CALL TO ACTION – March 11

WINS!!

I-940 is LAW – Picket Wins Thurston Conservation District Seat
Last week we had two big wins – on Thursday the I-940 De-escalate Washington initiative, which we endorsed, was made law. This is a huge! And, it was really great to see Senator Manka Dhingra, who we supported from the 45th District on the panel for the 1-940 hearing the week before.

On Friday, the unofficial results for the Thurston Conservation District came in. In the last election for a seat 271 total votes were cast. This time the loser got 275 votes. Paul Picket, the progressive candidate got over 2,100. A stunning victory that shows what progressive groups working together can do, even in an election for a position most of us had never heard of two months ago. There will be a celebration tonight at Three Magnets from 6:00 to 8:00.

PROTECT OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

Keep Fighting Against the Giveaway to Big Banks & Wall Street

Background: Senate bill 2155, the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act is a huge giveaway to big banks. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analyzed the bill, and the results were alarming. The CBO determined that the bill was likely to increase the odds that government funding would go to bank bailouts. This bill favors banks over people and allows the same risk in our financial system that caused the last financial crisis. On Tuesday, the Senate approved a motion to proceed on Senate Bill 2155. Democratic Senators have filed amendments to the bill, but very few amendments will be considered. Our Senators need to oppose this legislation and maintain the oversight requirements for big banks.

ACTION: Call Senator Maria Cantwell (253) 572-2281 Call Senator Patty Murray (253) 572-3636

Script: Hi, my name is __________, and I am a member of Olympia Indivisible. I am calling because I would like Senator __________ to oppose bill S. 2155, the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act. This bill puts us at risk of another financial crisis, it erodes consumer protections, and it allows racial discrimination in mortgage lending to go unchecked. I hope the Senator will oppose it. Thank you.

Stand with Students and Protect Their Civil Rights

Background: Under the direction of Secretary Betsy DeVos, the Education Department has written new guidelines for investigating discrimination in schools. These changes substantially weaken the enforcement of civil rights. Specifically, the new guidelines narrow the scope of investigations, eliminate the appeals process for students and parents, and instruct investigators to dismiss complaints for a wide variety of reasons. These changes will severely impact all student complaints of discrimination in our schools.

ACTION: Write to your local school district.

Script: Dear Board of Education, I am writing to express my concern over Betsy DeVos’s changes to the Office for Civil Rights Case Processing Manual. These changes prevent appeals by parents and students who disagree with the investigator’s findings. They also make it harder for students to provide information on civil rights complaints. I
would like the Board to stand with students and challenge these changes. Please ensure that every student’s rights are protected. Thank you.

Find out what school district you are in here: https://www.greatschools.org/school-district-boundaries-map/  
(from Jen Hofmann)

Stand with kids who want to grow up peacefully and not be shot.

**ACTION:** Write sporting good companies and ask them to stop carrying assault-style rifles.  
**Script:** As capable adults, we have a moral obligation to protect kids. Training babies to hide in closets and be quiet isn’t a solution. Arming every underpaid, overworked teacher isn’t viable. It comes down to competent adults deciding whether young lives are more important than profit. I am writing to ask [company] to follow the moral, courageous lead of Dick’s Sporting Goods. Stop selling assault-style weapons. Raise the minimum age. Focus on giving 19 kids every day the future they deserve. Thank you.

**Addresses:**  
CEO John Morris, Bass Pro Shops and Cabela’s  
2500 E. Kearney Springfield, MO 65898

CEO John Schaefer, Sportsman’s Warehouse  
7035 S. High Tech Drive Midvale, UT 84047

CEO David Pratt, Freedom Roads/Camping World  
250 Parkway Drive Suite 270 Lincolnshire, IL 60069

(from Jen Hofmann)

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**SAVE OUR DEMOCRACY**

Tell Our Senators: End Our Unauthorized War in Yemen

Yemen has experienced years of political strife that has culminated in a civil war. Saudi Arabia leads a coalition of nations fighting against a Yemeni rebel group called the Houthis.

The United States supports the Saudi-led coalition. This mainly involves providing refueling services for airstrikes, and sharing intelligence for targeting. This military support is essential to the continuation of Saudi’s air campaign that continues to target civilian areas and vital civilian infrastructure in violation of international law.

This war is terrible policy, it’s completely unconstitutional. Congress, not the President, is supposed to decide where we go to war and when (U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8, Clause 11). As long as Congress refuses to do its job, it is complicit in this tragedy. This joint resolution, led by Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Mike Lee (R-UT), uses a procedure to force a vote on the Senate floor within ten days. If passed by both chambers of Congress, the resolution would declare the U.S. participation in the Yemen war unauthorized, and would end American support for Saudi war crimes.

**ACTION:** Call Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell

**Caller:** Hi, I’m a constituent calling from [part of state]. I’m calling about the joint resolution introduced by Senators Lee and Sanders to end our unauthorized war in Yemen. It is essential for Senator [name] to support this resolution when it comes to the floor for a vote.

**Staffer:** Thank you for calling. The senator is still reviewing the language and I will relay your concerns.
Caller: Please do—Congress has never authorized this war, and evidence shows that the airstrikes the U.S. is supporting are causing a humanitarian crisis and may amount to war crimes. The chaos has allowed terror groups such as ISIS and Al Qaeda affiliates to gain more power and land. It’s time for Senator [name] to exercise Congress’ constitutional power and end this unauthorized war.

Americans of Conscience Action Checklist By Jen Hofmann has some good actions every week. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jZ6Zum564YP2QlvpC5rCVzWTvzGu3lBc86_7hyggKN0/edit

Ensure you’ll have a ballot for 2018 primaries and midterms.

1. Assume you’ve been removed from your state’s voter rolls (verify here).
2. Ensure that you meet your state’s voter ID requirements (check here). If you need help with getting ID or transport, go here or here.
3. Put your state’s primary dates in your calendar (check here).
4. Make sure your polling place hasn’t been moved (check here).
Important: Share these steps on social media so your friends vote too.
(from Jen Hofmann)

COMING SOON

March 15 7-8:30pm
New Member Orientation Gathering in NE Olympia These small, informal gatherings of new members are a wonderful way to connect with fellow members, leadership, and great cookies. You’ll hear how we Do what We Do, where we’ve been, where we’re going, etc. We also want to get to know you better, so this is a chance to share your feedback with us! Location furnished upon registration at olyindinmorsvp@gmail.com

March 16 Friday (6-8:00 pm)
Olympia Indivisible Members TGIF Gathering!
Bring your ideas for making America better – oops - better! Three Magnets Brewery 600 Franklin St. Olympia.

March 24 Saturday (11:00 am)
March For Our Lives Olympia Capitol Building
https://event.marchforourlives.com/event/march-our-lives-events/9458/signup/?source=ggnp_mfl_b&akid=&zip=