



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
August
2023

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson
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According to Marjorie Taylor Green: "Joe Biden had the largest public investment in social infrastructure and environmental programs that is finishing what FDR started, that LBJ expanded on, and Joe Biden is attempting to complete. Programs to address education, medical care, urban problems, rural poverty, transportation, Medicare, Medicaid, labor unions. And he still is working on it." **Joe Biden: "I approve this message."**

2023 Dues Still Only \$20

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GUEST SPEAKERS: Morgan Abraham, Tim Kosse, Miranda Lopez & Brad D'Emidio

Morgan Abraham, Candidate for Arizona House of Representatives



As a current State Representative, I have a bipartisan track record of supporting public schools and securing our water future. I've been an education advocate since I was a student at the University of Arizona – opposing skyrocketing tuition prices and budget cuts for colleges and universities. Since then, I have been advocating for K-12 education and ensuring that students have a permanent qualified teacher in every classroom. Education is the path to economic prosperity, and I believe we must do everything we can to ensure young people have a strong start.

I have fought for the American Dream by opposing the extremism in our government that is threatening opportunities for millions of Arizonans. Too many of our elected officials are far too focused on culture wars, perpetuating lies, and chipping away at our Democracy by restricting our voting freedoms. I want to make real investments in our future by improving education, providing affordable housing, protecting voting rights, and securing our water future. Investments like these can make the American Dream a reality for all Arizonans.

I'm running for the Arizona State House to fight back against extremism and protect the American dream. I have the experience, energy, and enthusiasm to get the job done. With your support, I will continue fighting for Southern Arizona values at the State House.

Tim Kosse, LD17 Team Lead & Director of the UA Youth Empowerment Caucus



Although I have been a lifelong Democrat, I have become more involved in politics following my run for Marana Town Council which taught me the critical role of grassroots volunteers and activists.

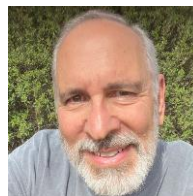
For LD 17 I'm a Team Lead, chair of the Equity Committee, co-chair of the Program Committee, and co-chair of the Social Committee. Arising out of my concern to broaden our volunteer base, I developed the concept for and am Director of the upcoming Youth Empowerment Caucus. I'm a State PC on the State Platform Committee.

Miranda Lopez, Regional Director for the UA Students' Association



My previous experiences in political organizing include working for the Arizona Democratic Party to turnout voters in 2018 & 2020 and acting as the Director for the Pima County Democratic Party. I now work with students on UA campus to develop student leaders and teach them the skills they need to mobilize other students. I also advocate at local meetings and the state capitol on behalf of students' best interests.

Brad D'Emidio, Founding member of the Living Desert Alliance



I moved to Marana in 2016 after a successful career in the Pacific Northwest as a leader in nonprofit healthcare and Adult Continuing Care Retirement Communities where I led the charge to move the almost one million square foot facility toward modern sustainable practices by converting lighting systems, moving from gas to steam heat, and improving recycling efforts resulting in multiple local and industry environmental awards.

I served as a member of the Marana Citizens Forum for three years where I became aware of the delicate balance between thoughtful community growth and the protection of our beautiful Sonoran Desert.

I joined the founding leadership of the Living Desert Alliance to support their mission to ***Keep our Desert Community Livable and Thriving.***



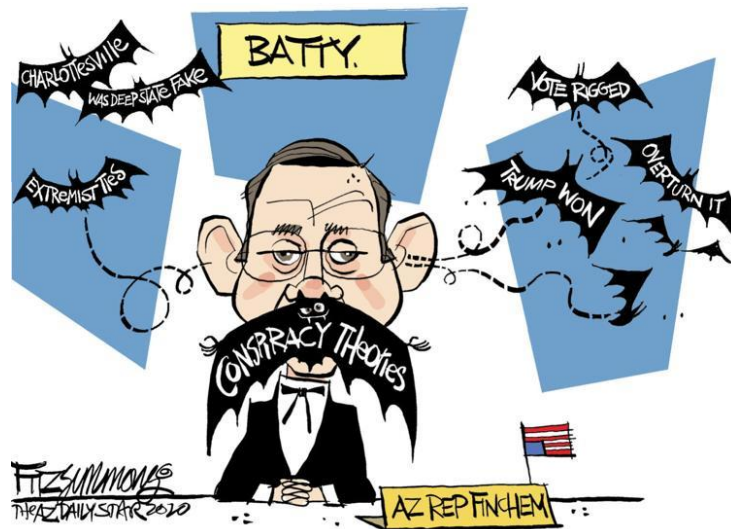
REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC LIES TRICKLED DOWN by Dee Maitland

If recent letters to the editor are any indication, the MAGA brainwashed are now venturing into economics, spouting the nonsense of their party's billionaire benefactors not understanding the harm to themselves and certainly not caring about the harm to others. Examples of their favorite topics from this month's LTE's:

- ✓ **Opposition to any forgiveness of student loan debt.** Are we to believe that none of their children go to college or need student loans? Consider a Bachelor's Degree in Education: the cost is \$600 per credit hour at UA, 120 hours are required to graduate which equals \$72,000. Average starting teacher pay in Arizona is \$41,496. How long do they think it would take before a teacher could afford a home and support a family carrying this burden? The old promise of a college degree salaries quickly retiring student loans is no longer true. Further, part of the increase in the significant cost of a college education is Republican deep cuts to funding of universities dating back to the 1970s.
- ✓ **Opposition to down payment assistance loans.** Home ownership has always been a bed rock part of the American Dream. It is also a huge part of our economy: supporting real estate values, jobs, materials, the financial sector, and tax rolls. The Federal Housing Administration has been designing low-or-no down payment loans and guaranteeing mortgages since 1934. In 1944 the GI Bill was signed giving veterans access to no down payment mortgages. Now the average cost of a home in Tucson is over \$300,000 so a standard down payment would be \$60,000 plus fees. How long would it take a married couple with student loans to save that down payment?
- ✓ **Opposition to free public transportation.** Republicans choosing to take the bus to avoid paying for parking and wear and tear on their cars are horrified to find poor and homeless people on the bus. Wasn't the free fare program put in place to encourage ridership, avoid the environmental problems caused by automobiles, and to allow low-wage workers to get to their places of employment? If Republicans succeed in getting fares re-established without addressing our low-income housing problem, I for one will be buying monthly passes for the homeless. It makes perfect sense they would use the buses to get out of the heat since Republicans are against any housing options for them.
- ✓ **Championing school vouchers because public schools are failing.** This is one of their most successful conspiracies. Republicans severely cut school funding and then channel taxpayer dollars to their rich constituents by championing school choice and espousing child grooming fears. Killing public education has been a goal of the Koch donor network since the 1970's. Public libraries will be next.



Before Justine "Morticia" Wadsack there was...



He's Back...but fortunately not in LD17!!!!

Ray Stern at the Arizona Republic [sums it up](#):

“Former Pima County lawmaker Mark Finchem is a Maricopa County resident who wants to run against County Recorder Stephen Richer next year.

Or he is a Prescott resident who wants to run for state senator in Legislative District 1.

In potential future campaigns, he's apparently both.”

Even better:



TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023 | tucson.com

Biden to preserve 1M Grand Canyon acres

Before Covid I spent time with Finchem during a League of Woman Voters Legislative Day. He rattled on for an hour about two bills he was introducing. One was to ban any further land sales or transfers to the US government. He felt that the federal government owned way too much of Arizona. The other was to introduce uranium mining around the Grand Canyon. I always wondered if his being a realtor had something to do with these. Now there are two outs for Finchem! We owe a huge thanks to our President Biden for preserving the Grand Canyon and its environs from Finchem's evil machinations.

By the way, if you are missing David Fitzgerald's cartoons and commentary, [sign up](#) for his weekly reflections and his humor now that he no longer appears in the Arizona Daily Star.

P.S. About Justine Wadsack: Only 3 weeks left to sign petitions to Recall Wadsack at:

Northwest Tucson

- Oro Valley Public Library
 - Tuesdays from 10am – 1pm
 - Thursdays from 9:45 – 11am
- Wheeler Taft Library
 - Wednesdays from 10am – 1pm
- SaddleBrooke One Community Center
 - Thursdays 9am–noon (notary on 8/30)

For Central, East, and Southeast Tucson locations and times, go to sackwadsack.com and click on Events.



Summer Reading for Literate Liberals

The Library Book by Susan Orlean.

With Republicans pushing book banning this book is a delightful real-life mystery about the 1986 fire that destroyed the Los Angeles Center Library. As the author searches for the culprit, we rediscover the importance of public libraries and librarians. We also get to celebrate multiple communities coming together to successfully save the books and rebuild.

The Millionaire and the Bard: Henry Folger's Obsessive Hunt for Shakespeare's First Folio by Andrea Mays. You don't have to enjoy the plays to enjoy this book about Shakespeare's friends' effort to memorialize his plays and the head of Standard Oil's lifelong search two and a half centuries later. Folger ended up owning more Folios than anyone else and built a library to Shakespeare in DC. It reads like a thriller. One of these beautiful Folios was on display at the 2017 Tucson Festival of Books. With Florida banning the Bard this book may be a sneak attack to get kids interested.

Group Portrait with Lady by Nobel Laureate Henrich Böll

This intriguing book is about an author **who researches a woman's life, giving us** a portrait of ordinary Germans during and after WWII. No soldiers, politicians, or battles; just ordinary humans with all their eccentricity and complexity trying to adjust to chaos. It gives us food for thought about our partisan today.

The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness by Sy Montgomery. Finalist for the National Book Award for Nonfiction. Fascinating, intelligent, and loving exploration of one of the planet's most unique creatures and an odd friendship.

Worst ACTIONS by Donald Trump by *Chris Dayton*

1. Encouraging Russian interference thus subverting the 2020 Elections
2. Threatening state officials to rig the 2020 election
3. Inciting the January 6th Capitol Insurrection
4. Abusing the bully pulpit with inflammatory and divisive rhetoric plus lying and cheating
5. Politicizing the Justice Department
6. Obstructing the Mueller investigation
7. Abusing the pardon power
8. Threatening Ukraine to dig up dirt on his political opponents followed by cover-up
9. Imposing loyalty oaths and personalizing government
10. Firing whistleblowers and truth-tellers
11. Profiting off the Presidency
12. Appointing family members
13. Abandoning our closest allies
14. Defunding the Post Office
15. Proposing \$30 billion in cuts to Social Security
16. Caging migrant children at the border and separating children from their parents
17. Attacking Freedom of the Press
18. Building a racist border wall
19. Imposing a transgender military ban
20. Declaring COVID a hoax and doing nothing to stop its spread in the first critical months
21. Denying the severity of COVID
22. Lowering tax rate for the ultra-rich
23. Committing millions of dollars' worth of tax evasion
24. Using executive actions to eliminate EPA 100s environmental protections
25. Raping and publicly demeaning women
26. Sowing massive distrust in our elections
27. Debunking Covid vaccine for others while lining up for his own
28. Stealing top secret and classified documents
29. Stacking the Supreme Court
30. Pardoning convicted pedophiles, arsonists
31. Denying climate change and exiting the Paris Climate Accord
32. Embarrassing himself and us on the world stage
33. Fawning over dictators
34. Dining with neo-Nazis
35. Lying to everyone about everything every day in every way



The Best of Biden by *Jacolyn Marshall*



Health & Safety

- FDA approves the first long-acting drug to protect babies and toddlers against the RSV respiratory virus.
- FDA approves the first over-the-counter birth control pill available early next year with no age restrictions.
- FDA grants full approval to Alzheimer's drug that slows cognitive decline for patients with mild dementia.
- Biden announces new regulations requiring insurers to provide the same level of coverage for physical and mental healthcare for people with disabilities and establish state websites and app-based services.
- FAA updates mandatory critical safety information for certification of large passenger planes.
- Biden administration announces first cancer-focused research program to aid doctors in distinguishing cancer cells from healthy tissue and aid in developing better surgical interventions to treat the disease.
- Health and Human Services Secretary asks governors to bolster efforts to retain Medicaid recipients by using electronic data from federal programs, such as food stamps, to confirm their continued eligibility.
- NIH announces \$1B RECOVER project to test possible treatments for long Covid that afflicts millions.
- FDA approves first postpartum depression pill, a condition that affects over 400,000 women a year.

Economy

- Commerce Department announces June retail sales rose, inflation dropped to its lowest point since early 2021, and the job market remains strong.
- Treasury Secretary meets with finance ministers of the Group of 20 nations to meet global economic challenges in low-income developing countries, with India officials to foster warming relations, and with Vietnam officials to address supply chain reliability, clean energy transition, and other economic concerns.
- Consumer confidence index shot to the highest level in two years, inflation eased, and US economy remains resilient despite rising interest rates.
- Department of Housing and Urban Development announces \$50 million in federal funds to create three new AZ housing developments and rehabilitating Tucson House to revitalize struggling neighborhoods.
- Labor Department reports July job market remains robust with a 50-year low unemployment rate and 187,000 new hires, including 63,000 by health care companies.

Environment & Climate Change

- Department of Homeland Security creates wildlife border wall pass-throughs as part of the settlement of lawsuit against the Trump administration's use of military construction funds to build US-Mexico wall.
- Interior Department raises rates for oil and gas companies to drill on public lands, raises leasing bonds to ensure clean-up of new drilling sites, and issues stronger requirements to clean up old or abandoned wells.
- Biden's Inflation Reduction Act has resulted in nearly 80 major clean energy manufacturers of batteries and electric vehicles in its first year, an investment equal to the previous seven years combined.
- Seven major automakers join forces to build electric charging network that will double the number of fast-charging plugs in the US and Canada. GM, BMW, Honda, Hyundai, Kia, Mercedes and Stellantis will make a multibillion-dollar investment to install 30,000 stations in urban areas and travel corridors by 2030.
- EPA opens Flagstaff office with a 10-year plan to clean up 110 radioactive abandoned mine sites that have caused lung cancer, bone cancer, and impaired kidney function in communities across the Navajo Nation.
- Biden announces a new national monument to preserve 1M Grand Canyon acres and limit uranium mining.

Immigration

- Customs and Border Protection announces a 42% drop in migrant encounters in June due to expanding access to lawful pathways; more than 170K people scheduled appointments and were processed this year.
- Department of Health and Human Services responsible for providing care to unaccompanied children detained at US-Mexico border issues new policy mandating more frequent and longer family phone calls.

Justice

- DOJ notifies Trump of new charges of illegally possessing classified documents and deleting camera footage to obstruct a federal investigation.
- DOJ indicts Trump on felony charges of conspiring to defraud the US government, overturn 2020 election results, obstruct a peaceful transfer of power, and promote chaos and violence leading to the Capitol attack.
- Biden signs executive order giving the prosecution of serious military crimes, including sexual assault, to independent military attorneys; the Pentagon announces it is moving forward with the change.
- FBI-led "Operation Clean House" makes 88 arrests targeting Pima County's most violent criminals.

Social Justice

- Biden announces the SAVE plan, an income-driven plan for repaying federal student loans aimed at lowering payments and preventing interest payments from snowballing.
- Department of Education announces updated requirements that will count more payments toward a forgiveness program, helping 800K borrowers who make the equivalent of 240-300 monthly payments.
- DOJ investigates Memphis police department for the violent beating to Tyre Nichols after a traffic stop.
- Vice President Harris returns to Arizona to address disparities born of broken treaties and displacement of native Americans by providing capital and financial services to increase their economic opportunities.
- Department of Education launches civil rights investigations into Harvard's policies on legacy admissions.
- Biden signs a proclamation creating Emmett Till National Monuments in Illinois and Mississippi.

Cybersecurity

- Biden administration launches a nationwide cybersecurity certification and labeling program to help consumers choose smart devices that are less vulnerable to hacking.
- Federal Trade Commission opens an investigation of Microsoft's OpenAI concerning whether ChatGPT's conversational AI bot puts consumers' reputations and data at risk.
- Biden secures commitments from 7 US companies developing AI technology to submit to security testing by independent experts to guard against risks of disinformation, bias, discrimination, and self-replication.
- Securities and Exchange Commission adopts rules requiring public companies to disclose cybersecurity breaches that could affect their bottom line within four days.
- US Cybersecurity Agency plans to hire additional election security specialists who will interact with state and local officials across the country to assess security protocols and test for vulnerabilities.

Government

- Biden administration proposes new guidelines for corporate mergers, takes steps to disclose junk fees charged by landlords, and launches a crackdown on price-gouging in the food industry.
- Biden signs executive order to implement EU-US Data Privacy Framework that adds stringent data standards to protect the privacy of personal information that is transmitted across the Atlantic.
- Pentagon announces plans to tighten protection of classified information with increased levels of physical security, document controls, and top-secret control officers to monitor users.
- US plans to expand its military industrial base by helping Australia manufacture guided missiles and rockets, ramping up mutual defense cooperation to counter China's influence in the Indo-Pacific.
- State Department issued a "do not travel advisory" for Haiti and ordered nonemergency personnel to leave in the wake of the kidnapping of a nurse for the nonprofit El Roi Haiti and her daughter.
- State Department creates a bureau that makes battling against global outbreaks a lasting priority.
- Treasury Secretary announces IRS will pilot its new electronic free tax return filing system in 2024.

International Relations

- Biden meets with Israel's President who assured the US that Israel remains committed to democracy.
- Biden announces NATO is more united than ever in their efforts against Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Biden meets with leaders from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland, further advancing his efforts to rebuild international coalitions after four tumultuous years led by his predecessor.
- Biden meets with King Charles to address generational challenges of climate change.
- Treasury secretary meets with counterparts in Beijing urging cooperation on climate change, debt distress in emerging markets, and aiding developing countries to benefit both US & Chinese economies.
- US Air Forces Central Command announces drone strike kills IS leader after Russian jets interfered.
- First Lady Jill Biden attends US flag-raising ceremony at UNESCO in Paris to mark our reentry into the UN agency after a five-year hiatus and our commitment to preserving peace through global education.
- Biden meets with Italian Premier to thank Italy for its steady backing of Ukraine, willingness to end its participation in China's infrastructure building, and pledge to maintain strong relations with the US.
- Biden signs executive order to restrict and regulate US investments in computer chips, micro-electronics, quantum information technologies and AI as a matter of national security.

International Relations: Ukraine

- US imposes sanctions on Russian mining, technology and munitions firms, commercial banks, and Kyrgyzstan electronic firms exporting components and technologies that support the Ukraine invasion.
- US provides thousands of cluster munitions to Ukraine for their continued war effort against Russia.
- Pentagon provides Ukraine with \$200M in weapons to sustain Kyiv's counteroffensive against Russian forces.

Save the date

10.14.23



DEMOCRATIC CLUB

2024 Election Kick-off

Save the date to join us & meet other local Democratic Clubs on **October 14 from 1–4 pm** in our Activity Center at 1565 E Rancho Vistoso Blvd in Oro Valley.

\$35 ticket includes speakers & lunch & non-alcoholic beverage. Bring a few extra dollars for our raffle.

Speakers who have expressed interest:

Governor Katie Hobbs

Ruben Gallego US Senate 2024 candidate

Amy Fitch AZ Senate 2024 candidate

More details to come—tickets go on sale

September 1st

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.*

September Zoom Meeting

Monday, September 11
6:30 – 8:00 pm

Guest Speakers:
TBA

Topic:
TBA