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 The Stark Truth | Week of April 4, 2026

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STARK INDIVISIBLE · WEEKLY MEMBER BRIEFING

# The Stark Truth

*Because democracy doesn't run itself — and neither does the truth.*

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VOL. 1 · ISSUE 1 | WEEK OF APRIL 4, 2026 | STARK COUNTY, OHIO

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 FROM YOUR ADMINS · STATE OF THE RESISTANCE

Friends — welcome to the first edition of *The Stark Truth*. You'll find this in your inbox every Friday morning. We promise to keep it real, keep it local where it matters most, and never sugarcoat what's happening to our democracy. This has been a heavy week in America. Military leadership being purged. Cabinet officials fired. Tariff pain reaching your grocery cart. ICE enforcement spreading fear into communities that look a lot like ours. We cannot look away. But we also cannot give in to despair. We showed up at Central Plaza on March 28th. We're showing up again on May 1st — No Work, No School, No Shopping. That's who we are.

— *Your Stark Indivisible Admin Team*

 THIS WEEK'S ASKS — DO THESE THINGS

▶ Ohio's May 5th primary voter registration deadline is **Tuesday, April 6**. Boards of elections stay open until 9 PM. Share this with everyone you know.

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▶ Stark DD, 2950 Whipple Ave NW, Canton, 1–3 PM. Plan next steps and discuss the May 1st national action. Bring a friend.

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▶ Mark your calendar. National action day. Details coming soon.

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▶ **CALL YOUR REP:** Call Rep. Mike Rulli's office: **(202) 225-3876**. Ask where he stands on federal workers going unpaid during the DHS shutdown.

▶ **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:** Share ICE know-your-rights information with neighbors, church groups, coworkers. Find the card at [aclu.org](http://aclu.org)

## Global & National Headlines

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### **Hegseth Fires Army Chief of Staff — Military Purge Accelerates**

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth ousted Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George this week, reportedly seeking officers who will carry out his and Trump's vision without question.

***Why it matters:** When generals are fired for professionalism, the military becomes a political tool. This affects every Stark County family with someone in uniform.*

### **AG Pam Bondi Reportedly Fired — Lee Zeldin Eyed as Replacement**

Trump reportedly fired Attorney General Bondi and is considering EPA Director Lee Zeldin as her replacement — continuing rapid cabinet turnover driven by loyalty, not governance.

***Why it matters:** The AG enforces your civil rights, voting protections, and consumer protections. Who holds that office matters to all of us.*

### **US Engaged in Active War with Iran — Region Escalating**

The US is in its second month of active conflict with Iran. Israel has invaded Lebanon. Trump gave a prime-time address outlining war objectives. Ohio Rep. Greg Landsman — one of four Democrats who voted against the war powers resolution — is now publicly calling for the war to end.

***Why it matters:** War means gas prices spike, military families hold their breath, and our tax dollars fund it.*

### **Birthright Citizenship Before the Supreme Court**

The Court heard arguments on Trump's executive order attempting to end birthright citizenship — a right guaranteed by the 14th Amendment. Trump said he wanted to sit in on the arguments.

***Why it matters:** If birthright citizenship falls, thousands of American-born children — including in Ohio — could be rendered stateless.*

### **DHS Shutdown Partially Ends — Federal Workers Still Suffering**

The Senate passed a bipartisan DHS funding bill, but thousands of federal workers — TSA, FEMA, Coast Guard — remain unpaid or partially compensated after 48 days.

***Why it matters:** These are our neighbors skipping mortgage payments while Congress argues.*

## ICE Enforcement Watch

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## ICE Detention at Record High — 73,000 in Custody, 70% No Criminal Record

ICE is now holding approximately 73,000 immigrants — the highest ever, an 84% increase since January 2025. Over 70% have no criminal record, and 95% have never been convicted of a violent crime. Six people have died in ICE custody since the start of 2026.

*Why it matters: Stark County has immigrant families, immigrant-owned businesses, immigrant coworkers. This fear is already reshaping daily life.*

## Vermont Raid: Wrong Man, Excessive Force — ICE Admits Error

A March ICE raid in South Burlington, VT ended in a legislative hearing after ICE admitted they were pursuing the wrong person. Community members sang, chanted, and grilled hot dogs in peaceful witness before things turned confrontational.

 RIGHTS & RESOURCES — ICE EDITION

**If ICE comes to your door:** You have the right to remain silent. You do not have to open the door unless they have a *judicial warrant* signed by a judge. Ask to see it through the door. Say: *"I am exercising my right to remain silent. I want to speak to a lawyer."*

Full know-your-rights card: [aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights](https://aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights)

 ECONOMY — YOUR KITCHEN TABLE

## Tariff Pain Is Arriving at the Checkout Lane

Businesses that held the line on prices in 2025 are now passing costs to customers — and grocery stores with thin margins are first to feel it. Yale Budget Lab estimates current tariff policy costs the average American household **\$1,681 in real income** this year. Food prices are expected to rise 1.4% short-term. Meat is at near-record highs. Baby goods jumped 24% in ten weeks last year. The administration promised lower grocery prices on Day 1. On Day 365 and beyond — food prices continue to hit record highs.

*This is your cart at Aldi, your gas tank on State Street, your heating bill in January.*

## Ohio State Watch

### **CRITICAL: Ohio Voter Registration Deadline is April 6**

If you or anyone you know is not registered, **April 6** is the deadline for the May 5 primary. Early voting begins April 7. **New law:** Absentee ballots must now be physically received by poll close on May 5 — not just postmarked. Request by April 28. Return them early.

## Jan. 6 Pardon Recipient Sentenced for Child Pornography

An Ohio man pardoned by Trump for Jan. 6 has now been sentenced for possessing more than 100,000 child sexual abuse images discovered in connection with his riot case. Blanket political pardons have real-world consequences.

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## Ohio Brothers Held by ICE Denied Bond — Again

Two brothers held by ICE in Ohio have been denied bond for the second time. Their case reflects a growing pattern of Ohioans with deep community roots caught in the federal enforcement net.

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## Stark County Local

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### Commissioners Meet April 8 — You Can Attend or Call In

Board of Stark County Commissioners meets Wednesday, April 8 at 1:30 PM. Dial in: (667) 770-1465, Code 692732#. These are your local officials controlling your tax dollars.

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### Six Local Agencies Receive Federal VAWA Grants

Six Stark County agencies received federal Violence Against Women Act grants totaling \$276,226 — supporting survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking right here in our community.

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### Stark Parks April Events + Kids Trout Derby in Canal Fulton

Jack Cullen Memorial Trout Derby for kids ages 4–15: April 25 at St. Helena Heritage Park, Canal Fulton. Free bait, trophies. Earth Day E-Cycle Drop-Off: April 22 at Tam O'Shanter. Register at StarkParks.com.

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#### LOCAL OFFICIAL SPOTLIGHT

**Rep. Mike Rulli (OH-6):** Our district's representative has been largely quiet on the military purge, the DHS shutdown, and the Iran war. Union workers and veterans in our district deserve answers.

**Call: (202) 225-3876.** Ask him directly. *(Always verify current contact info at [house.gov](https://www.house.gov))*

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#### WATCH THIS WEEK

"**No Kings in America**" — KC N Kind performed this at the NoKings III rally in Canton last week. Find it on Spotify, Apple Music, or YouTube. Share it. Search *KC N Kind* on any platform.

#### FROM THE COMMUNITY

Did you make a call to a rep? Attend a meeting? Help a neighbor? Share it — one or two sentences — and you might find yourself right here next week. Email us at

[starkindivisible@gmail.com](mailto:starkindivisible@gmail.com) or drop it in the Stark Indivisible Facebook group. *This space is yours.*

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● FEEL GOOD FRIDAY – IT'S TRUE, IT'S REAL, IT HAPPENED

## Dan the Pizza Driver Is Going Out on a High Note

In Boise, Idaho this week, a pizza delivery driver named Dan went slightly out of his way to pick up a soda for a customer who'd asked nicely. Someone posted about it. Then thousands of strangers learned Dan was retiring — and flooded him with messages, tips, and gratitude that went viral. "There's angels everywhere," said one customer he'd served for years. Dan didn't cure anything. He just did his job with a little extra kindness — and it was enough to restore a lot of people's faith. *That's the world we're building toward.*

📖 FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY

## April 1963: Birmingham Jails Fill — And the Movement Doesn't Flinch

In April 1963, Dr. King launched the Birmingham Campaign. Bull Connor turned fire hoses and police dogs on peaceful protesters. The jails filled. From his cell, King wrote the *Letter from Birmingham Jail* on the margins of a newspaper because they wouldn't give him paper. The images shocked the conscience of the nation and opened the path to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

**The lesson:** The system's overreaction often turns the tide. Stay peaceful. Stay visible. Stay loud.

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*And now you know... **the Stark Truth.***  
*Stay loud, stay kind, stay indivisible. Stay engaged.*

– STARK INDIVISIBLE ADMINS • STARKINDIVISIBLE.ORG