

# 4/24/18 Resistance Meeting

## - About Meeting With the Senators' Staffers

Notes from all present. By Holly. Questions? [holly@hollybrewer.com](mailto:holly@hollybrewer.com)  
Richard Lazaro, Sen. Murray's ex-staffer popped in and offered useful perspectives – as always ☺

### The Meetings Are Useful

The meetings that we have are an important focus group for the Seattle area, a test bed for ideas before senators push them out. Staffers get a lot out of them – both the staffers participating; and those in the office who hear about our reactions and questions.

### About the Staffers

The staffers get burnt out - the job entails a huge amount of hours working passionately in their roles.

The things that staffers like to talk about the most are in depth about the way the Senate works: reconciliation, what a parliamentarian does, the Byrd rule. Staffers are generally political science majors, so they know their stuff.

### Our Participation

Showing up in person is many times more important than if we write letters, faxes or emails or if we call. It is huge.

It is important to do the Tuesday rallies. Around 150 people watch the livestream of the rallies each week: we want to keep that online audience. The rally videos: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/SeattleIndivisible/videos/>

### How We Can Get More Participants

- Get a food truck or similar to attract new people
- Invite other organizations to talk about their issues
- Have a tent to dramatically depict homelessness - and engage the press

### Upcoming Nationally Important Dates – a Potential Tie-in for Events

May 1 - international workers day

May 8 - women's day

May 22 - Maru's Court date at 1pm. It is a Tuesday.

More: <https://thesubtimes.com/2018/03/27/defend-the-defenders-maru-mora-villalpando-coming-to-ups/>

## Future Plan for Meetings with the Senators' Staffers

**Once a month** before meetings with the senators' staffers we will have our meetings to plan **instead of rallying** so that we can socialize and organize.

### Agenda for Future Meetings

Suggested plan for weekly meeting with the senators' staffers (subject to change, of course).

15 minute updates from the staffers

30 minute fixed questions from us

15 minutes of open questions

Then a post-meeting meeting to discuss next steps each week, to react to and research responses to our questions.

### How to Co-ordinate

We will coordinate this through Slack. Alex will set it up.

We can have 3 people rotate and set the questions that we focus on each week.

## Issues to Address Each Week

1/ The issues need to be issues that our senators can really act on. For instance, we asked that Sen. Murray put her name on the net neutrality CRA: and she did. That ensured that other senators did.

2/ We need to highlight issues that otherwise stay in the background: for example SESTA and S. 610. Once we highlighted them, our senators pressured to stop them.

3/ While we should pay attention to their tweets and press releases: and research bills and issues, we should also work from the news - and ask questions from the news. They have limited staff to research issues.

## We Should Prepare the Staffers

We should email the staffers or hand them the questions on Tuesday each week. Of course, we can always tell them about other questions later in the week: but this gives them the opportunity to research the issues and give us good and deep info.

## Suggested Issues

How can senators get things done when the Democrats are in the minority? What mechanisms can they use?

How much of the damage that this administration has done is fixable?

We should look at Senate committee agendas and focus on what is upcoming in the committees and focus on what our senators can do there.

- we can even contact Indivisibles in other states and ask them if they need us to pressure our senators about issues important to them.

How can we protect our dreamers?

The net neutrality and the related run out CRA – what are the next steps

Can we please have a town hall?

What will happen to the SNAP program?

How can we stop ICE pulling people off Greyhound buses?

Monies being spent on representing immigrants is being taken away – what is being done?

## Another Thing That We Can Do

It would be a good idea to ask the staffers to set up a call with staffers in DC about issues. They love to talk about the issues. At the moment, Sen Murray's health care staffer would be a good person to run a call so that we get a deeper understanding of what is going on. We send in questions the previous week, then the DC staffer answers them by talking to the WA staffer on the phone as we listen in for half an hour. We sign up for this by email.

## Printout for All Participants

We need a printout of the questions or main issues each week. This will include:

### Front Page

6 questions or subject areas that we ask about at the meeting.

Have a link to [sadfor.us](http://sadfor.us) so that people can go to it and check out the meeting questions; if the meeting is cancelled - and see notes

### Back page

Dates, details and contact information for events for canvassing and getting out the vote