

Thank you to Senator Van Hollen



---

# Indivisible **HoCoMD**

---

Help create a Blue Wave



**BEYOND RESISTANCE - SUMMER OF ACTION**

# IndivisibleHoCoMD General Membership Meeting

## Keynote Speaker: Senator Chris Van Hollen

If you missed Saturday's meeting, check out the video on IndivisibleHoCoMD Public Page on Facebook. The meeting kicked off with a review of our many successes and a few misses during the 2018 Maryland legislative session. Then Senator Van Hollen spoke about what we as active citizens can do to make a difference. While we need to push back on all the bad actions out of the Trump White House, he urged us to also promote all the positive things we stand for including:

- \* Campaign Finance Reform
- \* Realistic Pharmaceutical Costs
- \* Fighting Climate Change
- \* Returning Penalty Fees for Pollution to the American People
- \* Debt-Free College
- \* Reforming the Criminal Justice System.

Achieving these goals depends on getting progressives elected. The Democrats have 26 Senators up for re-election. To achieve a majority, Democrats need to win in all those Senate races as well as flip two Republican seats. Supporting Mueller's investigation is important, but pushing for impeachment energizes Trump's base and distracts from the real work that needs to be done - registering new voters and encouraging people to vote through canvassing, postcards, and phonecalls. Concluding, Van Hollen said grassroots efforts like ours are responsible for most major changes in the political environment.

The remainder of the meeting was spent reviewing all the voter registration, voter turnout, and campaign activities that people in Howard County can get involved in. You can check out all the opportunities in our [Upcoming Events](#) list. Please sign up, and bring a friend!

---



# RED ALERT FOR NET NEUTRALITY

The time to fight to keep [Net Neutrality](#) is now. The Senate votes this week on the [Congressional Review Act \(CRA\)](#) that would keep Net Neutrality, and the number of Senators committing to vote FOR the CRA (and Net Neutrality) may still be 1 vote short of passing.

What we can do:

- Use the Red Alert logo above on social media to show support of Net Neutrality
- Use [this site](#) to see Members of Congress (MoC) position on the CRA and email them
- Add your comment on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) repeal of Net Neutrality (*Restoring Internet Freedom* Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WC Docket No. 17-108) at its hard-to-find [ECFS web tool](#) and click on “+ Express” part of the way down on the right of this page
- Rally tomorrow (Monday, May 14) at 5:30 PM outside Representative Ruppertsberger’s [Timonium office](#).

## EDUCATION UPDATE

**The Kirwan Commission** is working to bring Maryland's public education system back to the top and to set a standard for

the nation by establishing a new funding formula. All children deserve the best we have to offer and the Kirwan Recommendations are a most useful start. Chair Brit Kirwan explains the Kirwan Commission recommendations in a 10 minute [video interview](#) with the Baltimore Sun.

**Kirwan's Top 5 priorities:**

- 1. Early childhood education for all 4 year olds and for 3 year olds in poverty**
- 2. Invest more in schools with high concentrations of poverty and special needs students**
- 3. Significantly boost the level of the teaching profession by increasing standards and increasing salaries**
- 4. School curriculum bench-marked against international standards, High Schools adding strong career and technical tracks**
- 5. Accountability for the funding**

These great recommendations will not happen unless we elect state legislators who put kids before profits. Find out where the candidates stand at [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) and spread the word.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM ACTION ITEMS**

**Tell EPA "No" on Toxic Pruitt's Effort to Harm Public Health:** The EPA recently opened a 30-day public comment period on a new rule proposed by Scott Pruitt that may prevent EPA from using certain scientific studies in its decisions, thus enabling politically-driven decisions that undermine protections for clean air and clean water. Read more about it [here](#) and weigh in to oppose this dangerous move. Comments are due on or

before May 30.

**Tell McDonald's - No More Plastic Straws:** McDonald's uses millions of plastic straws every day, many of which end up in our oceans and cause serious harm to sea life. McDonald's will stop plastic straw use in the UK. Let's push them to do the same in the U.S. Ahead of their May 24 shareholder meeting, please sign [this petition](#).

## LOCAL CAMPAIGNS



### Raising Awareness for the Primary Election

We are canvassing low-turnout neighborhoods in Columbia to raise awareness of the Primary Election on June 26th in our effort to improve election participation.

Volunteers are needed from 10:45 am - 1:00 pm for **Saturday May 19th**.

We have awareness cards to distribute to registered Democratic households.

Sign up [HERE](#).

**CANVASSING IN WESTERN HOWARD COUNTY**

Come knock on doors to get out the vote for Katie Fry Hester and China Williams in District 9.

**WHEN:**

**Hester and Williams Teams**

Sunday, May 20th from 10:30 am to 1 pm with Sierra Club members. *Join us for lunch after the canvass.*

Sunday, May 20th from 2 to 5 pm with Sierra Club members. *Join us at 1 pm for lunch with the morning canvassers.*

Saturday, May 26th from 10:30 am to 1 pm. *Join us for a BBQ after the canvass*

**Hester Team in District 9B (we are canvassing 9B a second time)**

Saturday, May 19th at 9:30 am

Saturday, May 26th To Be Determined. *Memorial Day Weekend.*

Here is the link to sign up for canvassing in May: [May Sign Up](#)

As always, scripts and training are provided.

If its your first time canvassing, you can go with a partner and either drive or take notes instead of door knocking. Give it a try!

**WILLIAMS CAMPAIGN:** Request a yard sign AND donate [here.](#)

**HESTER CAMPAIGN:** Request a yard sign [here.](#)

**SPECIAL ELECTIONS / OUT-OF-STATE  
EFFORTS**

**Tea and Postcards**

**When: May 20, 2 - 4 PM**



**Where: 7335 Carved Stone,  
Columbia**

**Come have tea and cookies with friends and write postcards to help flip seats in special elections. Drop in anytime between 2 and 4. Email [euk369@gmail.com](mailto:euk369@gmail.com) with questions.**

---

This [page on our website](#) will keep an up to date list of a small number of special elections that Sister District, Flippable and Swing Left have picked out as potentially flippable (or important holds).

**LET OUR LIGHT SHINE**

---

Click on **\*See All Events\*** below to find upcoming events

**See All Events**

***Got a question about organizing and activism?***  
*Email: [IndivisibleHoCoMD@gmail.com](mailto:IndivisibleHoCoMD@gmail.com)*

Follow us on:



*Copyright © 2018 IndivisibleHoCoMD, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

MailChimp.