

## Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 1.24.2023

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### Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
  - Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
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  - Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom. To sign up for the Zoom meeting [click here](#)
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**Facilitators:** Alex and Paul **Screen Share:** Judith **Notes:** Wendy

### GOOD NEWS!

- NY Senate rejects anti-abortion, anti-union Hector LaSalle nomination.
- Four more Oath Keepers convicted of seditious conspiracy for Jan. 6 insurrection.
- Legal analyst Glenn Kirschner shared [our Jan. 6 video](#) on Twitter, bringing in thousands of interactions.
- Trump drops lawsuit against Letitia James after being fined \$1M in “revenge” lawsuit over Hillary Clinton, which was deemed to be frivolous.

Presentation by RAICES ([Refugee and Immigration Center for Education and Legal Services](#)) on Title 42 and the situation at the border. Twenty minute presentation, with 10 minutes for questions and/or discussion. (HQ san antonio, been around for nearly 40 years) Faisal Al-Juburi (external relations team) and Ana Maria Rea (head of advocacy department)

- They say that it’s easy to be nonpartisan if you’re working in immigration because *neither* side does well. The family separation crisis in 2018 brought the group to prominence but those policies continue in myriad ways.
- Faisal explains Title 42, which is technically a public health policy that has been weaponized to limit people’s right to request asylum:
  - Trump used Title 42 to end the right to request asylum, using the pandemic as the rationale, but it was part and parcel of increasing hostility to immigration since 9/11. It became a convenient approach at the start of the pandemic to immediately shut down borders.
  - When Biden came into office, RAICES worked in good faith outside of courtroom and were promised Title 42 would be lifted in summer of 2021. It was not and they have therefore returned to courts. In November 2022 a federal judge in DC said Title 42 was a capricious policy and there were

no legal grounds under which to implement it, and set a December deadline for lifting it. Then 19 governors, led by Abbott, intervened and got SCOTUS to commit to hearing the case in February, potentially ruled by June, but until then policy must be kept in place.

- There have been 3 million expulsions since the start of the pandemic, with disproportionate impact on communities of color.
- Ana Maria says Title 42 allows expedited removal without a chance for a credible fear interview. People from Central America, Mexico, and Haiti are heavily targeted. In Texas, Gov. Abbott's Operation LoneStar targets migrants in land - something like a traffic violation might lead to a Title 42 removal.
- The CDC has said this policy is not needed because there are multiple ways of mitigating COVID threat.
- Ana Maria says talk of "surge" in migration is political: Migration numbers are doing their normal ups and downs, except for Title 42 itself creating a backlog of people who should be processed to be able to claim asylum.
- Politicians are working to codify Title 42 as a permanent law. Texas is pushing a bill to allow local law enforcement to help enforce Title 42 at the border and expand expedited removal. Immigration has always been federal, but now it's being taken on by states.
- Faisal says codification means making expedited removals permanent, ending the established approach to requesting asylum that has been used since after World War II.
- He points out we figured it immigration for Ukrainians, but not for our Afghan allies. Ukrainians are much more likely to get the screening they are entitled to via TPS (temporary protected status). There are even special programs for Venezuelans and Cubans that immigrants don't get referred to.
- Ana Maria says there are no good allies in the Senate for ending Title 42 (AOC is good in the House.)
- Threat of third-country rule coming back (Trump used it) that would take away the right to asylum for anyone who didn't apply in another country that they passed through. (It's very hard to figure out how to apply for asylum in Mexico.) Basically people are trying to rename and reuse Trump policies.
- 30,000 cap for Venezuelan, Nicaraguan, Honduran, and Haitian asylum seekers per month. Hurdles include having a financially liable sponsor, paying for a background check, paying for a flight, having a functioning smartphone to use an app.
- CBP is hyper focused on removal.
- Valuable for constituents to do outreach.

## **UPCOMING ACTIONS**

No date set for a response to hearing on Georgia grand jury investigation into 2020 presidential election.

- The special grand jury findings were kept sealed by judge today, so no action planned until we find out more. We will have a rapid response when anything happens.

Thursday, January 26

**11 AM: Demonstration to close Rikers (at Mayor Adams state of the city address)**

Queens Theater in Flushing Meadows Park.

- Rikers was supposed to be closed by 2027
- Now he's making noises about continuing.

**5 PM: Immigration Vigil in Grand Central Terminal**

- Near info kiosk
- End Title 42 exclusions signs

**ELECTIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Livvie was on a call for a two-part effort: To remove Jay Jacobs and improve the Democratic State Party.

- District leaders in Manhattan met with Jacobs who clearly didn't want his position to become professionalized.
- Currently people are working on improving bylaws. There's no mission statement in the state party, no org chart, no responsibilities for messaging or voter turnout.
- Next large meeting of coalition is tomorrow night.

Separately, Jonathan and Livvie called Brad Hoylman and asked for the 14th amendment to be proposed on the state level and he's thrilled. There are [Connecticut and Virginia bills too](#).

**FINANCE UPDATE**

- Update on the \$15,000 check that was stolen and cashed: The donor gave us half the money now and will give us the rest when he gets repaid by the banks involved.

**DRAG STORY HOUR AFFINITY GROUP ANNOUNCEMENT**

- Contact Jamie to be involved in this.

**REPORT BACKS**

**January 19 Invest In Our New York at 740 Park Ave.**

Livvie: A dozen legislators including from upstate, VOCAL, Brad Lander – all speaking about taxing ultra rich and corps to raise \$40 billion for education, healthcare, climate, worker benefits.

**January 20 Say Their Names - every Friday at 4:30PM at 96th & Broadway**

- Couldn't hold the usual white supremacy banner due to weather, which highlighted how important it is to the presentation. Posters were held instead.
- One white guy said his feelings were hurt by the vigil.

**January 22 Bigger Than Roe - Washington Sq. Park**

50th anniversary of Roe v Wade event

- District Council 9 made a strong showing.
- Not a huge event.
- Speeches at beginning and end were good.
- The police marshaled, which isn't our preference, but we weren't the organizers.
- RevComs were prominent.

**January 23 City Hall Rally to Disband the SRG (NYPD Strategic Response Group)**

- [Hearing was postponed because NYPD wouldn't testify.](#)
- Rally went on anyway.
- Over 60 people in the rain.
- Hearing rescheduled for March 1.
- NYCLU is the contact for this.
- Any testimony about SRG is welcome at the hearing - [written too.](#)

**January 23 GAG rally and march in response to Monterey Park massacre.**

- We marched from Union Square to Chinatown. Alvin helped organize Yuh-Line Niou, Derek Leon, Jo-Ann Yoo as speakers.
- Lots of local press there, including NY1
- Jenny brings up mental health issues, how little resources we have.

**January 24 Truth Tuesday at Fox - every Tuesday at noon at 48th St. & 6th Ave.**

- Sing-a-long went well - Virginia wrote the lyrics, Jay led, and it is on TikTok
- "Fox Made Lying Normal" was the new sign
- The Daily Show was on the corner interviewing passersby; they spoke to Julie.
- Bethesda, Md., did their local action too.

Finally, Stu went to Albany for anti gas bill for new buildings  
There will be more trips about cosponsoring this bill

**NON RAR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[February 6 city council meeting - Adams and subway sweeps.](#)

**### RISE AND RESIST ###**