CALL TO ACTION – February 4

SAVE OUR DEMOCRACY

Tomorrow 7:00 PM
Olympia Indivisible Membership Meeting
Electoral Engagement 2018
Room 152 Thurston County Courthouse

This is our kickoff for 2018 to win the fall elections. The membership has spoken - we want to engage in electoral politics and we want to WIN!

This will not be a lecture, this will be a working meeting where we, the members, roll up our sleeves and get to work. We need you there to take us the next step in winning back our country. You've got plenty of emails about this, you know what we're going to do – so let's DO IT! See you tomorrow!

Frustrated about the budget, the deficit and the debt limit?
The Trumpublicans can't run the government on time and within budget, and the costs of their ineptitude may be with us for a long time. Even though they control all branches of government, they have yet to pass a budget for federal fiscal year 2018, even though four months have passed since the start of the fiscal year. Compounding that, there is an impending deadline to extend the debt ceiling that draws ever closer, now estimated to be early March. Meanwhile, the NYT reports that the annual deficit has skyrocketed to $995 billion, which is nearly double what the government borrowed in fiscal year 2017. The total debt is predicted to reach $20 trillion soon! This is unprecedented incompetence.

Instead of passing a budget for 2018, Trumpublicans have resorted to a series of last minute, temporary measures for keeping the government operating, called continuing resolutions (CR). This is an extremely inefficient way to run the government, forcing agencies to spend time and money repeatedly on planning for shutdowns instead of spending on their actual missions, since Congress cannot be trusted to adopt a new CR each time one nears expiration, agencies must plan for shutdown. The instability affects many parts of our economy, as agencies can't fill vacancies, let contracts for services, much less spend money on federal programs. The only good that has come out of this mess is that Democrats were successful in using the last deadline to obtain 6 years of funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program, funding that had been allowed to lapse through Trumpublican incompetence.

The latest CR expires later this week, on February 8. There are no signs that Congress will reach a budget agreement that will avoid another shutdown. Each time they adopt another CR instead of a full budget for the year, they create another crisis and waste more federal resources. Meanwhile, one of the first real ramifications of the ill-advised tax cuts is that government spending will reach the debt ceiling at least a month earlier than previously forecast. This means that in early March, Congress will need to act to raise the debt ceiling, or risk shutdown and bankruptcy! The same tax cuts that are expected to add $1 trillion to the debt. Crisis upon crisis.

__________________________
1 Seattle Times. Government set to borrow nearly $1 trillion this year, a 84 percent jump from last year. Feb 3, 2018.
Democrats must begin calling attention to the Republican policy of mis-management by crisis and fiscal irresponsibility. Our members need to let our MoCs know that we are frightened of the effect this rapidly escalating national deficit will have on our national solvency and on the debt load that future generations will bear. We should let our MoCs know that they should use every opportunity to highlight the Republican inability to produce a budget, and their choice to repeatedly taking government to the brink of shutdown or just beyond, as they did last time. Our MoCs should be blowing the whistle on incompetence and reckless behavior!

Action: Call Senator Patty Murray (253) 572-3636, Senator Maria Cantwell (253) 572-2281 and Representative Denny Heck (360) 459-8514.

Script: Hello, my name is ___________, and I am a member of Olympia Indivisible. I am calling to ask {Senator Murray, Cantwell, Representative Heck} to speak up more forcefully and frequently about the Republican enormous waste of taxpayer money in repeatedly taking government to the brink of shutdown because they can’t produce a real budget. I also want to hear our representatives denouncing the Republican mismanagement which has **doubled the national debt in one year to almost $1 trillion dollars**. I remember when the Republicans were vehemently opposed to Democratic proposals that would have resulted in far smaller deficits, calling them irresponsible and a burden on our next generation. Where are those Republican voices now, when the issue is far more serious? I insist that my representatives speak out against this hypocrisy and irresponsible management.

Protect Mueller and the Special Counsel’s Russia Investigation


White House Counsel Don McGahn prevented the firing, but that doesn’t mean that the independent investigation is safe. A smear campaign among Trump and the GOP continues to frame Mueller and his investigation as illegitimate, and Congress has so far failed to enact protections for the Special Counsel’s office. We must loudly express our displeasure.

- There’s no evidence brought forward by the GOP talking-points-memo to suggest or support either that the FBI acted unlawfully or improperly when it collected information about Trump and Russia, or that the Mueller investigation is illegitimate.
- The top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), has a memo of his own that he wants released, which fact-checks the Nunes “memo.” Of course, the committee voted to keep that one secret. The Republicans don’t want THAT memo released, because it rebuts their own.
- Republicans also refused a briefing by the FBI and DOJ on their concerns prior to the GOP releasing the “memo” after Nunes refused to release the “memo” to even his counterpart in the Senate Intelligence Committee, or to the FBI and DOJ.
- Any House member with access to the rebuttal memo who believes the American public should have access to that information, should read it into the congressional record.
- The “Speech and Debate Clause” of the U.S. Constitution would protect that MoC from liability, even if the information is classified. However, the MoC who does read it into the record, risks removal from committee assignments.
- Every Member of Congress should clearly call it out as a political stunt, and do everything they can to protect the Mueller investigation.

Find additional information at
- [https://www.indivisible.org/resource/releasethememo-fake-scandal-designed-obstruct-justice/](https://www.indivisible.org/resource/releasethememo-fake-scandal-designed-obstruct-justice/)

This investigation is ongoing, and there may very well be more developments. While it’s important to focus and continue to resist the Trump agenda simultaneously, we can also work now to protect the Mueller investigation as it unfolds. Here’s how:

- All Americans need to be clear that we will not stand for this. Indivisible is teaming up with a coalition of groups to host emergency rallies in the event that Trump crosses a red line. (We have our Mueller Rapid Response Plan under events on our website.) We hope that this terrible event will not come to pass—but if it does, we will all need to stand firm and make it clear that no one is above the law.
**Action:** Call Senators Murray and Cantwell, and Rep Heck, to demand they take action to prevent Mueller from getting fired. Thank them for the support they’ve already shown for Mueller and his investigation. It is the duty of Congress, as a separate co-equal branch of government, to guard against abuses of the Executive Branch. That’s why the framers of the Constitution created separation of powers. Our elected officials need to speak out and make clear that firing Mueller would be a red line that Trump must not cross. Senators can co-sponsor legislation to protect against a Mueller firing: S. 1735 led by Senators Graham and Booker, and S. 1741 led by Senators Coons and Tillis. Representatives in the House can co-sponsor H.R. 3771, led by Representative Jones.

Ask them to provide you with information on any efforts they’ve already made to ensure Mueller is not fired and the investigation is not compromised by Republicans.

**SAMPLE CALL SCRIPT**

**Caller:** Hi! I’m a constituent from Washington CD10. I’m calling to urge [MoC] to use every tool in the toolbox to prevent Trump from firing Special Counsel Mueller or otherwise impeding the investigation, such as by firing Rod Rosenstein. I’m concerned he may do that, launching a constitutional crisis. Will [MoC] speak out and tell the President that firing Mueller would be a red line he must not cross?

**Staffer:** Thank you for your call. [MoC] is monitoring the various investigations closely and is letting them run their course.

**Caller:** Can you share with me any actions [MoC] has taken since the GOP talking-points-memo was released to ensure Mueller is not fired?

**Staffer:** (Hopefully has information for you…please drop OI a note with the response you receive.)

**Caller:** That’s good, but it’s really important for Congress to assert its power now to prevent Trump from firing Mueller. I’d like to see [MoC] issue a clear statement on this, and co-sponsor [H.R. 3771/S. 1735 or S. 1741] to show [his/her] support for protecting Mueller and the investigation.

**Staffer:** We’ll take a look at that legislation.

**Caller:** Great, I’ll be following to see if [MoC] co-sponsors and speaks out on this on the [House/Senate] floor and to the media.

---

**PROTECT OUR QUALITY OF LIFE**

**Continue to Support the Dreamers**

The fate of the Dreamers is up in the air. Senate Majority Leader McConnell agreed to bring up a neutral bill to legalize DACA recipients. The Democrats need to hold Senator McConnell to his promise. We need a clean Dream Act with no strings attached. We support our Senators in their efforts to protect Dreamers without paying too high a price in concessions related to immigration policy.

**ACTION:**

Call our Senators:

Senator Maria Cantwell (253)572-2281

Senator Patty Murray (253)572-3636

**Script for Murray and Cantwell:**

My name is ____________, and I am a member of Olympia Indivisible. I am calling because I want Senator ____________ to keep fighting to protect DACA recipients. We need a clean Dream Act to protect the Dreamers. There are some prices that are too high to pay for DACA. They include: sharp increases in funding to deport more undocumented immigrants, making immigration offenses a crime punishable by prison, and sharp limits on family reunification to radically reduce immigration. Please keep fighting. Thank you.

---

**WA STATE LEGISLATION ACTIONS**

To comment, click the bill links below for each of these bills. It's fast, easy and IMPORTANT!

**Topics:** Housing, Conversion Therapy, Reproductive Parity, Social Justice, Voter Registration, Bump Stock Bill

**WHEN:** 2/5/18 Monday

**BILL:** [SB 5407](#) Concerning the preservation of housing options for tenants.
POSITION: Support per LWV
LOCATION: Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means at 1:30 PM (Subject to change). Senate Hearing Rm 4 J.A. Cherberg Building
COMMENTS: Prohibits landlords from refusing to rent property, expel tenants, discriminate, or discourage a rental to a tenant based on their source of income.

*Note: SB 5722 Restricting the practice of conversion therapy and SSB 6219 SSB 6219 Reproductive Parity both passed the Senate and will be heard in the House on Wednesday 2/7/18 O'Brien Bldg. Room A
WHEN: 2/7/18 Wednesday 8:00 AM on SSB 6219
BILL: SSB 6219 Concerning health plan coverage of reproductive health care.
POSITION: Support per LWV
LOCATION: Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Health Care & Wellness at 8:00 AM (Subject to change). House Hearing Rm A John L. O'Brien Building
COMMENTS: Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler urges passage of SSB 6219 for full access to all reproductive services for women. Pass this bill to ensure women have the freedom and privacy to make the health care decision best for themselves and their families.

WHEN: 2/7/18 Wednesday
BILL E2SHB 1783 - Concerning legal financial obligations.
POSITION: Support per LWV
LOCATION: Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Law & Justice at 8:00 AM (Subject to change). Senate Hearing Rm 4 J.A. Cherberg Building
COMMENTS: Imposing interest on legal financial obligations (LFOs) was first thought to be an incentive for offenders to pay, but instead it has been shown to be an impediment. The current 12 percent interest rate is onerous and makes the LFO debt skyrocket.
The House passed this bill concerning the reform of Legal Financial Obligations. The Senate was urged to consider the burden imposed by the courts on people who are homeless, unable to pay, or who are mentally ill and consider passage of this bill. The accrual of interest rates alone keeps people in poverty after they get out of prison. We (LWV) hope both houses will show due diligence to their communities and pass this bill.

WHEN: 2/7/18 Wednesday
BILL: SB 6021 Extending the period for voter registration.
POSITION: Support per LWV
LOCATION: Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on State Government, Elections & Information Technology at 8:00 AM (Subject to change). Senate Hearing Rm E John L. O'Brien Building
COMMENTS: Same Day Voter Registration, allows a citizen to register to vote anytime before 8pm on the day of an election. The voter would complete a provisional ballot, which would not be counted until their voter registration was confirmed. SB 6021 passed the Senate on a bi-partisan vote. Please thank your Senator if she/he voted for the bill. HB 2297 is currently on second reading in the House. Please let your Representatives know you strongly support this bill.

WHEN: 2/9/18 Friday
BILL: ESB 5997 Concerning trigger modification devices. Concerning bump-fire stocks.
POSITION: Support per LWV
LOCATION: Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Judiciary at 8:00 AM (Subject to change). House Hearing Rm A John L. O'Brien Building
COMMENTS: Passed in the Senate, now on to the House. Expect a large turnout by NRA and gun advocates.

IN THIS WEEK’S FABULOUS RESEARCH REPORT: http://www.olympiaindivisible.com/archives.html
February 9 Friday (6-8 pm)

Olympia Indivisible Members TGIF Gathering!
Bring your ideas for making America better! Three Magnets Brewery 600 Franklin St. Olympia.