



INDIVISIBLE BENTON COUNTY

N e w s l e t t e r

August 16, 2026



**INDIVISIBLE
BENTON COUNTY**

**2026
Endorsement
Meeting**

**Mon, August 17th
6:00 pm**

**Corvallis Public
Library
Main Meeting Room**

Is your info correct in our membership database?

For the first time we will be sending out emails with your individual names as part of our candidate endorsement process. If we spelled your name incorrectly, please let us know.

Also, if you've had an address or phone number change since you signed up, we'd like to keep our database up-to-date. [Email us at membership@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:membership@indivisiblebc.org).

If you can't attend

For Indivisible BC members unable to attend the meeting, information about candidates will be sent via email, along with access to on-line voting.

Please educate yourself on the candidates prior to voting. Check out the [candidate questionnaires](#). See our website for a [full description of the process](#).

If you have any questions, please [send an email](#) to voter@indivisiblebc.org.

We are sending the newsletter a few days early this week to remind our members of the upcoming endorsement meeting.

Come and participate in Indivisible Benton County Endorsement Process for Corvallis Mayor and City Council Candidates on **Monday, Aug. 17 at 6 pm at the Corvallis Library**. We only will be considering endorsements for positions with more than one candidate. (Candidates are not invited to attend the endorsement meeting.)

At the meeting, our Candidate Research Committee will present summaries of each candidate's positions on key issues along with other relevant background information. This will be followed by a five minute question-and-answer period. In addition, questionnaires filled out by candidates will be available. We will break into small facilitated groups for discussion of candidates.

At the end of the meeting, each person in our membership database should be receiving an email with a link to the ballot.

Voting options include abstaining which will not be included in the vote count. Voting not to endorse any candidates will be an option and be included in the vote count. Instructions will be in the email.

Paper ballots also will be available at the meeting for those who are unable to vote on-line. We will endorse candidates who receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast from our membership.

Voting Opens after the Endorsement Meeting

- Voting will be open from **9 pm Aug. 17 through 5 pm Aug. 24.**
- Instructions will be sent to the email list after the meeting.
- **This email will come from "Helios Voting Bot"**, with an email address of "no-reply@mail.heliosvoting.org". If you do not see the email, please check your spam filter. Contact voter@indivisiblebc.org if you have not received this email by Aug. 18.
- Any group member who has attended an action or meeting or receives the newsletter is eligible to vote.
- Voting will be done **online anonymously.**
- Members can alternately vote 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 (66.7% or greater) majority of the votes cast for that race.**

CALENDAR

August

- **8/17 | Indivisible BC Endorsement meeting.** 6-8:30 pm. **Corvallis Library.** [Sign up!](#)
- **8/18** | COIN Interview with Gov. Tina Kotek. See below.
- **8/18** | "What is Democracy?" documentary screening with pizza. Corvallis Community Center. 5:30-7:45pm. \$5.
- **8/19** | Weekly Wednesday Protest.
- **8/20** | Immigrant Justice Summer Call #4. See previous newsletter.
- **8/21** | Postcarding - Get out the Vote. [Sign up.](#)
- **8/22** | Indivisible BC at Saturday Market. 8am-1pm.
- **8/25** | Postcarding - Get out the Vote. [Sign up.](#)
- **8/26** | Indivisible General Meeting. **Corvallis Community Center.**
- **8/26** | Weekly Wednesday Protest.
- **8/27** | Immigrant Justice Summer Call #5. See previous newsletter.
- **8/29** | Indivisible BC at Saturday Market. 8am-1pm.

September

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

Farmers Market [Sign up!](#)

Candidate Forum & General Meeting [Sign up!](#)

Visibility Brigade [Sign up!](#)

Scroll down for flyers about other community events.

August 12, Corvallis City Council and Mayor Candidate Forum

Last Wednesday night, Indivisible Benton County and Our Revolution-Corvallis Allies (ORCA) hosted a candidate forum for the Corvallis City Council and Mayoral races. The Benton County Library meeting room was packed, and participants were engaged, cordial and asked thoughtful questions for almost

three hours. Most found the meeting very informative. Corvallis is facing some serious challenges and choices related primarily to the coming city budget shortfall, affordability and our unhoused population.

All candidates gave a short presentation followed by a question-and-answer period facilitated by a moderator. Questions were submitted in advance as well as during the meeting. One of the attendees made the following observation about the candidate pool: "It was a strong field of impressive people with impressive backgrounds. Corvallis attracts talented people who appreciate living in a nice place."

The current city budget currently is balanced, but increases in costs due to inflation and other factors will create a significant deficit in the coming year unless services are cut or more revenue is raised. Property taxes are capped and haven't kept up with city expenses or inflation. One way the city compensated was by adding more service fees. These fees are now ^{SEP}as high as they can go. The city council currently is exploring options to address this shortfall, including levying a payroll or income tax. Much discussion at the forum focused on this issue.

On the issue of affordability, several candidates reiterated that families with young children can't afford to live here, which is one reason school buildings are being closed and consolidated. According to one candidate, 20,000 people come from outside of Corvallis to work every day. Another candidate pointed out that Corvallis is the most rent burdened city in the state.

While the city currently is taking steps to address homelessness in Corvallis, this is still a serious concern. While acknowledging that this is a complex issue, several candidates pointed out that affordability is one root cause.

Candidates offered a wide range of strategies for dealing with these big issues, including fostering economic development; increased engagement with community members; creating a fee and tax structure that puts more burden on people who can afford it; making childcare more affordable; and eliminating/reducing barriers (fees and policies) to building more affordable housing.

For additional information about each candidate:

Candidates were given questionnaires to fill out before the forum. Those that submitted the questionnaires can be accessed on our [website](#). When video of the forum becomes available, information will be provide on our [website](#). Check back for updates.

A huge thanks the committee that put together this well-organized, informative and engaging forum!

Join Indivisible BC's Announcements Chat in Signal!



Hear about special events and receive key information in real time!

With midterm elections looming, be ready to mobilize for Get-Out-The-Vote and Election Protection events and actions! One-way communications, so only essential info will be posted.

To join the chat if you already have a Signal account:

Use the QR code or click on [this link](#)!

Matching Donations in August!

Indivisible National will match all donations we receive in August up to \$500.

Your support is especially important right now as we launch a huge GOTV campaign leading into the midterms. We also rely on donations to cover our ongoing expenses for meeting room reservations, printing, events fees, supplies, etc. Please help us reach this fundraising goal by donating any amount – even a little can go a long way!

DONATE HERE



Special General Meeting August 26

Our next general meeting is on Wed., Aug. 26, our special guests will be OR State Senator Sara Gelser Blouin (SD- 8; [Corvallis, Albany, Millersburg, Tangent, Adair Village, South Salem, and unincorporated parts of Benton, Linn, and Marion Counties](#)) and OR State Representative candidate Joanna Robinson (HD-15; [Albany, Millersburg, Tangent, and unincorporated parts of Benton, Marion, and Linn counties](#)).

We will be meeting in the **Chandler Ballroom** at the **Corvallis Community Center**, from **6:30 to 8:30 pm**.

We'll also have updates on our voter registration and GOTV efforts.



Visibility Brigade shows up with Signs of Fascism!



Last Thursday, our **Visibility Brigade** collaborated with the **Albany Banner Brigade** to display the Signs of Fascism on the Ellsworth Street Bridge in Albany. About 25 bannerers, wearing black, spread themselves along the sidewalk most the way over the bridge during the time of heavy traffic coming into Albany for the River Rhythm concert in Monteith Park.

Each person held a sign describing an indicator of fascism, like voter suppression; normalizing corruption; and pardoning criminal loyalists. These were followed by several signs describing actions that can be taken in response to fascism, such as vote and get others to vote; put pressure on politicians; and train, recruit and organize.

Against the backdrop of the imposing bridge struts and the shadows from the setting sun, it was a striking display with a powerful message. The response from motorists was very positive—many thumbs up and lots of horn honking. After an hour on the bridge, banners gathered in a nearby parking lot to enjoy brownies and celebrate a very successful bannerling event. If you want to join in, email visibilitybrigade@indivisiblebc.org to get connected.

Protect the Vote

Swing Left is hosting an in person and zoom meeting about protecting the vote on Sept 12th from 2-4 pm in Portland.

Without voting rights there is no democracy.

It is as simple as that. Voting is how we choose leaders, shape our future, and hold power accountable to the people.

But voting rights are under attack. Election workers face intimidation. Executive orders restrict access to the ballot. The Supreme Court has made it nearly impossible for voters of color to win fair representation. And outsiders have come to Oregon to sow distrust of the mail-in voting system.

Join Indivisible Oregon, and Senator **Jeff Merkley**, Oregon Secretary of State **Tobias Read**, President of the Oregon Association of County Clerks **Dag Robinson**, and Common Cause Oregon executive director **Kate Titus**, for a practical discussion of:



Our vote is our voice. Democracy only works when every eligible voter can participate freely, safely, and equally.

[SIGN UP ON MOBILIZE.](#) There is limited in person and zoom registration.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF CORVALLIS

**How Misinformation Distorts Elections:
THE ROLE OF LOCAL JOURNALISM**

Wednesday, August 19, 2026 • 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

PANELISTS



Penny Rosenberg
Oregon Journalism Project



Steve Schultz
Corvallis Advocate



Dan Crall
KORC



Jim Rondeau
KLCC

This event is the 1st program in the League's 3-part, pre-election series, "Truth, Trust, and Democracy: Information, Elections, and Voter Confidence".

- Q & A
- Small group discussion
- Light refreshments

The public is invited to join us for this important program!

For details, go to <https://lwvcorvallis.org>. This is an in-person event only.

Co-sponsored by 

How Misinformation Distorts Elections: The Role of Local Journalism. Corvallis- Benton County Public Library, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis. 6:30 pm. Panelists will include: Penny Rosenberg, Former Editor of the *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, Steve Schultz, Editor and Publisher of *The Corvallis Advocate*, Dan Crall, Station Manager of KORC, and Jim Rondeau, Station Manager of KLCC. Following an initial series of questions posed by the League, audience members will have an opportunity to ask questions of the panelists. Visit [How Misinformation Distorts Elections: The Role of Local Journalism | LVW](#) for more info.

Salem Region Indivisible's **Election Protection Training** with Common Cause is **Oct. 7 from 5:30-7 pm at the First Congregational UCC Church in Salem.** [Sign up for the training and get more information on Mobilize!](#)

Indivisible co-founders Leah Greenberg and Ezra Levin host **"What's the Plan"** every Thurs. at 12 pm. [Register](#) to watch live, and watch [recordings](#) or listen to [podcasts](#) of past calls.

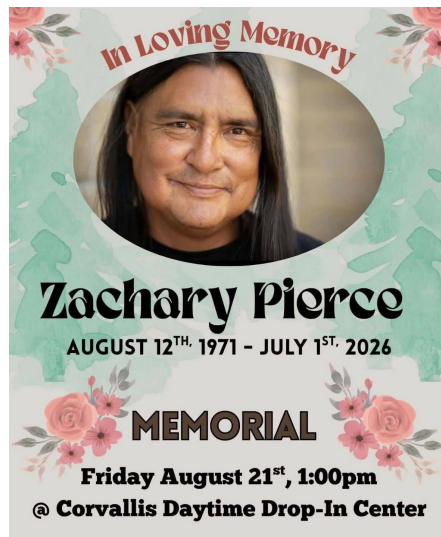
Support Local Community Events

Rogue One

It is with great sorrow that we share news of the passing of one of our dear members and partners in the community, Zachary Pierce. He passed away July 1st, 2026. He graciously allowed Indivisible Benton County to participate in his group, Rogue One, which focused on serving people facing food insecurity. For the past year, we partnered with him to serve breakfast at either the Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center or the Unity Shelter at least twice a month.

There will be a memorial service at the Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center on August 21st at 1pm.

Indivisible BC members will be joining members of Rogue One in a breakfast service in his honor that morning. If you would like to participate or support this service, please [email esther@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:esther@indivisiblebc.org).



Festival Latino

This year's Festival Latino will be on **September 13th, from 12pm - 5pm at Monteith Riverpark** in Albany, Oregon. There will be live music, dance, food, a resource fair, and a cultural exhibition showcasing the Latino/x/e contributions to the Midvalley area.

They are in need of volunteers for this event. Please consider showing up for your neighbors and signing up for a shift or two. Here's the volunteer registration: <https://signup.com/go/XDNmKUL>.

If your business would like to sponsor the event, see the Linn-Benton Hispanic Advisory Committee post on [Facebook post here!](#)

If you can't volunteer, be sure to attend and share widely!



“International Flavors”

Food Event by Corvallis' Refugees

The Unitarian Universalist Church and Corvallis For Refugees invite you to support our new neighbors at our "International Flavors".

Opening event will feature Salvadoran cuisine, which fuses Indigenous and Spanish traditions, and Afghan cuisine, famously known for its rich herbs and spices. Enjoy while supporting our community!



Cash or
Venmo only

Date: August 21st, 2026

Time: 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Corvallis,
2945 NW Circle Blvd, Corvallis.

For More Information:
info@corvallisforrefugees.org

**Mingle
BINGO**

**\$10
buys 3
BINGO
cards**

**Fun For The
Whole Family**

Oscar's Taco and Cantina
2475 NW 9th St, Corvallis
August 23, 2026
3-6pm

Play Bingo, mingle, dine and wine,
and win mystery cash prizes while
supporting our immigrant neighbors!



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.

PIRC
 PORTLAND IMMIGRANT
 RIGHTS COALITION

WEEKLY UPDATE
 AUG 14 2026

THE DATA:

- 20 detentions reported to the PIRC hotline 8/8-8/13
- Counties in Oregon where detentions occurred (7): Lane, Multnomah, Washington, Josephine, Wasco, Marion, Jackson; also Whatcom (WA)
- 43 detentions reported to PIRC thus far in August 2026

PIRC 1-888-622-1510

TRENDS

- We continue to receive reports of delivery drivers being detained while working, especially at Walmarts around the state, and detentions happening when people have court dates at local county courthouses
- We are also noticing an increase in detentions in the parking lots of big box stores
- 15% of those detained in August thus far identify as women, which is higher than previous months this year

PIRC 1-888-622-1510 + 08/14/26

PIRC and partners are noticing a trend of more people being called in for Credible & Reasonable Fear Interviews (C/RFIs).

These interviews can be an important part of someone's immigration case, and should not result in detention no matter the result, but we have seen in some cases, ICE choosing to detain people who receive a negative result.

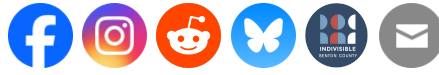
A lawyer can make a big difference in the result of a CFI or RFI and in advocating on your behalf in this scenario - if you get a notice scheduling you for an appointment like this and don't already have a lawyer, please call ECO and call us as well so we can try to connect you with support!

PIRC 1-888-622-1510 + 08/14/26

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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