

Indivisible Arlington VA

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Mission Statement:

Indivisible Arlington is a grassroots movement based in Arlington County, Virginia. We are united in advocating against political agendas that undermine our democracy. We envision an Arlington where economic, political and social advancement is a reality for all people and made possible through a progressive agenda that promotes equity, inclusion, justice for all, human rights and democracy in our community, in our state, our country and throughout the world.

Guiding Principles:

We believe in these principles:

- We believe in political, educational, social, and economic equity, justice, and rights of all people.
- We are committed to American democracy and the rule of law, and we believe in liberty and justice for all.
- We believe the current Administration's agenda is racist, misogynistic, authoritarian, and corrupt, and it must be stopped.
- The current Administration threatens our values, our neighbors, and our democracy, and, therefore, we take practical steps to defeat initiatives that threaten our democracy.
- We demand that our elected officials serve as our voice in Washington, DC, to advocate for progressive values and oppose the current administration's agenda and that our local elected officials push for progressive values at the state and local levels, too.
- We believe that we can change our community, our state, and in our country.
- We work to be culturally sensitive, humble, and seek to eliminate racism, bigotry and bias.
- To achieve real and lasting change, we should not only seek to move people in positions of power, but also to empower individuals, coalitions in our community.
- We believe in strength in numbers and the power of positivity. Together, we amplify our voices.
- We believe in the [principles](#) of nonviolence espoused by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Strategies:

- We take action to elect candidates and officials who will champion the values we support: equity, inclusion, justice for all, and democracy in our community.
- We engage in educational and electoral activity, including voter education, grassroots organizing, and legislative advocacy and actions that support campaigns for candidates we support.

- We partner with a national network, Indivisible National, comprised of more than 5000 chapters across the country, to serve millions of members. We use and support many of the principles outlined in the [Indivisible Guide](#).
- We host events and collaborate with other Indivisible groups, non-profits, advocacy organizations and individuals that align with our goals.
- We will model inclusion, respect, and fairness in all of our actions.

Issues:

We are working to:

- End mass incarceration, enforce and protect civil rights, & reform law enforcement
- End poverty & increase the minimum wage
- Expand access to quality, affordable healthcare, including Medicaid
- Create a more just, equitable, inclusive open society by promoting, defending & expanding racial justice, human rights, civil rights, disability rights, immigrant rights, LGBTQIA rights, reproductive rights, gender rights, workers' rights & the passing the Equal Rights Amendment
- Protect & expand voting rights & ensure fair, non-partisan redistricting reforms
- Protect, restore & regenerate the environment, including: respond & adapt to climate change, eliminate dependence on fossil fuels, support public transit, oppose the Union Hill pipeline, protect clean air & water, protect parkland improving public access to parks, and oppose fracking
- Eliminate the digital divide and enhance cybersecurity.
- Support robust ethics standards including reforming campaign finance laws, expanded FOIA access to public records, greater overall government transparency, and protecting privacy rights.
- Preserve public education, and generally oppose charters and vouchers,
- Stop the school to prison pipeline, protect student rights, & support positive school environments.

Endorsing/Adopting Candidates:

We use these criteria as general guidelines to make a decision to support candidates. These criteria represent the kinds of candidates we support:

- Are progressive and have a platform/track record where they have taken actions to meaningfully support our priority issues
- Need our support to win or hold a seat and/or do not have a lot of other groups working on their behalf
- Have a reasonable chance to win

- Have diverse perspectives and backgrounds and are traditionally underrepresented in government

We will oppose public officials with a platform and/ or track-record that is in opposition to our goals, priorities or beliefs on issues.

We will oppose public officials who have made key votes against our policy priorities (e.g. we may support an opponent to a state Senator or Delegate, who for example voted against ERA in 2019 or Medicaid Expansion in 2018).

We will typically support candidates in the general election after a primary election is over, except when there is an unusual or compelling circumstances and a strong case to support a particular candidate for a primary.

We will support candidates who are in geographic proximity to our members, when our focus will be in-person actions such as canvassing, however geographic consideration is less of a concern if we are focusing on actions such as postcards, fundraising, and phone banking.

We will support a limited number of candidates since we are a volunteer organization and have limited bandwidth for campaign and electioneering activities and we will consider at least one long-shot candidate.