

Dear Virginia,

Wake Up America!



Following are excerpts from Illinois governor J.B. Pritzker's State of the State address. He noted "It's in fashion at the federal level right now to just indiscriminately slash school funding, healthcare coverage, support for farmers, and veterans' services. They say they're doing it to eliminate inefficiencies. But only an idiot would think we should eliminate emergency response in a natural disaster, education and healthcare for disabled children, gang crime investigations, clean air and water programs, monitoring of nursing home abuse, nuclear reactor regulation, and cancer research."

He went on to address the dangers of the Trump administration. "We don't have kings in America," he said, "and I don't intend to bend the knee to one.... If you think I'm overreacting and sounding the alarm too soon, consider this: It took the Nazis one month, three weeks, two days, eight hours and 40 minutes to dismantle a constitutional republic. All I'm saying is when the five-alarm fire starts to burn, every good person better be ready to man a post with a bucket of water if you want to stop it from raging out of control."

"Tyranny requires your fear and your silence and your compliance. Democracy requires your courage. So gather your justice and humanity and do not let the 'tragic spirit of despair' overcome us when our country needs us the most."



**Stories, insights
and action for a
world that works
for all of us**

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*Justice is what love  
looks like in public.*

Jim Hightower

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This Month's Features

**RESIST . . . OPPOSE**



### From the [Indivisible Team](#)

Elon Musk and Donald Trump think they can rule this country like kings. House Republicans think they can steal from working families to fund billionaire tax cuts. They all think we'll sit back and let them get away with it. They are dead wrong. This country does not belong to billionaires. It does not belong to Trump. It does not

belong to Musk. It belongs to us. We do not do kings. We do not let billionaires steal our government. And we sure as hell don't stand by while a corrupt former president and an unelected billionaire try to burn our democracy to the ground. So here's the question: Are we going to let them get away with it? Or are we going to fight like hell?

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### From Jessica Craven, [Chop Wood, Carry Water](#)

Yesterday I was driving along a busy thoroughfare in Northeast Los Angeles when I saw a lone woman in a tank top walking in the street with a giant sign that said "TRUMP+MUSK=TYRANNY!" Just one woman! She wasn't part of a march or with any group. She'd just gotten up that morning and decided to go register her outrage in the public square. I couldn't have been more impressed. It was an excellent reminder that every single one of us has a platform. For some it is in the tens or hundreds of thousands of people. For some it's a few hundred. For some it is simply on the street where they live.

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**Listen to this interview with Professor Timothy Snyder, author of *On Tyranny***, in which he gives insights and guidance on the American constitutional crisis. ["The Real State of the Union."](#)



## April 5th Action

### A nationwide protest is happening April 5th

Americans are fed up with the Musk-Trump power grab and want an end to the lawless raiding of our government. "Hands off!" is a simple rallying cry against an administration that's dangerously

overreaching and throwing our democracy, our economy, and for many -- our private lives -- into chaos. "Hands off Medicaid, Social Security, public lands, jobs, education, veterans' benefits, undocumented neighbors, trans siblings, Ukraine aid, reproductive rights, democracy . . . ." [Find out more here](#) and [here](#).



### Action Sites for Democracy and Our Planet

**We are in the midst of a coup and a constitutional crisis.** Donald Trump, Elon Musk and their minions are dismantling our government and sabotaging our democracy before our eyes. They are alienating our allies and endangering lives around the world and in the US. If we want our democracy to prevail it's up to us. Be informed, join with activist groups, protest, call your representatives, donate. DO WHATEVER YOU CAN DO, NOW!

**Stand up for our democracy, our freedoms, our dignity, our values.**

[Chop Wood, Carry Water](#): Provides daily actions for our democracy. Always encouraging.

[Today's Edition Newsletter by Robert Hubbell](#): Reflections on and summary of today's news.



[Letters from an American, by Heather Cox Richardson](#): Commentary on current news.

[The Status Kuo, by Jay Kuo](#): Commentary and analysis of today's news.

[Hopium Chronicles, by Simon Rosenberg](#): Another excellent pro-democracy newsletter.

[Indivisible](#): A pro-democracy organization with activist groups all over the country.

[Democracy Forward](#): A coalition of lawyers fighting for democracy.

[Steady, by Dan Rather](#): Excellent commentary on current affairs.

## **Climate Action: Every Action Counts!**

[Climate Action Now!](#): Subscribe and get an action to do every day, plus climate hope.

[100 Things You Can Do to Help in the Climate Crisis](#)

[15 Actions to Make a Difference](#)

**An old saying: We can all be the someone who is doing something.**

## All Kinds of Good News



### **Mexico includes animal protection in its constitution**

Mexico has become the world's first major nation to constitutionally protect all animals, including farmed species, through groundbreaking reforms signed December 2024. The changes give federal authority to create comprehensive animal welfare laws, marking the most detailed constitutional protection for animals globally. [Read more here.](#)



### **UN's Biodiversity Breakthrough**

In a rare display of unity amid global tensions, nations reached a landmark agreement to fund nature conservation. On February 27, after days of intense negotiations, the UN talks in Rome concluded with a plan to raise and deliver billions of dollars to protect biodiversity. Delegates at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters



### **Ukraine News**

**Pop up health clinics get rolled out in Ukraine.** In 2024, a joint WHO-EU-Ukraine initiative deployed 12 modular clinics across Ukraine, ensuring up to 50,000 patients can continue accessing essential healthcare in war-torn areas. These clinics, which are equipped with electricity, sanitation, waiting and examination rooms, and generators in case of power outages, can be installed in as little as 10 days and have a lifespan of over 10 years. [Here's the article.](#)

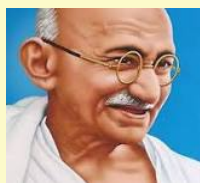
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### **Support for Ukraine**

In the week following the White House meeting with Ukraine's President Zelensky on February 28 supporters from all over the world donated \$2,597,908 to help the armed forces of Ukraine in its fight against Russia's invasion of the country. Contributions from the US were over \$1.5 million. [More here.](#)

erupted into applause as the deal was sealed in the final minutes. [Read more.](#)

## Wisdom for Our Time



“When I despair, I remember that all through history the ways of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants, and murderers, and for a time they can seem invincible, but in the end they always fall. Think of it—always.”  
Mahatma Gamdhi

## A touch of glass



[Listen](#) to Tchaikovsy's "Sugar Plum Fairy" played by the GlassDuo at the "Festival di Santo Stefano" in Bologna, Italy. GlassDuo have created an exceptional musical instrument from a set of custom made wine glasses.

*May your month of April be filled  
with action for our country.  
Virginia / Gibi*



Jessica Craven, [Chop Wood, Carry Water](#), begins every post with "Happy" whatever day of the week it is. Even when things look very bad she explains why she will always begin with her "Happy" greeting. [Here's why.](#)

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