

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant with news and commentary for Thursday, March 27, 2025.

Recently-elected US Representative Emily Randall will host a town hall in Port Townsend tomorrow, Friday, March 28 at Blue Heron Middle School, 3939 San Juan Avenue. Randall is conducting town halls across the district. Since she is a Democrat much of the event will discuss how to counter President Donald Trump's policies.

Due to expected crowds, sponsors advise attendees to show up early. Doors open at 4:30pm with Randall scheduled at 5pm. Latecomers will be routed into an overflow room. An RSVP is requested but not required, at <https://randall.house.gov/events>. Preregistration will help with determining crowd size and also provide accountability for attendees.

Four months into her term Randall is receiving high marks from Democrats. She is staying in touch with voters and making good use of social media, according to one local party official. Another said Randall is doing a great job connecting with constituents and is doing the best she can. On the other hand, they wished that all Democratic representatives had better answers as to how the party can provide substantial opposition to President Donald Trump's initiatives.

Local Democrats are pretty busy. Saturday, April 5 is a national day of protest against Trump's policies with big rallies planned for Washington DC, all state capitols, and several smaller communities. Unlike the 1960s, if you can't go to the demonstration, the demonstration will come to you. The Jefferson County Democrats and Port Townsend Indivisible are planning a sign-waving event from 1pm to 2pm on Sims Way right across from Kai Tai Lagoon. Sponsors call the event a strictly peaceful protest, with participants encouraged to bring signs, friends, and noisemakers.

Here at KPTZ we acknowledge that our news reports often skew toward Democrats. Republicans with a response are invited to contact us at news@kptz.org.

Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs had a strong reaction to President Donald Trump's election-related executive orders. These orders, if implemented, would require proof of citizenship for all registering voters and disqualify mailed ballots received after Election Day, regardless of when they were postmarked. Trump, throughout his presidency, has denigrated vote by mail and suggested that the current election system invites voter fraud.

Hobbs takes issue with this, writing in a press release that Washington State's elections are secure, transparent, and committed to upholding accessibility and the integrity of the local election process. Hobbs said that if ballots were not accepted after Election Day in 2024, 250,000 Washington voters would have been disenfranchised. Had this rule been in effect at that time, those voices would have been silenced, Hobbs wrote, especially in rural areas where mail delivery can take longer. As for the proof of citizenship idea, it would also disenfranchise US citizens who do not have an enhanced driver's license or a passport, and are from historically unrepresented communities, Hobbs said.

Finally, Hobbs lambasted Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency and its promise to review voter rolls. "They have no business in the nonpartisan work of maintaining voter rolls, a responsibility defined by law and already carried out by trained election professionals," Hobbs wrote.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts local news Tuesday through Thursday at noon and 5pm. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.