

WHAT

Create a “Boycott and Build” subgroup with initial goals of:

- 1) organizing **boycotts** to bring attention to, and break the grip monopolistic businesses/billionaires have on our government,
- 2) encouraging the **redirection of our collective spending power** to create a more just, sustainable economy that can help save and support our democracy,
- 3) **educating** the public on how our consumption choices impact our democracy and freedoms and provide specific actions to participate,
- 4) **lobbying** elected officials to support local business, uphold existing federal and state anti-trust laws, and enact additional state level anti-trust laws.

WHY DOES IT MATTER

Every time we spend, save, or invest money, and every time we go on-line we are voting for the kind of world that gets built. Why do we fight for our democracy with our volunteer efforts and donations and then support people like Bezos, Zuckerberg and Musk who support destroying it? We collectively enrich the very entities that use “our” money to buy influence, spread propaganda/disinformation, control what we read and more.

Cheap and convenient products have embedded in them a hidden cost and that cost is the loss of our democracy and our very freedoms. We have far more power collectively than we know. We helped create this broken economic system and we can boycott it and create something new.

Amazon, as an example, holds many more dangers than simply having near monopolistic control over some of the products we buy. The book “How to Resist Amazon and Why” paints a picture of an insidious business model that touches nearly every aspect of our lives in ways many of us probably do not realize. They track and sell more of our information than most of us would be comfortable with. They’ve built a private surveillance network connected to thousands of police departments through their Ring cameras. They threaten the very existence of our valued institutions like the

USPS while raking in tax subsidies and avoiding paying their fair share of taxes. They stomp out unionizing efforts so they can avoid fair labor practices. They control the cloud computing backbone of much of the internet. And the list goes on and on and on.

If we want to build a more resilient and equitable society and save our democracy **we must become more mindful about our consumption patterns and the hidden costs of cheap, convenient products and services.** Targeted, sustained boycotts should be in our activist toolkits.

Beyond the boycotts, creative spending and investing in ways that create sustainable, equitably, alternatives are imperative. Arizona Civic Engagement Beyond Voting recently hosted the Executive Director of **LocalFirstAZ** (<https://localfirstaz.com/take-action>) who detailed the many ways in which they help entrepreneurs grow businesses here in AZ and how supporting these types of efforts to build alternatives should also be a part of our activism efforts.

HISTORY

History shows us on many occasions that boycotts can be impactful. When Rosa Parks inspired the 13 month Montgomery Bus Boycott it helped lead to the Supreme Court barring segregation on buses.

The recent outcry against Tesla in response to Musk's actions has had a significant negative impact on Tesla's brand and sales over a fairly short period of time. Target as well has seen impacts from a sustained boycott. We can see how boycotts and protests work to bring focus to an issue as well as showing "we the people" have power when we act together.

Driving a Tesla with its image tarnished (some now labeling it the Swasticar) has some owners feeling ashamed to drive them. Imagine if we lived in a world where having the blue Amazon van come to your door could feel as shameful? And better yet, imagine how great it will feel to support the businesses that actually do care about "we the people" and our democracy.

ACTIONS TO TAKE

Commit to permanently shift some portion of your purchasing away from businesses that do not share your values. A good start could be to participate in The People's Union (<https://thepeoplesunionusa.com/>)

Amazon boycott May 6 - 12. This includes Whole Foods, Audible, Twitch, Ring cameras, Zappos shoes, Kindle, Goodreads, IMBD, and of course all Amazon site purchases as well as Amazon branded services like Prime video and music streaming).

This week would be a great time to not only cancel your Prime subscription and encourage others to do the same, but to begin the process of 1) curbing your overall purchases and 2) purchasing from businesses that are locally owned, cooperatively owned, employee owned, or any business that adheres to standards that ensure they support democracy, human rights, social justice, environmental standards, fair business practices, etc.

Post pictures on social media of how you are supporting a sustainable future with your purchases and let people know why you are shifting your dollars away from Amazon and have deleted X/Twitter, FaceBook (for example).

TIP: Please consider moving away from Meta/Zuckerberg owned platforms (FaceBook, Instagram, Threads and WhatsApp). Use these as minimally as possible for strategic purposes only. Research other platforms like BlueSky, Signal, Discord, etc. and start shifting as much of your social media activity as you can away from META.

Write a letter to the editor to educate and encourage others about how and why they should consider using their purchasing power as part of a collective force to build a better future and a strong democracy.

Lobby state and local officials to let them know:

- 1) you support enactment and enforcement of strong anti-trust laws,
- 2) you support legal action against companies who break anti-trust laws,
- 3) you DO NOT support tax breaks and incentives to entice monopolistic businesses to build in our communities.

LEARN MORE

A short little clip that gets to the heart of how we helped build the current system:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-UP_w2p6Bc

Read and learn about the dangers of businesses like Amazon.

(<https://microcosmpublishing.com/search/?q=how+to+resist+amazon+and+why>)

Read about the history of Boycotts and how successful they can be:

<https://stacker.com/stories/business-economy/major-boycotts-changed-history>

<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/ethicalcampaigns/boycotts/history-successful-boycotts>

Learn which companies donated to Project 2025 and Trump

<https://www.goodsuniteus.com/>

<https://www.opensecrets.org/donor-lookup>

Learn about companies that adhere to certain human rights, social justice, and environmental standards:

<https://www.bcorporation.net/en-us/>

Learn about upcoming boycotts:

<https://thepeoplesunionusa.com/>

Podcast to learn a bit about anti-trust/monopoly movement and what is happening in AZ:

<https://ilsr.org/articles/blp-ron-knox-on-the-states-of-antitrust/>