***January 6 Vigil Calls for Passage of Freedom to Vote Act***

*Chicago Activists mark historic anniversary, demand critical national election standards*

On January 6, 2021, certain politicians betrayed America by inciting armed MAGA militants to attack our Capitol. Then, they tried to cover up their role in this violence by blocking investigation of these crimes.

Chicago’s progressive activists are reclaiming the historic date of January 6, holding one of nearly 350 events across the country to increase pressure on Congress to pass the Freedom to Vote Act.

Indivisible Chicago Alliance organized the local event to commemorate the day democracy nearly died by energizing the fight to win passage of this critical bill. They’re calling on Illinois senators to join the rest of Democratic leadership to do whatever it takes to make it law.

“Both Illinois Senators Durbin and Duckworth support the Freedom to Vote Act and both carry a great deal of influence in the US Senate,” notes Indivisible Chicago Board Chair Jason Rieger. “That’s why we call on these leaders to exercise their majority and pass the Freedom to Vote Act to set national standards for us to safely and freely cast our ballots and ensure that trusted local election officials count every vote. National standards are the only way to prevent state lawmakers from sabotaging our elections so they can take and hold power.”

Today, the same faction that organized and carried out the January 6, 2020 deadly attack on the US Capitol continues to spread lies about election fraud. That faction blocks passage of the Freedom to Vote Act, national elections standards supported by huge margins of Americans across race, place, and political ideology. Meanwhile, 19 states continue the attack on this democracy through laws that limit our freedom to vote by cutting hours and locations, installing partisan officials to oversee elections, and gerrymandering voting maps. In some states, if they don’t like your vote, they’ll reject it and choose their own result. *We can’t let that be the landscape on which we conduct this November’s pivotal elections.*

There is no time to waste: the U.S. Senate has the slimmest of majorities to pass this critical bill, and will surely lose even that margin without national election standards.

**About Indivisible Chicago Alliance**

**Who we are:**  a progressive coalition of neighborhood chapters throughout the Chicago area representing nearly 40,000 members. Indivisible Chicago is recognized as a national leader in the grassroots movement to advance progressive values, influence elected officials, and win elections. **What we’ve done:** We helped rebuild the Midwest Blue Wall in 2020 as the largest independent, out-of-state phone bank operation for both Michigan and Wisconsin, while supporting incumbents here in Illinois. Today, we’re heralded by Common Cause as “by far our most consistent and strongest” phone banking group as we mobilize calls to Congress in support of the Voting Rights Act. A reliable partner for impacted communities seeking equity and justice, we support campaigns for abortion access, the Black Lives Matter movement, climate justice, immigration rights and more. For latest updates, follow Indivisible Chicago on Facebook [@IndivisibleChi](https://www.facebook.com/IndivisibleChi), Twitter [@IndivisibleChi](https://twitter.com/IndivisibleChi) and Instagram [@IndivisibleChicago](https://www.instagram.com/indivisiblechicago/).

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**Speaker list**

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| Marj Halperin |  | Indivisible Chicago Alliance (emcee) |
| Carla Stillwell |  | Actor, Playwright, Collaboraction Theater |
| Delia Ramirez |  | Illinois State representative, 4th District |
| Kina Collins |  | Community activist |
| Troy Gaston |  | Activist, Black Lives Matter Chicago |
| Mike Simmons |  | Illinois State Senator, 7th District |
| Denise Poloyac |  | Indivisible Chicago Alliance |