

“everything worthwhile is done with others”
— Moussa Kaba

Local Connections		
indivisiblepaloaltoplus.com 📍 Palo Alto, CA 📅 Meetings: 2nd Saturdays	indivisiblemp.org 📍 San Carlos, CA 📅 Meetings: 4th Wednesdays	indiviblesanmateo.com 📍 San Mateo, CA

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A practical framework for action

One of the ways you can stop the MAGA destruction of democracy is by participating in many different kinds of resistance and noncooperation. The list below was compiled by Indivisible Mid-Peninsula (indivisiblemp.org) with contributions from itsblueturn.com and Indivisible Palo Alto+ (indivisiblepaloaltoplus.org). We hope it helps you find joy in resistance.

THESE ARE THE PILLARS HOLDING UP THE SYSTEM.



Find the pillars you can influence, and take action to persuade them to stop supporting Trump.

Business

As a Consumer

- Buy from businesses that uphold ethical practices (DEI, sustainability, free expression).
- Boycott companies that are complicit in authoritarian policies or that fire employees for their political views.
- Use apps like [Goods Unite Us](#) or [Poliview](#) to check business political agendas.
- Shop local.
- Leave positive reviews for ethical businesses.
- Use social media to call out unethical corporate behavior; organize boycotts.
- Share pro-democracy alternatives to help others shift purchasing habits.
- Ask to post event flyers in business windows.
- Chalk pro-democracy messages outside stores (sidewalks are public domain).
- Wear resistance t-shirts, hats, or stickers (on cars, laptops).
- Put up yard signs with QR codes to resources—rotate messages.
- Wear coded symbols (pins, colors) to signal solidarity.

As an Employee

- Ask leadership about the company's stance on human rights, ethics, and free speech.
- Talk with coworkers about company practices.
- Form groups to advocate for ethical policies.
- Write letters to leadership; collect signatures.
- Collectively push back against unjust directives.
- Coordinate walkouts or strikes (especially with union support).
- Flyer or chalk near your workplace in support of democracy.
- Share alternative information with coworkers.
- Document abuses safely; share via secure channels.
- Leverage your skills: Designers delay propaganda projects, tech workers refuse surveillance tools, researchers share facts, write op-eds.
- Practice "performative incompetence": intentionally misunderstand harmful requests.
- Practice "work-to-rule": do exactly what's in your contract—nothing more.
- Don't obey in advance: avoid streamlining harmful orders—make requestors own them. Refuse to implement illegal actions.

As a Business Owner

- Refuse to eliminate DEI policies.
- Build and actively support a culture of diversity and free expression.
- Demand ADA compliance and inclusive practices (e.g., all-gender restrooms).
- Speak up for vulnerable employees.
- Use your platform: promote democratic values in advertising/social media.
- Sponsor local pro-democracy groups or independent media.
- Refuse unethical government contracts.
- Reject discriminatory rules and surveillance mandates.

Labor

Any Worker

- Join a union, or learn how to form one.
- "Work to rule": follow contracts exactly, slowing the system without breaking laws.
- Use all available sick/vacation leave.
- Refuse jobs at detention centers, surveillance firms, or propaganda outlets.

Union Member

- Push your union to take public stances on political issues.
- Propose resolutions supporting striking workers and pro-democracy movements.

- Participate in, or help organize, strikes, walkouts, and work stoppages.
- Build coalitions with local unions as part of broader resistance.

Faith

As a Congregant

- Ask your faith leader and community to clarify their stance on current moral issues.
- Start a social justice committee.
- Donate time and money to institutions that take courageous moral stands.
- Build interfaith coalitions with other congregations.

As a Faith Leader

- Speak from the pulpit: frame justice in moral terms.
- Offer sanctuary: use church/mosque/temple as safe meeting space for organizers, at-risk people, and aid distribution.
- Issue joint statements with leaders of other faiths to show united opposition.
- Partner with community rapid-response networks.

Education

As a Citizen

- Buy and donate banned books to little free libraries and public libraries.
- Support independent and reliable content creators.
- Use apps like Ground.news to check factual news.
- Take community college classes on government, history, or authoritarianism.
- Listen to and amplify marginalized voices.
- Slip resistance literature into books at libraries or cafés.
- Request or support Banned Books shelves at libraries and bookstores.

As a Parent

- Scrutinize school curriculum; speak up when you see censorship or propaganda.
- Discuss curriculum gaps with children; give them banned books to read.
- Help other parents understand curriculum concerns.
- Join Parent Teacher Associations.
- Organize united parent groups.
- Attend school board meetings to protest book bans, firing of teachers, propaganda, lack of protections.
- Run for school board.

As a Student

- Ask critical questions; respectfully challenge propaganda.
- Form clubs to debate censored topics—even outside school if disallowed.
- Start independent student newspapers, podcasts, or zines.
- Organize walkouts or protests against repressive policies.
- Speak up for marginalized classmates.

As an Educator

- Teach truth: find creative ways to bring in banned literature and history.
- Strategize with other teachers.
- Refuse to censor or report students for political views.
- Build peer support networks.
- Launch story-collection projects documenting student/teacher resistance.
- “Adopt a pillar”: mobilize colleagues to push schools and libraries toward noncooperation.
- Check in with vulnerable students/families. Signal you are a “safe” adult.

Civil Service

As a Citizen

- Demand transparency: fact-check, use FOIA, share investigative journalism.
- Support ethical public servants—research, donate, and thank them publicly.
- Call and email officials: 5calls.org.
- Attend town halls; demand one if they are not holding them.
- Vote; help others get out the vote.
- Volunteer at voting sites.
- Join postcarding, phone banking, letter-writing campaigns.
- Join local activist groups (Indivisible, etc.).
- Participate in marches, protests, bannering, vigils.
- Wear resistance symbols visibly to show solidarity.
- Escort immigrants to court appointments.
- Accompany profiled friends at protests to increase safety.
- Join pro-justice ally groups; ask what support they need.
- Be visibly supportive (clothing, stickers, signs) to show you’re a safe ally.
- Record abuses; follow up with potential victims.
- Form or join mutual aid networks (food, housing, childcare).
- Organize neighborhood canvasses to share noncooperation resources.
- Create community newsletters, podcasts, or social accounts to counter propaganda.
- Host gatherings to teach people about One Million Rising and the “Pillars” framework
- Help people identify their action plans.
- Build community skills exchanges (secure comms, de-escalation, rapid response).
- Maintain rapid-response contact trees.

As a Government Employee

- Don't obey in advance.
- Create friction: misfile, delay, or "lose" paperwork to slow unethical processes.
- Leak information safely to journalists/watchdogs.
- Resign in protest of illegal or morally corrupt actions—especially if done collectively.
- Or stay inside strategically to resist from within.

Military & Police

As a Citizen

- Safely film police interactions.
- Humanize activists as neighbors and fellow citizens.
- Talk with friends/family working within security forces; appeal to their conscience and remind them of their oath and the constitution.

As a Member of Security Forces

- Exercise power with compassion and leniency.
- Use "blue flu," coordinated sick-outs to resist unjust orders.
- Refuse illegal or immoral orders (e.g., firing on civilians, detaining or apprehending anyone without a signed judicial warrant, etc.).
- Leak information about violations of law and planned crackdowns to trusted sources (high risk, but lifesaving).

Staying informed

Journalists, historians, lawyers, and others with accurate information and interesting perspectives on our current moment.

Heather Cox Richardson <i>Historian</i>				
Jamelle Bouie <i>Opinion Columnist</i>				
Migrant Insider <i>Immigration Journalist</i>				
Aaron Parnas <i>Lawyer, strategist, journalist</i>				
Kevin M Kruse <i>Historian</i>				
Marcy Wheeler <i>National Security & Civil Liberties Journalist</i>				
Amanda Nelson <i>Historian</i>				
A Girl Has No President <i>Blogger</i>				
Mrs Frazzled <i>Teacher & Blogger</i>				
Nico Lang <i>Queer News Daily</i>				
Erin Reed <i>Journalist</i>				

Learning more

INDIVISIBLE	
<u>Indivisible Palo Alto+ website</u> <u>Indivisible Midpen</u> <u>Indivisible San Mateo</u>	Our websites include pages for upcoming events and are a great way to share who we are with your local friends and family.
<u>Indivisible Guide</u>	Guide written by the Indivisible national organization – an update of the piece that started the Indivisible movement!
<u>Weekly “What’s the Plan” meetings with Ezra and Leah</u>	Weekly zoom meetings with the national organizers of Indivisible. Energetic & inspiring!
<u>One Million Rising: Strategic Non-cooperation to Fight Authoritarianism</u>	National Indivisible trainings starting in July 2025. A national effort to train one million people in the strategic logic and practice of non-cooperation, as well as the basics of community organizing and campaign design.
TRAINING AND GUIDANCE	
<u>Resistance for Newbies</u>	Detailed guide on how to get involved politically by IPA+ member Mariya G.

<p><u>Chop Wood, Carry Water</u></p>	<p>A well-known newsletter that shares simple and impactful daily actions, and also offers easy-to-use call scripts. IPA+ highly encourages subscribing!</p>
<p><u>Resistance Lab</u></p>	<p>The basis for many of our Action Teams, sponsored by Pramila Jayapal. <u>Here</u> is the recording of Resistance Lab 101, and here is the <u>website</u>.</p>
<p><u>Virtual Activism Resources</u></p>	<p>Virtual activism resources for letter writing and more</p>
<p><u>Protect Democracy</u></p>	<p><u>29 actions</u> you can take to protect democracy</p> <p>The <u>Authoritarian playbook</u></p>
<p>THOUGHT PIECES/REFERENCE</p>	
<p><u>Op-ed in Palo Alto Online</u></p>	<p>Op-ed about the importance of actively participating in democracy by IPA+ member David Waksberg</p>
<p><u>On Tyranny</u></p>	<p>Classic text by Dr. Timothy Snyder on the history of authoritarianism. <i>“A “bracing” guide for surviving and resisting America’s turn towards authoritarianism, from “a rising public intellectual unafraid to make bold</i></p>

	<i>connections between past and present” – New York Times</i>
<u>Erica Chenoweth--Civil Resistance: What Everyone Needs to Know</u>	Erica Chenoweth, a political scientist at Harvard University, explains that civil resistance as a nonviolent strategy where ordinary people coordinate to demand and protect democracy, and the factors needed for successful movements.
<u>How will we know when we have lost our democracy?</u>	Op-ed in the New York Times by experts in the spread of authoritarianism.
<u>Rand Paul on Tariffs</u>	Speech on the senate floor about why it is bad for the executive to unilaterally declare tariffs, useful to understand rhetoric that is appealing to a more conservative audience
<u>Twitter and Tear Gas</u>	Book on protests against authoritarianism in the modern world. Frequently cited by Indivisible leadership for strategy.
<u>Letters from an American</u>	Daily email newsletter from historian Heather Cox Richardson that puts current events in historical context

<p><u>So you want to be a dissident</u></p>	<p>New Yorker opinion piece by Julia Angwin. "A practical guide to courage in Trump's age of fear"</p>
<p><u>How to write legislative Strategy</u></p>	<p>How to write and advocate for legislation. A useful framework for understanding how to get things done by identifying decision makers, considering opposing views, and understanding how to use the process.</p>