

Greetings!

The Year of the Fire Horse



The Year of the Vote

In the Chinese zodiac 2026 is the Year of the Horse—in particular the Year of the Fire Horse. It begins February 17th. The horse symbolizes freedom, energy and perseverance, transformation and bold action.

This year in the United States we need to be fiery and persevering if we want to take our country back from corrupt, greedy, destructive, power-mad, cruel fascists and billionaires. The midterm elections are the opportunity and the way to do that. It is the election when Democrats must take back control of the House of Representatives and the Senate from the Republicans who are only able to do Trump's bidding. This is the year we not only continue to resist the tyranny of the Trump administration, but we also create the country we want to live in. Once Republicans lose the majority in Congress in the midterms it is the opportunity for Democrats to put a stop to the unlawful and cruel policies and actions that threaten the lives of people, global security and the health of the planet.

**It is the Year of the Vote.
Democracy is on the line.**



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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Favorite Resources

[Fix the News](#)

(Future Crunch)

[Reasons to be Cheerful](#)

[Chop Wood, Carry Water](#)

[350.org](#)

[Climate Reality Project](#)

[Local Futures](#)

[Desert Rose Press](#)

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*We will and must resist  
and protest as long as it  
takes to get our  
democracy back*

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This Month's Features



Be seen and heard

You don't have to sit out in cold, snowy Maine to visibly, forcefully, dramatically, effectively defend our democracy! Any thing you do, anywhere, in any way to speak up for democracy is crucial these days as the fate of our democracy is on the line. You can: call or write legislative representatives to tell them what you think, what you want to see happen; write postcards; insert fliers into correspondence; post a sign in your yard or on your car; march; join a Visibility Brigade or an Indivisible group near you. Fascism is taking root in America. (Read this [primer on fascism](#) by Heather Cox Richardson).

If we don't want a government by the few for the few we need to act now. **We are the cavalry come to reclaim our democracy. Mount up!**



"This all stops when enough of us say NO!"

This Bridge Brigade sign was in Oakland, California the day after the murder of Renee Nicole Good by an ICE agent in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 8th. The quote is from Robert Hubbell in *Today's Edition Newsletter*. It says it all.



On another note . . . an A.I. alarm

In the U.S. we are focussed on the effort to save our democracy, but we cannot forget other pressing issues, such as the proliferation of data centers to advance A.I. [In this article](#) Bernie Sanders poses some important questions, such as: Who's benefitting and who /what is being harmed? Is the goal of the AI revolution simply to make the very rich even richer and more powerful, or will this revolutionary technology be utilized to benefit all of humanity? Who

should be in charge of the transformation into an AI world? What impact will AI have on our democracy? Our human relations? [In this article](#) you can read about the growing backlash to the building of data centers because of the harmful affect on water and climate. And [in this article](#) Local Futures presents a bigger picture for how to see A.I. in the context of corporate power.



Action Sites for Democracy and Our Planet Given the continued threats to our democracy and our Earth, this resource guide lists our favorite sources of information, opportunities for action and hope. **We must protest as long as it takes to get our democracy back.**

Reclaiming and Protecting Our Democracy is Every Day

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

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

[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. (I recommend "Surviving the Next Four Years" for strategies such as: avoid doom and despair; be a voice of hope, not fear; unplug from network news; commit small acts of resistance.) [Read here](#).

[Hopium Chronicles, by Simon Rosenberg](#): Current analysis and frequent interviews.

Indivisible.org: a good source for information on future rallies.

Climate Action: Every Action Counts!

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

[100 Things You Can Do to Help in the Climate Crisis](https://100ThingsYouCanDo.org)

[15 Actions to Make a Difference](https://15Actions.org)

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

All Kinds of Good News



Walk for Peace

A group of Buddhist monks left Ft. Worth, Texas on October 29 headed for Washington, D.C. The group has 400,000 followers on Facebook. A recent post said, "We do not walk alone. We walk together with every person whose heart has opened to peace, whose spirit has chosen kindness, whose daily life has become a garden where understanding grows."

[Here's the article.](#)



Animal Welfare

As part of the most ambitious animal welfare strategy in a generation, England will end the use of hen cages and pig farrowing crates, ban trail hunting and puppy farming, and more by 2030. Other policies to end animal cruelty are in the works. [Read here.](#)



New Species Discovered

Mini marsupials, smiley snailfish, live-birthing toads, and an undercover spider are among the five new species discovered in 2025. NPR takes you on a tour of these unusual critters that were discovered last year. (Maybe the undercover spider could be useful in spy work.) [Read here.](#)



Patagonia Wildlife Corridor

Chile is preparing to designate Cape Froward as a national park, protecting about 1200 square miles of remote Patagonian coastline, forests and carbon-rich peatlands. The move would complete a decade long public-private conservation effort to create a continuous 1739 mile wildlife corridor at the southern tip of the Americas. [Read and see photos here.](#)

Wisdom for Our Time



"Step into this moment with fire, focus and fearless love."

—Dr. Bernice King, daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our Backyard Birds in Flight



Watch our common birds, like chickadees, titmice and doves, come in for slow motion landings to our feeders. Not only are the birds fascinating to watch but it is also engrossing to listen to and watch the two award-winning filmmakers as they capture the action. Watch other videos in "Backyard Birds Revealed," courtesy of the Cornell Ornithology Lab.

[Enjoy the show here.](#)

*Have a feisty, fiery February!
Virginia/Gibi*



Time to shout!
Time to be loud!
Time to act!
Time to stay!

Instead of directing you to my monthly column I recommend this post by Rev. Cameron Trimble in which she talks about how to stay steady "when the world is burning." [Read here.](#)

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