

February 7, 2018 Weekly Advocacy Digest - FIRST ANNIVERSARY EDITION

The digest contains:

- Upcoming Events - single date events to put on your calendar
- Recurring Events - events that repeat every week or month
- But wait, there's more...- action items, news, announcements, articles

❖Denotes new listing since last week

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ways to be prepared for actions if Mueller or Rosenstein fired

(1)Nobody is Above the Law (INDIVISIBLE SF EVENT, emergency action)

Date/Time TBD, Civic Center Plaza, San Francisco

If Trump finds a way to remove Robert Mueller and/or shuts down the Russian investigation, we will respond by taking to the streets IMMEDIATELY. Should this event happen, we will send out notifications and begin an instant mobilization. Donald Trump is publicly considering firing special counsel Robert Mueller, the person leading the Department of Justice investigation of possible illegal actions by Donald Trump and members of his presidential campaign, and the efforts to conceal those activities. This would be a constitutional crisis for our country. It would demand an immediate and unequivocal response to show that we will not tolerate abuse of power from Donald Trump. Our response in the minutes and hours following a power grab will dictate what happens next, and whether Congress—the only body with the constitutional power and obligation to rein Trump in from his rampage—will do anything to stand up to him. That's why we're preparing to hold emergency "Nobody is Above the Law" rallies around the country in the event they are needed. [San Francisco MoveOn event page](#). If you want to get emergency texts from MoveOn, **text ALERT to 668 366**.

(2) trumpisnotabovethelaw.org

(3) [Resistbot](#), a tool which helps us connect with our senators and representatives, is offering a streamlined way to help take action, should Special Counsel Mueller be fired. If we text "mueller" to 50409 on our cell phones, Resistbot will tell us where our nearest rapid response rally will be and will help us RSVP for the event so that we can be notified ASAP when it's time to take action. To be safe, you can also sign up at the actual [site](#). Remember, the same goes if Rosenstein is let go. - From [Rogan's List, January 31](#).

❖Let My People Stay Vigil

Wednesday, February 7-Thursday, February 8 (Deadline for Dreamers action by Congress)

630 Sansome Street, San Francisco (ICE offices)

Hosted by [Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity](#) and [Bend the Arc Jewish Action](#)

Join Jews and interfaith partners for noontime vigils in front of the San Francisco Immigration & Customs Enforcement offices (ICE) to stand with the immigrant community and stand for the urgency of a clean Dream Act. Rumors that ICE is planning a large-scale immigration sweep to punish California for its statewide protections are increasing the climate of fear and isolation for many, with people reporting missing school, medical appointments, and participation in public life. Information [here](#).

Conversations for the Common Good: The Race for the Second Most Important Office in the Country

All events 5-7 pm, McLaren Conference Center, #250, University of San Francisco, 2130 Fulton Street, San Francisco

The inaugural series in association with the McCarthy Center's 15th Anniversary, inviting accurate and inclusive voices to the challenges of serving the public good. This February, the Center invites candidates running in the **2018** California gubernatorial election to share their voice. With Politico California's David Siders and Carla Marinucci.

Conversation Dates

Thursday, February 1 - Antonio Villaraigosa, former mayor of Los Angeles

Monday, February 5 - Gavin Newsom, California State Lt. Governor

Thursday, February 15 - Delaine Eastin, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Thursday, March 1 - John Cox, businessman

Thursday, March 22 - John Chiang, California State Treasurer

Admission is free. Questions? Please contact Beth Gonzales, Program Assistant for the Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good, bbgonzales@usfca.edu. Information and registration [here](#).

Senator Feinstein's State Director in Berkeley

Wednesday, February 7, 1:30-3 pm

Berkeley Public Library South Branch, 1901 Russell St, Berkeley

Hosted by Indivisible Berkeley and Indivisible East Bay

We're bringing Senator Feinstein's staff back to Berkeley. We hope lots of you can make it!

Please bring your questions and concerns for her state director to answer and/or pass along to his boss. We plan to seat people on a first-come-first-served basis, but please let us know here on Facebook if you plan to attend so that we can estimate a headcount. The room holds about 100 people. We are surveying our membership about issues to discuss at the meeting and plan to have several spokespeople prepared to discuss those issues in addition to taking general questions from the audience. Please give input [here](#).

❖Protest Against Offshore Drilling at BOEM's Sham Public Hearing

Thursday, February 8, 1:30-4:30 pm

1100 L St, Sacramento

1:30 pm meet at North Steps of the California State Capitol for a press conference and rally.

2:30 pm march to the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria (828 I Street, Sacramento) for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) meeting.

3:00 pm enter the meeting and let BOEM know that new drilling is not welcome off our coast or in any of our oceans.

Hosted by several environmental groups. More information [here](#).

❖Fighting Back Against Right-Wing Populism: More than Choosing between the Lesser of Two Evils

Thursday, February 8, 6:30-8 pm

Contra Costa College, Fireside Hall Community Room, 2600 Mission Bell Dr., San Pablo

Event co-sponsors: Contra Costa AFL-CIO Labor Council, Bay Area Black Worker Center,

Contra Costa College, Northern California Chapter - Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Safe Returns Project

This country is experiencing a rise in right-wing authoritarianism. Simultaneously, there has been a rise in resistance to the political right in a variety of forms including greater Black activism and the Women's Marches. The tendency to channel much of this energy into the electoral arena raises the question: Is this the best way to fight right-wing authoritarianism? Fletcher, a long-time social activist, will present provocative answers to this question.

Bill Fletcher Jr has been an activist since his teen years. Upon graduating from college he went to work as a welder in a shipyard, thereby entering the labor movement. Over the years he has been active in workplace and community struggles as well as electoral campaigns. He has worked for several labor unions in addition to serving as a senior staffperson in the national AFL-CIO. Free and open to the public. More information and registration [here](#).

Indivisible Berkeley monthly General Assembly

Sunday, February 11, 7-9 pm (7 socializing, meeting starts 7:30)

Berkeley Finnish Hall, 1970 Chestnut St, Berkeley

Theme will be a collaboration between the Immigration and Racism & Criminal Justice Reform teams. Bring a friend! Bring snacks to share! Information [here](#). Indivisible Berkeley [Facebook page](#). Questions? Email info@indivisibleberkeley.org

❖Indivisible SF General Meeting

Sunday, February 11, 4-6 pm

St. Mark's Church - Urban Life Center, 1111 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco

This event is for both first timers and previous attendees. Please join us!

Note: Please read [the Indivisible Guide](#) before attending. More information and registration [here](#).

❖Congressman DeSaulnier Town Hall

Monday, February 12, 6:30-8 pm

Diablo Valley College, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill

Hosted by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier

RSVP [here](#).

❖Big Money and Other Threats to Our Democracy: A Conversation with U.S. Representative John Sarbanes, Chair of the U.S. House Democracy Reform Task Force

Monday, February 12, 12:45-2 pm

University of California Berkeley School of Law, Room 100, 215 Bancroft Way, Berkeley

Presented by the Bay Area and UC Berkeley School of Law Chapters of the American Constitution Society

Join us for a discussion on money in politics, the work of the Democracy Reform Task Force, the Government By the People Act, and other threats to democracy. Lunch will be provided while supplies last. More information and registration [here](#).

Love Our Constitution

February 12-18<https://acslaw.org/conclass/Love-Info>

The American Constitution Society is excited to announce our second annual Love Our Constitution initiative February 12-18, 2018. Love Our Constitution encourages ACS members to share their love of the US Constitution by leading community discussions focused on the federal judiciary at any time during Valentine's week. ACS has prepared presentation materials and additional resources to make it easy for everyone to organize and advertise a discussion of any size. Last year's presentations included our members teaching neighbors, friends, boy scout troops, community college classes, and more. In 2017, members like you hosted events involving over 1100 people across the country. This inspiring article in The Guardian highlights the collective work of our members and volunteers in organizing and leading Love Our Constitution discussions. Information and sign up [here](#) to host a discussion and check out our webpage to find the new curriculum and answers to frequently asked questions. Be sure to use our Social Media Toolkit to promote Love Our Constitution to your network. If you have any additional questions, please email LCEmails@acslaw.org and include "Love Our Constitution" in the subject line.

Political and Proud

Wednesday, February 21, 6-8 pm

Encinal Junior & Senior High School Gymnasium, 210 Central Avenue, Alameda

Organized by Encinal High School Students. Information and registration (free) [here](#). Political and Proud is honored to host our first community forum, with esteemed speakers: Keynote speaker, CA Senator Nancy Skinner of Senate District, 9; Hydra Mendoza, Deputy Chief of Staff for Education and Equity for the San Francisco Mayor's Office; Pamela Price, civil rights attorney; Sameena Usman, Government Relations Coordinator for the Council on American-Islamic Relations; Lara Mendel, Co-founder and Executive Director of the Mosaic Project; Trish Herrera Spencer, Mayor of Alameda and a special video message from Carmen Perez, National Co-chair for the Women's March on Washington. Political and Proud aims to encourage women and girls to get involved in politics, advocate for their rights, and run for office. It does so by having a diverse group of local and national female politicians, influencers, activists, and others come together for an evening of speeches, discussion, and inspiration. We are also coupling it with a voter registration drive that allows young people to register to vote and get involved! Truly, youth engagement (and especially young women's engagement) in politics is at the heart of our goal for this event.

Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club Meeting

Thursday, February 22, 6 pm (potluck), meeting 6:45-9 pm

Humanist Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland

We will be interviewing the candidates for Alameda County District Attorney: Nancy O'Malley (incumbent), Pamela Price (Civil Rights Attorney). More information [here](#).

HLJ (Hastings Law Journal) Symposium: Cybersecurity, Fake News & Policy

Friday, February 23, 8:30 am - 3:45 pm

Alumni Reception Center located at 200 McAllister Street, San Francisco

The Hastings Law Journal annual Symposium event will explore topical subjects on the issues of fake news on social media, the impact it has on the U.S. political process, the 2016 Russia hacking and ongoing investigation, artificial intelligence in journalism, and First Amendment protections. The Symposium will feature two panels and a keynote speaker. Breakfast and lunch will be provided as well as MCLE credit for practicing attorneys. The event is open to the public and free to attend. Information and registration [here](#).

❖Indivisible East Bay: February All Members Meeting

Sunday, February 25, 1-3 pm

Sports Basement, 2727 Milvia Street, Berkeley

Join our monthly meeting for members and newcomers interested in opposing the Trump agenda! For more information, visit indivisibleeb.org.

Registration <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/indivisible-east-bay-january-all-members-meeting-tickets-41612466006?aff=erellivmlt> [here](#).

❖EPA Listening Session to Oppose Rollback of the Clean Power Plan

Wednesday, February 28, 2-3 pm

San Francisco Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 30 Grove Street, San Francisco

Public · Hosted by Indivisible Berkeley

More information [here](#). RSVP to Phyllis Rothman, rothmanp@hotmail.com.

❖SHETalks WETalk Workshop

Saturday-Sunday, March 3-4, 10 am-4 pm

Heartsources, Berkeley (address not given)

[SHE talks WE talk](#) is a powerful and transformational moment when women come together for two days to talk productively about race and racism. A weekend workshop where you learn

how to be a strong and effective ally and accomplice for women/people of color. All women are welcome. We need to learn how to have productive conversations about racism
 ALL participants must read *Antagonists, Advocates and Allies: The White Woman's Guide for Becoming Allies with Black Women*. After you register a copy of the book will be shipped to you. Tickets (\$350) and registration [here](#).

Arlie Hochschild: Anger and Mourning on the American Right

Monday, March 5, 5:30 pm check-in, 6:30 pm program, 7:30 pm book signing

The Commonwealth Club, 110 The Embarcadero, San Francisco

Since the 2016 election, America's great political divide seems to be getting wider. Democrats and Republicans have grown further apart, and the national conversation has shifted away from cooperation and compromise. Renowned sociologist Arlie Hochschild seeks to find common ground in our desire for community, our embrace of family and our hopes for a better future that we can all share. In *Strangers in Their Own Land*, Hochschild embarks on a journey from her liberal hometown of Berkeley, California, deep into Louisiana bayou country—a stronghold of the conservative Right. She challenges the idea that people are voting against their own interests. Instead, Hochschild draws on her expert knowledge of sociology to help us understand what it feels like to live in "red" America and how we can grow into a united America. Tickets (\$8-50) and more information [here](#).

DACA, Detention, Temporary Protected Status - Immigration Update

Thursday, March 25, 1-3:15 pm

1 networking, 1:30 panel presentation, 3:15 tables to learn more about immigrants' rights organizations and how you can help

Temple Beth El social hall, 1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley

Come hear about the realities facing our undocumented neighbors and how to get involved. Please RSVP to immigrationworkshop2018@gmail.com. Co-hosted by Temple Beth El, Kehilla Community Synagogue, Temple Sinai, and Chochmat HaLev

RECURRING EVENTS

Voter Registration for New Citizens Swearing In Ceremony

Thursday, February 15, 10 am-12

Thursday, February 15, 2-4 pm

Thursday, March 15, 10 am-12

Thursday, March 15, 2-4 pm

Thursday, April 19, 10 am-12

Thursday, April 19, 2-4 pm

Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland

Register [here](#) for any of these dates. Make sure you are picking the morning or afternoon session you want to attend. You can sign up for either or both. (On Jan 11, we registered a total of 227 new voters between the two ceremonies.) New Citizens Swearing In Ceremony: Helping brand new Americans activate their citizenship by registering to vote is one of the most fulfilling activities we can participate in. From countries all over the world, they pour out of the Paramount Theater after taking the oath of allegiance to their new homeland, where we welcome them with an offer to register to vote the same day. Look for a row of ironing boards on both sides of the entrance. No experience is necessary - we will train on site.

❖Evening of Action: Text Bank

First Tuesday of the month, 7-8:30 pm

Drake's Dealership, 2325 Broadway Auto Row, Oakland

Hosted by [Indivisible East Bay](#)

Join Indivisible East Bay for food, drinks, socializing, and most importantly text-banking to support the resistance! We'll be using a system created by our partner, [Rapid Resist](#), to mobilize voters for local organizers' events around the country. They've recruited for organizations like the Dolores Huerta Foundation, Indivisible Jacksonville, and Working America, moving thousands to oppose the Trump administration's agenda. More information [here](#).

❖Phone banks

The Democracy Action network now has Phone Bank listings for San Francisco, East Bay, and Marin, with more coming online soon. We are still making calls to voters in other states to ask them to call their Members of Congress about a clean Dream Act vote. The next Budget Showdown is on Feb. 8th when this will be a big factor re: Gov. Shutdown again. Information [here](#).

Free Citizenship Workshops

April 10, July 10, October 9, 9 am-2 pm

Monument Crisis Center, 1990 Market Street, Concord

Sponsored by [International Rescue Committee](#)

American citizenship provides many privileges and protections: the right to vote, security against deportation, ability to bring more family to the U.S., increased job opportunities and more. Now's the time to apply. At this workshop, you will get help to complete your citizenship application (N-400) and fee waiver, if applicable. Your case will be reviewed by a Department of Justice accredited representative who can serve as your legal representative with USCIS, alert you to updates in your case, and provide you trusted guidance and advice throughout the entire naturalization process. All services are free! Registration is required. Register [online](#) by selecting a date above, or call (510) 852-8914

“Collaboration and Connection” Exhibition

Until February 24, Fridays and Saturdays 12-4 pm

Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, 1433 Madison Street, Oakland

“Collaboration and Connection” is the fourth interfaith art exhibition hosted by the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California (ICCN) and brings together artists from many faiths to express their commitment to interfaith understanding, coexistence, peace, and cultural dialogue. The impetus for this powerful exhibition is the desire to build bridges and create friendships through artistic collaboration. Thirty teams of artists have risen to the challenge of creating collaborative artwork with unique and stunning creations in a wide variety of mediums including painting, clay, fabric, metalwork, found materials, photography, origami and much more. This art exhibition is sponsored by the Faith Trio, a 16 year alliance of the ICCN with two other congregations in the Oakland area: Kehilla Community Synagogue and Montclair Presbyterian Church. Local non-profits and community partners are also sponsors of the exhibition. For more information, please contact Lea Delson at (510) 528-6725, lea@delsonphoto.com or visit [website](#).

North Berkeley demonstration demanding higher taxes for the super-rich & big corporations

Mondays 5-6 pm

Near the top of Solano Ave by the Oaks Theater, Berkeley

Come sing with OCCUPELLA or just hold a sign. RAIN CANCELS!

Living Graveyard Vigil for Peace

3rd Mondays, 12-1 pm

Oakland Federal Building 1301 Clay
[Ecumenical Peace Institute](#)

Resistance Rally by the Grand Lake Theater, Oakland

Every Tuesday, 4:30-5:30 pm
[Indivisible East Bay](#)

Table with Indivisible Resistance Action East Bay at Rockridge BART

Every Thursday, 5-6 pm
[Indivisible East Bay](#)

Rally for Peace

3rd Fridays from 2-3 pm

Acton and University Avenues, Berkeley
 Co-sponsored by Berkeley-East Bay Gray Panthers and neighborhood tenants
 Bring determination and music! Bring our troops home NOW! Honk for Peace! Some fun in the sun! We sing songs, wave signs, and get passing cars and trucks to honk support. Signs are provided. All welcome. Wheelchair accessible. Info: Steve Geller 913-4682

Monthly Interfaith Vigils to Support Immigrant Detainees

First Saturday of the month, 11 am- 12 noon

West County Detention Facility, 5555 Giant Highway, Richmond
 We invite you to join our vigils each month as we gather to pray and bear witness to the pain, suffering, and separation of immigrant detainees, and to call for real and immediate immigration reform. <http://icir-clue.blogspot.com/p/action.html> If you would like to bring refreshments/coffee or greet visiting Spanish-speaking families, please contact mnoriega@im4humanintegrity.org If you would like to be an occasional driver or housing host for released detainees through PRAP (Post-release accompaniment program), contact: prap@centrolegal.org

Monthly Protest at Richmond Immigration Detention/County Jail

2nd Sunday of the Month, 11 am-12 noon

[Let Our People Go](#)

West County Detention Facility, 5555 Giant Hwy, Richmond
 Show solidarity with those locked inside West County Detention, which doubles as Contra Costa's jail and the Bay Area's ICE detention center. We must stand up for our community members whose human rights are violated by the current racist policies of intimidation/police brutality, incarceration, and deportation. Show your support for families visiting their loved ones as we affirm the dignity and rights of all members of our human family. Bring your noisemakers, signs, friends, family, and neighbors. Let Our People Go was initiated by members of the Kehilla Immigration Committee on the 2nd Sunday of every month at 11am, modeled in part on the first Saturday vigils held by our partners at Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. The ongoing participation of Bend the Arc activists and regular attendees enriches the community circle. This one-hour protest is a way for more families with tweens/teens—especially those with citizenship privileges—to stand up for our peoples and bring more attention to this immoral site of internment right in our community. We aim to convey a sustained message of resistance to the right wing's racist, xenophobic, anti-Muslim, ableist, transphobic, homophobic, misogynist ramp up of authoritarian policing, detention, and deportation practices—if not now, when?

Lake Merritt Neighbors Organized for Peace

Sundays, 3 pm

Walk around Lake Merritt. We start and end at the colonnade between Grand and Lakeshore Avenues on Embarcadero. near the Grand Lake Theater, across the street from the Lakeview Library, which is at 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union)

Berkeley/North East Bay Chapter

Monthly meeting-Third Wednesday of most months, 7 pm

Sweet Basil Thai restaurant, 1736 Solano Avenue, Berkeley

Come early if you'd like to eat dinner with us.

Barbara Dilts bdilts@redshift.com More information about this and chapter [here](#).

Know Your Rights trainings by Antonio Medrano, Chair of the Berkeley/North East Bay Chapter - For schedule of trainings go to Chapter [Facebook](#) page.

List of other ACLU chapters [here](#).

Barbara Lee Staff Office Hours

Every 1st & 3rd Thursday, 2-5 pm

1470 Fruitvale Ave, Oakland

Staff only - Rep. Lee not in attendance.[here](#).

Action Checklist for Americans of Conscience (Jen Hoffman)

Turning bad news into positive action: No matter your political stripe, Americans are good, generous people who pull together in a pinch. Katrina. New York. Sandy Hook. When the chips are down, we look out for each other.

Now is no different. In the Action Checklist for Americans of Conscience, you get (1) clear, hype-free actions to take from home that support democracy, freedom, and equality for all Americans; (2) Acts of Gratitude praise elected officials when they do something good for all people, no matter which side of the aisle; (3) Good News of progress for democracy and people doing kind, heartwarming things for each other; and (4) reading list of in-depth articles on important issues. [Get the weekly Action Checklist for Americans of Conscience](#).

Rogan's List/RiseStronger

A comprehensive weekly digest of news and actions. Sign up [here](#).

Wall of Us

Four concrete acts of resistance curated and personalized for you each week. Sign up [here](#).

One Thing You Can Do (OTYCD)

The election of Donald Trump calls for action. But where to start? There's so much to push back against. It's overwhelming. [One Thing You Can Do](#) features a daily action item that you can pursue. You don't have to stop at one thing, but it's certainly a start. New OTYCD posts go up between 6 am and 9 am EST on weekdays, and between 8 am and 10 am EST on weekend days. OTYCD exists to help you focus. It attempts to select the most effective thing you can do that day to push back against Trump. If you think today's action item is not the most effective thing you can do, that's fine. Go to 'Want to Do More?' for links and resources where you can find other suggestions for things you can do.

Postcards for America

Postcards for America has created some postcards we can print at home or at a service to distribute and get the word out about both Postcards for America and Postcards to Voters. From their [website](#): It's a new day in the USA & we must take action and fight for our rights! Let YOUR Senators & Reps know your STATE of mind! We've been doing this since 10 days after the Election - and it's WORKING! ACTION: We postcard to each of our own Senators & Reps at National & State level. Postcard them about Suggested Topics which are kept updated. Postcards for America gives you PC2As (Postcarders Calls to Action) on key bills, topics and issues so you can write them about your concerns. Addresses, background information and even Suggested Wording provided. (See the links under the Icons by Topic.) Remind your Representatives, at all levels, that they are representing you and let them know that you are watching! This IS making a difference! You can make a difference! ALL 50 STATES have members in the Postcards for America Facegroup [here](#).

Indivisible Berkeley

[This page](#) lists actions you can take from the comfort of your home! We recommend making a habit of taking one action per day or one action per week.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

ACTION ITEMS

❖Support Nunes' Democratic Opponent

Feeling frustrated about Devin Nunes? Many (frequently in the amount of \$20.18) have taken this as opportunity to support the front-runner opposition candidate in that November 2018 Congressional race in the California 22nd, Andrew Janz: Website [here](#). From [Rogan's List, February 5](#).

NEWS

❖“The Memo”

You can find it [here](#) if you want to read it.

❖Austin City Council Resists the Wall

The Austin, Texas city council has passed a resolution “not to procure services from any company involved in the design, construction, or maintenance of the border wall” with support from Austin Mayor Steve Adler. Read resolution [here](#).

<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=292157> <http://bit.ly/2nKvJqG>

❖The Immigrant Yarn Project

“The Immigrant Yarn Project [is] a massive-scale work of public and democratic (made by the people) art honoring our immigrant past and diverse future. It is made of thousands of small squares and pieces knitted or crocheted by immigrants and their descendants representing their personal stories from across the country - compiled and sewn together in a single colossal display of yarn-based protest art. It will be displayed at Fort Point in San Francisco in November 2018. Senators Diane Feinstein and Kamala Harris are supporting this project as are dozens of organizations and individuals. We have started knitting circles in retirement centers, schools and girl scout troops in the Bay Area and beyond and the response has been incredible.” Website [here](#).

RESOURCES

❖ **State Strong California Legislative Update**

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2018! We have four great sections for you: a way for you to learn how progressive your reps are, a quick update on what's been happening in Sacramento, a summary of California's response to Trump's plan to increase offshore drilling, and an update on the Affirmatively Further Fair Housing Bill that is working its way through the legislature. Read article [here](#).

❖ **The Smear Campaign Against Mueller: Debunking the Nunes Memo and the Other Attacks on the Russia Investigation**

In a new legal analysis, ACS (American Constitution Society) and CREW (Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington) examine **the** facts and law relating to seven major allegations regarding the conduct of the Russia investigation that collectively amount to one of the most sustained smear campaigns against honest government officials since Senator Joe McCarthy's attacks of the 1950's. Although this inquiry is still unfolding and any assessment is necessarily preliminary, the report concludes that based on what is publicly known, the Special Counsel has conducted an inquiry that fully complies with relevant laws, rules, and guidelines – and that is wholly consistent with Mueller's reputation for playing by the book. (If you want - or need - to get into the weeds on this issue, this report is a detailed and accessible read. Find it [here](#).)

ARTICLES

❖ **Republican Resurgence?**

A month ago, Republicans across the country were deeply dejected and grim, expecting a Midterm wipeout with Democrats flipping the House and then quickly moving to impeach President Trump. Now, that conventional wisdom is starting to shake.

Three things have happened since late December:

- Republicans have tightened the gap with Democrats on the generic congressional ballot, from double digits to about 7 points.
- Trump's approval ratings have risen from the high 30 percent range to the mid 40 percent range.
- The Republican tax bill has gone from being woefully unpopular to marginally supported by voters.

Between the lines: Most forecasters still predict Democrats will win the 24 seats they need to flip the House. Democrats have history and retirements on their side; according to Politifact, "In midterms since 1862, the president's party has averaged losses of about 32 seats in the House and more than two seats in the Senate."

• But there are a few reasons it's wildly premature to predict a wipeout. Trump is riding a booming economy and voters are starting to feel the benefits of tax cuts in their paychecks. The conventional wisdom that the popularity (or unpopularity) of that bill is "baked in" doesn't gel with recent polling.

• Public polls on tax cuts have moved substantially in the right direction for Republicans. At the start of January, Gallup found that just 33 percent of voters approved of the tax cuts bill, while 55 percent disapproved. But public polls later that month — Fox and Monmouth — show that split narrowing to 38/37 and 44/44.

Republican internal polls mirror that, according to Ryan Mahoney at the RNC and Brian Walsh at the pro-Trump group America First Policies. Mahoney said the tax bill has gained favorability both nationwide and in key congressional districts.

• One example, per Mahoney: In Pennsylvania's 18th congressional district, in late November 2017, 40% of voters thought tax reform would benefit the middle class and voters like themselves, while 48% thought it would benefit the 1% (net = -8). In the most recent round, however, it was now right side up with a 45-44 split (net = +1).

Be smart: For Democrats, big Midterm wins are far from guaranteed. - From Axios Sneak Peek, Jonathan Swan, February 4. Article [here](#).

❖ **The Trump Disciples: Republican candidates across the country are trying to replicate Trump’s formula of bigotry and anger** - Slate.com, February 5. Article [here](#).

❖ **After legal setbacks, Trump administration races to Supreme Court** - Reuters, February 1.

When President Donald Trump’s administration took its fight to end a controversial immigration program directly to the U.S. Supreme Court last month, skipping over a California federal appeals court in the process, Attorney General Jeff Sessions said it was a “rare step” to ensure a quick and fair resolution. But the fast trip to the nation’s highest judicial body was not the first time the administration took the unusual route of circumventing liberal-leaning lower courts and heading straight to the conservative-majority Supreme Court for relief from legal setbacks. Read article [here](#).

❖ **Ruth Bader Ginsburg Is Staying On The Bench, As Long As She Has ‘Full Steam’** - The Forward, February 1. Article [here](#).

❖ **White Supremacist Propaganda Spreading On U.S. College Campuses, ADL (Anti-Defamation League) Says**

- The Forward, February 1. Read article [here](#).

❖ **Democratic Gubernatorial Candidates on Reproductive Rights**

Last week, four Democratic gubernatorial candidates answered questions about reproductive rights at the NARAL Forum for Choice, an event co-sponsored by Indivisible SF and California StateStrong. Facing off for 90 minutes were former State Superintendent Delaine Eastin, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and State Treasurer John Chiang. The evening was congenial, as there was virtually no disagreement on reproductive rights policies among the candidates. (The Republican candidates declined the invitation.) All the candidates blasted Governor Brown for vetoing AB 569 (Gonzalez Fletcher), a bill sponsored by NARAL Pro-Choice California that would have made it illegal for employers to fire anyone for their reproductive health choices. Ms. Eastin was particularly critical, calling it one of the governor's worst decisions. There was some discussion about what could be done to stop the spate of "fake" healthcare clinics that aim to prevent women from getting abortions. All supported making abortions by medication available at public universities’ health clinics (SB 320, introduced by Leyva) and agreed that birth control should be sold over the counter. California StateStrong will be there next year to hold the winner to their commitments. - From [Indivisible SF, February 6](#).

❖ **Black Dems take lead in push to impeach Trump** - The Hill, February 1

Black lawmakers say that’s the result of Trump repeatedly stirring racial controversies, from personally attacking two members of the caucus to casting equal blame on white supremacists and counterprotesters for fatal violence in Charlottesville, Va., last summer. Article [here](#).