



INDIVISIBLE BENTON COUNTY

N e w s l e t t e r

May 12, 2026

Voting Rights and Resilience

From the Editor's Desk

Your Vote, Their Map - *to skip this reading, scroll down and go directly to the Calendar.*

The right to vote is only as strong as the rules around it.

Laborers. Young people. Each group had to organize, act, and outlast those who benefited from keeping them out.

The Civil Rights Movement forced the country to confront the ugliest version of that power. Poll taxes, literacy tests, and outright terror had kept the 15th Amendment — which guaranteed Black men the right to vote since 1870 — largely a fiction in the South for nearly a century. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 finally gave that promise some grip on reality. It came at a cost measured in beatings, bombings, and blood. It was not a gift from enlightened legislators. It was a concession extracted by resilient people who refused to stop showing up.

But the opponents of equal voting never stopped either. When legal barriers fell, subtler tools took their place. Gerrymandering — the drawing of district lines to dilute the power of communities — became a precision instrument once computers could map voters street by street. A Black neighborhood doesn't get turned away at the polls; it gets divided among three overwhelmingly white districts so its votes never add up to anything. The effect is the same. The fingerprints are harder to find.

The Supreme Court has spent a generation removing the legal tools to challenge this. In 2013, it ended the requirement that states with suppression histories get federal approval before changing election rules. In 2019, it ruled that partisan gerrymandering — rigging maps for political advantage — was simply not the courts' problem. In 2026, it became uniquely a court issue. On April 29 of this year, in its ruling on Louisiana redistricting, the Court effectively dismantled the last major protection, setting the bar for proving racial discrimination in redistricting so high it can almost never be met.

Within days of that ruling, and in spite of fierce public opposition, Tennessee moved to crack apart Memphis's Black congressional district, and Alabama moved to undo a court-ordered map that had finally produced a second Black representative. With Louisiana, Tennessee, and Alabama maps in place, South Carolina and other Southern states are already moving to redraw their own. Last week, Trump's Supreme Court ruled that Alabama Republicans may proceed with their maps; on Friday, the Court struck down Virginia's voter-approved redistricting amendment.

The fight for votes has spilled out of the legislature and into the courts — farther and farther from the voters, when it should be decided at the ballot box. Nobody's hands are entirely clean, but the scale is not equal. That distinction matters.

The redistricting war started with the mega-MAGA Texas gerrymander. California and Virginia responded by asking their voters whether they wanted redistricting before the midterms — which would favor Democrats. California's Proposition 50 asked voters' permission to temporarily approve redistricting, and voters said yes. In Virginia, voters also said yes — but the Supreme Court said no.

The communities that have spent generations fighting for a vote that counts are the ones watching their power get drawn off the map — again, by the same logic, just with different instruments than a locked courthouse door.

Today, instead of voters choosing their representatives, representatives are choosing their voters. This is not a new struggle — it is the old one, in new clothes, and the outcome has never been inevitable.

Organized resistance is what changed the odds before. The Voting Rights Act itself — the very law now being gutted — only existed because people filled jails and marched across bridges and refused to accept their exclusion. That history is not just inspiration. It is instruction. Today, the NAACP filed a suit against Tennessee's redistricting, community organizations in Memphis are mapping their next steps, and dozens of other organizations are active in multiple states, fighting these maps in court and at the ballot box.

The stakes are not just this election — they are the right to a meaningful vote for the foreseeable future. This effort was always intended to suppress progressive voices. In a dictatorship, it is also intended to retain power indefinitely.

The November blue wave — undisputed by most political analysts — could become a mirage at the very moment we need it most. But we don't have to die on the sand. The desperation behind this game of musical chairs is itself the reason we can flip districts long considered safe MAGA territory. We are not done! They painted several blue chairs red, but we have enough blue paint to put a fresh coat on some of those old red chairs.

This is the moment to show up.

CALENDAR

May

- **5/13** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **5/13** | Song gathering. See flyer below. [Sign up!](#)
- **5/13** | Indivisible General Meeting. Invited Speaker Alex Staben. NOTE location: [Corvallis Library](#). [Sign up!](#)
- **5/14** | Visibility Brigade sign-making 4pm -5:30pm. [Sign up!](#)
- **5/15** | Postcarding. 10 am - 12 pm, Natural Grocers. [Sign up!](#)
- **5/15** | Visibility Brigade Rush Hour Bannering 4:30pm -6 pm. [Sign up!](#)
- **5/16** | Indivisible BC at the Saturday Market. 8am - 1pm. Email farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org.
- **5/17** | Sunday Canvassing - GOTV. Email voter@indivisiblebc.org
- **5/19** | **Oregon's Primary Election, Remember to vote!**
- **5/20** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **5/20** | Song gathering. See flyer below. [Sign up!](#)
- **5/23** | Indivisible BC at the Saturday Market. 8am - 1pm. Email farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org.
- **5/27** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **5/27** | Indivisible General Meeting. NOTE location: Corvallis Community Center. [Sign up!](#)
- **5/30** | Indivisible BC at the Saturday Market. 8am - 1pm. Email farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org.

June

- **6/03** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **6/05** | Postcarding. 1 - 3 pm, The Plaza. [Sign up!](#)
- **6/05** | 4-5:30 pm: Visibility Brigade Banner Making Session, Unitarian Fellowship, 2945 NW Circle. [Sign up!](#)
- **6/06** | Indivisible BC at the Saturday Market. 8am - 1pm. Email farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org.
- **6/06** | Democracy Day, national freeway bannering. See below.
- **6/10** | Indivisible General Meeting. Location: [Corvallis Library](#). [Sign up!](#)
- **6/10** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **6/13** | Indivisible BC at the Saturday Market. 8am - 1pm. Email farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org.
- **6/14** | Piñata Workshop. See below!
- **6/17** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **6/20** | Indivisible BC at the Saturday Market. 8am - 1pm. Email farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org.
- **6/24** | Indivisible General Meeting. Location: Corvallis Community Center. [Sign up!](#)
- **6/24** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **6/27 - 6/28** | **Resistance Bootcamp. See below.**
- **6/28** | Albany Pride

Daily weekday protests. Benton County Courthouse, noon - 1 pm, every Monday - Thursday.

Scroll down for flyers about other community events.

To learn more about our ongoing campaigns, visit <https://indivisiblebc.org/ongoing-campaigns/>.

Canvassing to Increase Voter Turnout

Indivisible Benton County is still **canvassing in Corvallis and N. Albany until Election Day**. We're reaching out to registered Democrats to ensure they vote and use ballot boxes, which are critical given current attacks on elections and the USPS. We'll share deadlines and ballot box locations. No candidate campaigning — just getting people to commit to voting. No MAGA doors, only registered Democrats and unaffiliated voters.

People who get a knock on the door are significantly more likely to vote, and most are genuinely grateful you stopped by. Canvassing is fun; it's a great way to connect with neighbors while making a real impact on democracy.

Email voter@indivisiblebc.org or sign up via [Mobilize](#).



Resistance Bootcamp

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



INDIVISIBLE
RESISTANCE
BOOTCAMP

A weekend of practical, interactive training for organizers, activists, & community leaders in protest safety, organizing strategy, and pro-democracy movement sustainability.

JUNE
27 & 28
PORTLAND, OR

Join Indivisible on June 27 and 28 in Portland for a training event focused on strategies of noncooperation, building movement resilience and sustainability, and preparing to be peer educators in our own groups and networks. Whether you're an experienced organizer or just getting started with activism, you'll gain practical skills and connect with a passionate community.

The opening plenary training will address key challenges confronting organizers within their

groups and networks: conflict, trust, and burnout. Breakout sessions for the remaining time are organized into four tracks: Community Resilience as Resistance, Organizing for Strategic Action, Sustainable Safety Practice, and a Bonus Track on various topics. Learn more here:

<https://resistancebootcamp.us/>

Indivisible Benton County would like to coordinate amongst members who are attending, so we can carpool and spread across all four tracks. We have funds available to cover the requested \$40 registration donation for a limited number of Indivisible BC members, with the expectation that they will coordinate session attendance with us and report back what they learn.

This is a wonderful opportunity if you would like to level up your activism and meet others across the state who are building the resistance movement!

Please email events@indivisiblebc.org if you are interested in attending.

Feed the Families Fundraiser

Recent social and economic changes have increased food scarcity for our most vulnerable Latino/a communities in Benton and Linn Counties. The fear of going to work or even shopping at a grocery store has made it challenging for community members to meet their basic needs.

In partnership with Indivisible Benton County and East Linn Indivisible, [Casa Latinos Unidos](#) is [raising funds to support local families](#). 100% of all donations will help supply local Latino/a families with food, household supplies, toiletries and other necessities.



Matching Funds Available!

Sign up for regular monthly donations, and your initial contribution will be **DOUBLED!***

**While funds last. Donations to Casa Latinos Unidos are tax-deductible. Donate online [here](#), or mail check donations to P. O. Box 716, Corvallis, OR, 97339. Made possible by a grant from the Indivisible national organization.*

Visibility on Democracy Day

On Saturday, June 6th, D-Day, Democracy Day, we land again.

81 years ago, thousands gave everything on the beaches of Normandy to stop fascism.

On June 6th, 2026, on overpasses across our nation, the Visibility Brigade launches that same spirit of resistance against the American fascist billionaires. Peacefully, visibly, and powerfully. Join us at one of the many locations long the I-5 corridor, and help shine a light on our current fight to save democracy.

Save the date—more info coming!

Visibility Brigade's mission is to alert and unite everyone against our greatest threat: the fascist billionaires and their enablers embedded in our system, who are stripping away our freedoms and dragging us towards tyranny



FUNdraiser - Piñata Workshop

June 14, 12pm-2:30pm at the Avery Park Lions Shelter

Learn how to craft your own piñata at FUNdraiser's Piñata Workshop. A ready-made piñata base for you to decorate and fill with candies and toys will be supplied along with crepe paper, colorful tissue paper, stickers, and other adornments. A selection of packaged fruity treats, candies, and little toys will be at the ready to be stuffed into your own piñata. We'll also learn the dramatic history of the piñata. Kid and kids-at-heart friendly!

Email FUNdraiser541@proton.me for more information.

Funds raised at these events are entirely dedicated to grants distributed by **NeST** to people directly affected by detentions and/or deportations. In association with local law firms and organizations, NeST is planning to expand the use of FUNdraiser donations to cover legal costs associated with preemptive intake of immigrants by law firms. People are being taken when they do the right thing by checking in at court and immigration appointments. Securing representation ahead of time makes immediate help possible. This new legal fees program should be up and running by June. Make a piñata to help!

To learn more about NeST, or to donate, visit [this website](#).

We have New Email Addresses!

Please email info@indivisiblebc.org, rather than indivisible.bc.or@gmail.com, with general questions, comments, and suggestions.

Please email newsletter@indivisiblebc.org, to send items for the newsletter (space permitting, and subject to editorial review).

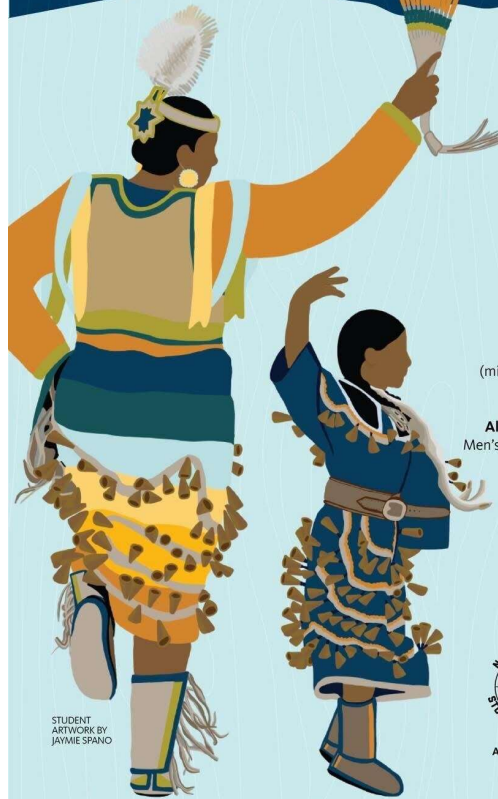
Please email voter@indivisiblebc.org with questions or comments about voter outreach.

Please email legislative@indivisiblebc.org for legislative-related issues.

Please email events@indivisiblebc.org for questions about specific events.

Upcoming Community Events

47TH ANNUAL ŁATWA INA POW WOW



STUDENT
ARTWORK BY
JAYMIE SPANO

**SATURDAY,
MAY 16, 2026**

GILL COLISEUM

Doors open at noon

GRAND ENTRY

1 p.m. and 6 p.m.

HEAD STAFF

MC: Carlos Calica
Arena Director: Anthony Bluehorse
Head Woman Dancer: Ramona Quenelle
Head Man Dancer: Chad Leno
Host Drum: Star Horse
Honor Drum: Four Directions
First 10 walk on drum pay
(minimum of five drummers): \$375 per session

CONTEST CATEGORIES

All ages: Jingle, Grassdance, Women's Fancy,
Men's Fancy, Women's Traditional, Men's Traditional

First place: \$1,000

Second place: \$750

Third place: \$500

Specials: Golden Age, Juniors,
Tiny Tot, Hand Drum

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

Sponsored in part by Pepsi

indigenous.oregonstate.edu/pow-wow



All are welcome! Alcohol and substance free event.
Accommodations related to disabilities,
contact christyjones@oregonstate.edu

RURAL RAINBOW COALITION + CORVALLIS PRIDE PRESENT:

ALT PROM: } FRIDAY GOTHIC GLAM } 05/22

A SAFE AND AFFIRMING PROM EVENT
FOR LGBTQIA+ TEENS AND ALLIES

FREE!

*MUSIC • FOOD • PHOTO BOOTH
MINI DRAG SHOW*



AGES: 14-18
SCHOOL ID REQUIRED

6:30PM-9PM

CORVALLIS COMMUNITY CENTER

2601 NW TYLER AVE, CORVALLIS, OR 97330

Alt Prom is back! If you would like to volunteer at the event or would like more information please contact us at admin@corvallispride.com!

Looking forward to serving the community at this event!

Active Parenting of Queer Youth

No-Cost Class Series

May 4- June 29
Mondays, 6-8pm

Youth Service Center
1025 Pacific Blvd SE, Albany

Catered Dinner Provided

Includes \$40 cash childcare voucher
Provided at the end of each class
Please request vouchers when you sign up!

Parents Supporting Parents



Scan QR code, email or call Tristin
to register:
tristin.young@jacksonstreet.org
541.243.3801



Free family fun in the forest!



UN DÍA EN EL **BOSQUE** ¡Diversión gratuita en el bosque!

MAY 30 | 30 DE MAYO | 10AM-3PM
PEAVY ARBORETUM, CORVALLIS, OR

Outdoor activities for everyone
Actividades al aire libre para todos

- fishing • pesca • crafts • artesanías
- snacks • bocadillos • games • juegos

Shuttle from / Transporte disponible desde
Crescent Valley High School

No onsite parking at the arboretum/ No hay estacionamiento en el bosque



beav.es/SVo

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Grassroots Games
presents

Play It Forward Game Night

MAY 23 5:30 PM
Springhill Cellars Winery
2920 NW Scenic Dr,
Albany, OR 97321
Family friendly - All ages!
\$10 online
\$15 at the door

**A FUNDRAISER
FOR**



**Board Games!
Trivia!
Live Music!**

Join us for a night full of fun, food,
music, and friendly competition!

Tickets here: 



Piñata Workshop

Celebrate National Children's Day at this educational, family-friendly fundraiser activity

Learn about the fascinating history behind the piñata, then decorate and fill your very own piñatas to take home! All materials provided.

\$25-50 donation/piñata encouraged. Scan this code or email FUNdraiser_541@proton.me to secure your spots and learn more!

Sunday, June 14th

Avery Park Lions Shelter

12pm-2:30pm

Stay 'til the end to help smash a GIANT piñata!



Your sliding scale donation will support vulnerable immigrant families in our community. To learn more about the NeST fund visit tinyurl.com/caringforneighbors



SONGS AND SOLIDARITY

WEDNESDAYS
AT 6PM

CORVALLIS
COURTHOUSE

APRIL 15TH 22ND 29TH
MAY 6TH 13TH 20TH

LED BY
KJERSTEN
HALLIN

ALL VOICES
WELCOME

SINGING
CORVALLIS
RESISTANCE

LEAD WITH
LOVE

GATHER. LEARN. SING!

@singingresistance.corvallis

The poster features a background image of the Corvallis Courthouse. It is decorated with several hand-drawn elements: a circular logo for 'Singing Corvallis Resistance', a blue speech bubble with the name 'Kjersten Hallin', another blue speech bubble saying 'All voices welcome', and several red hearts with the phrase 'Lead with love'. Orange monarch butterflies are scattered throughout the design. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a crowd and an Instagram handle.



CASA LATINOS UNIDOS FUNDRAISER



Help our most vulnerable Latino/a communities in Linn and Benton Counties. 100% of your donations will help supply local families with food, household supplies, toiletries, and other necessities.

Matching Funds Available!

Sign up for regular monthly donations and your initial contribution will be **DOUBLED!**

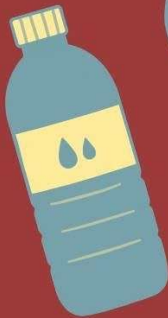


*While funds last. Donations to Casa Latinos Unidos are tax-deductible. <https://casalatinosunidos.org>
Mail check donations to PO Box 716, Corvallis, OR, 97339. Made possible with support from Indivisible Benton County and East Linn Indivisible.





CHANCE Summer Essentials:



Water bottles!!!

Electrolyte packets / drinks

Sunscreen / Aloe

Weather-Appropriate Clothing

(Tank Tops, Shorts, Sandals, Flip Flops)

Deodorant / Hygiene Items

First Aid Supplies, Chapstick

Protein bars / Drinks

Individually Wrapped Snacks / Foods

Hats / Sunglasses / Umbrellas

Backpacks / Bags

Bugspray

Help CHANCE make a difference in our community for those who need it most this summer. Drop-off donations can be delivered at any of our locations!

www.chancerecovery.org

P: (541) 791-3411



WE'RE LOW ON CANNED VEGETABLES!



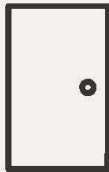
**DONATE DURING OUR OPEN HOURS:
CORN, GREEN BEANS, PEAS,
CARROTS, HOMINY, SPINACH,
SWEET POTATO, AND MORE**

South Corvallis Food Bank; 1800 SW 3rd St #110
Call **541-753-4263** for drop-off times

Keep Our Community Safe

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WITH IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

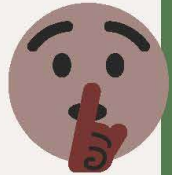
DON'T OPEN THE DOOR



Communicate through the window or closed door. Immigration can only enter your home with an arrest warrant signed by a judge

REMAIN SILENT AND DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING

You have the right not to speak. Say out loud that you will not answer questions or sign any documents without a lawyer present.



DO NOT GIVE PERMISSION FOR SEARCH



You have the right to refuse permission for immigration authorities or police to enter or search your car or person unless they have a warrant signed by a judge.

TAKE PHOTOS, VIDEO AND/OR NOTES

Inform the officer that you will be using your right to record. Take photos, record the interaction, and write down the details.



REPORT ICE ACTIVITY TO THE COMMUNITY HOTLINE



PIRC will contact rapid response teams that will verify and document immigration activity and offer support to affected people.

CONFIRM NEWS AND RUMORS

Do not share unverified information, as this only creates fear. Ask people sharing news about ICE to share their sources and have witnesses call PIRC to verify.



**PIRC HOTLINE:
1-888-622-1510**

COMMUNITY ALERT

The PIRC hotline has seen an exponential increase in the number of calls we are receiving during this current assault on our communities. The hotline is staffed almost entirely by volunteers who are working around the clock to respond to this crisis. In order to help us meet the challenges of this moment and to center those most impacted, we have an ask of the community.



Please continue to **CALL** the hotline with any urgent concerns:

- You are witnessing ICE presence (suspected or confirmed)
- You have witnessed or have information about an ICE detention
- You're looking for a missing loved one

Please **TEXT** the hotline with nonurgent issues:

- Questions about accessing non urgent resources (as long as it isn't needed within the next 24 hours).
- Photos of possible ICE sightings, license plates, etc. If urgent, please call first before sending text messages



Please **EMAIL**:

- press@pircoregon.org for any media inquiries.
- volunteers@pircoregon.org for questions about volunteering, donating to the PIRC Resource Center, and Migra Watch.
- pircpdx@gmail.com with any VIDEO footage of ICE activity (please be sure to include information about date, time, location, any other relevant info) OR any other general inquiries



HOTLINE: 1-888-622-1510



Indivisible Benton County's Action Committees

Most of Indivisible BC's work is done by our four loosely organized action committees. To read about the general organization of our committees, visit our website [HERE](#).

To join or learn more about any committee, please email info@indivisiblebc.org with the name of the committee(s), or attend the committee meeting at the next general meeting.

Our Mission

Indivisible Benton County is a grassroots organization of volunteers committed to advance bold and progressive actions and policies. We are determined to resist corruption, authoritarianism, and inequality. We educate, engage, and mobilize to promote values of inclusion, tolerance and fairness with the goal of helping build a more perfect and representative government that is For The People and By The People.

[Donate Here](#)



paid for by Indivisible

Indivisible Benton County
Benton
Corvallis, OR 97330
United States
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