CALL TO ACTION – November 12

SAVE OUR DEMOCRACY

STAND UP FOR DEMOCRACY and SAY NO TO RIGGING OUR COURTS. (DO THIS MONDAY BEFORE THE HEARING ON STEVEN BRADBURY!)

One of the most devastating things happening under the Trump administration is the breathtaking amount of Federal Judges being quietly appointed. This is happening because the GOP refused to hear appointments under the Obama Administration and now they are free to act on the huge backlog they created. The judges they are appointing are not being chosen based upon the expected qualifications of fairness and skill (they are making appointments even before the American Bar Association can rule if they are actually qualified to be judges). Rather, the Trump administration is basing their choices on 2 things: are they conservative, and are they young. They are doing this to rig the judicial system in their favor for years to come. You can read more about this here: https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/11/us/politics/trump-judiciary-appeals-courts-conservatives.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=first-column-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&_r=0

Even though our senators are powerless to vote these appointments down while the GOP is in the majority, they can raise their voices in opposition and shine the light of day on this abuse of power. Americans have every right to expect that judges be chosen because they are the MOST QUALIFIED CANDIDATES to do this work on behalf of all Americans.

Here’s what you can do to raise your voice loud and clear and ask our senators to do the same:

Action: My name is ____________. I am calling as a member of Olympia Indivisible. I am alarmed at the number of Federal Appointments being made with candidates that are clearly not qualified to represent the American people.

I ask that Senator __________ use the power of her office to publicly and clearly speak out against the following appointments:

1. **Steven Bradbury has no business being appointed as General Counsel in the Department of Transportation.** He is responsible for designing the torture program under the Bush administration and absolutely should not be given power under President Trump.

2. **Jeff Mateer has no business being nominated to the US District Court in Eastern Texas.** He has publicly stated that he discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation and that he does not believe in separation of church and state. He is an appalling choice for a lifetime judgeship.

3. **Thomas Far has no business being nominated to a lifetime appointment as a U.S. District Court Judge.** His history of defending voter suppression and working to make voting harder for partisan reasons should disqualify him from this important office.
Thank you. Please let Senator _______ know that I appreciate her work in speaking out against these appalling appointments.

**Advocate for a bipartisan bill proposing paper ballots.**

Senate Bill 2035 Introduced by Martin Heinrich D-NM is bill to provide increased security for the voting systems of the United States, to protect against intrusion, theft, manipulation, and deletion of voter registration data and ballots, or votes cast, and to prevent cyberattacks from malicious computer hackers, and for other purposes. This bill is in the first stage of the legislative process. It was introduced into Congress on October 31, 2017. It will typically be considered by committee next before it is possibly sent on to the House or Senate as a whole.

**ACTION:** Call our MOCs.

**Script:** Dear Sen. [name], I support the bipartisan SAVE Act introduced by Martin Heinrich and Susan Collins. With 21 state elections databases targeted last year, I trust the R&A committee will address the safety of our national voting systems by considering safer, hack-resistant paper ballots. Please do all you can to help S. 2035 proceed. Thank you.

**Write:** The two chairs of the Senate Rules and Administration committee.
Chair: Sen. Richard Shelby, 304 Russell SOB, Washington, DC 20510
Ranking member: Sen. Amy Klobuchar, 302 Hart SOB, Washington, DC 20510

**Oppose the influence of religious money in politics** ([hat tip])

From Jen Hofmann’s list.

**ACTION:** Call our 2 senators.

**Script:** Hi, I’m from [ZIP] concerned about efforts to allow tax-exempt religious organizations to influence political issues and campaigns. The House version of the tax bill would strip the Johnson Amendment of its protective strength, allowing big money to gain a greater hold on our political process. I would like the Senate version of the tax bill to not include this provision. Thanks.

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**PROTECT OUR QUALITY OF LIFE**

We CAN Do It = Stop Tax Cuts for the Rich!

At a time when US citizens in Puerto Rico are being ignored by their government, our bridges and roads are crumbling, higher education is an expensive luxury for the wealthy, and quality medical care is more and more confined to the rich, the House and Senate are proposing tax bills that are nothing but give-aways to corporations and the very wealthy. We need more investment, not less, in taking care of those in need in our country -- this is no time to be cutting rich peoples’ taxes and RAISING taxes for the middle class and working people.

**ACTION:** kill the tax bills
Call Rep. Denny Heck and ask him to lean on his Republican colleagues in states like New York and California to VOTE NO on the House tax bill, which would remove deductions for state and local taxes, harming middle class people. This would hurt Republican constituents as well as Democrats.

Call Both Rep Heck and Senators Cantwell and Murray to thank them for working to defeat the House and Senate tax bills, both of which would jump-start drilling in ANWR, plus a lot of other nasty stuff that favors the rich. ANWR is the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, and proposals to drill in it have been stopped, because they are so harmful to the ecology and wildlife up there, for more than 30 years. Now we have the additional nightmare of climate change knocking on our door --- the last thing we need to be doing right now is drilling for and burning more fossil fuels!!!

Senator Patty Murray (253) 572-3636  Senator Maria Cantwell (253) 572-2281
Representative Denny Heck (360) 459-8514

Support WA State Initiative 940

This week our OI members voted to endorse I-940. This measure would require law enforcement to receive violence de-escalation, mental-health, and first-aid training, and provide first-aid; and change standards for use of deadly force, adding a “good faith” standard and independent investigation. This initiative is in the signature gathering stage and you should consider signing it.

If you are looking for a petition to sign our member Saila has a great idea you can join (and sign): “We are working to try and get a “flash mob” type signature gathering event for area Indivisible groups this Saturday (the 18th) at noon. So you will all be invited. There’s a band called Climate Change playing and we’re going to reach out and see if they’ll play a song for us at noon to wave our petitions around. Keep your eyes peeled. I know I want you all there. It’s at most a 20 minute commitment. Get there at 11:50, grab a petition wave it around at noon and then on to the rest of your life!”

If you can’t make the event, you can contact indivisibletom@gmail.com and we will get you connected.

Here’s a video we made on I-940 that you can share with everyone.

Olympia Indivisible Endorses WA Initiative 940
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgLGYYO2pcQ

Support Transparency in Election Ad Funding

*Background:* Senate bill 1989 and House Resolution 4077 are designed to protect voters by enacting the same requirements for the internet that TV and radio have adhered to for years. Internet companies would be required to disclose the purchasers and content of advertisements displayed on their sites.

*ACTION:* Call our MoCs and ask them to support transparency in election ad funding.

*Script:* Hi, I’m from (ZIP) and I am calling about transparency in internet ads. Senate bill 1989 (Senate)/House Resolution 4077 (House) protects voters with the same requirements that TV and radio have adhered to for years. In the wake of last year’s election, I would like Representative/Senator__________ to co-sponsor this bill and bring more transparency to groups that fund US political ads. Thank you.

Representative Denny Heck (360) 459-8514
Senator Patty Murray (253) 572-3636
Senator Maria Cantwell (253) 572-2281

**READY FOR MORE?**

Read This Week’s Research Report and find other important actions to take this week.
Topics include:
- The Trump Administration is considering sharp increases in entrance fees to 17 of the most popular national parks during peak season. Make comments on the National Park Service comment page through November 23. The link to that page is at: https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?documentID=83652
  Write post cards or make calls to our MoCs opposing this increase. We support increased funding for national park maintenance and oppose budget cuts for the national parks.

- The scale of the disasters in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands requires far more aid, and a stronger federal disaster response, especially to get the electricity grids on all the islands back up and running. Call to thank our MoCs for voting to support more aid to disaster areas. Ask them to push for more aid to help the ongoing crises in Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

- Support a clean Dream Act. Call out MoCs
  I'm from .... and am calling to ask for you to co-sponsor a clean Dream Act. We need to ensure that immigrant youth can continue to go to school, work and serve in the military.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE TOPICS IN THIS WEEK’S FABULOUS RESEARCH REPORT: http://www.olympiaindivisible.com/archives.html

COMING SOON

November 16, Thursday, at 10 am
Congressman Denny Heck will be answering questions over Facebook Live.
More information can be found here.

Nov.17 Friday (6-8 pm)
Olympia Indivisible Members TGIF Gathering!
Bring your ideas for making America better! Three Magnets Brewery 600 Franklin St. Olympia.

December 4 Monday 7:00pm
OI Membership December Meeting
What: “Safeguarding Our Elections: Gerrymandering and Trump’s Election Integrity Commission”- presentation by Mary Hall, Thurston County Auditor. Questions and answers at the end.
When: Monday, December 4
Time: 7 - 8:30 p.m., Doors open 6:30 pm
Where: Room 152, Building 1, Thurston County Courthouse, - enter room from west side parking lot.