



## **CALL TO ACTION – November 11**

### **ELECTION RESULTS!**

We had an election this week, and voters delivered a clear rebuke to the Trump Administration. Democrats have picked up 32 seats in the House of Representatives; that number may grow to as many as 40 as California finishes counting mail-in ballots and close races are resolved. In our very own Washington State, Kim Schrier defeated 4-time loser Dino Rossi to flip the 8th Congressional District blue. Come January, Democrats in D.C. will be in a strong position to hold Trump's White house accountable and put a check on the Republican Party's legislative agenda.

Not everything that happened nationally on Tuesday was good news. As expected, Republicans were able to pick off a few Democratic Senate seats in states that Trump won in 2016. Democratic wins in Nevada and Arizona appear to have stanch the bleeding, but the Senate looks to be shaping up as a 2-seat gain for Republicans. Six of the ten Democrats in Trump states made strong showings and will be able to stand up to Trump for the rest of his term.

On the state and local level, results were positive for Democrats and progressives. On OI endorsed initiatives, we won two out of three. Both I-940 De-escalate Washington and I-1639 Gun Violence Prevention passed easily while I-1631, the pollution fee initiative was defeated by oil money, 56.5-43.5 against.

While many of our endorsed candidates were not able to beat incumbents, Tye Menser has a razor-thin lead against Bud Blake for Thurston County Commissioner, and it looks like that will hold as Thurston County counts its final votes this week, giving us a progressive voice in our county government. (We may still need your help to chase unsigned ballots in the next day or two.)

Across the nation, Republicans lost control of six state houses and seven governorships. Four states passed initiatives to reform redistricting, so voters can choose their politicians rather than the other way around. All in all, Republicans lost much of their ability to gerrymander Congressional and legislative districts.

There was more good news for those who want to strengthen our democracy: Floridians overwhelmingly approved a measure to reinstate voting rights for convicted felons who have served their sentences. Michigan passed a sweeping electoral reform measure that instituted, among other things, no-excuse absentee voting and automatic voter registration. Fargo, ND, passed an initiative to use [approval voting](#) in municipal elections. The state of ND passed an initiative strengthening campaign finance regulations. Maine used its ranked-choice voting method for the first time and Memphis, TN, fought back an attempt to repeal its ranked-choice system.

The good and bad considered together, you should all walk away from this election feeling good about the results. You have dealt a crippling blow to the extreme agenda of Trump and his enablers. Washington now has a mandate to enforce common sense gun regulations and make law enforcement less violent. Democrats in Washington's state houses have extended their majorities and can push more progressive legislation. And Trump will be gainlessly butting his head against a Democratic House for the rest of his term.

The biggest question now is, "What do we win next?"

# NOW WHAT?

## After the Elections, then What? Calling All OI Members to SHOW UP! **STRATEGIC PLANNING BRAINSTORM**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12 at 6:45pm**

Olympia Indivisible Steering Committee asks you (yes, *you!*) to participate in a brainstorming session on OI's post mid-term goals and team missions. Here's what you can do in advance: look at the questions below, look at our current goals and teams (posted on our website) and COME SHARE YOUR IDEAS. We would particularly like team leads to attend this meeting, so we can get your input on what you see as the direction and contribution of your team going forward.

### HERE ARE 4 QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED:

1. What should be the top 3 goals for OI for 2019?
2. Why are these important?
3. What is the plan you would recommend for accomplishing these goals?
4. What part are you willing to play in accomplishing these goals?

Let's use our "hive mind" to help create a wise and effective plan. This informal discussion will take place at TC Courthouse, Building 1, Room 152 (please show up at 6:45pm so we can start promptly at 7pm.)

And be sure to RSVP to [olyindirsvp@gmail.com](mailto:olyindirsvp@gmail.com) to confirm your attendance at this meeting

# SAVE OUR DEMOCRACY

## Oppose The Appointment of Matt Whitaker As Acting Attorney General Because He's Scum

On Wednesday Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> Donald Trump fired Jeff Sessions (we had a fantastic turn out at our Protest Rally Thursday night!) and appointed Matthew Whitaker as interim Attorney General. This is concerning and probably illegal. The concerning elements are multiple, ranging from inexperience to outright corruption.

To begin with, Whitaker is inexperienced, his only experience with the Dept of Justice was when he served as the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Iowa from June 2004 to November 2009. Still, even in that short time he has a blemished record, including using his office to prosecute political enemies.

Also, it is unlikely he will be impartial in this most powerful law enforcement position. He claims to be a Christian and at a conservative forum in 2014, he "proposed blocking non-religious people from judicial appointments" and said that judges should have "biblical view of justice".

Whitaker may claim to be a Christian, however, that apparently does not preclude him from stealing money from the elderly. Beginning in 2014 and until 2017, when the federal court shut it down, Whitaker "served on the advisory board of World Patent Marketing, a Florida-based 'scam that has bilked thousands of consumers out of millions of dollars," according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FTC alleged that World Patent Marketing and Desa Industries, "deceived consumers and suppressed complaints about them using threats, intimidation, and gag clauses." Whittaker's participation extends to using "his background as a U.S. attorney to try to silence customers who claimed they were defrauded by the company and sought to take their complaints public."

Finally, according to several legal experts this appointment is unconstitutional. Those opposing it include George Conway, husband of Trump aid Kellyanne Conway, who in an editorial he co-wrote with Neal Katyal, in the New York Times, the appointment violates the Constitution, because the Attorney General, as "a principal officer *must be confirmed by the Senate*". An officer is a principal officer if "he or she reports *only* to the president". They cite a case in which Justice Clarence Thomas wrote a judgment regarding the appointment of the general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, in which Thomas argued the Constitution's drafters, "recognized the serious risk for abuse and corruption" and that is "why the framers provided for advice and consent of the Senate". There is no

question, that as a Cabinet Position, the Attorney General reports only to the President and thus this appointment is a Constitutional violation.

**Call our Senators:** Senator Maria Cantwell (253)572-2281 Senator Patty Murray (253)572-3636

### **Script for MOCs**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am calling to express my outrage at the appointment of Matthew Whitaker as Interim Attorney General. This is an illegal and unethical appointment and Congress must exercise their authority to prevent it. First the AG must be confirmed by the Senate and that has not happened. Second, Matt Whitaker is not only unqualified, and should have had his law license revoked for his involvement in criminal conduct with World Patent Marketing. Senator \_\_\_\_\_ must show the leadership of the office of Senator, must do the work envisioned by our founding fathers, provide the check and balance, by not consenting to this appointment.

Other Senator to call if you're feeling energetic		local zip codes for their district
Mitch McConnell	202-224-2541	40202
Sen. Orin Hatch:	202-224-5251	84601
Sen. Bob Corker:	202-224-3344	38103
Sen. John Thune:	202-224-2321	57701
Sen. Roy Blunt:	202-224-5721	63105
Sen. John Barrasso	202-224-6441	82602
Sen. Cory Gardner:	202-224-5941	80202

# VETERANS DAY

## VETERANS DAY

Do not be like President Trump. The president was scheduled to pay tribute at a ceremony at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery in Belleau, about 85 km (50 miles) east of Paris, with his wife [Melania](#). But light steady rain and a low cloud ceiling prevented his helicopter from traveling to the site according to Whitehouse staff. President Trumps has not visited active duty troops in Afghanistan or any other foreign support bases. Support the Veterans in your family, neighborhood, town and nation. The following are two local support groups.

<https://www.laceyveteranshub.org/volunteer2/>

### [Volunteering — Lacey Veterans Services Hub](#)

We are a largely volunteer operated office, so our volunteers are obviously very important to us. People volunteer with us for many reasons: to give back to their community, to give back to those who served our country, to bolster their resume, for work/office experience, and countless other reasons.

[www.laceyveteranshub.org](http://www.laceyveteranshub.org)

<https://www.dav.org/ways-to-give/>

### [Ways To Give To Veterans - DAV.org](#)

For nearly a century, DAV has fought for veterans. Last year alone we impacted the lives of over 1 million veterans in life-changing ways. We couldn't assist any veterans without the generosity of caring individuals who share our mission of supporting those who have sacrificed so much to protect our freedoms.

[www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

# READY FOR MORE?

[Americans of Conscience Checklist: Week of November 11, 2018.](#)

## COMING SOON

### STRATEGIC PLANNING BRAINSTORM

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**November 16 Friday 6-8:00 pm**



### Olympia Indivisible Members TGIF Gathering!

Let's Win! **RJ's Gourmet Grill 318 4th Ave E Olympia**

This week's Call to Action brought to you by Mindy Allen, Joni Brill, Josh Haymond, Karen Lichtenstein, and Tom Dyer. Interested in joining our exceptional team? Contact [indivisible.action.oly@gmail.com](mailto:indivisible.action.oly@gmail.com).