



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
December
2023

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson
demsov.org • facebook.com/demsov

We have to remind ourselves how blessed we are to live in the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. We are an extraordinary country and we have made extraordinary progress. We have seen there's nothing beyond our capacity when we work together. That's why I've never been more optimistic.
Joe Biden

2023 Dues Still Only \$20

Pay using the DOV website below or send a check to DOV at P.O. Box 68186, Oro Valley, AZ 85737

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

Donations accepted at: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/dovdonate>



*There is still time to reserve the last few seats
at our Holiday Party**

Monday, December 11th; 5 pm to 7 pm

El Molinito

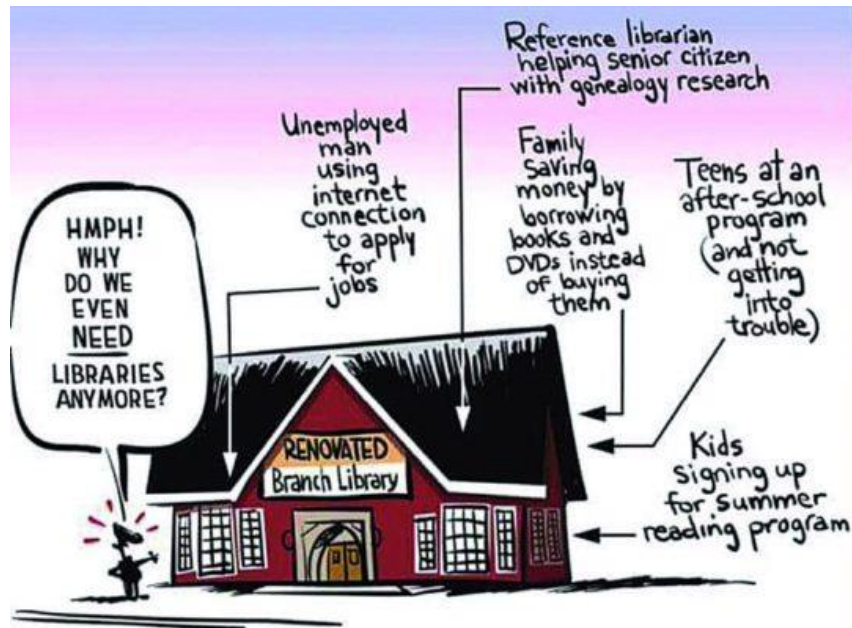
10180 N. Oracle Road, Oro Valley

\$15.00 cash or check at the door

*Includes the El Molinito Deluxe Dinner Buffet
plus a delicious holiday cake!*

*Bring extra dollars
for our HOLIDAY RAFFLE!*

**RSVP to Chris at teachers12@q.com
Maximum seating capacity: 50*



A Tribute to Our Oro Valley Library by Dee Maitland

As we got the great news that we can renew our in person meetings at the library I realized we had not thanked the library personnel for courageously getting us through Covid. If you are like me, not having the space or financial resources to support your book habit, you too are grateful for the system they set up for getting books to us during the shut down. Below is just a sampling of what greater people than me have to say about libraries.

“Don’t join the book burners.

Don’t think you’re going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they ever existed.

Don’t be afraid to go in your library and read every book...”

— **Dwight D. Eisenhower**

“Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.”

— **Walter Cronkite**

“Without libraries what have we? We have no past and no future.”

— **Ray Bradbury**

“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people.

It is a never-failing spring in the desert.”

— **Andrew Carnegie**

“Librarians are just like search engines, except they smile, and they talk to me and they don’t give me paid-for advertising when they are trying to help.

And they have actual hearts.”

—**Matt Haig**

“Google will bring you back, you know, a hundred thousand answers.

A librarian will bring you back the right one.”

— **Neil Gaiman**

“I see libraries and librarians as frontline soldiers in the war against illiteracy and the lack of imagination.”

—Neil Gaiman

“I’m of a fearsome mind to throw my arms around every living librarian who crosses my path, on behalf of the souls they never knew they saved.”

—Barbara Kingsolver

I count myself as one of millions of Americans whose life simply would not be the same without the libraries that supported my learning.

—Scott Turow

I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.

—Jorge Luis Borges

What in the world would we do without our libraries?

—Katharine Hepburn

“The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man.”

— T.S. Eliot

“The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.”

— Albert Einstein

Now that we have a political party that denigrates education, we need to up our game to protect both school and public libraries from book banning, budget cuts, and closure.

Start by reading *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, an excellent story that also shows how important libraries are to a community and our nation. And be sure to thank the Oro Valley Library staff next time you see them.



The Best of Biden by *Jacolyn Marshall*



Health & Safety

- FDA approved a new diabetes drug for those considered obese, a condition that affects 100 million adults and 15 million children and helped dieters lose 40-60 pounds in clinical trials.
- White House Initiative on Women's Health Research led by First Lady Jill Biden and the WH Gender Policy Council will address funding for research on women's health which remains underrepresented.
- National Transportation Safety Board recommended automakers install systems on all new vehicles that warn speeding drivers and electronically limit speeds in vehicles of repeat traffic offenders.
- Treasury Department's Counter-Fentanyl Strike Force announced it will bring together its sanctions, intelligence, and IRS Criminal Investigations branches to stop the flow of drugs into the US.

Economy

- Federal Reserve officials concluded that inflation is steadily falling and agreed to leave their key benchmark rate unchanged.

Environment & Climate Change

- EPA will review the use of a chemical found in tires that is killing fish, especially coho salmon when rains wash it from roadways into rivers.
- EPA is investing \$30 million to help protect Tucson's water supply from 'forever chemicals' by building a second water treatment facility for the 28 wells in the northwest side.
- Biden administration made \$2 billion available to community groups, states, and tribes to clean up pollution and develop clean energy in disadvantaged communities.
- EPA announced strict new rules requiring US cities replace lead water pipes within 10 years to prevent health crises, improve IQ scores in children, and reduce high blood pressure and heart disease in adults.
- EPA issued rules promoting methane detection technologies and cutting methane emissions and other pollutants that cause cancer, harm nervous and respiratory systems, and contribute to birth defects.

Justice

- DOJ has charged nearly 3,200 defendants with Covid relief fraud and has seized about \$1.4 billion in stolen pandemic aid.

Social Justice

- White House Tribal Youth Forum brought together 123 Indigenous teens from across the nation and other countries to share information on issues affecting their communities ranging from climate change, civic engagement, mental health, substance abuse, and food insecurity.
- Bureau of Land Management halted construction of wind energy powerline in ancient burial sites, archeological sites, and ceremonial sites sacred to the Tohono Nations and other affected tribes.
- Bureau of Land Management banned cyanide devices used to kill coyotes and other livestock predators that have killed thousands of pets and non-predator wildlife, including endangered species.

Immigration and Border Security

- Customs and Border Protection officials reported illegal crossings fell in October, deportation flights to Venezuela increased, and arrests of all nationalities fell.
- CBP commissioner urged Congress to approve Biden's \$23.6 billion in border-related spending.

- CBP reported 324,000 people entered with appointments using their CBP One mobile app since it was introduced in January; 270,000 migrants entered with a sponsor and arrived at their destination by plane.

Technology and Cybersecurity

- The world's largest cryptocurrency exchange company pleaded guilty to a felony charge of failing to prevent money laundering and agreed to pay over \$4 billion following a US government investigation.

Government

- IRS announced taxpayers will be able to submit tax documents digitally months earlier than previously expected, speeding up processing times and saving millions in document storage fees per year.
- Biden administration's new office charged with coordinating federal help for communities dealing with aftermath of gun violence responded to Lewiston, Maine mass shooting, setting up family and victim assistance center, providing interpreters for their large deaf community, and managing burial costs.
- Defense Secretary pressed Congress to end the partisan gridlock that has stalled the federal budget and war spending, noting US leadership is needed to help keep the world safe, free, and prosperous.

International Relations:

- US launched an airstrike on a weapons site in Syria in response to growing number of attacks by Iranian-backed militants on bases housing US troops.
- Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense met with their Indian counterparts to boost US-India security ties and discuss regional security, China, and the Ukraine and Gaza wars.
- Biden and China's President met during at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum during which China agreed to curtail shipments of the chemicals used to make fentanyl to Latin America, resume sharing information about suspected trafficking with an international database, and reopen military ties.
- Biden met with Mexican President about curbing the flow of fentanyl into the US, lessening the human smuggling that is part of drug cartel operations, and pledging mutual cooperation and solidarity.
- Biden met with leaders of Japan and South Korea to reassure the region that US and China are competitors, not inflexible uncompromising rivals.
- Vice President Harris represented the US at the annual International Climate Summit in Dubai where she said the US would contribute \$3 billion to help developing countries confront climate change.
- Vice President Harris met with Arab leaders to discuss ways to resolve the war, ensure Israel's security, ensure the security of the Palestinian people, and build an enduring peace after the fighting ends.
- Treasury Secretary spoke with government and private sector leaders in Mexico City to halt illicit finance that funds the drug trade and boost legitimate supply chains through her friendshoring plan.

International Relations: Israel

- Biden administration urged Israel to better protect Palestinian civilians and operate with more precision in southern Gaza if it resumes its offensive.
- Secretary of State Blinken returned to Israel and the West Bank for the third time since Israel's war with Hamas began to discuss the potential for further extensions of the cease-fire agreement in Gaza.

International Relations: Ukraine

- US Treasury imposed new sanctions on firms and their ships carrying Russian crude oil in violation of the multinational cap, and imposed sanctions on Balkan firms tied to Kremlin influence in the region.
- Defense Secretary went to Kyiv in a high-profile push to keep money and weapons flowing to Ukraine, where he announced the pentagon would send an additional \$100 million in weapons from existing stockpiles, including munitions for air defense systems.

Our Promising Democratic Candidate Slate to date

Excellent Democratic candidates are running for office. Some need their nominating petition signed on **E-Equal** and those who are running as Clean Elections candidates and can use your \$5 qualifying contributions.

Ruben Gallego, U.S. Senator

Kirsten Engel, U.S. Representative in Congress - District No. 6

Jane Fry, Arizona State Senate for L17

Kevin Volk, Arizona State House for LD17

Laura Conover, Pima County Attorney

Brian Johnson, Pima County Treasurer

Chris Nanos, Pima County Sheriff

Dustin Williams, Pima County School Superintendent

Suzanne Droubie, Pima County Assessor

Rex Scott, Pima County Board of Supervisor, District 1

Anna Tovar and **Jonathon Hill**, Arizona Corporation Commission



You can go to <http://demsov.org/candidates.htm> for the statements of interest of candidates that have filed to run. And go to <https://apps.azsos.gov/equal/> to electronically sign petitions and to make \$5 contributions to candidates running as Clean Election candidates.

New candidates **Jane Fry*** and **Kevin Volk** need their nominating petition signed on E-Equal.

***Breaking news:** Amy Fitch's petition signatures were withdrawn on E-Equal, leaving Jane Fry's petition for AZ Senate LD17 open to anyone who wants to sign Jane's petition electronically. Please spread the word.

Clean Elections candidates **Anna Tovar** and **Jonathon Hill** need \$5 qualifying contributions.

(If you are unfamiliar with the Corporation Commission go to <https://www.azcleelections.gov/how-government-works/arizona-corporation-commissioner>)

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.*

January Zoom Meeting

Monday, January 8
6:30 - 8:00 pm

Guest Speakers:
Candidates; AZ List

Topic:
2024 Election