



Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson
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The issue we face is one of conscience and common sense. Like all other rights, the Second Amendment is not absolute. There have always been limitations on what weapons you can own - machine guns have been federally regulated for 90 years. Our gun safety bill is about protecting children, protecting families, protecting whole communities, and protecting the freedom to go to school, a grocery store, and a church without being shot and killed.
Joe Biden

2023 Dues Still Only \$20

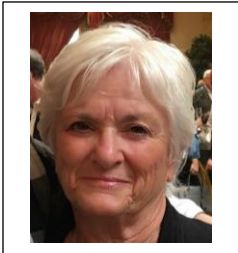
Please be sure to pay your **2023 DOV DUES** now. The price is still only \$20.00 a year. You can pay on Act Blue on the DOV website below or by sending a check to DOV at P.O. Box 68186, Oro Valley, AZ 85737. Thank you.

Dues accepted at: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/dovdues>

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APRIL ZOOM MEETING – Guest Speaker: Pat Maisch & Jenny Jenson



Patricia Maisch, Gun Violence Survivor and Activist

Patricia survived the January 8th mass shooting in Tucson at Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords' "Congress On Your Corner" event. Six of Gabby constituents, including a 9-year-old girl, were murdered by a dangerous man and 13 others were wounded, included Gabby Giffords.

Since that day in 2011, Patricia become an activist for keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people. She has worked with Mayors Against Illegal Guns, now known as Everytown, Survivors Network, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, the Brady Campaign, Women Against Gun Violence, and the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence.

Patricia has testified before US Senate Committee, Colorado Senate Committee, and rallied at NRA Conventions. She was detained for shouting "Shame on you!" in the US Senate and arrested with 5 other Gun Violence Survivors at a Sit-in at the Capitol Rotunda.

Patricia has spoken at Gun Violence events, appeared on various news programs, and was interviewed for articles in AARP Magazine and GQ.



Kathy Jenson, Co-leader of Moms Demand Action

Kathy is the Co-Leader of the Tucson Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence. We pass stronger gun laws and work to close the loopholes that jeopardize the safety of our families. We also work in our own communities and with business leaders to encourage a culture of responsible gun ownership. We know that gun violence is preventable, and we're committed to doing what it takes to keep families safe.

Moms Demand Action have a chapter in every state, have nearly 10 million supporters, and are part of Everytown for Gun Safety.

Kathy will share some important pieces of gun violence prevention, including the words we use, and an overview of the gun-related laws this session. She will also share information regarding gun related bills moving through the legislature and who to contact about them.

Kathy is originally from upstate New York but has made Tucson her home for the last 30 years. She graduated from the University of Arizona and is a proud and dedicated educator in our public schools.



Save Our Schools Arizona Network

In case you missed our last meeting, here is a recap of our guest speaker Abbie Hlavacek's presentation.

Arizona Public Schools

- Arizona public schools remain 47th in the US in per-student funding.
- Arizona ranks dead last in teacher pay, creating a retention crisis.
- Arizona is \$4.5 billion short of the national average in annual per-student spending,
- Arizona schools have desperate funding needs for extracurricular programs, counselors, school facilities, aides, technology, and more.

Universal ESA Vouchers

- Vouchers cost Arizona \$600 million every year and growing!
- Vouchers siphon desperately needed dollars away from underfunded community schools.
- Vouchers have zero accountability concerning student outcomes and zero transparency concerning how taxpayer funds are being spent.
- Voucher system is rife with misuse and mismanagement.

ESA voucher program is unequal and discriminatory.

- Private schools are free to pick and choose their students.
- ESA vouchers erode and defund the choice of 92% of AZ families who choose their community public schools.
- A vast majority of ESA voucher funds go to parents who already chose private schools or homeschooling for their children.
- State-funded hate and discrimination against LBGTQ students in private schools has no place in our state.

Join us and make a difference!

- Sign up to join your local Community Action Team at bit.ly/SOSAZvol.
- Learn more about us and sign up for email updates at bit.ly/sosaz.
- Sign up to receive a copy of our weekly newsletter at <https://sosarizona.org/2023edreportapril3-2/>
- Follow us on social media:
 - Facebook: /saveourschoolsarizona.; Snap Chat: arizona_sos.; Twitter: @arizona_sos.



Open letter to AZ Legislators requesting civility by LWVAZ President Pinny Sheoran

I am writing to you on behalf of the over 800 League of Women Voters of Arizona members to express our deep concern about the disturbing deterioration of norms in our state legislative process. If the legislature continues its present course, meaningful citizen access and input to the legislative process will be lost in AZ.

Since 1920, the League of Women Voters has been an activist, grassroots organization founded on the principle that people play a critical role in democracy. This principle is enshrined in the Arizona Constitution. By the will of its citizens, and the intent of those who framed and approved our Constitution, citizens are granted legislative power through direct ballot access. Thus, legislating is a shared effort between officeholders and members of the public. While the Capitol may be the temporary residence of elected legislators, it is the people's house. We are not strangers or visitors here; we have the right to be here and treated with civility.

Unfortunately, in recent years, the atmosphere at the legislature has deteriorated. This year, committee hearings, in particular, are unacceptably combative and unwelcoming. Regardless of party or point of view, citizens have the right to observe and comment on policy proposals being considered without being personally attacked or intimidated. Committee hearings in which members of the public are treated as adversaries, where everyday citizens are cross-examined as if they are hostile witnesses in a judicial proceeding or challenged to “prove” they are accurately conveying the position of their organization, are all examples of democratic processes gone terribly wrong. We are writing to tell you it doesn’t have to be this way.

We have been active at the Arizona Capitol for several decades. This year, we have witnessed conspiracists and their demonstrably bogus theories at center stage. Our speakers have been treated with contempt and disrespect. There is a floating standard for veracity; some speakers are allowed to repeat alleged facts or disproven theories, while others are expected to provide copious backup. The most problematic is the overwhelming atmosphere of hostility to anyone who dares to speak out against conservative majority legislation.

Hyperbole and histrionic outrage by members seem rampant in this session. Surely, our legislators see the irony: individual members of the conservative majority have been investigated and even indicted by separate arms of government. Yet, these same members and others can fly into a rage at the mere suggestion that the public might have questions about their sincerity and integrity. That is simply unreasonable. Similarly, members' reactions to citizens who point out that particular policies being advanced appear to have their roots in racist or other objectionable ideologies are wholly out of proportion. Loudly yelling to call a “point of order” and citing House Rules, intended to govern the conduct of members of the legislature themselves, seems particularly inappropriate. Criticism of ideas is not the same as disrespect toward individuals. Legitimate policy arguments are fair game, including pointing out policy proposals that may be, intentionally or not, inspired by false conspiracy theories or racist propaganda.

The League of Women Voters believes the most effective public institutions engage the people in their work by discussing policy and points of view in a welcoming, safe, and open environment governed by transparent rules and procedures that cover everyone - public and legislator alike - in the spirit of cooperation, without personal attacks.

We ask you to pledge to protect the public’s physical and emotional safety when they visit the Capitol. Surely legislators’ proposals are sturdy enough to withstand competition in the marketplace of ideas. A welcoming, safe, and predictable environment allows all players to have their say and be given due consideration. We urge you toward hospitality, civility, and transparency. Respectfully, we will be watching to see how you respond.



Worst of Wadsack & #SackWadsack Recall Campaign *by Dee Maitland*

As of this writing there are 7 House (HCR) and 15 Senate (SCR) bills to present issues before the voters. So far 2 of the House bills have been passed and sent to the Secretary of State for addition to a ballot. One authorizes school districts to spend local revenues in excess of constitutional expenditure limits for 2022-2023. The other forbids any changes to primary election law including ranked choice voting; a bill based on the Big Lie. Unfortunately, this bill will bypass the Governor's veto and go directly to the voters next election. Almost all of the Senate bills transferred to the House had a hearing on March 30th so we should know their fate shortly.

Justine Wadsack is the sponsor of 5 of the Senate bills. Two are aimed at Tucson. One bans charter cities and the other would make city elections partisan. Of the remaining three, one restricts voting; one advances parents' rights; and one would allow lay people (like herself) to serve on the Commission of Appellate Court Appointments which selects judges and makes the lists of candidates for commissioners on the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commissioners. Her bad bills such as the teacher snitch line and anti-gun show regulation combined with her outlandish behavior in this legislative session have kept her in the headlines and have led to the #SackWadsack recall campaign.

The risk that the 2024 ballot could have numerous bad legislative initiatives, Wadsack's relentless bad press, and the knowledge that two voter initiatives regarding abortion rights and gun control may soon be circulating for signatures have led me to recommend that we do not use our volunteers' time and energy attempting to recall Wadsack. The imposed time limit and the number of signatures required are daunting. Furthermore, everyday Wadsack provides us with new reasons not to reelect her, reasons our Democratic candidate can gleefully use against her.

While we support the impulse to recall Wadsack, we can't afford distractions from an all-out effort to win all elections and initiatives in 2024. For these reasons, DOV will not be circulating #SackWadsack petitions. Feel free to sign the recall petition and circulate them independently. The Democrats of Oro Valley will be putting all our energy into supporting the women's reproductive rights and gun control petitions and electing Democrats.



The Best of Biden by *Jacolyn Marshall*



Health & Safety

- Biden issues executive order to expand enforcement of Extreme Risk law, increase background checks, promote more secure firearms storage, and rein in the gun industry.
- EPA restricts industrial smokestack emissions that degrade air quality for millions in downwind areas.
- FDA requires more information be given to women concerning breast density and cancer risks.
- Health Resources Administration issues bids for new contracts to end nation's organ transplant monopoly.
- CDC is tracking drug-resistant bacteria infections caused by EzriCare and Delsam Phama eyedrops.
- FDA approves Narcan, used to reverse an opioid overdose for over the counter, nonprescription use.

Economy

- Labor Department reports a drop in jobless claims for 8 straight weeks; labor market continues to thrive.
- US adds 311K jobs in February; employment figures rose to the highest level in three years.
- Treasury Secretary announces the nation's banking system remains sound and deposits remain secure.
- Federal Reserve announces US banking system is sound and resilient.
- Conference Board reports consumer confidence rose in March despite inflation, bank failures, recession anxiety.

Environment & Climate Change

- Department of Transportation announces \$2.5B in grants for EV charging stations in underserved areas.
- Bureau of Reclamation dedicates \$250M toward conserving enough Colorado water to raise Lake Mead 10 feet.
- Biden designates national monuments in NV, TX, HI as natural treasures at a WH conservation summit.
- Energy Information Agency announces electricity from renewable sources surpassed coal for first time.

Immigration

- Biden's new policies cut the number of undocumented migrants entering US for second month in a row.
- Customs & Border Protection agents vet migrants' background using "CBP One" app before their arrival.

Justice

- DOJ files a lawsuit against Ohio rail company for environmental damages caused by derailment.

Government

- Treasury, Federal Reserve, FDIC combine efforts to protect all deposits after Silicon Valley Bank collapse.
- Treasury Secretary announces a new database on small business ownership to help fight corruption.
- Biden asks Congress to allow FDIC regulators to impose tougher penalties on executives of failed banks.
- Biden vetoes bill that would ban federal retirement managers from considering climate change and social impacts when making investment choices.
- Biden issues executive order to prohibit the use of commercial spyware that would pose risks to national security.

International Relations

- Biden's nominee for ambassador to India, one of the highest profile diplomatic posts is finally confirmed.
- US and UK announce Australia's purchase of US nuclear-powered stealth submarines.
- US imposes new sanctions on Russian oligarchs who liquidate property, imposes penalties on those who help them, and closes loopholes allowing the use shell companies.
- Led by US and UK sanctions more than \$58B in Russian assets have been blocked or frozen worldwide in response to Russia's Ukraine invasion.
- Days after Secretary of State visited Niger, US aid worker kidnapped 6 years ago is released.
- US responds to an attack on American personnel in Syria with airstrikes on Iran's Revolutionary Guard.
- Vice President Harris vows US economic support from private investors to expand conservation and food production in Ghana, Zambia, and Tanzania.
- Biden announces Canada's pledge of \$306M to improve water quality in the Great Lakes.
- Biden remains optimistic about democracies worldwide, citing advances in Angola, Croatia, and the Dominican Republic.
- Secretary of State urges Russian Foreign Minister to immediately release two imprisoned Americans, including Wall Street Journal Reporter.

International Relations: Ukraine

- Biden extends the stay for Ukrainians who came here on an emergency basis past their one-year approval.
- US sends \$350M in million in weapons and military equipment from Pentagon stocks to beleaguered Ukraine.
- Biden administration supports an international court to prosecute crimes of aggression by Russian against Ukraine.

Community Service Road Clean-Up Project *by Kurt Ohlrich*



SPRING HAS SPRUNG and it is time for our local Road Clean-Up!

The Clean-Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 15th at 8:00 a.m.

Our area is on La Cholla between Magee Road and Hardy Road. Bags are provided but be sure to wear comfortable shoes, gloves, and a hat.

Come join us for a beautiful morning, cleaning the roadside while getting in some exercise and beautifying the landscape.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Kurt Ohlrich at 520-742-5223. We need at least 10 volunteers so don't be afraid to bring a friend.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE BE GENEROUS HELP OUR LOCAL FOOD BANK

* Please consider donating some non-perishable food items or making a cash donation to one of our local food banks during this stressful time.

*The Democrats of Oro Valley care about the health and well-being of our community.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

* Thanks to all of you who support our brave troops.

**Please donate any of these items to one of our local veterans' groups for distribution: deodorant, shaving items, toothpaste, toothbrushes, pocket novels and puzzle books.*

May Zoom Meeting

Monday, May 8
6:30 – 8:00 pm

Guest Speaker:
Ruben Gallego

Topic:
US Senatorial Campaign