



NEWSLETTER

December 19, 2025

WELCOME to Indivisible Scarborough! We are part of a national, non-violent, grassroots movement of thousands of local Indivisible groups with a mission to elect progressive leaders, rebuild our democracy and defeat the Trump agenda. We:

- Participate in peaceful rallies in opposition to the awfulness going on in our country right now.
- Write letters, postcards and emails to our federal, state and local elected officials supporting legislation that meets our goals and opposing legislation that does not.
- Support candidates at all levels of government who share our values.
- Write letters-to-the-editor.

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SUPPORT Indivisible Scarborough! You can donate quickly & easily to support the work of Indivisible Scarborough. Your donation helps with expenses for our poster-making, meeting costs, speakers, get-out-the-vote activities, and more. Please check out our Indivisible Scarborough donation page at ActBlue, where you can donate safely & privately!

[Donate to Indivisible Scarborough at ActBlue](#)

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Reflections on Our December 17 Monthly Meeting

We met to launch Indivisible Scarborough’s effort – along with many other Indivisibles in Maine – to drive ICE out of Maine, or at least make their awful work more difficult and our immigrant neighbors safer. At the heart of it are contracts between 8 Maine county jails and the federal government paying those jails for housing federal detainees, including detainees of ICE or the Border Patrol. The largest jail by far is our own Cumberland County Jail in Portland, which can house up to 100 federal detainees, and is paid \$150/night for each federal detainee housed – the highest rate in the state. Our Cumberland County Commissioners control this contract, and Indivisible Scarborough folks along with many

other Indivisibles from other nearby groups – notably Indivisible Cumberland County -- have been attending recent meetings, urging the Commissioners to cancel the contract. A 3-to-2 vote of Commissioners on November 17 resulted in KEEPING the contract – at least for now, although the fight is not yet over.

This issue is complicated by Maine law requiring Maine jails to accept federal detainees if asked. Those OPPOSING cancellation of the federal contract at the Cumberland County Jail claim that we must house the detainees even if we are not paid for doing so, and the contract produces \$2.5 million in revenue for the jail, so why not? We cite the immorality of ICE’s current lawless behavior, and the fact that payment for detainee housing incents such behavior and terrorizes immigrants in our communities. And, we intend to get the law changed!

The second part of our meeting (see photo) was writing postcards to our County Commissioners urging them to continue supporting cancellation of the contract, or, if they opposed that, urging them to reconsider. We will continue our attendance at County Commissioner meetings, and continue urging than to cancel the contract.

Our own County Commissioner, Jean-Marie Caterina (former Scarbrough Town Council member) very much supports cancelling the Cumberland County Jail contract. She has also encouraged us to “look to Augusta” for much of the solution, as we work to change laws and promote bills that make federal contracts illegal or unneeded. Key among such things was Gov. Mills’ decision to allow LD 1971 to become law without her signature, a major goal of our effort and announced just 2 days before our meeting. LD 1971 places significant limitations on how Maine law enforcement agencies can interact with federal agencies around immigration issues. But other Maine legislation that can help drive ICE out of Maine remains ahead, and we will be spending more time in Augusta and writing many more postcards, emails, and letters-to-the-editor in the New Year!

Stay tuned!

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ACTIONS TODAY

- **Send postcards to our Cumberland County Commissioners urging them to cancel the U. S. Marshall contract for the Cumberland County Jail** – We have 2 Councilors who SUPPORT cancellation, 2 who OPPOSE, and 1 who is ON THE FENCE, and **each requires a different approach in your postcards.**
- **Email, call, or write Gov. Mills and THANK HER for allowing LD 1971 to become law without her signature** – LD 1971 places significant limitations on how Maine law enforcement agencies can interact with federal agencies around immigration issues, and its becoming law will make a lot of immigrants feel safer. You can reach Gov. Mills directly at her [contact page](#).
- **Join us at the next Cumberland Commissioner Meeting, WARM INSIDE on Monday, January 5, 5:30 PM at 27 Northport Drive, Portland, ME** – We will continue to encourage them to cancel the contract for the Cumberland County Jail.

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RALLIES in our Immediate Area Opposing Trump Agenda: Look for emails from Rod Wendt on the latest details on these rallies and how to coordinate carpooling. All rallies are PEACEFUL and JOYOUS. If possible, carpool & BYO signs. The best signs invite people to change their minds, not just express anger.

- **Indivisible South Portland weekly Rallies** – ICY WALKWAYS HAVE BEEN A RECENT PROBLEM SO CHECK WITH US BEFOREHAND!
This is the closest and easiest access rally in our area, especially for people with walkers, wheelchairs, or other physical challenges. They rally at Erskine Park, Broadway @ Waterman in South Portland, at the traffic light nearest the Casco Bay Bridge, Saturdays from 11:00 AM to Noon. FREE parking near Dunkin, Starbucks or in shopping center behind. Bring FOOD donations for the South Portland Food Cupboard, donation list [here](#). [Contact us](#) for more information.
- **Greater Portland weekly Rallies** – We have no carpool coordinator yet. Might it be YOU?

This is the largest rally in our area. Their weekly rally is at Monument Square, Congress Street @ Preble Street in Portland, Saturdays from 11:00 AM to Noon. Parking can be a challenge and is expensive! Contact [Indivisible Greater Portland](#) for more information.

INTERFAITH VIGIL near Cumberland County Detention Center: Greater Portland Interfaith Organizing Group conducts Interfaith Vigils on Wednesdays at 2:45-3:15 PM at the corner of Congress Street and County Way in Portland, near the Cumberland County Detention facility. Each vigil is clergy-led, and includes songs, silence, prayer, or other spiritual practices to honor the sacred worth of all people involved — those detained in the nearby Detention Center, officers, and our entire community. Signs are provided, or you can bring your own affirming these ideas. [Contact us](#) for more information.

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COMING UP: Monthly Indivisible Scarborough Meetings, all are welcome!

- **Wednesday, January 21, 3:00 PM, Founders Room.** ACLU Maine will join us to educate us on “Know Your Rights”. This meeting is being jointly sponsored by the Piper Shores Diversity Interest Group.

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MORE

- **Steering Committee Meetings** – The Indivisible Scarborough Steering Committee meets several times per month, on Thursday or Friday afternoons at 2:30 in the Cadillac Lounge. Anyone is welcome to join us and add your thoughts to our discussions and decisions. Ask for information on dates [here](#).
- **Sources you might find helpful**
 - Heather Cox Richardson (daily newsletter) – [Subscribe here](#)
 - Joyce Vance (former prosecutor, legal analysis) [Subscribe here](#)
 - Chop Wood, Carry Water, (actions today) – [Subscribe here](#)
 - 5 Calls (actions today) – [Subscribe here](#)
 - Mobilize in Maine (events you can sign onto) – [Sign up here](#)

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