to save us \(but ourselves\),”](#) commentary by journalist D. Earl Stephens.
- **GOP presidential primary**
 - Dozens of Republican senators [are silent](#) on endorsing Trump.
 - Top evangelical Bob Vander Plaats [says](#) ‘Iowa will rise up’ against Trump. [Watch](#) attorney Ben Meiselas play video of Vander Plaats and Iowa podcaster, Steve Deace, denouncing Trump.
 - The Trump campaign [has received nearly \\$1.8 million](#) from his clemency recipients.
 - **What Trump says he wants to do as president**
 - He would [wants](#) to repeal Obamacare.
 - He would put news outlets that are critical of him out of business. He [posted](#) in his typically oblique way that if elected again he would “come down hard on [MSNBC] and make them pay for their illegal political activity. Much more to come, watch!” He also doesn’t know that the federal government has no regulatory authority over cable news.
 - He would [unilaterally impose](#) a 10 percent tariff on all imported goods. Such a tariff would raise prices for American consumers by more than \$300 billion a year. If implemented, the tariffs would trigger retaliatory tax increases on U.S. exports.
 - [From the Washington Post](#):
 - Use the Justice Department for political purposes.
 - Purge the government and install loyalists.
 - Consolidate power in the presidency by bringing independent agencies like the FCC, FTC and maybe even the Federal Reserve under his direct

- control. He could refuse to spend money on programs Congress fund but he doesn't favor.
- Crack down on immigrants with "ideological screening" and the 'largest deportation operation' in U.S. history by giving the National Guard and state officials the power to arrest and deport people. [The Insurrection Act could let Trump expand the military's domestic role](#).
- Pardon Jan. 6 insurrectionists, which would be an "[invitation to violence](#)" writes former US attorney Barbara McQuade.

- **What Trump did as president**

- [Watch](#) MSNBC anchor Ari Melber interview Bob Woodward about Trump's incredibly [bad handling of COVID](#).
- 'I was dumbfounded': Bob Woodward [reveals](#) when Trump officials exposed his pandemic lies.

- **Democratic presidential primary**

- Florida Democrats [plan to cancel](#) the state's presidential primary, angering the Dean Phillips campaign.

- **In Congress**

- Lawmakers are [ditching Congress](#) at a record pace. These representatives and senators [aren't running for re-election](#) in 2024.

- **In Nevada**, a Carson City District Court judge ruled that a ballot measure to enshrine the "fundamental right to reproductive freedom" in the state constitution be kept off the ballot because it violates the state's "more than one subject" law. Abortion rights advocates [vow to appeal](#).

- **In Georgia**

- North Fulton County cities [want to their own elections](#), with help from a fake Georgia elector.
- Several Republican officials in metro Atlanta counties [voted against certifying](#) their local elections; Democrats warn of danger in 2024.

- **In Pennsylvania**, retired Marine Corps fighter pilot Lt. Col. [Mike O'Brien](#) (D) is [challenging insurrection-involved Scott Perry](#), the current representative of the state's 10th congressional district. [Donate](#)

- **In Washington State**

- **Decline to Sign!** Multimillionaire Brian Heywood and State Republican Party Chair Jim Walsh are behind six proposed ballot initiatives designed to rollback the good work

our state legislature has done to improve public education, make communities safer and fight climate change. The initiatives are

- 2081 - forces public schools to give parents information that students may not want shared
 - 2109 - repeals billions in education funding by eliminating the capital gains tax on the wealthy
 - 2111 - bars the state and local governments from levying taxes based on ability to pay
 - 2113 - rolls back restrictions on police pursuits that are making our communities safer
 - 2117 - repeals the Climate Commitment Act, which is raising funds to fight climate damage
 - 2124 - sabotages the WA Cares plan that helps Washingtonians afford long-term care
- To get these initiatives on the 2024 ballot, their proponents need to gather 405,000 signatures and deliver them to the Secretary of State's office by 5 pm on Dec. 29. Signature gatherers are out now, for example, at Walmart in Poulsbo. So far, no other initiatives have been proposed for the 2024 ballot, so please decline to sign any initiative in December! Learn more at [StopGreed.org](https://stopgreed.org).

President Biden and the Administration

- On Wednesday, President Biden [visited the largest wind tower manufacturer in the world](#), CSWind, in Pueblo, CO. The factory had approximately 400 employees in July 2022 and has [over 900 employees now](#). [Watch his full remarks](#) on his economic agenda, clean energy investment and jobs. The factory is in Lauren Boebert's district, so when he mentioned her name he made the sign of the cross.
- Vice President Harris is [attending COP28](#), the UN climate summit in Dubai, this weekend.
- So far, the White House [is not conditioning future Israel aid](#) despite Biden's 'worthwhile thought' quip.
- On Tuesday, President Biden [warned](#) that continuing down the path of terror and war plays into the hands of Hamas.
- Biden [turns up pressure on corporate 'price gouging'](#) as 2024 nears.

The Administration

- USDA [unveiled](#) its updated [Plant Hardiness Zone Map](#). Washington is starting to look more like California.

- The US [used its Section 702 spy tool](#) to disrupt Iran's weapons program, demonstrating that Section 702 is essential as the Biden administration pushes for renewal ahead of year-end expiry.
- Facebook's parent, Meta, is [suing the Federal Trade Commission](#), challenging the constitutionality of the FTC's in-house enforcement powers.
- U.S. Fed Chair Jerome Powell [calls rate cut speculation 'premature.'](#)

In Congress

The Senate –

- On Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee [voted 11 to 0 to subpoena Harlan Crow and Leonard Leo](#) as part of the committee's investigation into for undue influence on the Supreme Court. Before the vote, Democrats on the committee had to process the 177 GOP amendments filed to thwart the vote. The vote was 11 to 0 because all of the GOP-ers on the committee left their hearing room to show their displeasure. Next, the full Senate will vote on the subpoenas.
 - A tax filing [shows](#) that Leonard Leo received \$21 million from a Leo-linked group.
- Why Senate Democrats are [prepared to swallow](#) a border policy compromise.
- **Ooops!** At a hearing this week on gun violence, John Kennedy, a GOP senator for **Louisiana** [asked](#) Dr. Megan Ranney of the Yale School of Public Health “why do you think that Chicago has become America's largest outdoor shooting range. Do you think it's because of Chicago citizens who have no criminal record but who have lawfully a gun in their home for protection or perhaps for hunting, or do you think it's because of a finite group of criminals who have rap sheets as long as King Kong's arm?” Dr. Ranney replied, “So Mississippi, Louisiana and Missouri actually have higher firearm death rates.” Keith Olbermann [included the actual audio](#) in his podcast starting at 27:23.
- The New Republic asks “[Why Aren't Senate Democrats Investigating the Trump Family?](#)”

The House –

- On Friday, the House [voted](#) to expel **George Santos** (R-NY) from Congress by a vote of [311 to 114](#), making Santos just the sixth member of the House ever to be expelled and the first in more than 20 years. Of the 311, 206 votes came from Democrats and 105 came from Republicans. Rep. Derek Kilmer voted “YEA.” New York law gives the governor 10 days to schedule a special election that must occur 70 to 80 days after the governor's announcement. Democrat [Derek Marshall](#) is already in it to win it, along with [many others](#).

- **Hunter Biden** [agreed to testify in public](#) before the House Oversight Committee on Dec. 13, but committee chair **James Comer** (R-KY) is demanding closed-door testimony. ““We have seen you use closed-door sessions to manipulate, even distort the facts and misinform the public. We therefore propose opening the door,” said Biden’s attorney, Abbe Lowell.
- Republicans’ border policy push is [getting support](#) from Democratic mayors and blue state governors.
- **From the clown car**
 - **Fooled again:** [Johnson has only released 90 hours](#) of the 40,000 hours of Jan. 6 surveillance footage he promised to release.
 - **Jim Jordan** (R-OH), **James Comer** (R-KY) and **Anna Paulina Luna** (R-FL) [demand that Jack Smith](#) hand over all Trump indictment documents.
 - **MTG** [says](#) she’s been assured that the House Homeland Security Committee will move to impeach Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, so she has withdrawn her second Mayorkas impeachment resolution.
 - **Clay Higgins** (R-TX) [threatened](#) Jack Smith: Your ‘Days Are Numbered;’ Higgins is also known for his belief in [ghost buses](#).
 - Nashville’s News Channel 5 [has been digging](#) into how **Andy Ogles** (R-TN) finances his campaigns. Ogles loaned \$320K to his campaign — but apparently doesn’t have a bank account.
 - [From the Daily Mail](#): “**McCarthy** has long said that **[Matt] Gaetz** kicked off the motion to vacate process that cost him his job ... for not killing an Ethics [Committee] investigation of [Gaetz’s] alleged sexual misconduct and misuse of funds.” McCarthy is quoted as saying “What I do know, from what people have said and written about it, it seems even worse than Santos.”
 - **Guy Reschenthaler** (R-PA) took to the House floor to share information he thought would outrage America: that the unemployment rate had risen to 3.9%. Little did he know that an unemployment rate of 4% has been [defined as full employment](#) for decades.
 - In a speech before the Oxford Union (now uploaded to X and YouTube), **McCarthy** claimed that the U.S. has never taken land after a war. [History begs to differ.](#)

In the Courts

• The Supreme Court

- In early December, the Supreme Court will [hear oral arguments](#) in a 'quadrillion-dollar question' with the potential to broadly reshape the U.S. tax code and cost the government hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue.
- Supreme Court conservatives [appear hostile](#) to the Securities And Exchange Commission's powers.
 - What's at issue: whether the use of administrative law judges [violates the Seventh Amendment right to a civil jury trial](#).
 - The Supreme Court is likely to [seek a middle path](#) between following the law and blowing up the government.

• Lower Federal Courts

- On Nov. 17, a Trump-appointed federal Judge [ruled](#) that North Dakota's legislative districts violate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and ordered a new map. Reason: the current map dilutes the voting power of Native Americans. The suit was brought by private parties in an 8th district circuit state where the appellate court recently ruled that [private parties cannot sue](#) under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

• In State Courts

- Rupert Murdoch [was deposed](#) this week in Smartmatic's \$2.7 billion defamation lawsuit against Fox Corp filed in New York state court. On-air "talent" and current and former executives are expected to be deposed next.

In the States

- Consumer Reports [says](#) EVs are less reliable than conventional cars.
- Advertisers are fleeing X, so Elon Musk [doubled down](#) on ... Pizzagate.
- Bipartisan policymakers in Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee [unite to Improve rural health care](#).
- **The Governors' Debate:** Ron DeSantis and Gavin Newsom debated the merits of their states on Fox "News" while Sean Hannity "moderated." Both sides claimed victory.
 - Watch Newsom highlights [here](#).
 - DeSantis failed to [impress conservative writer, David Frum](#): the debate was "an exercise in huffing, snorting, and lunging at an adversary."
- When a car exploded exploded near the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls, New York, on Nov. 22, [Fox "News" described the explosion as terrorism](#) then, when it turned out not to be

terrorism, Fox [blamed](#) CNN and MSNBC for calling it terrorism when, in fact, Fox was the only “news” company to call it terrorism. The [exploded car turned out to be an ultra-high-end Bentley](#) with a 542-horsepower engine that could go from 0 to 60 in 3.9 seconds and reach a top speed of 175 miles per hour.

- CDC data [shows that suicide rates](#) for women increased 4 percent in 2022.

- **Henry Kissinger is dead.**

- Complicit in millions of deaths, Henry Kissinger, [America’s most notorious war criminal](#), died at age 100.
- Prominent politicians such as George W Bush, Mike Bloomberg, Mike Johnson (R-LA), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Marc Molinaro (R-NY), Tim Scott (R-SC), and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) – Republicans all, [offer glowing remembrances of Henry Kissinger](#).
- “[Henry Kissinger: War criminal](#),” by former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich

- **In Arizona**

- Two Republicans [have been indicted](#) after delaying 2022 election certification.
- Ken Chesebro of the Georgia RICO case, [is set to testify](#) before an election interference grand jury in Nevada this week and in Arizona in the coming weeks.

- **In Arkansas**, [evangelical Christian](#) who *always* believes in [second chances](#), Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) [denied clemency to Charlie Vaughan](#), a mentally disabled man who has served 32 years in prison for a murder someone else has confessed to. She advised Vaughn to try again in six years.

- **In California**

- As governor from 1967 to 1975, Ronald Reagan (R) closed state mental hospitals with the promise of alternative services and systems that never materialized. Many became homeless, left to fend for themselves on the streets. Now, Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) is [trying to remake](#) the state’s mental health care system.
- An ex-Marine [pleaded guilty to firebombing](#) a Planned Parenthood clinic in California.

- **In Florida**

- [Police are investigating Christian Ziegler](#), the state GOP chair and husband of Moms for Liberty co-founder Bridget Ziegler, for sexually assaulting their long-time threesome partner.
- Florida’s top election fraud officer, Peter Antonacci, [collapsed in the hallway](#) of the governor’s office after a heated meeting last year, then lay dead or dying for 24 minutes

before someone came to his aid. A Capitol police officer tried to use a defibrillator on Antonacci, but it [assessed](#) that Antonacci was already dead.

- **In Michigan**, Gov. Whitmer (D) [signed legislation](#) by which Michigan will require utility providers to transition to 100 percent carbon-free energy generation by 2040. The state has also set a goal for utilities to generate 50 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2030, a significant leap from the current 12 percent. Michigan is currently [one of the most polluting states](#) in the country.

- **In Texas**

- Republicans [take aim at climate change](#) -- in textbooks.
- This week, the Texas Supreme Court [heard the case](#) brought by women denied abortions despite health risks.
- Texas GOP executive committee [rejected a proposed ban](#) on associating with Nazi sympathizers

- **In Virginia**, LGBTQ+ teens won a grant for their school. The Lynchburg school board [sent the money back](#).

- **In Vermont**, Kinnan Abdalhamid, one of three Palestinian students who were shot on Thanksgiving weekend [recalls](#) the terrifying moment when the gunman opened fire.

- **In Washington**

- The U.S. government [is willing to help build enough new clean energy projects](#) in the Pacific Northwest to replace the hydropower generated by four controversial dams on the Snake River according to a leaked document.
- A mysterious illness is [making dogs sick](#) across the Pacific Northwest.
- The [massive die-off](#) of Pacific Northwest trees is linked to climate change.

In the World

- UN weather agency [says 2023](#) is the hottest year on record.
- Nations [rally behind renewables](#) at COP28 climate talks.

- **In The Netherlands**, the party of anti-Islam populist Geert Wilders won a huge general election victory. From the BBC: "[What Geert Wilders' victory means for Dutch society](#)."

- **Israel/Hamas War**

- On Friday, Israel-Hamas war combat [resumed in Gaza](#) as Israelis accuse the Palestinian group of violating cease-fire.

- Eight hostages [freed](#) and more Palestinian prisoners released under tenuous Gaza truce. More than 100 hostages have been released as of Thursday.
- Little food, a beating and lice: [What freed Israeli hostages are saying](#) about being held by Hamas.
- Palestinian families [rejoice](#) over release of minors and women in wartime prisoner swap.
- *NY Times* reported that Israel knew Hama's attack plan over a year ago.
 - "[Israel Knew Hamas's Attack Plan More Than a Year Ago](#)," by Ronen Bergman. This article is behind the *NY Times* pay wall.
 - [Watch](#) *NY Times* reporter Ronen Bergman discuss his article with Anderson Cooper on CNN.
 - This *Rolling Stone* article [summarizes](#) Bergman's article.

• **Ukraine/Russia**

- Putin has [signed a decree](#) intended to boost Russia's troop numbers by 15 percent.
- Putin [hijacks Israel-Gaza](#) war to fuel tensions in the West.
- "[Ukrainians won't submit to Russian rule. The horrors of the Holodomor help explain why](#)," by Elizabeth Shackelford writing for the Chicago Tribune.
- If Putin's threat to democracy won't move the House GOP to authorize more funding for Ukraine, maybe love of re-election will: Biden admin is [circulating a map](#) that shows the states that benefit economically from Ukraine aid: among them are Arizona, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Pennsylvania and Florida.
- A Russian general [was blown up](#) by a Russian-placed landmine in Ukraine.
- Zelensky [pledges conscription reform](#) for Ukrainian military.
- A hard, bloody winter awaits Ukrainian and Russian soldiers, [say experts](#).
- Moscow [accuses](#) a Russian-Italian national of Ukrainian-ordered bomb attacks.
- Ukraine '[will not back down](#)' against Russia as it urges Western support.
- Ukraine [says](#) Marianna Budanova, wife of military spy chief, was poisoned.