

vermont indivisible digest, 2026-05-03 to 2026-05-09

Disclaimer

This is an AI-generated summary of newsletters compiled from across Vermont's Indivisible network. All information should be independently verified. This digest covers the date range of May 3, 2026, to May 9, 2026, and summarizes emails from the following groups: Bristol Area Indivisible, Defend Democracy (Corinth/Topsham), Lean Left VT, Rutland County Indivisible, Indivisible Champlain Islands, Indivisible Queen City Vermont, Champlain Valley Indivisible, Indivisible Randolph, UVRiseUPI!, Three Rivers Indivisible (TRI-COW), Camel's Hump Indivisible, Indivisible St Johnsbury, Bennington Indivisible, Indivisible Two Rivers Area, and Indivisible Middlebury. Note that Montpelier Strong is now called Montpelier Indivisible. Per strict editorial guidelines, emails and content from Indivisible Brandon and Indivisible Calais were explicitly excluded from this summary. This project is maintained by Camel's Hump Indivisible; please contact us with questions or concerns at indivisibledigestvt@gmail.com.

Overview

What an incredible week for grassroots action! Across Vermont, communities are riding high on the momentum generated by massive May Day solidarity actions. Between joining Migrant Justice in holding Hannaford accountable for farmworker rights to flooding the streets for worker protections, we are showing up loud and clear. Right now, a massive coalition is laser-focused on St. Albans, gearing up for a major statewide legal rally and civil disobedience sit-in aimed directly at demanding an end to the illegal conduct of ICE and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents in our neighborhoods.

In Montpelier, our relentless constituent pressure continues to pay off, but the fight is far from over. We're celebrating a massive victory as the Constitutional Accountability Act (H.849) became law, officially giving Vermonters the power to sue government officials for civil rights violations! However, two critical companion bills—S.208 to unmask law enforcement and S.209 to protect sensitive community spaces like schools and hospitals—narrowly squeezed out of the House Judiciary Committee. Unfortunately, S.208 was heavily watered down to exclude federal agents. Organizers are mobilizing massive phone campaigns to the Statehouse to demand lawmakers restore federal accountability before a final floor vote.

On the national front, Vermont groups are making serious waves ahead of the midterms. From funding robust infrastructure for county Democratic parties in North Carolina through Lean Left's giving circles to deep-canvassing across the border in New York's swing districts, we are laying the groundwork to win. Whether you're making phone calls to Pennsylvania, defending the Voting Rights Act on rapid response national calls, or just dropping off a can of soup at a local food drive, your sustained activism is building the future we want to see.

Key State and Local Campaigns

ICE OUT Vermont Sit-In & Rally A massive, statewide coalition of over 40 community and religious groups is gathering in St. Albans to demand that ICE and CBP halt illegal operations in Vermont. Protesters will gather for a legal rally featuring speakers and Bread & Puppet Theater, followed by a planned nonviolent sit-in to disrupt CBP's business-as-usual. *Action:* Attend the legal protest at noon on May 8 in Taylor Park, or join the sit-in at 2:00 PM if you have previously completed the mandatory NVDA training. *Link:* <https://iceoutvt.org/> (Mentioned by Rutland County Indivisible, Indivisible Champlain Islands, Indivisible Queen City Vermont, Champlain Valley Indivisible, Bristol Area Indivisible, UVRiseUPI!, Three Rivers Indivisible, Camel's Hump Indivisible, and Indivisible St Johnsbury)

Restore S.208 and Pass S.209 to Protect Immigrant Neighbors S.208 (law enforcement identification) was watered down in committee to exclude federal agents like ICE, while S.209 (protecting sensitive locations from civil arrests) narrowly advanced 6-5. Both bills are critical for holding agents accountable and protecting vulnerable Vermonters at hospitals, schools, and food pantries. *Action:* Call the State House Sergeant-at-Arms at 802-828-2228 to urge your representatives to vote YES on S.209 and to restore federal accountability to S.208 on the House floor. *Link:* [Find your legislators](#) (Mentioned by Defend Democracy, Indivisible Queen City Vermont, Bristol Area Indivisible, Champlain Valley Indivisible, Camel's Hump Indivisible, and Bennington Indivisible)

Keep S.71 Strong: Vermont Data Privacy Act Lawmakers in the House Commerce Committee are voting on S.71, a critical bill deciding whether to protect Vermonters' digital data or allow Big Tech companies to continue selling it. Strong privacy protections are a necessary tool to prevent surveillance and corporate abuse. *Action:* Sign the People vs Big Tech petition and email your local legislators to demand they hold the line and support the strongest possible data privacy protections in S.71. *Link:* <https://www.cognitoforms.com/PVSBT/KeepS71Strong> (Mentioned by Bristol Area Indivisible, Camel's Hump Indivisible, and Bennington Indivisible)

Stop the Deportation of Mohsen Mahdawi Community members are fighting to keep their neighbor, Mohsen, free from deportation proceedings initiated by a heavily politicized immigration system. Action is needed immediately to signal that Vermonters will not allow free speech to be silenced via the threat of deportation. *Action:* Read, sign, and widely share the petition to stop Mohsen's deportation proceedings, and consider writing a letter to the editor. *Link:*

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stop-the-deportation-proceedings-against-mohsen-mahdawi> (Mentioned by UVRiseUP!)

Universal Primary Care (H.433) Readiness While H.433 may not pass this session, it has successfully grabbed the attention of state lawmakers and needs sustained grassroots momentum ahead of local elections. Advocates in Addison County are hosting a webinar to prepare voters to effectively discuss Universal Primary Care with legislative candidates this fall. *Action:* Register for the Universal Primary Care Zoom webinar on May 13 to learn how to actively engage candidates on this issue. *Link:*

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/_FyvyIbbTwyJqg0TRdBZyg#/registration (Mentioned by Indivisible Middlebury)

Food Drive for Champlain Islands Food Shelf With the rising costs of housing, groceries, and gas causing severe financial strain across the state, local food shelves are struggling to keep up with unprecedented demand. Indivisible activists are stepping up to collect non-perishable goods, hygiene items, and monetary donations to support neighbors in need. *Action:* Drop off unexpired canned goods, hygiene products, or checks at St. Joseph's Church in Grand Isle on May 9. *Link:* <https://indivisibleci.com/> (Mentioned by Indivisible Champlain Islands)

National Actions

Registration Repair in North Carolina Voters in North Carolina are being targeted with confusing and misleading messages regarding their voter registration status ahead of the election. Lean Left VT is partnering with the NC Dems Voter Protection Team for a monthly phone bank to ensure voters are ready for November. *Action:* Sign up for the monthly phone bank starting May 13 from 5-7 PM to help voters verify their registrations. *Link:* <https://mobilize.us/s/QkXII0>

Defund ICE Concentration Camps GOP members of Congress are attempting to pass a reconciliation bill that would shovel up to \$140 billion in taxpayer funding to ICE and Border Patrol for militarized deployments and expanded detention facilities. *Action:* Tell your Democratic Members of Congress to fiercely oppose this new effort to funnel billions to ICE. *Link:*

<https://act.indivisible.org/sign/urge-democrats-fiercely-oppose-new-gop-effort-shovel-billions-more-dollars-ice-and-border-patrol/>

End the AT&T Contract with ICE Corporate giant AT&T continues to heavily profit from ICE's widespread abuses by maintaining lucrative tech and communication contracts with the agency. *Action:* Send a letter to AT&T executives demanding they end their complicity and drop their contract with ICE. *Link:* <https://action.moveon.org/letters/tell-att-to-drop-their-contract-with-ice>

Canvassing in NY-21 for Blake Gendebien Activists have a prime opportunity to help Blake Gendebien, a local NY dairy farmer, challenge Rep. Elise Stefanik. He needs petition signatures to appear on the "Lower Costs Now" independent ballot line to attract unaffiliated voters. *Action:* Volunteer for a 2-hour canvassing shift at the Battenkill Bike Race in Cambridge, NY, on Saturday, May 9. *Link:* <https://forms.gle/pdRnT9yZ6Qq3uw7x6>

End the Illegal War on Iran The current administration has bypassed the 60-day deadline for securing congressional authorization for military action against Iran, compounding the illegality of the war. *Action:* Sign the petition demanding Congress use the War Powers Resolution to end the illegal conflict. *Link:* <https://act.indivisible.org/sign/no-iran-war/>

Success stories and Bright spots

- The Constitutional Accountability Act (H.849) officially became law without the Governor's signature, finally granting Vermonters the power to sue government officials for civil rights violations in state court!
- Lean Left Vermont smashed its monthly fundraising goal, pulling in a massive \$5,700 to help grassroots partners at BlueVote.org develop effective phone banks for swing districts in Pennsylvania.
- Chittenden County State's Attorney Sarah George completely dropped all charges against six community members who were arrested while peacefully protesting during a March ICE raid, refusing to prosecute them for exercising their rights.
- Virginia voters successfully approved a redistricting referendum to block MAGA gerrymandering and draw fair congressional maps, a victory won by 51% of the vote and fueled by over 1.2 million volunteer phone calls.
- The student union at Brown University pulled half a million dollars from Citizens Bank after a targeted pressure campaign highlighting the bank's financial backing of nearly 100 ICE detention centers operated by GEO Group and CoreCivic.

Upcoming events calendar

May 5, 2026, 6:30 PM, May Members' Meeting Brainstorming, Queen City Brewery (Burlington), Indivisible Queen City Vermont

May 6, 2026, 10:00 AM, Listening Circle & Big Tent Meeting, Universalist Unitarian Congregation (St. Johnsbury), Indivisible St Johnsbury

May 6, 2026, 12:00 PM, Know Your Rights Employers' Training, [Virtual Zoom](#), ACLU-VT / Rep. Becca Balint

May 6, 2026, 5:30 PM, RCI Monthly Meeting, Rutland Free Library, Rutland County Indivisible

May 6, 2026, 6:00 PM, First Wednesday Community Sing, SEABA (Burlington), L'chaim Collective / CVI

May 7, 2026, 3:00 PM, What's the Plan? National Call, [Virtual](#), National Indivisible

May 7, 2026, 4:00 PM, United We Sip Waterbury, The Tropic Brewing (Waterbury), Camel's Hump Indivisible

May 7, 2026, 5:00 PM, Fundraiser to Support Immigrant Justice, Ohavi Zedek (Burlington), VIA / CASAN

May 7, 2026, 6:30 PM, Understanding Surveillance Technology Webinar, [Virtual](#), Bennington Indivisible / Techno Peasant Revolt

May 8, 2026, 10:00 AM, Postcard Party, Bennington Community Market, Bennington County Democrats

May 8, 2026, 12:00 PM, ICE OUT Vermont Statewide Rally, Taylor Park (St. Albans), ICE Out Vermont Alliance

May 8, 2026, 2:00 PM, ICE OUT Vermont Sit-In, Customs & Border Protection Office (St. Albans), ICE Out Vermont Alliance

May 8, 2026, 4:00 PM, Defend Democracy Demonstration, Worthen Library (South Hero), Indivisible Champlain Islands

May 8, 2026, 5:00 PM, RCI Weekly Rally, Main Street Park (Rutland), Rutland County Indivisible

May 9, 2026, 8:00 AM, NY-21 Canvassing for Blake Gendebien, Battenkill Bike Race (Cambridge, NY), Bennington Indivisible

May 9, 2026, 10:00 AM, Mothers and Others Peace Festival, Old First Church Barn (Bennington), Bennington Indivisible

May 9, 2026, 11:00 AM, Defend Democracy Rally, Intersection of Routes 5 and 25 (Bradford), Defend Democracy

May 9, 2026, 11:00 AM, Food Drive for Champlain Islands Food Shelf, St. Joseph's Church (Grand Isle), Indivisible Champlain Islands

May 10, 2026, 1:00 PM, Apartheid Free Communities Information Session, Howe Library (Hanover, NH), Upper Valley For Palestine / JVP

May 10, 2026, 4:00 PM, Lean Left Power Hour, [Virtual](#), Lean Left Vermont

May 12, 2026, 6:00 PM, CVI Membership Meeting, Shelburne Old Town Hall, Champlain Valley Indivisible

May 13, 2026, 5:30 PM, Universal Primary Care Webinar, [Virtual Zoom](#), Indivisible Middlebury

May 14, 2026, 5:30 PM, Bennington Indivisible Membership Meeting, Second Congregational Church & Zoom (Bennington), Bennington Indivisible

May 20, 2026, 5:00 PM, Zoom with Sec of State Copeland Hanzas, [Virtual Zoom](#), Indivisible Two Rivers Area / Third Act Vermont

Mailing lists mentioned in this week's newsletters

- Lean Left VT: leanleftCVT@gmail.com
- Bristol Area Indivisible: bristolindivisible@gmail.com
- Defend Democracy (Corinth/Topsham): defenddemocracy@googlegroups.com
- Indivisible Champlain Islands: indivisiblechamplainislands@gmail.com
- Champlain Valley Indivisible: champlainvalleyindivisible@gmail.com
- Indivisible Randolph: indivisiblerandolphvt@gmail.com
- Three Rivers Indivisible: threeriversindivisible@gmail.com
- Bennington Indivisible: benningtonindivisible@gmail.com

- Indivisible Two Rivers Area: indivisible.tworiversarea@gmail.com
- Indivisible Middlebury: indivisiblemiddlebury@gmail.com
- Camel's Hump Indivisible: camelshumpindivisible@gmail.com
- Indivisible Calais: indivisiblecalais@pm.me | indivisiblecalais.org
- Indivisible Brattleboro: indibrattleboro@gmail.com

Outside groups mentioned in this week's newsletters

- Migrant Justice: <https://migrantjustice.net>
- ICE Out Vermont Alliance: <https://iceoutvt.org/>
- VPIRG: <https://www.vpirg.org>
- ACLU Vermont: <https://www.acluvt.org/>
- Swing Left: <https://swingleft.org/>
- Third Act Vermont: <https://thirdact.org/vermont/>
- BlueVote.org: <https://bluevote.org>
- Team Up NC: <https://allinforc.org/>
- Vermont Asylum Assistance Project (VAAP): <https://www.vaapvt.org/>
- People vs Big Tech: <https://peoplevsbigtech.com/>