

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
Interfaith Democracy Roundtable
July 16, 2026

Sen. Cantwell Remarks

[VIDEO]

Sen. Cantwell: Well, Senator Padilla, we have such a distinguished group here, and we want to hear from you. I can just tell you, as somebody who's old enough to remember the '60s and the civil rights efforts of my parents and the fight for civil liberties, I'm inspired just to be in the room with you, because it gives us confidence as we now fight for what is essentially our constitutional rights, for civil liberties, and for voting, are under threat by the President of the United States.

Who would have thought that at our 250th birthday, that is what we would have to deal with, but it is. But I take solace in knowing the success that that movement made, as Raphael Warnock just said, historic efforts of people just like you to come together to put the pressure on to explain what was really at stake: our ability to have our voice heard through casting a ballot to move our country forward.

And there are people that don't want to move our country forward. They're trying to hold us back. So I'm part of a task force with Senator Schumer and many of you to try to figure out how we're going to be ready to fight.

Me personally, [I] am all in, and will go anywhere that anybody says, "Hey, come to my state, help us evangelize." I will be there. Because I was on the ballot in 2024, and it's clear they don't like vote by mail. But I'll be damned if I'm going to let them blow up ballot boxes in our state.

When they blew up ballot boxes with bombs to discourage some of the most active Democratic areas from casting their vote, I went to Vancouver, Washington, and said, "We will not be intimidated."

We have Republicans, and people who now are former Republicans, saying they will join the fight. That voting official in that county made sure there was a police officer by every voting box, and we guarded the constitutional rights of Americans to move our country forward.

When I asked that election official, "What are you going to do if [the Department of] Homeland Security tries to come in and say you can't even mail out those ballots?" He [said], "I don't give a damn if I have to Uber them. I'm getting the voters their ballots, and all we have to do now is evangelize getting them in the ballot box."

This is just as important as 1964. We have to remember this heritage. The task that they accomplished was harder than this task. But if we are united in communicating to the American people [that] this is about your voice, your vote, and upholding our constitution, and anybody who gets in the way by trying to thwart us, then we are going to show that the American people know that their voice will be heard.

Thank you. Let's get to work. And I so appreciate all of you. It really does warm my heart to know that the evangelical community of our nation is ready to speak truth to power. Thank you so much.