



INDIVISIBLE BENTON COUNTY

N e w s l e t t e r

July 28, 2026

[Left/Ground Truth](#) (canvassing, phone banking), [Vote Riders](#) (helpline, letters, texts), and [Blue Wave](#), [Postcards to Voters](#) & [Field Team 6](#) (postcarding). For those wishing to make **strategic donations**, we suggest [Oath Vote](#).

- **ELECTION PROTECTION:** We are committed to contributing to the safety of our vote-by-mail process and ensuring that all votes reach the elections office.
- **INDIVISIBLE NATIONAL:** [Sign up for the Hands Off Our Vote campaign](#) to be ready to mobilize in defense of our right to vote.



We are ready for volunteers to canvas to unregistered voters RIGHT NOW! Join the fun of visiting different neighborhoods to welcome folks who have recently moved and are not yet registered to vote. Canvas with a buddy, or go your own way. Email voter@indivisiblebc.org to get started. We will provide training if you haven't registered voters before.

Our Corvallis Farmers' Market voter registration drive is also in full swing! Email farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org, or sign up using one of the Mobilize links in the Calendar below.

New Endorsement Process for Local Elections

For the first time, Indivisible BC is considering endorsements in local races. **In the partisan races, the message from Indivisible National is to vote Democratic down the ticket.** However, there are also several nonpartisan races, particularly for Mayors and City Councils. These positions have a direct impact on residents of Corvallis, Albany, and other cities in Benton County.

The endorsement process is a great method of getting to know candidates and making an informed decision about our votes. It also advances shared goals, provides influence and access, and mobilizes our membership to engage with the process.

- For target races, the Candidate Research Committee will research the candidates' current positions, previous votes, and relevant experience. They will request that candidates complete a questionnaire and sign a pledge to adhere to specific principles and expectations of civility.
- The committee will provide Indivisible BC members with summaries of the candidates' positions & backgrounds (e.g., through the website, newsletter, and/or general meetings).
- **August 12, 6 – 9 pm**, at the **Corvallis Library**: Indivisible and [Our Revolution - Corvallis Allies](#) (ORCA) will hold our first Candidate Forum. This replaces our regular meeting.
- **August 17, 6 – 9 pm**, at the **Corvallis Library**: We will have the second Candidate Forum, followed by the Endorsement Meeting.
 - The committee will present each candidate in the race, speaking for a few minutes about what sets that individual apart, followed by about five minutes of questions regarding each candidate.
 - There will be a 20-minute open discussion of the candidates. If there is a large group at the meeting, breakout groups will be formed. Moderators will help diffuse small arguments between proponents of different candidates.
- **August 17 – 24:** Indivisible BC members vote.
 - Any group member who has attended an action or meeting or receives the newsletter is eligible to vote.

- Voting will be done **online anonymously**, with instructions sent through the mailing list.
- Those that do not use electronic methods can participate using **paper ballots at the endorsement meeting**.
- Members will have the **option of voting not to endorse** any candidates.
- The group will only endorse a candidate that receives **two-thirds (67% or greater) majority of the votes cast**.

- **August 25: Endorsement Announcement**

Indivisible BC will support our endorsed candidates in various ways. Note that **these efforts will be separate from our GOTV efforts**. Additionally, members are welcome to canvass or phone bank for, or otherwise support, other candidates as individual volunteers. We ask that members do not imply, suggest, or claim that they represent Indivisible Benton County when doing so.

The focus should be on **positive messaging** and objective comparisons (e.g., voting records or stated policy positions). We expect all group members to **reject negative campaigning**, against either the group's endorsed candidate or candidates who were not endorsed. Indivisible will want to have a positive relationship with candidates for years to come, regardless of who wins this election.

CALENDAR

August

- **8/1** | Indivisible BC at Saturday Market. 8am-1pm. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/5** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/6** | Immigrant Justice Summer Call #3. See below. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/7** | Postcarding - Get out the Vote. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/8** | Indivisible BC at Saturday Market. 8am-1pm. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/12** | Indivisible BC Candidate Forum. Corvallis Library. 6- 9pm. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/12** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/13** | Visibility Brigade Corvallis Rush Hour Bannering. Email visibilitybrigade@indivisiblebc.org.
- **8/15** | Indivisible BC at Saturday Market. 8am-1pm. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/16** | Postcarding - Get out the Vote. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/17** | Indivisible BC Candidate Forum and Endorsement meeting. 6-9 pm. Corvallis Library. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/18** | Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network with Tina Kotek. Register for the call [HERE](#).
- **8/18** | "What is Democracy?" documentary screening with pizza. Corvallis Community Center. 5:30-7:45pm. \$5.
- **8/19** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/20** | Immigrant Justice Summer Call #4. See below. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/21** | Postcarding - Get out the Vote. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/22** | Indivisible BC at Saturday Market. 8am-1pm. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/25** | Postcarding - Get out the Vote. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/26** | Indivisible General Meeting. **Corvallis Community Center**. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/26** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/27** | Immigrant Justice Summer Call #5. See below. [Sign up!](#)
- **8/29** | Indivisible BC at Saturday Market. 8am-1pm. [Sign up!](#)

September

- **9/2** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **9/4** | Postcarding - Get out the Vote. [Sign up!](#)
- **9/5** | Indivisible BC at Saturday Market. 8am-1pm. [Sign up!](#)
- **9/9** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **9/9** | Indivisible General Meeting. **Corvallis Library**. [Sign up!](#)
- **9/12** | Indivisible BC at Saturday Market. 8am-1pm. [Sign up!](#)
- **9/16** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **9/19** | Indivisible BC at Saturday Market. 8am-1pm. [Sign up!](#)
- **9/23** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **9/23** | Indivisible General Meeting. **Corvallis Community Center**. [Sign up!](#)
- **9/26** | Indivisible BC at Saturday Market. 8am-1pm. [Sign up!](#)
- **9/30** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)

Scroll down for flyers about other community events.

Don't forget the 7/29 Weekly Protest! [Sign up here.](#)



Thursday, August 6: Roles & Rapid Response Strategies

Thursday, August 20: Funnel Support for Immigrant Justice

Thursday, August 27: Use Signal for Organizing

When ICE comes to your community, do you know what to do? This summer, Indivisible is giving you a blueprint. Immigrant Justice Summer is a five-call national training series that will level up how you show up for immigrant justice. You'll get aligned with the organizations already leading the response in your community, build a concrete plan for your role, and grow your circle of neighbors ready to act. By the end, you'll be equipped to mount a safe, hyper-local, immigrant-aligned response when ICE comes to your community.

[Learn more and sign up for the remaining calls.](#)

You can [watch recordings of the first two calls here.](#)

SCROLL DOWN TO THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR A WEEKLY REPORT FROM PORTLAND IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COALITION, AND CHECK OUT [THIS ARTICLE](#) ABOUT INCREASED ICE ACTIVITY LOCALLY.

Supporting Election Security and Democracy

Conversation with Benton Election Officials

On July 14th [Third Act](#) hosted a meeting with Darla Rush, Director of Benton County Records and Elections, and her Deputy Director Jo Missler, about how elections are administered in Benton County. Darla described the numerous practices that ensure the integrity of the voting process in the County and throughout Oregon, as required by state law.

Darla and other County Elections staff are in frequent communication with their counterparts in other counties and the Secretary of State's office. Some minor procedures may differ among counties, but all counties must comply with state elections law.

Attendees asked about recent news that some ballots mailed on Election Day for the May primary were not included in the final vote tally. Darla had called for an immediate meeting with the local postmaster and Secretary of State Tobias Reed. Secretary Reed called for USPS to do a thorough review of its practices regarding mail pick-up on or before Election Day and to make its finding available to the public. He commended the prompt response from Benton County officials.

Darla stated that, per USPS service cuts, mail placed in local mailboxes generally is not postmarked the same day. Instead, mail is sent to Portland for processing the following day. Individuals can go to a local post office on Election Day and request that their ballot be postmarked the same day, but this is an added step most will not be likely to do – or even know might be warranted. The County confirmed that no May primary election results would have been different as a result of ballots not postmarked on Election Day.

Our right to vote is fundamental to our democracy. Indivisible will monitor the situation and provide updates.

At a time when some are trying to sow doubt about election security for their own political gain, we should feel confident and proud of Oregon's vote-by-mail system.

What Can You Do About Election Security?

EDUCATE YOURSELF: Watch the County's video [Journey of a Vote](#), to learn about the meticulous procedures – and safeguards – enacted from start to finish.

SPEAK UP: Contact your elected officials about your concerns and expectations that all votes cast on or before Election Day are counted.

- Secretary of State Tobias Read: (503) 986-1518, [email](#)
- US Senator Ron Wyden (fierce defender of OR vote by mail system): (202) 224-5244 (DC), (503) 326-7525 (Portland), [email](#)

SECURE YOUR VOTE: **Return your ballot in one of the County's 17 ballot drop boxes!** If mailed, ballots should be **mailed at least seven days** before Election Day.

What is Democracy?

Mark your calendars and join Third Act for an evening of viewing the documentary film [What is Democracy?](#) by Astra Taylor. The documentary blends everyday experience and political theory to address questions central to democracy.

When: August 18th, 5:30pm-7:45pm

Where: Corvallis Community Center - OAK Room (2601 Tyler Ave.)

Running time: 107 minutes

Pizza! Contribute \$5, as we plan to pause the movie halfway through and will have pizza delivered to share.

This will be a great opportunity to talk with each other about how we can apply what we learned from the movie to support democracy locally.

Support Local Community Events



Make a difference in Benton County!

Benton County is looking for community members to serve on advisory boards, commissions and committees that help shape local decisions on issues ranging from parks and historic preservation to libraries, public health and more.

Applications are accepted year-round and held for up to one year. Current vacancies are posted online. Your community needs your voice. Consider serving today.



Join us for the Benton County Democrats Picnic and Pie auction!

We will be gathering on **Sunday, Aug 2, at 2 pm** at the **Rotary Shelter in Willamette Park** to enjoy a summer afternoon, grill some burgers and dogs, and auction off some delicious pies. Bring a side dish to share, a beverage, and plan to bid on some pies.



Join us for the Linn County Democrats' Annual Cookout and Pie Auction on **August 9, 2026 (4:30-8 pm)**, at **Santiam Place Wedding & Event Hall in Lebanon**.

Enjoy a great barbecue with burgers and hot dogs. We encourage you to bring a side dish or dessert, and you can let us know your selection in the RSVP form. We'll have bingo and conduct a short central committee meeting before moving onto the auction.

Please [RSVP here](#) to save your spot. We look forward to seeing you there!



OUT OF THE CLOSET CLOTHING SWAP

FREE


Sat. August 1st
12pm-4pm
812 SW 4th Street

Find a new outfit or change out your wardrobe at our inclusive clothing swap hosted at the Trickster's Apothecary. **All sizes and gender expressions encouraged!** Snacks and free drinks available inside!

follow us @trickstersapoth



LGBTQIA2S+ SUPPORT GROUP

2nd and 4th Sundays of the Month

at Manyworld DIY
1013 NW Taylor Avenue

5:00-6:30PM



**AUGUST 7
A STRENGTHENING
RURAL FAMILIES
SUMMER GATHERING**



Established in 2005
Celebrating 20 Years of Service



Bring the family & enjoy an
easygoing evening
at Lumos Winery 5:30-8:00pm

Silent auction baskets and individual items
will be available for bidding and
a portion of Lumos evening's sales go to the benefit
of Strengthening Rural Families



MUSIC PROVIDED BY
MULE ON FIRE

Donate now
with Zeffy!



Mud Oven Pizza have
food for purchase!

OR YOU CAN BRING A PICNIC.
BRING A CHAIR.

Date: Friday, August 7, 5:30pm-8:00pm
Location: Lumos Wine Company Wren Vineyard
24000 Cardwell Hill Drive, Philomath, OR 97370

**Call
for Volunteers**



Scan the QR code to get involved!
Volunteer meetings happen every other Thursday
online or in person at our main office at 6pm!

[https://www.cognitoforms.com/
MidWillametteTransSupportNetwork/
VolunteerApplication](https://www.cognitoforms.com/MidWillametteTransSupportNetwork/VolunteerApplication)



A graphic with a blue and yellow background. On the left, there is a sun, a water bottle, and flip-flops. On the right, the text "CHANCE Summer Essentials:" is followed by a list of items. At the bottom, there is a call to action and contact information.

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 want to uplift the community and our coalition partners. If you have a community event that you would like us to consider including in our weekly newsletter or website, please email newsletter@indivisiblebc.org.

IMMIGRATION TRENDS REPORT FROM PIRC



WEEKLY UPDATE

JULY 25, 2026

THE DATA

- 12 detentions reported to the PIRC hotline July 17 - July 23
- Counties in Oregon where detentions occurred: Yamhill, Washington, Jackson, Multnomah, Deschutes, Lane, Benton, Wasco, Jefferson, Lincoln
- Of note: 12 detentions in 10 separate counties
- 54 detentions reported July 1-July 23

At the end of this week, disturbing news emerged of individuals impersonating ICE to detain and assault an immigrant community member in Clackamas County. The hotline received a call about this event the day it happened but was not aware until news broke on July 24 that the actions had been carried about by impersonators and not by ICE themselves.

This reveals the truth immigrant communities and advocates have long known: there is very little visible difference between ICE kidnapping someone, and armed private kidnappers. This is yet another reason why ICE should not be operating in Oregon - they are causing public safety problems with their reckless tactics.

PIRC 1-888-622-1510 + 07/25/26

We are also concerned about some of the guidance given by Oregon State Police in the aftermath of the event. In their press release, OSP suggests individuals "try to stop in a well-lit, crowded area," "lock your doors," and "look for a uniform."

These suggestions show a remarkable lack of awareness of ICE's common tactics of forcibly stopping people wherever they want, threatening to break people's windows if they do not immediately exit their vehicles, and failing to wear uniforms or identify themselves at all.

In fact, we know that some of the most heinous violence ICE has carried out, including assaulting, shooting, and killing immigrant community members, has been because people took some of these measures which ICE construed as "resisting arrest" or "threatening agents."

PIRC 1-888-622-1510 + 07/25/26

Our state must do better.

ICE and armed vigilantes are both deliberately exploiting a legal gray zone where people aren't sure if they can call 911 to report violent traffic assaults from unmarked people acting like police. We know local police have refused to respond to 911 calls relating to ICE activity and have in fact collaborated in pulling over or otherwise stopping individuals who are lawfully tracking ICE activity.

Instead of placing the onus on individuals to keep themselves safe with advice that will actually potentially place them in harm's way, we call on state leadership and OSP to hear directly from impacted community and come up with a tangible, community-driven plan for addressing future incidents of this nature. Our state must do everything in its power to keep its residents safe, and that includes calling for the abolition of ICE.

PIRC 1-888-622-1510 + 07/25/26

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) update.

PIRC shares our community's alarm about the Trump administration threatening to end TPS designations for an estimated 5,000 Oregonians, and 1.3 million US residents.

Thanks to another recent partisan SCOTUS ruling, this reckless, racist MAGA decision could move forward as soon as Monday, July 27. However, impacted people should remain calm and adapt as best they can. ICE wants us to live in fear, but there are far more of us than low-morale ICE can handle, and there are ways to defend ourselves.

PIRC 1-888-622-1510 + 07/25/26

Family losing TPS? Prepare!

As always, PIRC encourages all people to Know Your Rights, have the PIRC number saved with a plan to use it, follow PIRC's weekly updates to track how ICE is operating. Impacted people should connect with their lawyer or enroll in Equity Corps Oregon for free, detention-related legal services. Years of valuable resources for vulnerable families in Oregon can be found at the link in the comments below.

PIRC stands with our neighbors, most notably Haitian Oregonians, who have been speaking out as they face losing Work Authorizations, and face threats of arrest, detention, and deportation back to Haiti, a country currently in incredible turmoil.

Congress does have a bill - the Dream and Promise Act - that would end all of this fear, but DC Republicans are blocking it. Show your support for Dreamers and TPS recipients via the ACLU's new action tool.

PIRC 1-888-622-1510 + 07/25/26

Check out resources from our friends [Asylum Seeker Solidarity Collective](#) referenced above [here](#).

Make your voice heard by [showing your support for TPS and Dreamers here](#).

We Have New Email Addresses!

Email info@indivisiblebc.org, with general questions, comments, and suggestions.

Email membership@indivisiblebc.org if you'd like to volunteer, but aren't sure how to get involved.

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

Email voter@indivisiblebc.org with questions or comments about voter outreach.

Email legislative@indivisiblebc.org for legislative-related issues.

Email events@indivisiblebc.org for questions about specific events.
Email community@indivisiblebc.org for questions about community outreach activities.

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



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