



In the Mountain of Despair, we will be the Stone of Hope



We entered 2026 hoping to turn a corner but Trump grabbed the wheel and drove the whole country off the road. There has been overreach on a scale that we hope will cost Republicans the midterm elections, but a lot of people will suffer in the meantime. Trump appears desperate to distract Americans from the Epstein files (there must be something really damning in there) and the struggles, uncertainty, and worry caused by Trump's erratic behavior and stagnant economy.

From launching a massive, albeit short lived, invasion of Venezuela, including the illegal and unprecedented snatching and hauling away another country's leader, to the militarized occupation of Minneapolis and the gunning down of Renee Good for showing "disrespect" to ICE, and the renewed threats to seize Greenland by military force, recent events are bonkers even by Trump standards.

In this return stint as President it's as if Trump actually wants to harm our country and its people. Lasting harm. What sort of person would want that to be their legacy?

Has he finally gone too far? Polls show his MAGA base is unmoved but almost everyone else has moved or is moving away. Trump's overreach creates a window of opportunity, but we have to stand up (bring your whistles!) and hold the line until November, when we can finally restore some semblance of checks and balances by electing a Democratic House.

Misplaced Priorities

Beyond ensuring US citizens focus on anything except the Epstein files, Trump has now prioritized ballooning the US defense budget to \$1.5 trillion (at least \$500 million more than the prior budget)! But do the people want that? In short, the answer is not as much as

they want affordable healthcare in the form of ACA subsidies. **Polling** shows that there is bipartisan support for continued ACA subsidies, with 74% in favor (94% of Democrats and 50% of Republicans in favor). Even an otherwise fractured House of Representatives **passed HR 247** to extend the ACA subsidies for three years with 17 Republicans crossing the aisle to join 213 Democrats in support. Meanwhile, bipartisan support for increased defense spending is lacking. As you can imagine, **support is divided along party lines** with Republicans more supportive of expanding the US defense budget (49%, vs. 15% of Democrats and 25% of Independents).

Where should Trump's priorities lie? In a \$500 million increase in defense spending that lacks bipartisan support, or extending ACA subsidies for the bargain price of \$138 billion with overwhelming bipartisan support? You do the math.

Orchard City Indivisible is a Stone of Hope

While Trump and his sycophants have been sowing chaos on and off since 2016, in the that very same time frame, Orchard City Indivisible (OCI) has steadfastly and consistently coordinated grassroots efforts to elect progressive leaders nationwide. Indivisible was formed in the wake of the first Trump election, with its members working to elect progressive candidates, including Senator Adam Schiff and County Supervisor Betty Duong, to counter the Trump administration's agenda. They believe the most impactful changes occur at the local level, and they host phone banks and canvases to energize California's voters. Most recently, they partnered with Swing Left South Bay to host a holiday food drive in response to threats to SNAP benefits. In the face of the Trump led national political chaos, OCI and other organizations show that local organizing can keep our community safe and position our county and country toward bringing back order. To learn more about OCI's events visit their [website](#).

Under The Radar:

We all see the horrors in Minneapolis - and the heroism. We know about the insane foreign policy. Let's stay informed about all the evil of Trump and the complicit GOP:

Billions in Mental Health grants are wiped out by RKF and his cronies, destroying addiction counselling and more. <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/14/nx-s1-5677104/trump-administration-letter-terminating-addiction-mental-health-grants>

GOP darling Elon Musk's Grok will produce child porn on demand. Our AG Rob Bonta is investigating. <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/01/14/california-to-investigate-elon-musks-grok-over-sexualized-images-00728508>

Trump sells stolen Venezuelan Oil, stashes the money in Qatar. GOP is fine with him doing this. <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-completes-first-venezuelan-oil-sales-valued-500-million-us-official-says-2026-01-14/>

As his senility gets worse, Trump is just calling and swearing at congresspeople. <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/5682106-trump-collins-call-venezuela-vote/>

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