



## Marion County Democrats

March 2026 Newsletter

### Special Election for MCDCC Chair!

At our **February 19th General Membership** meeting, we held a special election to fill the Chairperson's position for the remainder of the term through November, after Paige Barton's resignation in January. One candidate filed to run: Angelo Arredondo; and one candidate was nominated from the floor: Michael Johnson.

After a lively and informative Q & A session, Michael declared his withdrawal from nomination, and enthusiastically endorsed Angelo for the position. The body wholeheartedly agreed and Angelo Arredondo was unanimously elected as the Marion County Democrats Chairperson.

Congratulations Angelo!

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#### Statement from Angelo Arredondo, MCDCC Chair

I am honored to have been elected as our new chairperson and I thank everyone who has helped me during this transition.

As chair, I am working on developing a few goals for our party, improving our processes and making sure as a party we are ready to serve all democrats. I have been and will continue to be meeting with our committees, office staff and you to learn more about how we can achieve this by streamlining our processes and making our party easy to understand. This will allow us to better support and elect democrats.

It is my pleasure to announce that here in Marion County, we are contesting 4 out of 4 state senate seats and 6 out of 7 state house seats that touch our county! That will allow voters in our county to have a bigger voice when selecting their next representatives. We also have two great candidates for Marion County Commission. We need to do our part in supporting our democratic candidates across the county. We have put together this [guide](#) that has all of the candidates running. It will be updated with information as we get it.

We can't do any of this without your support. We all love our Neighborhood Leader Program. Let's show our love by chipping in a couple of dollars to help us purchase postcards [HERE](#).

Please also consider buying a ticket and joining us at our annual [Peter Courtney Dinner & Auction!](#) This is our biggest event of the year and will greatly help us support and elect democrats. This will be a night filled with friends, fun and great guests. We will have a very special guest that you don't want to miss.

Thank you all for your support and dedication to our work, our county, our state and our country.

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#### Resignation statement from Paige Barton

Hello friends,

I have recently resigned as Chair of the Marion County Democrats as it became evident that I had to choose between giving my full capacity to winning campaigns, or continuing to lead the party. Resigning as your Chair has allowed me to fully focus on winning Salem City Council campaigns on May 19.

I wish the county party all the best moving forward. It is a difficult role to be Chair, but also rewarding. I hope the new chair will be successful.

I'm leaving the Democrats with a 91% win rate on endorsements. I have appointed at least one new precinct committee person at every meeting I've chaired. In general, I'm proud of my work for the Democrats despite significant challenges. I couldn't have done it without the support of the Chair before me, Mary Nikas.

Thank you all for your support.



## Marion County Democrats Endorsements for 2026!

Primary Elections are coming up in May and the Marion County Democrats Central Committee early recommendations for our local candidates are available on our website.

View the recommendations and get connected to their campaign pages to make a donation or to volunteer:

[Marion County Endorsements](#)

### General voting Information...

This year Oregon voters will elect a U.S. senator, six members of Congress, governor, labor commissioner, 15 state senators and 60 state representatives, as well as hundreds of local officeholders.

Read more here: [Oregon Candidates in 2026](#)

Primary election information from Marion Co. Clerk: [May 19, 2026 Primary Election](#)

## Memes of the Month!

## So You're Saying We Had To Attack Iran Because They Would Have Attacked Us If We Attacked Them

"If Iran came under attack by anyone – the United States or Israel or anyone – they were going to respond, and respond against the United States. We knew that there was going to be an Israeli action. We knew that that would precipitate an attack against American forces, and we knew that if we didn't pre-emptively go after them before they launched those attacks, we would suffer higher casualties ... We went proactively in a defensive way."

-- Marco Rubio, 3/2/26



Rep. Eric Swalwell @RepSwalwell

Don't threaten us with a good time  
Show more

FactPost @factpostnews · 2h

Mike Johnson: If we lose the majority, it would be the end of the Trump presidency  
Show more



1:20 PM · Feb 25, 2026 · 15.7K Views

## Oregon Democrats in the News

### Lawmakers approve bills to renovate Moda Center, ban masks for law enforcement, delay gun control law as session ends

The Legislature wrapped up its five-week session Friday after a packed final day in which lawmakers approved a slew of closely watched bills, including one to use state dollars to **renovate the Moda Center** and another to prohibit law enforcement officers from **wearing face coverings in most instances**.

Several high-profile bills that dominated conversations this session were approved before Friday's whirlwind finale, including a Democratic-backed plan to move a **vote on transportation taxes** from the November to May ballot, a controversial update to the state's **historic campaign finance law** and several bills aimed at helping the state hold the Trump administration accountable for its immigration crackdown.

The House also passed a stripped-down bill that **delayed the effective date** of Oregon's gun control law, Measure 114, to 2028, but included no other substantive changes to the measure. If Democrats hadn't agreed to amend the bill, Senate Minority Leader Bruce Starr, R-Dundee, said Republicans would have walked out, denying the majority party the quorum they needed to continue passing bills.

Read more here: [2026 Legislative Session Ends](#)

### Oregon Senate moves to penalize landlords divulging citizenship status, private information

Oregon tenants whose landlords leak confidential information such as their immigration status or medical records could soon have a pathway to collect up to twice their monthly rent as a form of recourse.

A 2025 Oregon law already ensures that landlords may not discriminate against tenants due to their immigration status while prohibiting release of information about their citizenship with the intent to harass, retaliate against, or intimidate. That also includes when a landlord threatens to release such information.

But that law didn't go so far as to establish explicit monetary compensation for individuals who are victims of discrimination, instead empowering individuals to sue in court or challenge discriminatory decisions such as an eviction based on immigration status.

The bill's passage marked another rare instance of Democrats and Republicans finding common ground to increase protections for Oregonians without permanent legal immigration status.

Read more here: [Protecting Tenant's Private Information](#)

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## Oregon Senate advances bill to protect public lands

The Oregon Senate in a 17-11 vote Thursday advanced a bill meant to safeguard public lands against the threat of privatization.

Senate Bill 1590, sponsored by Sen. Anthony Broadman, D-Bend, would prohibit state agencies from using any funding, data, equipment or staff to help the federal government sell or transfer federal lands to private parties. The measure puts no restrictions on tribes.

Broadman brought the bill in response to efforts from congressional Republicans to include in their massive summer 2025 tax and spending law plans to sell between 2 to 3 million acres of federally-managed land across 11 Western states, including hiking trails and campgrounds in Oregon.

Roughly 53% of land in Oregon is managed by the federal government, specifically the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service.  
"We will not collaborate with federal efforts to privatize our national parks, our monuments, our sacred places," Broadman said.

Read more here: [Protecting Oregon's Public Lands](#)

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## Oregon will partially disconnect state tax code from federal changes

Most Democratic Oregon lawmakers voted to disconnect some of the state's tax code from the federal tax code to keep hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue the state otherwise would lose by replicating federal tax cuts. Republicans in turn threatened to send it to Oregon voters in November via a ballot referral.

The Oregon House of Representatives voted along party lines 34-21 to pass Senate Bill 1507 Wednesday, selectively removing two federal tax cuts on businesses and one on auto loan interest paid on the purchase of brand new cars from applying to Oregonians' state tax burden. Oregon is one of a handful of states that automatically ties its state tax code to the federal tax code when it changes, rather than selectively connecting to changes later.

The federal disconnect bill would preserve a net \$291 million in tax revenue for the state during the next 18 months that would otherwise have gone uncollected had the state stayed married to the federal tax changes. It also includes new state-level tax credits for businesses that boost in-state hiring, and for low- and moderate-income Oregonians. More than 1,000 written testimonies were submitted about the bill during the month-long session, with more than 70% in support.

Read more here: [State Tax Code Disconnect from Federal](#)

## Fascism Watch

### Why Attack Iran?

#### Our Authoritarianism and Our Corruption

By [Timothy Snyder](#)

How do we understand the war with Iran? We must get away from the propaganda and ask why this might be happening, in light of the facts that we do know. These facts suggest two interpretive frameworks: a foreign war as a mechanism to destroy democracy at home; and a foreign war as an element of personal corruption by the president of the United States.

From the United States, the most plausible angle of view is domestic politics, not foreign policy. Wars are a tool of undermining and undoing democracies. Given that we have multiple examples of this from both modern and ancient democracy, and given the behavior of Trump and his allies in general, this must be an interpretive method for these attacks.

The relationship between foreign war and domestic authoritarianism can take two basic forms: 1) we must all rally because there is a war and everyone who oppose the war is a traitor; 2) we must hold elections under specific conditions favorable to the party in power. This is **utterly predictable** and should be easy to halt and indeed to reverse.

Link to article: [Why Attack Iran?](#)

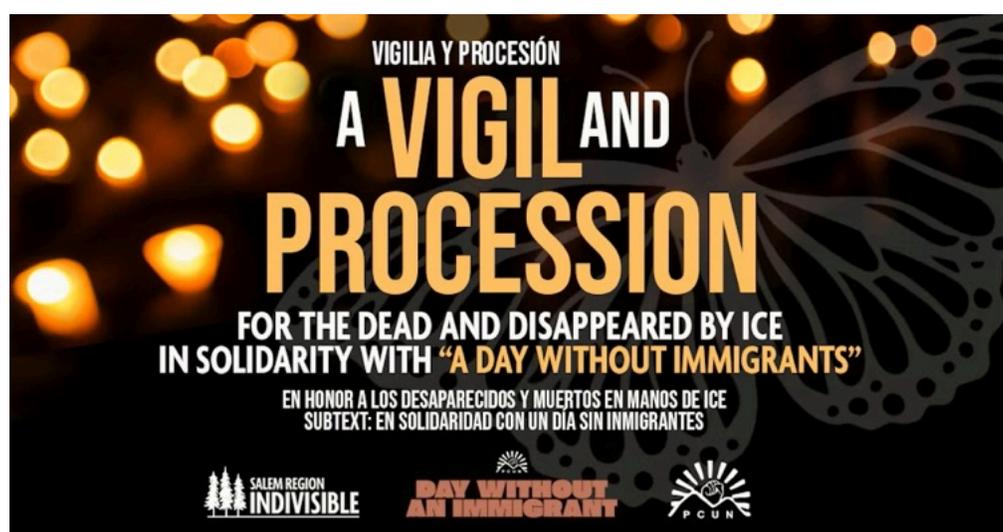
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## Leaked Interior Department database reveals US plans to revise historical information

An internal government database revealed the scope of the Trump administration's effort to revise or remove information on African-American history, LGBT rights, climate change and other topics at hundreds of national park sites.

Trump has targeted cultural and historical institutions - from museums to monuments to national parks - to remove what he calls "anti-American" ideology. His declarations and executive orders have led to the dismantling of exhibits on slavery, the restoration of Confederate statues and other moves that civil rights advocates say could reverse decades of progress.

Link to article: [Interior Dept. Historical Revision Plans Revealed](#)



## A vigil and candlelight procession for the dead and disappeared by ICE, in solidarity with "A Day Without Immigrants."

**Monday, March 16, 6 – 8pm PDT**

Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Please wear mourning clothing, bring candles and ofrenda\* offerings.

Vigilia y Procesión en honor a los desaparecidos y muertos en manos de ICE. Por favor usen ropa de luto, traigan velas, y ofrendas.

Capitol Mall Plaza  
900 Court St, NE Salem  
Lunes, 16 de Marzo, 6-8pm

Announcement by Salem Regional Indivisible: [A Day Without Immigrants Vigil](#)

\*Ofrenda, meaning "offering" in Spanish, is a traditional altar built to welcome the spirits of family members and friends during their annual visit on Día de los Muertos. However, honoring ancestors or deceased loved ones is a personal expression of love, not strictly limited by the calendar.



**Representative Tom Andersen  
Legislative Town Hall**

**Rescheduled!**

**Tuesday, March 17th, 2026**

**5:00 - 6:30 p.m.**

Salem Public Library, Loucks Auditorium (585  
Liberty St SE, Salem, OR 97301)



**Creative Strategies to Resist Authoritarianism**

Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 7:00 – 9:30 PM EDT

Authoritarianism is on the rise globally — AND so is our power to push back. Artists and cultural workers play a pivotal role in successful people-powered movements, shaping what's possible through story, symbol, and song and moving/inspiring people to courageous action.

Whatever your creative medium or path, you're part of a vital cultural front line. Let's grow our power, refuse compliance, and make culture that blocks, bridges and builds. This training is co-hosted by Beautiful Trouble and US Dept of Arts and Culture. Please note that organizers are hoping to provide any needed language interpretation, but may not be able to do so for all requested languages.

While this training is free for all, donations to support this ongoing work are appreciated. [Click here to register.](#)

Sponsored by: [Beautiful Trouble](#)

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**SALEM REPORTER TOWN HALL**  
Tuesday, March 31  
Doors open at 5 p.m., program at 6 p.m.

Meet the people who want to run Salem city government. A special live program includes all eight candidates for Salem City Council and the challenger who wants to become mayor. Come listen to why they want your vote in May.

Get tickets to attend the **free** event at the Elsinore theater [Here](#).

Program can also be viewed online via YouTube [Here](#).

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Join us This Saturday...

Every Saturday there is an ongoing protest by local activists, against the current authoritarian take-over.

All peaceful, non-violent protesters are welcome.  
at Center and Summer Sts. from noon-2:00pm.

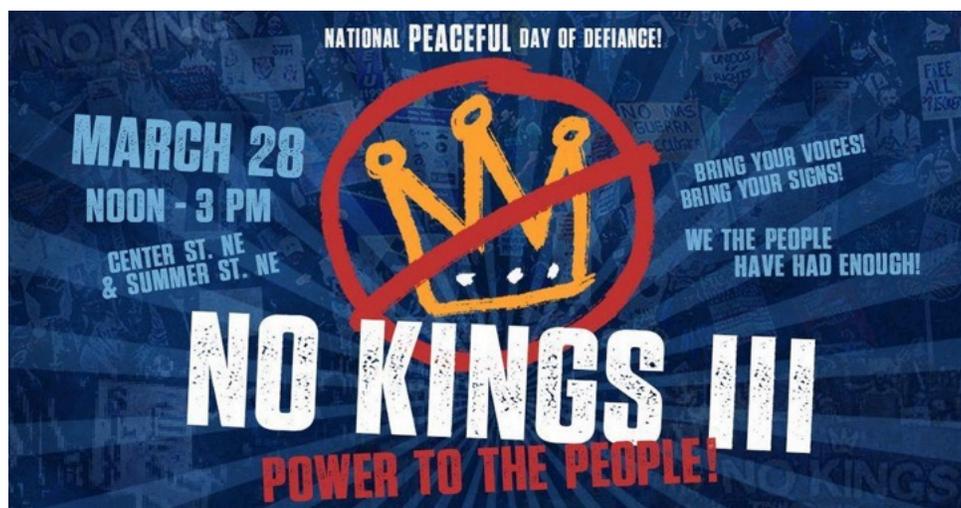


## Protest with Woodburn Indivisible's Geezers for Good Saturdays!

Join the Woodburn Hubbard Aurora Indivisible's Geezers for Good weekly rallies at; the Woodburn Transit Center on Hwy 214, just east of I-5.

Every Saturday from 12 to 2 PM.  
Contact us at [WoodburnIndivisible@Yahoo.com](mailto:WoodburnIndivisible@Yahoo.com).

Get more information and sign up here: [Woodburn Indivisible Geezers](#)



## POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

No Thrones. No Crowns. No Kings!

Saturday, March 28  
12 – 3pm PDT

Summer Street NE & Center Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Our peaceful movement is bigger than ever.

When our families are under attack and costs are pushing people to the brink, silence is not an option. We will defend ourselves and our communities against this administration's

unjust and cruel acts of violence.

On March 28th, rise up, take to the streets, and say it loud: no thrones, no crowns, no kings. We're not watching history happen—we're making it. Join us.

A core principle behind all No Kings events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values and to act lawfully at these events. Weapons of any kind, including those legally permitted, should not be brought to events.

Announcement by Salem Regional Indivisible: [No Kings III](#)

**PROGRESSIVE Salem** presents

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

## FOR SALEM MAYOR

**INVITED!** all ages, family friendly, kids clothes swap starting at 1:30pm **INVITED!**

**VANESSA NORDYKE**

**JULIE HOY**

**APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2-3PM @ LOUCKS AUDITORIUM AT THE SALEM PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Do you have a question for the candidates?

**OUR MODERATORS, MEGAN AND ZOEY HARPER**

**SUBMIT QUESTIONS HERE!**

paid for by Progressive Salem

## Meet the Candidates! Salem Mayoral Forum

Sunday, April 12  
2pm

[Salem Public Library \(Salem, OR\)](#)

Plan to come to the first-ever all ages mayoral forum at the Salem Public Library on Sunday, April 12th at 2 pm. Bring the whole family!

Sponsored by [Progressive Salem](#)



Committees are ordered based on their next scheduled meeting or event. This is one of the best ways to get involved in our party!

- **Membership Committee, Next Meeting, Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 5 PM**  
Chair: Gwen Carr, [Membership@mariondemocrats.org](mailto:Membership@mariondemocrats.org)

- **Monthly General Membership Meeting, Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 6 PM**

Meet-and-greet starts at 5:30pm  
Speak Out is from 6:00 - 6:30pm  
Business Meeting begins at 6:30pm

Location: Democrats Meeting Hall – 245 High St NE, Salem, OR 97301, USA  
Or Register to Attend Virtually Here: [Zoom Link](#)

**All Democrats are Welcome!**

- **Fundraising Committee - Next Meeting Tuesday, March 23, 2026 at 6:30 PM**  
[Location: Zoom - Register Here](#)  
Chairperson: Mary Nikas, [Fundraising@mariondemocrats.org](mailto:Fundraising@mariondemocrats.org)

The Marion County fundraising committee adds the “Fun” to Fundraising!

Like to throw Parties?  
Have an idea for a Fundraiser?  
Join us to share your ideas!

- **Neighborhood Leaders Committee - Next Meetings**

**Coordinators: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 7 PM**  
[Location: Zoom - Register Here](#)

**Committee: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 7 PM**  
[Location: Zoom - Register Here](#)

Chair: Michael Johnson, [nlp@mariondemocrats.org](mailto:nlp@mariondemocrats.org)

Our Neighborhood Leader Committee is responsible for our voter outreach program. Join us and find out how to get involved in your neighborhood to get out the vote!

- **Rules Committee - Next Meeting Monday, April 6, 2026 at 7 PM**

[Location: Zoom - Register Here](#)  
Chairperson: Victor Dodier, [Rules@mariondemocrats.org](mailto:Rules@mariondemocrats.org)  
1st Monday at 7 PM

Our Rules Committee is responsible for review of our bylaws and standing rules.  
Join us!

- **Legislative Committee - Next Meeting Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 6:30 PM**  
*Chairperson: Marcia Kelley, [Legislative@mariondemocrats.org](mailto:Legislative@mariondemocrats.org)*  
*1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM*

The Legislative Committee tracks bills of interest and keeps the membership informed. If you like to engage on legislation of interest, this is the committee for you.

During an active session, the committee meets twice a month: every 1st and 3rd Tuesday. For more information and zoom link, contact chairperson.

- **Communications Committee - Next Meeting Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6 PM**  
Location: Remote meetings will be conducted during the winter months. Contact the chairperson for a meeting link.

*Chairperson: Dan Siskin, [Communications@mariondemocrats.org](mailto:Communications@mariondemocrats.org)*  
*2nd Tuesday at 6 PM*

The Communications Committee is responsible for this newsletter, website maintenance, social media sites, and external communications about our Marion County Democrats. Love social media? Join us and get plugged in!

- **Candidate Support Committee**  
Contact Chairperson for next meeting date and location.  
*Chairperson: Angelo Arredondo, [Candidates@mariondemocrats.org](mailto:Candidates@mariondemocrats.org)*

The Candidate Support Committee recruits potential Democratic candidates for public office in Marion County. They review candidate qualifications and make recommendations to the Executive Committee, as well as supporting the recommended candidates through the election process. They also conduct voter registration drives.

- **Program Committee - Next Meetings:**

**Book Club, Monday, April 20, 2026 at 10 AM**  
**Program Committee, Tuesday, April 21, 2026 6:00 PM**  
*Location: Democrats Meeting Hall – 245 High St NE, Salem, OR 97301, USA*  
*Contact: Programs Chairperson: Linda Jayne Garland, [ily18keizer@gmail.com](mailto:ily18keizer@gmail.com)*

The Program Committee is chaired by Linda Jayne Garland.  
The MCDCC Program Committee creates programming for the Democratic Central Committee, like special guests and presentations, and plans other events as outreach to the community.

Join us on the 3rd Tuesday of each month

### **Interested in exploring other local events and meetings?**

Check out the calendar links for Marion and Polk county Democrats below...

[Marion County Democrats Events Calendar](#)

[Polk County Democrats Events Calendar](#)

**KEEP FASCISM DOWN IN MARION COUNTY  
AND GET OUT THE VOTE**

## **NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS**

### **Be a Local Hero! Join Our Neighborhood Leader Program**

*Imagine making a 30% difference in voter turnout with just a few hours of your time!*

That's exactly what you can do by joining 350 of your fellow Marion County Democrats as a Neighborhood Leader. This incredible voter engagement program is one of the most powerful in our state - and it's surprisingly simple to participate!

**Here's how it works:** You'll connect with Democratic households in your neighborhood as ballots arrive (starting April 30th), then follow up with gentle reminders before the May 20th Election Day.

What makes this special? It's personal, it builds community, and most importantly - **it really works!** Areas with Neighborhood Leaders consistently see turnout increases of 30% or more.

Your neighborhood needs your friendly face and passionate voice. Together, we can make Marion County's democratic voice stronger than ever!

[Sign Up Now](#)



### **SNAP Benefits Update:**

SNAP benefits were restored on Nov 7 and EBT cards have been reloaded for SNAP recipients. See the [Marion Polk Food Share Statement on SNAP Benefits Disruption](#) for more information.

The MCDCC is still collecting food donations in our office to be distributed by the Food Share program. Visitors can drop off non-perishable food items (unexpired canned goods, pasta, rice, nut butters, and other shelf-stable items). If you are able to donate money, that is also welcomed and is needed in greater amounts at this time. Fresh produce and other perishable food items must often be purchased and the infrastructure for food collection and distribution must be supported. Visit the Marion Polk Food Share or your local food bank to give as you are able...

[Marion Polk Food Share](#)

[Keizer Community Food Bank](#)



## Join the Marion County Democrats Family!

**Stand with us to fuel change!** As a 100% volunteer-driven organization, we rely on your support to drive our mission forward. We are currently in a critical phase in the fight for democracy throughout the country and in Marion County itself. We support strong, progressive candidates for positions on city councils throughout Marion County, the Marion County Commission, and in the Oregon legislature. This work requires substantial funding. Contributions from you, our local democrats, directly power our efforts here in Marion County.

Do you want to fight back against MAGA, protect immigrant rights, strengthen education, work to establish universal health care, support housing for all, and ensure that all Oregonians have enough to eat? Donating to the Marion Democrats is a great way to get involved.

Imagine what we could accomplish together if each registered Democrat in our community contributed just \$5 monthly. We could focus entirely on serving our candidates and community, without worrying about keeping the lights on!

**Will you join our monthly supporter family today?** Even a small recurring contribution creates a tremendous impact. These recurring donations put us on a sound financial footing and help us budget for the long term. Please click the Donate Now button below to become a sustaining member - it takes just a minute but makes a lasting difference!

**Thank you for being the heartbeat of our local Democratic movement.** Your generosity truly means the world to us!

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