



Indivisible Bainbridge Island Newsletter

Jan. 13, 2024

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

- Jan. 14, 2:30 pm to 5 pm, [MLK Celebration: Seeding The Dream](#), BI Museum of Art
- Jan. 17, 2 pm to 3:30 pm, [Postcards on Wednesday](#), upstairs at the T&C, for Tom Suozzi!
- Jan. 19, the stopgap 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.
- Feb. 2, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm, Zoom, [Politics with David Harrison](#), hosted by the [Bainbridge Island Senior Center](#). (This date is likely to change.)

In This Newsletter

- [Do Something](#) – Join TAN and write postcards!
- [Holding Trump Accountable](#) – Up next: E. Jean Carroll
- [Elections](#) – Teens get the vote in New Jersey
- [President Biden and His Administration](#) – IRS pulls in \$520 million from the ultra-wealthy
- [In Congress](#) – Funding deal reached through March, no aid for Ukraine
- [In the Courts](#) – Wayne LaPierre and the NRA
- [In the States](#) – Book bans in Florida
- [In the World](#) – Ecuador
- [Daily Actions](#) - Tell our members of Congress what you think! We have topics for January.

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

Do Something

- **Join Take Action Network (TAN)!** When you sign up for TAN, you specify areas of interest (for example, clean energy, gun safety and voting rights). Then, when a bill is about to get some movement in the Washington State Legislature, you get an email asking you to “take action.” The actions are “sign-in in support of the bill before a hearing” or email a legislator (usually the senator or a representative for LD 23) in support of a bill. Sometimes the actions are against a bill. This is a great way to follow what is happening in Olympia on topics that you care about. [Email Kathy](#) for info on how to sign up for Take Action Network.

- **Write postcards!** We're on a mission to flip the 18 congressional districts Biden won in 2020 but were lost to the GOP in 2022. We meet upstairs at the T&C for every Wednesday at 2 pm.



We're currently writing for **Democrat Tom Suozzi** to replace George Santos in New York's 3rd CD in a Feb. 13 special election. You can also pick up postcards from Holly's front porch at 8824 NE New London Ct. Then [email Kathy](#) for the addresses and script. The GOP has nominated a registered "Democrat" because they just can't stop being deceptive. This week, we shipped 490 completed postcards to a contact in New York who will mail them for a New York postmark. We'll keep writing for

Tom through Jan. 24 if we can still get addresses. **Can't write but want to help?** We can always use any stamps or stamp money that you can donate! Plus, the cost of stamps is going up on Jan. 21! **Please help us keep this going!**

Holding Trump Accountable (ordered by trial date)

14th Amendment Cases – follow these cases at LawFareMedia.org

- In **Colorado** ([aka Anderson v. Griswold](#))
 - [SCOTUS will hear this case Feb. 8](#). Trump's opening brief is due by Jan. 18, with the Colorado voters/Secretary of State response by Jan. 31. Trump's reply brief due Feb. 5.
 - "[If Trump Is Not an Insurrectionist, What Is He?](#)" (*The New York Times* subscription required)
- In **Maine**

- The Maine House [voted down](#) the impeachment order against Sec. Bellows over Trump ballot ruling.
- **In Massachusetts**, the Massachusetts Ballot Commission [has announced a meeting](#) next Thursday to weigh a 14th Amendment challenge to the former president's candidacy in 2024.
- **Oregon's** Supreme Court [keeps Trump on the primary ballot](#).
- Eight individuals [have filed a challenge in Kitsap County](#) seeking to keep Donald Trump off **Washington** ballots.

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

- Closing arguments were held Jan. 11, with AG James [increasing the requested award](#) to \$370 million. Trump asked to participate in closing arguments and refused to acknowledge Judge Engoron's requirement that he stick to the facts of the case. Instead, Trump launched into a campaign rally rant, so the judge stopped Trump after 5 minutes. A ruling is expected by the end of January. [Details](#)

E. Jean Carroll's putative damages case; trial set for Jan. 15. (Carroll filed this lawsuit when Trump was still president. She filed a second case after he left office; that case has already been adjudicated and this proceeding is only happening to determine monetary damages for what he said when he was president.)

- Judge Lewis Kaplan's 27-page order [signals that Trump is doomed](#) in this case.
- Trump dealt loss as [judge rules profane Access Hollywood tape](#) can be played at this trial.
- All 13 judges on the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals [declined](#) Trump's request that the full court reconsider whether his claim of civil immunity.
- E. Jean Carroll's attorneys on Friday [asked a federal judge](#) to give Donald Trump strict warnings about what grounds he must avoid if he chooses to testify at this trial. Trump's team appeared to be planning to cross examine the two women who appeared as witnesses for Carroll at the first trial, plus introduce new documents and have Trump testify – all things he could have done at the first trial. [Watch](#) attorney Michael Popok discuss.

Class Action multi-level marketing, pyramid scheme case; trial date was set for Jan. 29

- Federal Judge Lorna G. Schofield [decided](#) this week that [the case](#) should be broken up and sent to three states (California, Maryland and Pennsylvania). This is a win for Trump.

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

- On Tuesday, a three-person panel of judges from the D.C. Court of Appeals heard arguments from Trump attorney John Sauer and prosecutor James Pearce. [Listen to the full hearing.](#)
- How long will Trump's DC immunity appeal take? As long as Aug. 15 if it goes to SCOTUS and SCOTUS rules against him. [Details](#)
- Special counsel probe [uncovers new details](#) about Trump's inaction on Jan. 6; Trump aide's Scavino and Luna are the sources of new information. [Watch](#) attorney Ben Meiselas discuss the importance of Smith's obtaining of "the twitter files" last year.
- After repeatedly saying the 2020 election wasn't over January 2021, Trump [now says the 2020 election was 'long over.'](#) apparently in an effort to win his presidential immunity claim.

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

- Likely to be the next case to get to trial.

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

- Jack Smith [filed a motion](#) this week letting Judge Aileen Cannon know that Trump defendants 'have yet to produce any discovery.' It is apparent that Trump does not think a trial will take place before Election Day, Nov. 5. Hillary Clinton to the contrary, the DOJ rule is that it cannot do anything that might affect an election for 60 days prior to the election. That's Sept. 5.
- Trump is telegraphing his plan to file a motion to dismiss on selective prosecution and attorney client privilege breach. [Watch](#) attorney Ben Meiselas discuss how by Trump lawyers appearing on TV and discussing their communications with Trump may have already waived his ability to claim attorney client privilege.
- [Trump's team is seeking from special counsel Jack Smith new information](#), assessment of any damage to national security, "tracking information," and more details to explain the nexus of how the docs in question relate to national defense.
- Judge Cannon [shut down](#) Jack Smith's effort to get Trump's lawyer communications. If Trump plans an advise of counsel defense, Smith is entitled to those communications in a timely manner.
- Prosecutors [plan to call digital forensics experts](#) as witnesses in this case.
- **Friday filings**
 - Trump [filed a motion](#) accusing the feds of overblowing the matter and that the materials in Trump's possession that were collected when the FBI searched the premises really didn't need such a highly classified status in the first place.
 - Smith's [counter-filing](#) seeks to pinpoint the locations and track movements of Trump's underling and co-defendant, personal aide Walt Nauta. Because if the documents are to

be discounted down from their sensitive status, why was there so much purported movement and effort to allegedly keep them hidden and in the possession of the former president?

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

- Trump [filed a motion to dismiss](#) this case based on his claim of presidential immunity.
- Defendant Michael Roman (a former Trump campaign official) [filed a motion to dismiss his charges](#) and asking that Willis, special prosecutor Nathan Wade and the entire DA's office be disqualified from further prosecution of the case. Roman alleges (with no evidence) that DA Willis and Wade are having an affair and that she has benefited financially
 - Marjorie Taylor Greene [has filed a complaint!](#)
 - The GOP-controlled U.S. House Judiciary Committee is [investigating Nathan Wade](#).
 - The DA's office has said it will respond to the allegations in a future filing.
 - Jan. 6 committee staff [met with lawyers and agents](#) working for Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis in mid-April 2022, just as she prepared to convene a special grand jury investigation. Republicans are upset!
 - Judge Scott McAfee [heard motions](#) from Trump's and co-defendants' lawyers.
- Mark Meadows has hired right-wing Supreme Court litigant Paul Clement to [request an en banc hearing of Meadows' removal request](#) before the full 11th Circuit of Appeals.

Other Trump Legal News

- A New York judge [ordered](#) Donald Trump to pay *The New York Times* \$392,638 in legal fees Friday following the former president's failed lawsuit against the newspaper.

Enablers

- [Meet the operatives](#) who profited from January 6: **Kimberly Guilfoyle** and **Don Trump Jr.** (\$60,000), **Sidney Powell** (\$100,000), **Roger Stone** (\$42,000) and more.
- After saying that a purported recording of himself saying that either Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) or Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY) 'has to die' was a fabrication, [Mediaite released the recording](#).
- Judge Scott McAfee [ordered](#) that **Giuliani** can interview former Georgia Trump co-defendants.

Elections

- Pres. Biden leads Trump in New Hampshire by 7 points [according to a Boston Globe poll](#).

- Biden's challengers had a [very bad week in New Hampshire](#).
- Trump/GOP
 - Trump [implies](#) he's been sacrificed on the cross and has risen in a Second Coming, and many of his followers believe it, because, as Trump claims, [God Made Trump](#).
 - Trump keeps [suggesting](#) that people who are children of immigrants but who were born in the U.S. aren't eligible to be president, conveniently overlooking his mother was an immigrant who became a U.S. citizen on March 10, 1942, four years before he was born.
 - Trump [tells Iowans](#) to 'get over' recent school shooting: 'We have to move forward.'
 - How Trump [has used fear and favor](#) to win Republican endorsements. (*The New York Times* subscription required.)
 - Civil War talk in presidential contest [reveals fresh divisions](#) on race.
 - [Christie bowed out](#) this week.
- A federal judge [upheld](#) Ohio's 2023 omnibus voter suppression law.
- A federal judge [upheld](#) the new runoff provisions in the Georgia's voter suppression law.
- Older teens in Newark, N.J., [will soon have a say](#) in who runs their schools.
- **How election denialism may affect the 2024 election**
 - DeSantis and Ramaswamy [have been reluctant](#) to say they will accept the results of the 2024 election if President Joe Biden wins.
 - Election denier Thomas Massie (R-KY) [warns](#) that the U.S. House has the final say over election. Voting rights advocate [Marc Elias thinks Massie's warning](#) was a threat to not honor the reformed Electoral Count Act. **This is why Democrats must win the House in 2024.**
 - Trump [declines to vow](#) not to 'overthrow the government' in a second term.
- **House**
 - Johnson's [woes worsen](#) as yet another Republican – Greg Pence (R-IN) jumps ship.
 - Lauren Boebert's (R-CO) ex-husband was [arrested on weapons and assault charges](#).

President Biden and the Administration

- After Taiwanese voters rebuffed China on Saturday and gave the ruling party a third presidential term to Lai Ching-te, President Biden said that the [United States does not support the independence of Taiwan](#). "The U.S. looks forward to working with Lai and leaders of all parties in Taiwan to advance their "longstanding unofficial relationship, consistent with the U.S.

one China policy," said Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The Biden administration has felt that the election, transition and new administration would escalate conflict with Beijing.

- President Biden spoke at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC last Saturday.

[Watch](#) the full speech.

- VP Kamala Harris [calls Georgia 'ground zero' for voting rights](#) in 2024 election season.

- [Watch](#) Heather Cox Richardson interview President Biden.

- **What has President Biden done?**

- [Insulin just got cheaper for everyone thanks to President Biden](#) and an obscure policy change in Medicaid that penalizes drug companies for raising commercial prices too quickly. The three companies that dominate the market (Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk and Sanofi) have lowered prices and made some of their products available to non-elderly, non-disabled Americans for the same \$35 a month that Medicare beneficiaries now pay.
- A record 20 million Americans [are now signed up](#) for private coverage through the ACA's online marketplaces.

The Administration

- The Biden administration has a [radical new plan to replace coal](#) and compete again with Russia and China over a technology American scientists pioneered – nuclear energy using high-assay low-enriched uranium.
- Chinese official [lauds U.S. cooperation](#) and walks back 'wolf warrior' talk.
- Sec. of Defense Lloyd Austin's undisclosed hospitalization [draws new internal investigation](#).
- Yemen/Houthi
 - U.S. and Britain [launch strikes](#) against Houthi rebel targets in Yemen.
 - U.S. military [strikes another Houthi-controlled site](#) after warning ships to avoid parts of the Red Sea. The Houthi have been targeting shipping since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel, forcing shipping companies to reroute around the Horn of Africa, [increasing the time and cost of international shipping](#).
- Additional funding to IRS pays off [in \\$520 million](#) in back taxes from the ultra-wealthy.
- A new federal program, the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer, aimed at combating food insecurity among low-income families during the summer when school is out, is gearing up for this summer, but [15 GOP-controlled states](#) have rejected it.
- John Kerry to [step down](#) as Biden climate envoy.

In Congress

The Senate –

- Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) [has been negotiating](#) with Jason Smith (R-MO) on an expansion of the child tax credit.
- [A bipartisan Senate group has been negotiating separate legislation](#) that pairs new funding for the Ukraine with stricter U.S.-Mexico border security and with aid for Israel and some domestic natural disasters.

The House –

- Congressional leaders [have reached a deal to avert a government shutdown](#) next week, landing on a two-step stopgap bill that will keep the lights on in Washington into March, with new government funding deadlines set for March 1 and March 7. The deal needs the approval of the House and Senate next week.
 - [Democrats said](#) Johnson would first forge an agreement with House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) ensuring Democrats had a greater voice in the legislative process. In that case, they'd be willing to provide the votes to keep the Speaker in power.
 - One of the programs at risk if the funding deal does not go through is the [Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#).
- On Tuesday, Hunter Biden [made a surprise appearance](#) at the House Oversight Committee hearing that was considering charging him with contempt of Congress for not testifying in a private hearing. Once again, Biden offered to testify in public but his offer was turned down. Instead the GOP-controlled committee [voted](#) to hold him in contempt of Congress – including Jim Jordan, Scott Perry, and Andy Biggs who themselves were held in contempt of Congress for their failure to testify in the Jan. 6 hearings.
 - On Friday, an attorney for Hunter Biden told two House Republican committee chairmen that [he will comply with subpoenas demanding his deposition](#) if they issue a new one — a reversal of his prior demand that such testimony be given at a public hearing. While a date is being worked out, the full House may vote on a contempt of Congress resolution this week.
- GOP aide [says](#) House Republicans are 'already unraveling' less than two weeks into new year.
- House radical conservatives, largely in the ultra-conservative Freedom Caucus, [are trying to punish leadership](#) — even if they aren't willing to oust Johnson.

In the Courts

- **The Supreme Court**

- These former GOP members of Congress [urge the Court](#) to move 'as quickly as possible' to resolve Trump cases.
- The DOJ is [fighting back](#) against Texas' efforts to interfere with federal immigration policy at the southern border with a new emergency Supreme Court appeal.
- **Lower Federal Courts**
 - Federal judge [rules](#) the [ban on firearms](#) in post offices is unconstitutional.
- **State Courts**
 - Opening arguments were heard Monday in the NY AG's case against the NRA and its leader Wayne LaPierre.

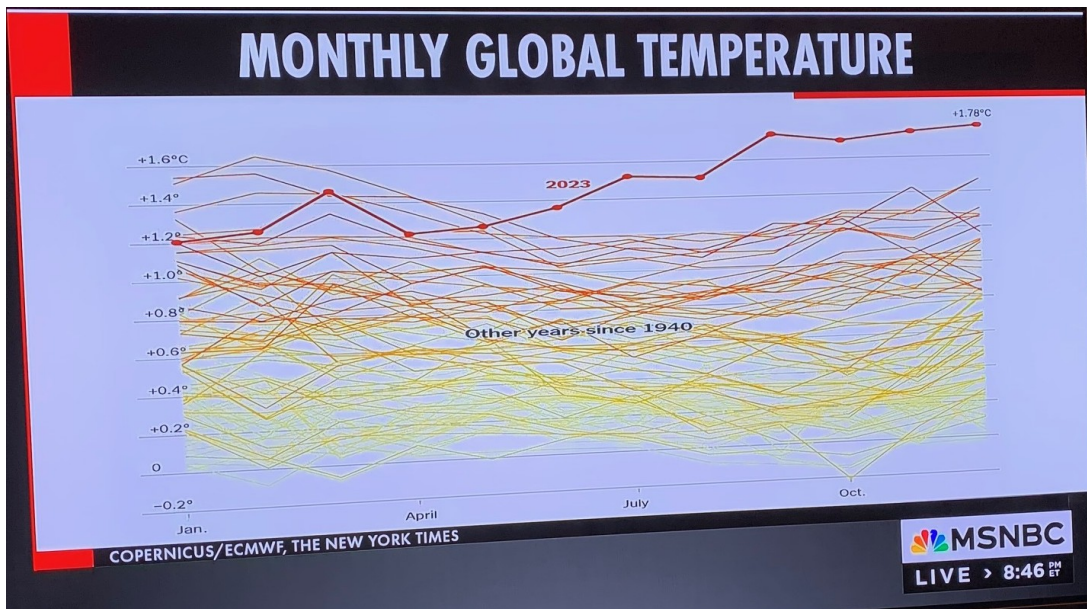
In the States

- Covid is surging in the United States. Order four free Covid tests with free shipping [here](#).
- Most states have tax codes [rigged to benefit the wealthy](#), such as states with no income tax.
- Women [face new sexual harassment](#) with deepfake pornography. [Watch](#) former DHS disinformation expert, Nina Jankiwicz, discuss.
- **Florida**
 - A federal judge has ruled that a [lawsuit challenging book bans in Escambia County](#) can move forward. On the same day, the county released an updated list of more than 2,800 individual books that have been pulled from shelves for review, including Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, Anne Frank's Diary of a Young Girl, The Adventures and the Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes, and Agatha Christie's Death on the Nile.
- **Missouri**
 - In December, the Francis Howell School District in St. Charles County voted to cancel two Black history courses. After a week of backlash, the board reinstated the classes but is requiring that the courses be taught from a "politically-neutral" viewpoint. [Students are still fighting against](#) what they fear could be a "whitewashed curriculum."
- **Texas**
 - Did an [abortion ban cost](#) a young Texas woman her life?
- **Washington**
 - Washington lawmakers look to [cap rent increases](#).
 - Drilling error [spills 12,000 gallons of sewage](#) into Illahee Creek.
 - Busy Washington state legislative session [kicks off with a focus on the housing crisis](#). Lawmakers [act early](#) to make it easier for property owners to split lots.

- WSDOT [releases latest design](#) of Belfair Bypass, indicating potential property acquisition.
- Kitsap County [home prices fell](#) 0.2% in December, to a median of \$599,000.
- Bremerton's mothball fleet [welcomes the Bunker Hill](#), which was honored by a poem.

In the World

- In 2023, the monthly global temperature rose by 1.78 degrees Celsius.



Good news: U.S., greenhouse gas emissions [dropped 1.9%](#) even as GDP was up 2.4%.

- In **Taiwan's** high-stakes elections, [China is the loser](#).
- **Ecuador**
 - Gunmen [stormed](#) a TV studio in a wave of violence.
 - Ecuador [declares](#) a state of emergency after narco boss Macias escaped prison.
- **Israel/Hamas War**
 - On Friday, Israel [defended itself](#) at the UN's top court against allegations of genocide put forward by South Africa.
 - South Africa's [genocide case](#) against Israel.
 - Thousands [protest in Israel](#) calling for Netanyahu to resign.
 - Israel presses on with [Gaza offensive approaching 100 days](#) of war.
- **Ukraine/Russia**
 - Belgorod, in western Russia, hit hard as [Ukraine retaliates](#) for airstrikes.
 - Russian troops [fall into one of largest traps](#) in war in Ukraine.
 - Russia [can't beat Ukraine](#) conventionally, so they are trying to overwhelm with drones.