



Indivisible Bainbridge Island Newsletter

Jan. 19, 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. 20, 11 am to 2 pm, Picket against the propose demolition of the former police station at Highway 305 and Winslow Way, organized by the Bainbridge Island Historic Preservation Commission.
- Jan. 24, 2 pm to 3:30 pm, [Postcards on Wednesday](#), upstairs at the T&C, to replace George Santos with a Democrat!
- Jan. 24, 5 pm, Zoom, Common Cause webinar, "[Unveiling the Future: AI's role in Elections.](#)" Other dates: Feb. 13, March 20 and April 24.
- Feb. 4, 3 pm to 4:30 pm, Zoom, "Legislative (Virtual) Tea" with Zero Waste Washington's executive director, Heather Trim, to discuss zero waste-related bills introduced in the Washington State legislature. RSVP [here](#).
- 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](#) – Phone bank to replace George Santos!
- [Holding Trump Accountable](#) – Habba madesa mockery in Judge Kaplan's court
- [Elections](#) – Half of Iowa's GOP voters caucused and Trump won half of them
- [President Biden and His Administration](#) – Cutting overdraft fees & canceling student debt
- [In Congress](#) – GOP sneaks in a way to cut Social Security and Medicare
- [In the Courts](#) – SCOTUS leans into gutting ability to regulate anything
- [In the States](#) – Oklahoma hits new low
- [In the World](#) – 'Born into hell'
- [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

- **Phone bank to replace George Santos!** The Democrat is Tom Suozzi, and he could use your help! You can [join a phone bank](#) Monday, Wednesday and Thursday through Feb. 12 or you can [call on your own](#).
- **Support these bills in Olympia!**
 - [Email](#) our state representatives and senator in support of [HB 5795](#) to make Pacific Standard Time permanent throughout the year. [Read about the bill](#).
 - [Sign in "PRO"](#) in support of [SB 6005](#), the WRAP Act, to shift the cost of recycling away from the public to the producers of plastic. Do by Jan. 23, 12:30 pm.
 - [Sign in "PRO"](#) in support of the Affordable Homes Act, SB 6191, which would lower the current Real Estate Transfer Tax and add a surcharge on homes that sell for over \$3 million that would be used to fund affordable housing programs. Do by Jan. 25, 3 pm.
 - [Sign in "PRO"](#) in support of [SB 6138](#) which would create a pilot program to create neighborhood geothermal heating networks. Do by Jan. 24, 7 am.
 - Join Take Action Network (TAN) to receive actions like this via email on topics of interest to you. Learn more about TAN [here](#). [Email Kathy](#) to join TAN!
- **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 after redistricting so Democrats retake the House. We meet upstairs at the T&C every Wednesday at 2 pm.



This is likely the last Wednesday that we'll be writing for **Democrat Tom Suozzi** to replace George Santos in New York's 3rd CD in a Feb. 13 special election.

- **Can't make it to POW?** Click [here](#) for how to write postcards anyway.
- **Can't write but want to help?** We can always use any stamps or stamp money you can donate! Plus, the cost of stamps is going up on Jan. 21! **Please help us keep this going!**

- **Support President Biden's proposed new rule slashing bank overdraft fees.**

- Send your comments on the new rule to 2024-NPRM-OVERDRAFT@cfpb.gov. Learn more [here](#).

- **Sign some worthy petitions**

- [Send an email to NOAA](#) telling them to move faster to protect right whales from deadly ship propeller strikes. A two-month-old right whale calf is the latest victim.
- [Sign the Nature Conservancy petition to Congress](#) telling them to "Put Nature and Climate Solutions on the Policy Agenda."
- [Sign Progressive Turnout's denunciation](#) of the House's sham impeachment of Pres. Biden.
- [Sign Civic Shoutout's petition](#) to Congress to impeach Clarence Thomas.

Holding Trump Accountable (ordered by trial date)

14th Amendment Cases – follow these cases at [LawFareMedia.org](https://www.lawfaremedia.org)

- In **Colorado** ([aka Anderson v. Griswold](#))
 - To be heard by the Supreme Court Feb. 8. In his filing, [Trump urged the Supreme Court](#) to 'put swift and decisive end' to 14th Amendment challenges. He also [argues](#) he was never an 'officer of the United States.'
 - Nearly 200 congressional Republicans [urged SCOTUS](#) to keep Trump on the ballot.
 - 56 percent in new poll are [willing to see Trump disqualified from ballots](#) in all or some states.
- In **Maine**
 - Maine court [defers ruling on election official disqualifying Trump](#) because of 14th Amendment. Maine judge [lets Trump appear](#) on the state's primary ballot.
- In **Washington**, a Kitsap County judge [refused](#) to [hear a case from voters](#) trying to remove former President Trump from ballot. Plus, a Thurston County judge [denied a request](#) to remove Trump from the Washington presidential primary ballot.

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

- Judge Engoron's ruling is expected by the end of January. [Details](#)
- [Watch](#) the recording of Trump's deposition in April 2023 (obtained by CBS News' freedom of information request) that was released today. In it, Trump claims he saved "millions of lives" by averting a "nuclear holocaust."

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 to determine monetary damages for what he said when he was president.)

- To start the week, Trump lost three lawyers: [Joe Tacopina](#) and two of his colleagues, [Chad Seigel](#) and [Matthew DeOreo](#). Tacopina was supposed to represent Trump in this case as well as in the Alvin Bragg case.
- Day 1: During opening statements on Tuesday, [Habba almost immediately violated](#) the rules Judge Kaplan had set about what Trump's team can and cannot say.
- Day 2: Trump's physical and verbal reactions to E. Jean Carroll's testimony forced [Judge Kaplan to threaten Trump's removal](#) from the court room. Habba called for a mistrial, which Judge Kaplan denied.
- Day 3: Trump lawyer Alina Habba tried to discredit E Jean Carroll in bizarre exchange over SubStack subscribers and frustrated Judge Kaplan by [reading mean tweets](#).
- On Friday, Habba [renewed her call for a mistrial](#) because Carroll deleted an unknown number of social media messages containing death threats. She also claimed that Carroll had a duty to mitigate any harm caused by Trump's public statements. Trump may testify on Monday.

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

- The full DC Circuit Court of Appeals will not review the order that turned over Trump's Twitter data to Special Counsel Jack Smith. The Court's conservative judges point to Trump's own failures as to why the issue is moot. [Watch](#) attorney Ben Meiselas discuss.
- Judge Tanya Chutkan [suggested](#) that Trump will get additional time to prepare for trial if the appellate courts rejects his claims of immunity – meaning that the March 4 date will likely be delayed. She also barred Smith from filing additional motions but [rejected](#) Trump's motion that Smith be held in contempt.
- In an interview with CNN on Thursday, [AG Garland said of Jack Smith's cases](#): "The cases were brought last year. The prosecutor has urged speedy trials, with which I agree. And it's now in the hands of the judicial system, not in our hands." Does this mean the DOJ's 60-day-before-an-election-no-investigation rule does NOT apply to Smith's cases?

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; CIPA Section 4 hearings in mid-Feb.; pre-trial motions on Feb. 22 at which Trump is expected to file motions to dismiss; status hearing March 1

- Trump has filed a motion to compel discovery. The filing claims that Jack Smith is withholding exculpatory information he got from other federal agencies as part of the investigation, such as from the National Archives and from the White House. He accuses the DOJ of being weaponized against him. The motion also indicates Trump is adopting a new defense in this case: the Mar-a-lago used to have a temporary SCIF so it was okay for him to have the documents and that Trump retained a security clearance after leaving the White House even though, as president, he never actually had a security clearance. [Watch](#) attorney Karen Friedman Agnifilo discuss.
- The Classified Information Procedures Act (CIPA) specifies how to protect classified information when it is part of a legal case. CIPA specifically allows interlocutory appeals, so Judge Eileen Cannon has been careful to avoid making any decision that Jack Smith could appeal to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. She's holding unnecessary hearings to further Trump's goal of delaying the trial. [Watch](#) attorneys Ben Meiselas and Michael Popok discuss.
- Judge Cannon has set a Jan. 31 pre-hearing for a CIPA Section 4 hearing to decide if Trump's lawyers can attend the actual CIPA Section 4 hearing during which the prosecutors and the judge decide which classified documents can be turned over to Trump as part of discovery. But CIPA does not allow the defendant nor the defendant's lawyers to attend a Section 4 hearing. [Watch](#) attorney Ben Meiselas discuss how Cannon is scheduling hearings to further delay this trial without issuing an order that Jack Smith can appeal.

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

- The judge overseeing the Georgia election subversion case [has set a Feb. 15 hearing](#) to consider the motion to disqualify Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis due to allegations of an "improper" relationship with her special prosecutor brought by co-defendant Mike Roman.
- A Thursday filing written by DA Willis' lawyer, Cinque Axiom, [accuses the estranged wife of Nathan Wade, Jocelyn Wade](#), of conspiring with Mike Roman to interfere with the Trump election case. Jocelyn Wade has subpoenaed DA Willis to testify at the Wade's two-year long divorce proceeding that had been sealed. Willis hired Nathan Wade to be the lead prosecutor in her election interference RICO case. Axiom's filing seeks to quash Jocelyn Wade's subpoena and asks for six months to investigate the alleged conspiracy between Jocelyn Wade and Mike Roman. [Watch](#) attorney Michael Popok discuss the timing of filings on Jan. 8 that indicate a conspiracy.

- On the eve of Martin Luther King Jr Day, DA Willis took on those who moved to disqualify her with a fiery speech. [Watch](#) the speech, followed by a discussion by attorney Michael Popok. Read about it [here](#).
- It is alleged that [DA Willis' name is on plane tickets](#) (to San Francisco and Miami) bought by Nathan Wade.

Enablers

- **Rudy Giuliani**
 - On Friday, a [U.S. bankruptcy judge gave Giuliani limited permission](#) to challenge the \$148 million defamation verdict against him won by Ruby Freeman and Shaye Moss.
 - Syracuse University [decided to not rescind Giuliani's](#) honorary law degree.
- DOJ [urges judge](#) to jail ex-Trump aide, **Peter Navarro**.
- **Roger Stone's** alleged assassination remarks [prompt a Capitol Police investigation](#).
 - Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY) [said](#) he has spoken With FBI about Stone's alleged threat.

Elections

- Analysis from *The Washington Post*: [Trump won Iowa with fewer than 57,000 votes. So?](#)
- Joe Lieberman, co-chair of No Labels, [said](#) Nikki Haley's record as governor of South Carolina and U.N. ambassador would be a good fit for the group's plan to find a candidate for 2024. Haley said no thanks.
- In 2022, one of Lauren Boebert's GOP opponents to represent Colorado's 4th congressional district [was arrested for drunk driving with a gun](#).
- Voting rights attorney Marc Elias has filed a lawsuit in Wisconsin State Supreme Court [challenging the legality of Wisconsin's](#) gerrymandered congressional districts. He expects a decision and a new map in time for the 2024 election. [Watch](#) Elias discuss the suit with Brian Tyler Cohen.
- In a special election on Tuesday, Democrats [flipped a Florida state legislature seat](#).
- Louisiana moved closer to having an additional majority-Black districts (for a total of 2) with the State Senate's [passage of a new congressional map](#).
- Asa Hutchinson (R) [dropped out](#) of the 2024 presidential race.
- U.S. executives in Davos [see no cause for concern](#) if Trump wins in 2024.
 - U.S. executives once regarded the Trump tax cuts as a “once-in-a-generation opportunity” and a “grand slam” but now [they are lobbying for more corporate tax cuts](#) to avert what they claim will be a million lost jobs in the future.

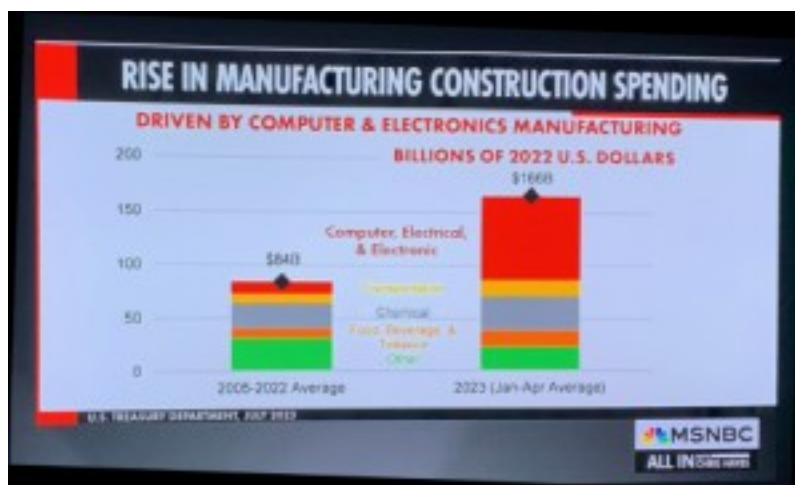
- While Trump campaigns on tax cuts for working families and small businesses, behind closed doors, [Trump eyes second round](#) of corporate tax cuts.

President Biden and the Administration

- President Biden [moved to slash bank overdraft fees](#) with a new rule.
- President Biden was in North Carolina this week [championing the funding he got for low cost, high-speed Internet](#).
- [Check to see if you're eligible](#) to claim an Internet Affordable Connectivity Benefit.
- President Biden [continues to advocate for two-state solution](#) in a call with Netanyahu. It was the first time President Biden has spoken with Netanyahu [in nearly a month](#).
- President Biden said the [U.S. air strikes have not deterred the Houthis](#) from threatening global shipping but said the airstrikes will continue anyway.
- NASA's moon landing mission [will include a non-American](#), VP Kamala Harris says.
- President Biden [signed the short-term funding extension](#), averting government shutdown.

The Administration

- AG Merrick Garland was in Uvalde, Texas, on Thursday for the release of the [DOJ's scathing report](#) on the Robb Elementary school massacre, where an AR-15 kept dozens of law enforcement officers frozen in fear.
- [Five takeaways](#) from the DOJ's Uvalde report.
- Biden administration to [forgive \\$4.9B in debt](#) for 73,600 student borrowers.
- **The economy**
 - The Dow Jones and S&P 500 [hit record highs on Friday](#), while Trump [hopes the stock market crashes](#) before the November election.
 - The bipartisan CHIPS Act passed last year is having a positive effect on the economy, shown in red in the column in on the right:



- New guidance makes [EV charger tax credits](#) available where most Americans live.
- [Statement](#) from President Joe Biden on record-setting small business applications.
- From The Washington Post: Biden's economy vs. Trump's, [in 12 charts](#).

In Congress

- The House and Senate passed a short-term bill averting a government shutdown until March 1 and 8. President Biden has signed it.
- The Government Accountability Office (GAO) [will investigate](#) the environmental impact of idled "zombie" coal mines at the urging of Congressional Democrats.

The Senate –

- On Tuesday, Sen. Bernie Sander's resolution ([SRes.504](#)) asking the State Department to [analyze the human rights record of Israel](#) in conducting the war on Gaza was brought to the floor for a full vote of the Senate. The resolution was tabled by a vote of 72 to 11. Both of our senators [voted](#) to table the resolution.
- Trump calls on Mitch McConnell and the Senate GOP to [reject a compromise package on border security](#). In the House, [Johnson feels heat from Trump](#) to reject Senate border deal.
- Senators [push for more investment](#) in long COVID research.

The House –

- A deal to [reduce taxes for businesses and increase the child tax credit](#) (CTC) made it out of the House Ways and Means Committee with broad bipartisan support Friday.
- House Republican [hardliners plot revenge on Mike Johnson](#) for pursuing bipartisan deals to pass critical government funding bills.
- Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) [warns that legislation advanced Thursday by the GOP-controlled House Budget Committee](#) is a "backroom scheme" to cut Social Security and Medicare by creating a Fiscal Commission Act. It will likely be attached to must-pass funding bills.
- MTG [threatened to oust Speaker Mike Johnson](#) over the Ukraine funding she's against.
- On Thursday, House Republicans [passed two anti-abortion bills](#) on eve of March for Life.
- The House GOP [is moving swiftly toward impeaching](#) Sec. of Homeland Security Mayorkas.
- Dan Goldman (D-NY) [introduced a resolution](#) to censure Elise Stefanik (R-NY) for referring to duly adjudicated Jan. 6 rioters as "hostages."
- Democrats [propose bill](#) to limit most militia activity.
- Jewish Democrats [denounce Netanyahu's opposition](#) to Palestinian state. House Democrats [ask Biden admin](#) to clarify that Palestinians can't be pushed out of Gaza.

- **Hunter Biden**

- On Thursday, the three House committees leading the impeachment inquiry into President Biden [questioned Kevin Morris](#) in public. Morris said he loaned Hunter Biden \$5 million to help a newly sober friend and that there was no political quid pro quo.
 - Comer (R-NY) immediately [released a cherry-picked press release](#) suggesting the testimony raised “ethical and campaign finance concerns for President Joe Biden,” along with a few other select facts.
- Hunter Biden [has agreed](#) to a Feb. 28 closed-door deposition.

In the Courts

- **The Supreme Court**

- The radical conservative super-majority on the Supreme Court [appeared ready to overturn](#) another major decades-old precedent when it heard arguments on Wednesday in two cases about fishing regulations.
- Supreme Court action is already upending January 6 rioter sentences and Trump’s lawyers are taking notice.

- **Lower Federal Courts**

- A federal judge [has blocked the](#) \$3.8 billion JetBlue-Spirit merger because it would violate the Clayton Act, an antitrust law designed to prevent mergers or acquisitions that would substantially lessen competition and result in harm to consumers.
- A federal judge [struck down](#) a Republican book censorship law. HB900 violates the First Amendment.

In the States

- Analysis shows how [corporate profits drive inflation](#)—even as business costs go down.
 - Home [sales fell to nearly 30-year low](#) as median home price hit record high in 2023.
 - Consumer sentiment [hits highest level](#) since 2021.
 - Ford [will slash production of electric pickup](#), citing weak demand.
 - The Navajo Nation 'relieved' [human remains didn't make it to the moon](#). Celestis vows to try again.
- **Florida**
 - Florida abortion rights supporters fear [new proposal would target doctors](#).

- **Oklahoma**

- Believing that school children are declaring themselves to be “furries” (a long debunked radical conservative myth), a [GOP state legislator has filed a bill](#) allowing animal services to remove “furries” from schools.
- Oklahoma Republican’s bill [defines terrorist](#) as ‘any person who is of Hispanic descent.’

- **Texas**

- Uvalde families [again call for police to face charges](#) after critical DOJ report.
- Texas prosecutor [convenes a grand jury](#) to investigate Uvalde shooting.

- **Washington**

- State AG Bob Ferguson is [suing to block](#) the proposed merger of Kroger and Albertsons grocery chains.

In the World

- Severe [drought in Panama](#) has forced a dramatic drop in Panama Canal traffic and may cost \$700 million.
- **Pakistan** [launched retaliatory airstrikes](#) in **Iran**, killing 9.
- **Ecuador**
 - The prosecutor who was investigating the [Ecuador TV studio attack was shot dead](#).
 - Two suspects [have been arrested](#) after the prosecutor was killed.
 - Marco Rubio and colleagues [issue bipartisan statement of support](#) for Ecuador.
- **Israel/Hamas War**
 - Netanyahu: [Continued military control](#) over West Bank after war.
 - U.S. military [launched another barrage of missiles](#) against Houthi sites in Yemen.
 - Freed hostages meet UN chief, who [says he carries dog tag](#) ‘in my right pocket.’
 - **From CNN:**
 - Nearly 20,000 babies have been “born into hell” in Gaza, UNICEF says.
 - Fierce fighting is happening around Khan Younis’ largest hospital today.
 - **From *The Washington Post*:**
 - Protesters in Tel Aviv call for cease-fire and return of [the 132 hostages](#).
 - Communication restored in Gaza after weeklong outage.
 - **From *Al-Jazeera*:**
 - No ‘deliberate’ war crimes by Israel, says U.S. official John Kirby.

- A group of 60 Democrats in the US House of Representatives have sent a letter to the US Secretary of State Blinken urging the Biden administration to firmly reject the “forced and permanent displacement” of Palestinians in Gaza.
- Israel begins new raids in occupied West Bank.
- White House says Israel to allow some flour into Gaza. UN experts say “Every single person in Gaza is hungry. A quarter of the population are starving and struggling to find food and drinkable water, and famine is imminent”

- **Ukraine/Russia**

- [NATO admiral warns](#) of potential all-out war with Russia. German defense chief [says a Putin attack on NATO is 'possible'](#) in 5-8 years.
- Ukraine [prepares for strikes](#) on staging areas in Russia.
- From [Al-Jazeera](#)
 - EU rearms Ukraine as calls mount for higher defense spending.
 - Ukraine's harsh winter a memory but [new Russian tactics sow destruction](#).
 - Ukraine [asks residents](#) to leave northern border.
 - Ukraine says [controlling the skies is a 'priority' in war](#) against Russia