

# Indivisible Tucson Announcements

## Nov. 9, 2025

### **BREAKING NEWS:**

8 Senate Democratic Caucus members voted to end the shutdown by voting for cloture on the bill -- on a pinky-promise from Republicans that in December they will "discuss" extending the ACA tax credits. Neither Arizona senator voted for cloture; still, this is a **disaster**.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/11/09/senate-democrats-shutdown-vote-00644146>

**Eight members of the Senate Democratic Caucus broke ranks Sunday and voted to advance a deal to reopen the federal government.**

1. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada
2. Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois
3. Sen. John Fetterman of Pennsylvania
4. Sen. Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire
5. Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia
6. Sen. Angus King of Maine
7. Sen. Jacky Rosen of Nevada
8. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire

[Sign up for emails from Indivisible National to get the latest on this.](#)

### **OUTLINE:**

1. Monthly meeting minutes and followup info (11/03)
2. Upcoming events and trainings
3. Boycott and Build
4. Pressure Ciscomani

5. Articles, links, resources, and humor

## 1. Monthly meeting minutes and followup info (11/03)

Thank you everyone for another wonderful meeting! The minutes and the chat are here as pdfs.

[Minutes-Monthly-Meeting-2025-11-03-FINAL.pdf](#)

[ITAA-Monthly-Membership-Chat-2025-11-03.pdf](#)

There was a lot of discussion about the new plan to start privatizing Medicare by requiring pre-authorization in six states, including Arizona -- the so-called **WISeR Pilot Program**. There is additional information about this in the "**Pressure Ciscomani**" section below, but Katherine Hess asked me to include this as well:

Her Letter to the Editor of the Arizona Daily Star from October:

[https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/article\\_0ee8fb36-1c06-46d1-a284-4118fe86ec31.html](https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/article_0ee8fb36-1c06-46d1-a284-4118fe86ec31.html)

### **Healthcare attack on seniors**

*The WISeR Pilot Program, due to begin in AZ, TX, OK, WA, OH, N.J. on Jan. 1, 2025, is a complete threat to anyone on traditional Medicare. It will privatize traditional Medicare by requiring previously unneeded prior authorization for certain common procedures recommended by physicians, such as steroid injections for back pain. Authorization would be determined by private companies using artificial intelligence. These companies will be paid based on how much money they save Medicare — so denials will be rampant. In Medicare Advantage plans offered by private insurance companies, where prior authorization is already prevalent, patients often face extended delays or denials for coverage. Profit-driven companies prioritize cost-saving measures over what is best for the patient. About half the Medicare beneficiaries, including myself, have chosen traditional Medicare instead of Medicare Advantage because we trust our doctors with our healthcare more than private insurance companies. This attack on traditional Medicare must be stopped. Contact all your legislators.*

*Katherine Hess*  
*East side*

**Additional WISER links:**

<https://time.com/7313351/medicare-prior-authorization-pilot-states-concerns/>

<https://www.azmed.org/news/709021/Arizona-Medicare-Prior-Authorization-Pilot-Program-Starts-in-2026-Learn-More-About-the-WISeR-Model.htm>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i4kpUMCQrVtRxj7E3LE7vFgLaWqXlom2vUzGZIWzRWw/edit?tab=t.0>

One additional note about the Monthly All-Membership Meetings: It has been suggested that these meetings be recorded and then posted somewhere so that people who cannot make our regular meeting time (first Monday of the month at 4pm) can view the meeting. However, there are attendees, including some invited speakers, who do not want to be recorded. I'm wondering if it might be worthwhile to record certain speakers such as those who are running for office, since they are public figures, and maybe the Q&A following their statement. Think about it, and when it is time for the next meeting to roll around, I'll reach out to see what people think. Thank you.

## **2. Upcoming events and trainings**

For a complete list of upcoming events, visit <https://www.takeactiontucson.org/>

[Sat. Nov. 15, 9am, demonstration outside Ciscomani's office](#)

**Sat. Nov. 15, 1:30 p.m. "Organizing with Care" training:**

[https://www.mobilize.us/indivisible/event/862255/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=link1\\_20251109](https://www.mobilize.us/indivisible/event/862255/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=link1_20251109)

"The core of organizing is community, and the only way to build the types of relationships and trust it takes to form a community is through acting with care --

especially toward the most targeted members of that community when they are in need. Register for Organizing with Care: Building Community Through Solidarity this Saturday, November 15 at 3:30pm ET/12:30pm PT to learn how to be a solidarity organizer."

**Civic Engagement Beyond Voting (CEBV)** - an Arizona statewide Indivisible group, offers trainings on using the "RTS" "Request To Speak" system to register your preferences on legislation, and on many other topics.

# Civic Engagement Beyond Voting Virtual Trainings & Events

## Civics Series

Learn all about local and state government in Arizona and your role in making change.

*Includes five trainings: State Government, Local Government, Law Enforcement & Courts, Ballot Measures, and Arizona Politics: An Incomplete History.*

## Changing the Narrative

Learn how you can help shape the public narrative around issues that matter to you.

*Includes three trainings: Letters to the Editor, Messaging, and Media Literacy.*

## In Conversation Series

This series brings in a diverse range of experts, newsmakers, and thought leaders to provide insights and inspiration for making change.

## Virtual Happy Hours

Join CEBV every Sunday during the AZ legislative session for political analysis, conversation, and community.

**RSVP for an upcoming event!**

[www.mobilize.us/cebv/](http://www.mobilize.us/cebv/)



link to all upcoming CEBV events: [www.mobilize.us/CEBV/](http://www.mobilize.us/CEBV/)

[Cancel Spotify](#) - Indivisible National leaders say, yes there are other platforms running ads for ICE, but let's quash the ads on Spotify and then move on to others!

### **3. Boycott and Build**

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE BOYCOTT AND BUILD TEAM**

The Boycott and Build Team focuses on using our collective economic power to save our democracy. Every dollar you spend and invest is a vote. See our web pages on ITAA's website to learn more: <https://www.indivisibleucson.org/boycott-and-build.html>.

Our next meeting is **Wednesday, November 12th at 6:30pm on Zoom**. Email Lisa at [boycottbuildteam@proton.me](mailto:boycottbuildteam@proton.me) if you are interested in joining our team or learning more.

#### **THE COST OF STORING UNREAD E-MAILS**

How many times have you received this update and left it unopened in your inbox? Or maybe you skimmed past our Boycott and Build updates? And how many email lists like this are you on? Multiply all those e-mails, week after week, over the billions of people doing the same thing and collectively we are creating significant problems. It is not just our dollars that we vote with, but how we use the internet and cloud storage. As people in the Tucson area work to fend off data centers like Project Blue (Amazon Web Services) being built in our region, why are we all still letting our in-boxes fill up with unread data? That got us thinking about shortening our Boycott and Build Team content in these e-mails. One way to do this is to direct you to our website and Substack where you'll have the option to read what you want without over-filling your in-box with unnecessary amounts of data. We're going to give this idea a try this week. Please let us know what you think.

#### **JOIN OUR GROWING NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS ON OUR DON'T BUYIT**

## CAMPAIGN ON SUBSTACK

The *Don't Buy It* campaign runs during the month of November to encourage cutting discretionary spending and shifting of dollars to support democracy vs. oligarchy. We post each day on Substack to support and encourage you along the way. Please check it out at <https://dontbuyittucson.substack.com/>.

## BOYCOTT AND BUILD TEAM MEMBERS SHARE THEIR INSIGHTS

We've been sharing our Boycott and Build Team member's thoughts here about local businesses to consider supporting. A couple of weeks ago we highlighted Mid-Town Vegan Deli as a local business to consider supporting. We hope to do a "shop-in" there later this month where we could all meet up, support the business, and get to know some of our fellow ITAA members. Let us know if you would have an interest in taking part and we will keep you informed on date and time once determined. E-mail us at [boycottbuildteam@proton.me](mailto:boycottbuildteam@proton.me).

This week, we have a wonderful write-up from Nancy about [Penzey's Spices](#) located on North Oracle (and on-line too). This is no ordinary spice shop and the owner deserves three cheers and then some for speaking truth to power about what is happening to our democracy. Bill Penzey is not shy about putting the company's beliefs in their products with creatively named and described gift boxes like "Got Woke" and "January 6th" and spices like Outrage of Love in which the product description starts with: "The ongoing Republican effort to end our democracy is Outrageous. The party's purge of those disloyal to the January 6 plotters is even worse." We think you'll enjoy Nancy's great *"Need to Add Some Spice to Your Life?"* write-up of owner Bill Penzey and his products over on our Substack page (no need to Subscribe), just please be sure to head over there and read now: <https://dontbuyittucson.substack.com/p/need-to-add-some-spice-to-your-life>

And while you are there please take some extra time to read and digest Paula's moving personal story about how she came to understand the importance of boycotting as a necessary act in our time. *"Not Boycotting? You Better Have a Plan B."* will take you on a journey through Paula's years meeting refugees from multiple countries all escapees from or survivors of authoritarian regimes. This story will open your eyes and inspire you to take action to save our precious

democracy before it is too late:

<https://dontbuyittucson.substack.com/p/not-boycotting-you-better-have-a>

#### **4. Pressure Ciscomani**

##### **OUR MISSION**

The Pressure Ciscomani Team is holding Rep Ciscomani accountable to the voters of Southern Arizona's 6th Congressional District. We believe he should understand how his congressional votes impact his district and that he should be responsive and truthful to us instead of blindly following the President's political agenda. Since it appears he cannot or will not do his job, we are working to replace him in 2026!

Our team is 50 members strong and welcomes your participation!

If you want to help, contact:

**Ken Minkoff at [kminkov@aol.com](mailto:kminkov@aol.com).**

***All you need is willingness to act. We will help you find the right actions to take!***

**PRESSURE CISCOMANI TEAM MESSAGE 11/09/2025**

**CHECK OUR GROWING WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://JUANLIES.COM](https://juanlies.com)**

**Please share the link everywhere you can so we can disseminate the truth about Juan**

**Check on our BEAUTIFUL webpage (THANKS TO KASIA WILCZEK)**

**at <https://www.indivisibletucson.org/ciscomani.html>**

**(Click on "elected officials" on the ITAA webpage to see what's going on.)**

**WE HAVE ATTACHED [A NEW COLORFUL PINOCCHIO MEME](#)**

**THAT WE ARE USING FOR OUR MESSAGING**

Let us know if you think this will make a great billboard.

Email Ken Minkoff with your ideas.

This week, we are celebrating the election results that certainly make it clear to Ciscomani how vulnerable he is in the next election. But we realize as well that we must strengthen our efforts to put pressure on him, and to ultimately remove him from office because we can see that he will NEVER stand up for the people in his

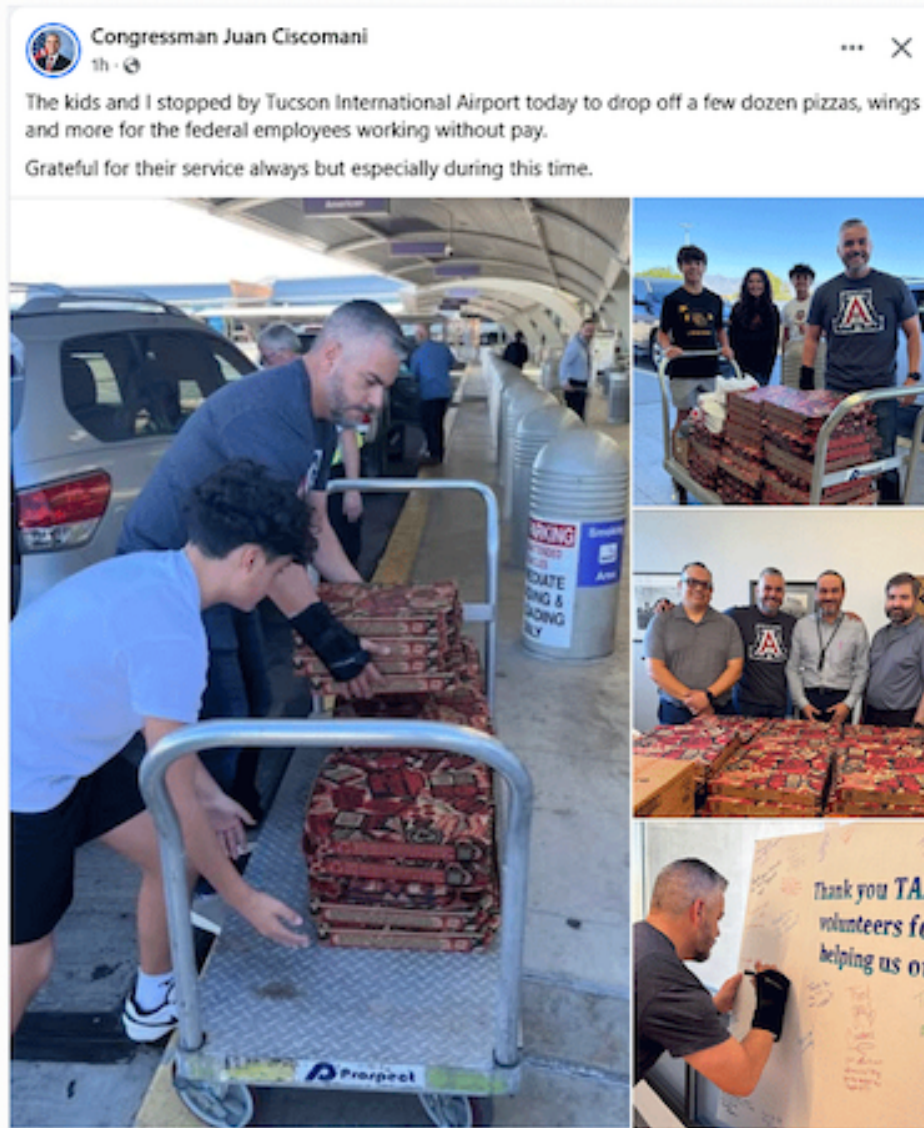
district (AZ-CD-06).

**A. KEEP THE PRESSURE ON ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN:  
Ciscomani continues to act like he has no responsibility for the  
shutdown. He refuses to advocate with his own party to restore the Medicaid  
cuts and cuts to ACA health insurance premium subsidies that are so  
devastating for so many. He won't take action to work with Democrats to re-  
open the government. Silent Juan!**

And he continues to engage in performative photo-ops to make it look like he  
cares, without standing up for us at all.

His latest photo-op was bringing pizza to the TSA workers at Tucson airport:

Representative Ciscomani visited the Tucson International Airport with some pizzas for the TSA agents today. He was observed by a group of volunteers who visit the airport every day and bring nonperishable foods for the agents and their families. A pizza does not feed the agents hungry children. A pizza does not pay for rent and utilities. A pizza does not pay for gasoline so that the agents can get to work. Ciscomani seems to think that his performative photo op today will make us think he actually cares about the agents. Dear Juan, you seem to believe we are all stupid. We will remember in November 2026.



Sincerely,  
your constituents in Arizona CD 06

Our team challenged him by “red lining” his self-aggrandizing post showing him at the airport and sharing the challenge on all our social media platforms. We have attached this post so you can share it as well.

**The following site from the Kaiser Family Foundation illustrates how much additional payment for health insurance can be expected for folks using the ACA Exchange, based on location and income. CHECK IT OUT AND SHARE <https://www.kff.org/interactive/how-much-more-would-people-pay-in-premiums-if-the-acas-enhanced-subsidies-expired/>**

**But health care cuts are not just affecting Medicaid and ACA premium subsidies. They are affecting Medicare as well. WE WANT EVERYONE TO BE AWARE OF THIS IMPENDING CRISIS, AND TO ADVOCATE TO STOP IT**

**B. WISER PROGRAM IS UNWISE FOR SENIORS ON MEDICARE** – Thanks to Katherine Hess for this information:

**NEWEST THREAT TO MEDICARE DUE TO CISCOMANI'S VOTES**

Juan Ciscomani is responsible for stripping healthcare from half a million Arizonans with cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, astronomical increases in premiums, and expiration of tax credits for people with plans through the Affordable Care Act doubling or tripling their premiums. Now there is a new government program which will deny more healthcare to thousands of his constituents as well as thousands of others across the state of AZ. **The program is called The WISeR Pilot Program, a direct attack on seniors who have Traditional Medicare, Parts A & B, and usually with a secondary (Medigap) plan. The program is set to begin on 1/1/26.**

Six states: **Arizona**, Washington, Texas, Oklahoma, New Jersey and Ohio will be subject to this pilot program for the next six years. WISeR is an attempt to privatize Traditional Medicare.

The WISeR Pilot Program, a direct attack on Traditional Medicare, seeks to model itself after Medicare Advantage plans. It will use private companies employing AI to apply predictive analytics to make determinations about the medical necessity of procedures. **Traditional Medicare rarely requires any prior authorization**, and when it does, it's not AI or a private for-profit employee that decides. It's a physician, (part of a non-profit public entity) whose pay isn't based on the number

of denials they make.

**A list of 18 senators sent an objection letter in September to Mehmet Oz and Abe Sutton at CMS. Representative Mark Pocan (WI) has introduced HR 704, currently still in committee, calling for the termination of WISeR.** The House Appropriations Committee advanced a 2026 spending bill with an amendment blocking funding for the WISeR Program. The AMA and other groups have opposed it. **We must stop WISeR before it's forced onto all Medicare recipients.**

**ACTIONS:**

1. Pressure Ciscomani to support HR 704
2. Contact Senators Kelly and Gallego to continue to pressure CMS and to propose legislation in the Senate analogous to HR 704

See contact info below.

**C. SEAT ADELITA NOW!**

**Silent Juan continues to be silent about Mike Johnson's refusal to seat Adelita in his neighboring district (AZ-CD-07).** He has not spoken out in favor of her lawsuit to force Mike Johnson to seat her. There is no reason why she could not be sworn in during one of the brief "Pro Forma" sessions that the House continues to have even during shutdown mode. In fact, three Republican members have been seated the day after their special elections, but Adelita Grijalva has been denied taking her seat to represent the 800,000+ Arizonans who have been without representation since her father Raul passed away in August of 2025.

**ACTIONS TO TAKE THIS WEEK**

1. **Please amplify and share our social media posts...**

Here is a link to our **Facebook** page:

Hold Ciscomani

Accountable. <https://www.facebook.com/HoldCiscomaniAccountable>.

Here's a link to

our **Instagram** page: <https://www.instagram.com/HoldCiscomaniAccountable>.

## **2. Gallego and Kelly: Hold the Line to Restore Medicaid and Health Insurance Premium Subsidies to Keep the Government Open**

Democrats have more clout in the Senate because the Continuing Resolution requires 609 votes to avoid a filibuster. Our Senators have been holding firm, but your support will mean a lot to them:

### **Sample phone script for Kelly/Gallego (customize with personal stories)**

*I urge you to vote against Republican plans to rip healthcare from Arizonans while handing billionaires more tax breaks. With costs already rising for groceries and electricity, working families, seniors and young people cannot take on the severe increases in ACA premiums that will hit constituents in January. Please continue to work across the aisle to protect our healthcare. Please advocate to stop the WiSER program that attempts to privatize Medicare and cut benefits for Arizonans.*

GALLEGO: 202 225 4065; 480 697 3600; 520 777 0400

KELLY: 202 224 2235; 602 671 7901; 520 475 5177

## **3. Contact Ciscomani as Well: <https://Ciscomani.house.gov>**

We know he is getting nervous that he is on the wrong side of this issue as far as his constituents are concerned.

*Tell him: Stand up for your constituents. Don't be silent. Advocate for restoring health care cuts and work with Democrats to re-open the government. We don't want any more of your photo-ops. We want to see you represent what your constituents need.*

### **D. Meet and support Joanna Mendoza on Veteran's Day:**

A poll conducted by Public Policy Polling shows Mendoza ahead of Ciscomani by 1%. This is remarkable considering that Mendoza's campaign is still in preliminary phases, and she is not yet the "official" candidate (primaries are not till next year.) Mendoza is a veteran, and there is a veteran's day event that you can attend. [See the flyer for details.](#)

**E. Weekly Saturday (9-11am) Demonstrations at Ciscomani's Office on Swan Rd.** Our team will be tabling regularly at these protests and would love you to come and say hello. Bring your stories of how health care cuts are causing pain for you and your loved ones. Here is a form you can fill out to share your story.... Getting these stories is a big focus of Battleground Alliance, Economic Security Project, and Represent.US. Here is a form that they have distributed for collecting those stories: [ESPA Healthcare](#)

**F. Stay tuned for future announcements about our demonstrations.** We are planning to take our show on the road, by having rotating "Juan Lies" demonstrations at key intersections in the district!

**Files:**

[Ciscomani Pinocchio](#)

[Be Very Afraid - WISER](#)

[Mendoza Fundraiser Veteran's Day](#)

## **5. Articles, links, resources, and humor**

Three good articles this week that I have created pdfs of because of paywall restrictions:

(1) **ICE in Tucson: Tucson's undocumented families balance fear with continuing to live life** (pdf)

[https://tucson.com/news/local/subscriber/article\\_fcae05f8-40a9-4df5-a6cc-e3d7407bcc57.html#tracking-source=home-top-story](https://tucson.com/news/local/subscriber/article_fcae05f8-40a9-4df5-a6cc-e3d7407bcc57.html#tracking-source=home-top-story)

(2) **The Washington Post Got 21,000 Emails After It Didn't Endorse. I Read Them All.** (pdf)

<https://www.notus.org/perspectives/the-washington-post-got-21-000-emails-after-it-didnt-endorse-i-read-them-all>

**(3) Why I Am Resigning: A federal judge explains his reasoning for leaving the bench** (pdf)

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/2025/11/federal-judge-resignation-trump/684845/>

## **ICE AND MILITARIZATION**

**Revealed: Pentagon orders states' national guards to form 'quick reaction forces' for 'crowd control'**

*Pentagon memo details plan to train over 20,000 national guard members across the US to carry out Trump's order on subduing civil unrest*

Oct. 29, 2025

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/29/pentagon-memo-quick-reaction-forces>

**Chicago's children are getting caught in the chaos of immigration crackdowns**

<https://apnews.com/article/chicago-immigration-trump-crackdown-school-children-c9a19835cac13c0fbbbec9f4bf4f0a2>

*"Andrea Soria, whose daughter plays at Luna y Cielo, overheard her 6-year-old whisper to her dolls: "We have to be good or ICE will get us," referring to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement."*

**Trump administration relying on unmarked vehicles in immigration enforcement**

October 28, 2025

<https://www.npr.org/2025/10/28/nx-s1-5587653/trump-administration-relying-on-unmarked-vehicles-in-immigration-enforcement>

**A look at the ICE detention system in Arizona and around the US**

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/immigration/2025/01/16/immigration->

[customs-enforcement-detention-centers-arizona-united-states/77599278007/](https://www.ice.dhs.gov/customs-enforcement-detention-centers-arizona-united-states/77599278007/)

## **THE SURVEILLANCE STATE**

<https://deflocktucson.com/>

### **ICE Doesn't Want You To Know Why They Bought a Phone Cracking System**

Sept. 29, 2025

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/ice-doesnt-want-know-why-211553528.html>

### **Tucson PD used border security money for controversial surveillance software**

*The AI-powered Cobwebs software, which is also used by ICE, monitors social media and locations*

October 29, 2025

<https://azmirror.com/2025/10/29/tpd-used-border-security-money-for-controversial-surveillance-software/>

### **ICE and CBP's use of facial recognition technology needs guardrails — now**

*If left unchecked, immigration enforcement's use of facial recognition technology could potentially trigger a constitutional crisis.*

<https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/msnbc-opinion/ice-cbp-border-patrol-facial-recognition-tech-immigrants-rcna241020>

### **Immigration agents have new technology to identify and track people**

November 8, 2025

<https://www.npr.org/2025/11/08/nx-s1-5585691/ice-facial-recognition-immigration-tracking-spyware>

Anti Facial Recognition glasses

### **Zenni's Anti-Facial Recognition Glasses are Eyewear for Our Paranoid Age**

*These anti-facial recognition glasses technically work, but won't save you from our surveillance dystopia.*

<https://www.404media.co/zennis-anti-facial-recognition-glasses-are-eyewear-for->

## GENERAL

### **A year on from Trump's victory, resistance is everywhere**

Rebecca Solnit

*Americans have shown a tremendous amount and variety of opposition – more than some may realize*

Nov. 9, 2025

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/nov/09/trump-resistance-is-everywhere>

*"A young white woman in yoga clothes berating masked ICE agents in a parking lot this spring. A pope speaking up again and again for immigrants. Furious judges dressing down the Trump administration and ruling against it time after time, in response to the blizzard of lawsuits filed by human rights and environmental groups, states, cities and individuals. A senator speaking nonstop for 25 hours and another flying to El Salvador to find out what happened to his kidnapped constituent. The biggest day of protest in US history as an estimated 7 million people showed up for No Kings on 18 October in small towns and red counties as well as big blue cities.*

*"Weekly protests at Tesla salesrooms earlier this year that succeeded in damaging the brand, depressing global sales and prompting Tesla CEO Elon Musk to retreat from his Doge slash-and-burn project. Federal workers resisting sometimes merely by adhering to law, truth and fact, and sometimes by speaking out as whistleblowers or in protests, as with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention staff who staged a walkout in late August in solidarity with senior staff who'd just resigned in protest against the health and human services secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr's anti-vaccine policies.*

*"Extraordinary solidarity organizing for and with immigrants, refugees and the people targeted for looking like them on the streets, in the neighborhoods of Chicago, at Home Depot parking lots, around schools, in courtrooms. Democratic state attorneys general suing again and again, independently and together, and Illinois and California's governors spending a lot of time ripping into Trump. Airports refusing to play the homeland security secretary Kristi Noem's partisan-*

*propaganda video about the congressional shutdown. Seven major universities refusing to sign a contract with the administration promising financial incentives for compromising academic freedom. This is some of the resistance to the Trump administration and its policies we've seen since 20 January, and it's worth surveying on the anniversary of the election.*

*"When people tell me that there's been no resistance to the Trump administration, I wonder if they're expecting something that looks like a guerrilla revolution pushing out the government in one fell swoop or just aren't paying attention, because there has, in fact, been a tremendous amount and variety of resistance and opposition and it's mattered tremendously."*

"Your Mother"

### **When This Reporter Comes Calling, the White House Insults Go Flying**

*The administration often criticizes journalists, but the treatment of Shirish Dáte, a reporter for HuffPost, stands out.*

[https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/29/business/media/shirish-date-white-house-journalist-huffpost.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.0E8.1-kL.nqjeFoNFHJcE&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/29/business/media/shirish-date-white-house-journalist-huffpost.html?unlocked_article_code=1.0E8.1-kL.nqjeFoNFHJcE&smid=url-share)

### **A Light in Very Dark Days: Nancy Pelosi and AIDS**

*As Ms. Pelosi announced her retirement, she was celebrated for her long tenure in Washington. But back home, she was remembered for showing up at a terrifying moment when others turned away.*

[https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/07/us/politics/nancy-pelosi-aids-lgbtq.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.zk8.NY9T.gNSxZVhvXBeB&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/07/us/politics/nancy-pelosi-aids-lgbtq.html?unlocked_article_code=1.zk8.NY9T.gNSxZVhvXBeB&smid=url-share)

Another nice Pelosi anecdote:

One Good Text

*Drew Hammill is a former top aide to former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who [announced Thursday](#) she would retire from Congress after nearly 40 years in Washington.*

In honor of Speaker emerita Pelosi's retirement announcement, we were hoping you could share a classic Pelosi story with us...

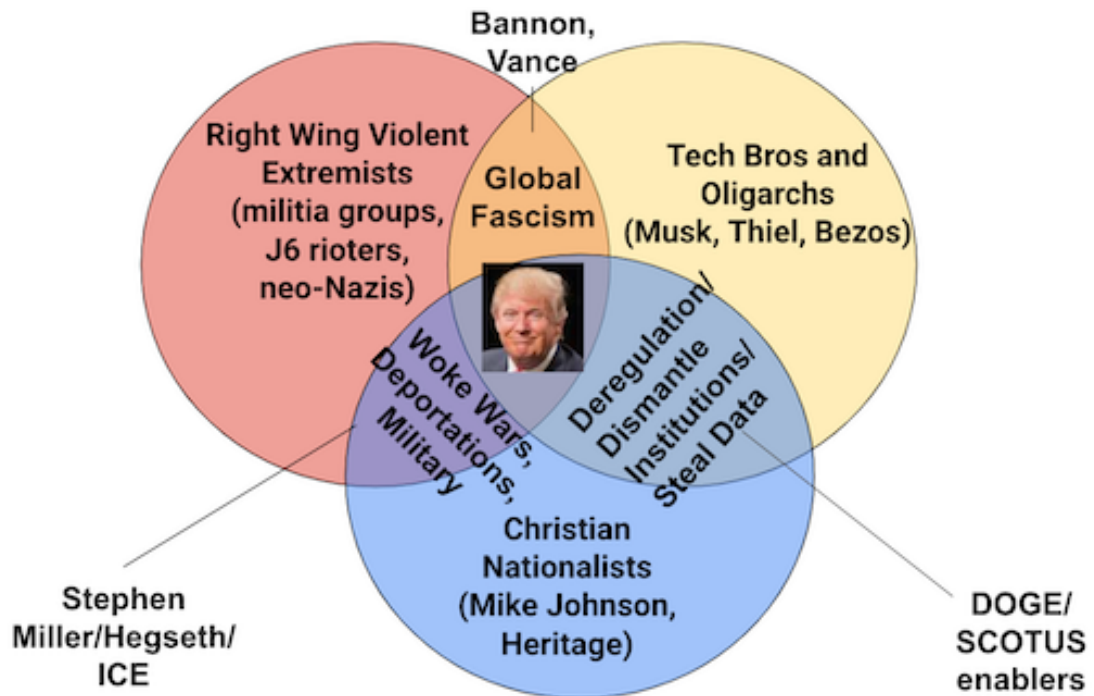
Elana Schor



I was Pelosi's press secretary when I first started working for her in 2006 and received a request for comment about San Francisco's Folsom Street Fair, an annual gay leather festival. Right-wing activists were attacking the festival regularly and this year they disapproved of the festival's flyer, which depicted the Last Supper but with drag queens and a leather daddy. In the fall of 2007, I nervously went into her office to ask her how she wanted to me to deal with the news queries that were coming in. Pelosi studied the flyer as I handed it to her and replied coldly, "You tell them, 'As a Catholic, the Speaker is confident that Christianity has not been harmed.'" It was the best quote she ever gave me in my nearly 17 years of working for her and it drove those homophobes bonkers, which she just loved to do.



**Drew Hammill**  
Former Deputy Chief of Staff to Nancy Pelosi



### **Making Sense of MAGA**

*An ideological roadmap to help you understand the madness.*

Asha Rangappa

Sept. 5, 2025

<https://asharangappa.substack.com/p/making-sense-of-maga?triedRedirect=true>

### **Evidence shows DHS claims about deportations since January are not accurate**

November 9, 2025

<https://www.npr.org/2025/11/09/nx-s1-5599987/evidence-shows-dhs-claims-about-deportations-since-january-are-not-accurate>

*Homeland Security says its agents have deported more than 500,000 undocumented immigrants since January and that the vast majority are criminals. There's evidence this is not accurate.*

### **Following Epstein's Money**

*Federal prosecutors opened a financial-crimes investigation into Jeffrey Epstein in*

*2007 amid their larger sex-trafficking probe. The financiers and his legal team waged a war against them, his emails show.*

<https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2025-jeffrey-epstein-emails-money-laundering-charges/>

### **As Trump cracks down, faith groups step up for immigrants: ‘What has happened to our heart?’**

*Nuns, bishops and laity from California to Texas have created a network of help to uphold church teachings*

Oct. 26, 2025

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/26/trump-immigration-faith-groups>

### **Tucson’s Kingfisher restaurant feeds 450 furloughed federal workers, family members**

*Sunday lunch was the first of four planned free meals, owner Jacki Kuder says.*

<https://news.azpm.org/p/azpmnews/2025/11/3/227117-tucsons-kingfisher-restaurant-feeds-450-furloughed-federal-workers-family-members/>

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **Cornell University settles with Trump administration to restore \$250m in funds**

*Upstate New York institution is the fifth university under government investigation to bow to White House demands*

Nov. 7, 2025

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/nov/07/cornell-university-trump-administration-deal>

### **Students and faculty at over 100 US universities protest against Trump’s attacks**

*Student, national and local groups across US organized day of action to condemn Trump’s assault on academic freedom*

Nov. 7, 2025

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/nov/07/student-protest-trump->

[education-attacks](#)

## HUMOR

### **The Lincoln Project parodies ICE recruitment ads**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04jmzVCDab0>

<https://therickwilson.substack.com/p/your-guide-to-working-for-ice?r=1ne2d&triedRedirect=true>

### **Sandwich Guy, Thrower of Hoagie—Or Hero?**

Molly Roberts

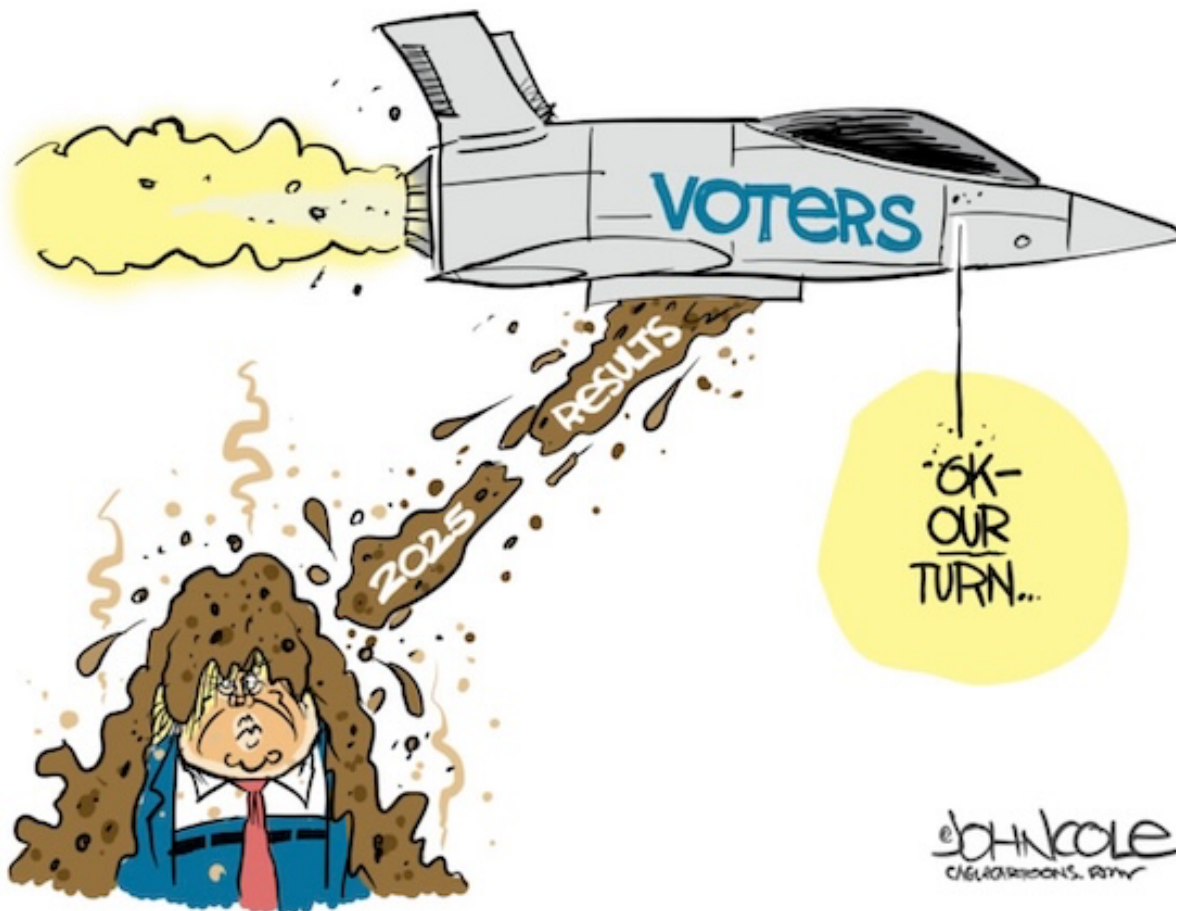
Thursday, November 6, 2025, 4:47 PM

*The trial ended in an acquittal. But the proceedings felt like a strange sort of performance art—highly amusing and highly menacing at the same time.*

<https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/sandwich-guy--thrower-of-hoagie-or-hero>



# VOTERS DUMP ON TRUMP



That's it for this week! Keep Strong and Carry On, Friends!!

-- Margrit of ITAA

P.S. Don't forget you can donate to our "**Unrestricted Funds**" by mailing a check

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