



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
June
2023

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

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

We must never forget the price those who dared all and gave all paid to protect our democracy. We see the strength of our NATO alliance built from the bonds that were forged in the fires of two World Wars. We see it in the troops still standing sentinel preserving the peace side by side with our allies. We see it around the globe where our military serves and stands as a force good in the world.

Joe Biden

2023 Dues Still Only \$20

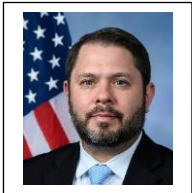
Please be sure to pay your **2023 DOV DUES** now. The price is still only \$20.00 a year. You can pay on Act Blue on the DOV website below or by sending a check to DOV at P.O. Box 68186, Oro Valley, AZ 85737. Thank you.

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

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



JUNE ZOOM MEETING – Guest Speakers: Ruben Gallego & Kristen Engel



Ruben Gallego, Candidate for US Senate

Congressman Ruben Gallego represents the 3rd District of Arizona, including parts of Phoenix, Glendale, and Tolleson, in the U.S. House of Representatives. A member of the House Armed Services Committee and chair of the Intelligence and Special Operations subcommittee, Ruben is committed to ensuring that servicemen and women are never sent into harm's way without a plan for winning the fight, securing the peace, and providing post-conflict medical, psychological, and familial care.

A member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, Ruben works to improve the health and well-being of veterans and offer them improved economic and educational opportunities. Ruben has championed funding to address veterans' homelessness in Phoenix and across the country.

A member of the House Natural Resources Committee and the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States (SCIP), Ruben fought to uphold Tribal sovereignty and our federal trust responsibility to Native Americans and Alaskan Natives. Ruben is a member and former First Vice-Chair of the Hispanic Caucus, a member of the Progressive Caucus, a Vice-Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus, and a Democratic Caucus Assistant Whip.



Kirsten Engel, Candidate for CD 6 House of Representatives

Kirsten Engel recently announced her 2024 campaign for Arizona's 6th Congressional District, the district she lost in 2022 by one of the narrowest margins in the nation.

Kirsten is an attorney, law professor, and a former Arizona state legislator. Kirsten is running on restoring women's reproductive freedoms, security for our water future in the face of climate change and protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Veterans' healthcare benefits.

Kirsten began her legal career at the EPA and the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. Since 2005, she has been a member of the law faculty of the U of A where she co-directs the Environmental Law Certificate program.



Support a new telecommunications ordinance for Pima County!

Residents of Pima County are hiring nationally recognized telecommunications attorney, Andrew Campanelli, to conduct an in-depth analysis and write a new wireless telecommunications facility ordinance for Pima County.

This effort is being spearheaded by Ginger Marth, the Secretary of the Democrats for Picture Rocks after organizing her community in a 6-month battle against an opportunistic cell tower developer. The community hired attorney Campanelli to defend them and was thrilled with his work but realized that the current local code leaves all Pima County communities vulnerable to inappropriate cell tower sites.

Over the last 31 years, attorney Campanelli has litigated thousands of cases involving telecommunications law. He recognizes how existing codes are deficient when it comes to providing procedural and assessment guidelines for cell towers and that the code fails to vest local governments with the broadest powers available to them under current law. Campanelli specializes in writing legally robust code for jurisdictions nationwide.

Pima County has recognized its own need for revising its code requirements, and county residents stand to benefit greatly if these code improvements are adopted.

The community is now fundraising to cover legal fees. Please [click here to donate](#) to protect communities in Pima County. Thank you.

Ginger Marth, Secretary of Dems for Picture Rocks

LEGISLATIVE RECORDS OF WADSACK, JONES, AND McGARR by *Dee Maitland*

Wadsack continues to plague the legislature with bad bills. Of the 53 bills where Wadsack was the primary sponsor only 3 have made it to the Governor; 2 were vetoed. The one signed into law allowed for acupuncture in veterinary medicine. 4 bills have been retained and could see some action when the legislature returns in June. So far, her success rate is 3 of 53 bills making it to the Governor (5.7%) with one becoming law (1.9%).

While focusing on Justine Wadsack in previous newsletters, we overlooked how diligent and successful Rachel Jones and her counterpart Cory McGarr have been with their legislation.

Rachel Jones was the primary sponsor on 21 bills of which 7 (33.3%) made it through to the Governor with one signed into law. That bill HB2313 ensures that the Department of Child Services does extensive searches for relatives of children removed from parents before they can be put in foster care. The vetoed bills included removing the Secretary of State from overseeing elections if also running for office; banning Arizona from complying with US law if it doesn't match Arizona law; adding Department of Child Services to the pregnant women's relationship with her doctor if she has substance abuse issues; allowing guns on college campuses; prohibiting male workers at woman's shelters; and micro-managing the Border Patrol.

McGarr has been a bit of a scofflaw proposing only 7 bills, 2 (28.6%) made it to the Governor to veto. One banned the Governor from declaring a health emergency for more than 7 days; the other complicated elections and violated voter privacy. The bills that didn't make it through would have prohibited employers from asking for vaccination records and one would have established fetal personhood.

For each of the vetoed bills, I encourage you to read the Governor's justification letter to the legislature. Her intelligence shines through. We have even more reasons to ensure these terrible three serve only this one term.

The Scourge of Christian Nationalism by *Dee Maitland*



"When fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross."
Sinclair Lewis

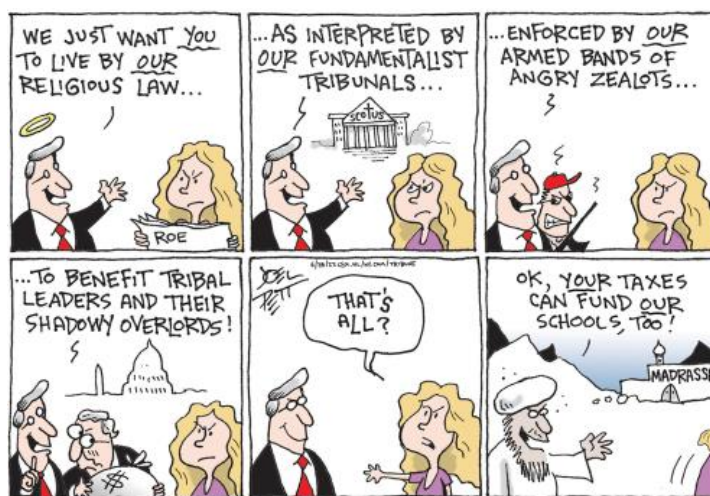
"The purpose of separation of church and state is to keep forever from these shores the ceaseless strife that has soaked the soil of Europe in blood for centuries."
James Madison

"Whether we worship at a church, mosque, synagogue, or temple, America has no second-class faiths. All are equal under the U.S. Constitution. As Christians, we must speak in one voice condemning Christian nationalism as a distortion of the gospel of Jesus and a threat to American democracy."
Christians Against Christian Nationalism

We are all aware of the polarization that is pulling our country apart resulting in death and other tragedies. We may want to blame Trump and MAGA but the real culprit is evangelical religions both catholic and protestant. The separation of church and state envisioned by our Founding Fathers and ratified in our Constitution has religion providing the moral guidance and goodwill to create fair and just laws by the government. This guidance would be in service to “We the People,” not in service of a particular god or church. With the power madness now afflicting one party, congregations of evangelical churches have become crucial for MAGA re-elections thus allowing for the rise of their un-Christian policies such as cutting social programs, passing laws to harm people viewed as “other,” dominating women, suppressing education, and increasing the wealth of their “chosen ones”.

It is imperative for the protection of women, children, and our Democracy that we aggressively defend the separation of church and state. Christian Nationalists are not Christian. Under their rule children will not be better fed; healthcare will not be more available; climate mitigations will not occur, and war will not be avoided. In fact, war in the Middle East will be encouraged because they believe it will bring on the apocalypse. They don’t care about this world because they believe that when the end times comes, they will be raptured. It’s hard to believe God would want them on His side.

True Christians need to vote out Republicans until the scourge of Christian nationalism is defeated. Keeping these cultists and fanatics out of politics and government is the only hope for our return to being a good people united and a flourishing country.



To explore this further, I highly recommend <https://davidwfitzsimmons.substack.com/p/christian-nationalism> and <https://davidwfitzsimmons.substack.com/p/christian-nationalism-2>.

Or read this review in *Christianity Today* of two different books on Christian Nationalism which clarifies the arguments: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2022/december-web-only/stephen-wolfe-case-christian-nationalism-paul-miller.html>

FREE LOFT CINEMA COMMUNITY EVENT!

Wednesday June 14th 6-8pm

Join SecularAZ and Arizona Faith Network

for a

Conversation about Christian Nationalism with

Guest Speaker from Washington DC: Amanda Tyler of

Christians Against Christian Nationalism

followed by Q&A with UA Prof. Stephanie Troutman-Robbins
and ellie hutchison of AZ Faith Network

JOIN COMMUNITY GROUPS AND TUCSON FAITH LEADERS
FOR A CONVERSATION ON

The Rise of **CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM**

ECUMENICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION BETWEEN
SECULAR AZ, BAPTIST JOINT COMMITTEE FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY,
ARIZONA FAITH NETWORK, & THE AZ POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

JUNE 14, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

THE LOFT CINEMA
3233 E SPEEDWAY BLVD, TUCSON



GUEST SPEAKER:
AMANDA TYLER, JD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BAPTIST JOINT COMMITTEE FOR
RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



OPEN HOUSE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR CANDIDATES MEET & GREET

10 JULY | MONDAY | 5 PM - 7 PM

Dayton's Home
10049 N. Rancho Sonora Drive
Oro Valley, AZ

*Enjoy delicious appetizers & ice-cold drinks: wine,
lemonade, tea and water.*

DOV has reached out to our Democratic candidates and
have received confirmation from many of them. Please
save the date. We will send out later notices with a specific
list of candidates who will be joining us.

Democrats of Oro Valley

Thank you, Governor Katie Hobbs



In keeping with her promise to protect Arizonans from MAGA mayhem, Governor Hobbs:

Vetoed bills putting public safety at risk –

- legalizing gun silencers, fully automatic firearms, and sawed-off shotguns.
- exempting the firearm industry from same basic regulations other industries must abide by.
- barring the federal government from imposing and collecting taxes on firearms and ammunition.

Vetoed bills putting public health and welfare at risk –

- allowing cottage food vendors to sell foods containing animal products without inspection standards or certifications required of other food providers, increasing the likelihood of food-borne illnesses.
- dictating the care doctors must provide to newborns even if there is no chance of survival.
- creating new requirements for unemployment eligibility and mandating actions the Department of Economic Security must take before providing benefits.
- forcing communities to dismantle homeless campsites and, in some cases, arrest those staying there without addressing root causes or offering pathways to assistance.

Vetoed bills putting our public schools and children at risk –

- requiring mandatory gun training in public schools, beginning with 10-years-olds which would have immediate and long-term impacts on the health and well-being of students, teachers, and parents.
- requiring a gun safety program, putting more guns on school grounds, and making them less safe.
- allowing parents to carry concealed weapons on to school grounds making them less safe for everyone.
- prohibiting certain vaccines from being a requirement for enrollment and undermining trust in the FDA
- allowing parents to sue schools but escape having to pay legal fees if they lose.
- barring public universities and colleges from prohibiting concealed weapons from being carried on campus and/or stored there, which would increase fear and anxiety among students, staff, and faculty.
- barring teachers and school employees from using pronouns preferred by transgender youth and their parents, creating new ways to target and isolate vulnerable children.

Vetoed bills putting voting rights at risk –

- making it easier to remove people from the AEV list, if they don't mail in their ballot every election.
- preventing the use of AI-assisted scanners anywhere in the election process, including verifying voter signatures, and setting new chain-of-custody requirements to "solve problems" that do not exist.
- stipulating that election machines cannot be used unless 100% of the parts are produced in the US and the machines are manufactured and assembled in the US, although they do not currently exist.
- requiring county recorders to post a list of all registered voters, all those who voted in an election, and provide images of ballots used to tabulate results, violating voter anonymity and privacy.
- allowing both major political parties to challenge decisions made by election workers determining the validity of mail-in ballot signatures.
- prohibiting the secretary of state, Arizona's chief elections officer from performing any duties in that role in any race in which their name is on the ballot.

Vetoed bills that would unnecessarily clog the court system –

- encouraging lawsuits – no matter how frivolous- without consequences for the plaintiff that would only serve to amplify conflicts created by bad actors.
- allowing state prosecutors to pursue cases of fraudulent schemes without having to establish they occurred within the state, wasting taxpayer funds for not benefit.
- requiring the Attorney General to defend the "constitutionality" of whatever the legislature approves.

Thank you, Attorney General Kris Mayes



In keeping with her promise to serve all Arizonans, Attorney General Mayes:

Addressed the water crisis in Arizona –

- Mayes rescinded drilling permits for two water wells for a Saudi Arabia-owned alfalfa farm in La Paz County due to inconsistencies in the company's well applications. Each well was pumping up to 3,000 gallons of water per minute, the equivalent of the amount of water a family of four uses per month. The two wells combined were pumping up to 6,000 gallons per minute.
- Mayes formally accused the Arizona Department of Water Resources of failing to do its job to protect groundwater. The Department is required by law to determine if there should be new "active management areas" where legal restrictions are imposed on the withdrawal and use of groundwater. Mayes noted that two such studies in the past 40-year period does not satisfy their statutory duty.

Upheld women's reproductive rights in Arizona –

- In legal filings, Mayes notified the Arizona Supreme Court that her office would not defend the 1864 state law banning all abortions. With no one with legal standing to defend the previous ban, that leaves the 2022 state law in effect that allows but regulates abortions through the first 15 weeks of pregnancy and removes any risk of doctors performing the procedure from the threat of going to prison.

Protected voting rights in Arizona –

- Mayes rescinded an informal opinion that said counties could hand count all ballots in an election and issued a formal opinion stating existing election laws bar counties from implementing full hand counts of early mail-in ballots and those cast on Election Day. In her opinion she notes that hand counts of a small number of randomly selected ballots are intended to ensure the machine tabulators are accurate.

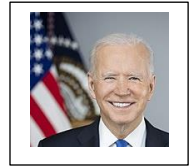
Protected health and safety of Arizonans –

- Mayes responded to Medicaid fraud that preyed on Indigenous people, involving fake clinic leaders getting paid millions for providing nonexistent mental health and substance abuse treatments. Dozens of people and corporate entities have been indicted on fraud charges. In addition to indicting them for financial fraud, Mayes will prosecute suspected perpetrators for other crimes related to the sham clinics, including negligence, kidnapping, and assault.
- Mayes notified the governor and state legislature that she was prepared to sue should they take away funds granted her office through consent judgments from several pharmaceutical companies to prevent and treat opioid misuse. Since those consent judgments are recorded and enforceable by the courts, they are off-limits to lawmakers and will amount to more than \$1B over the next 18 years for her office.
- Mayes sued the manufacturers of products with PFAS, or "forever chemicals," holding them accountable for contaminating our water and harming our health.

Protected Arizona's public schools –

- Mayes disqualified herself from defending the ban on transgender girls from participating in girls' sports and gave Superintendent of Public Schools Tom Horne permission to hire his own attorney.
- Mayes announced she will begin a fraud investigation of the state voucher program which she blames for the catastrophic drain on state resources caused by the universal Empowerment Scholarship Accounts.

The Best of Biden by *Jacolyn Marshall*



Health & Safety

- WH announces end of Covid public health emergency and most federal vaccine requirements.
- FDA approves a new drug to treat moderate-to-severe symptoms of menopause, including hot flashes.
- Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services will conduct an annual audit of 10 major drugmakers, requiring them to furnish evidence to support the prices they charge states that administer Medicaid.
- FDA approves Pfizer's Covid Paxlovid pill to remain on the market indefinitely.
- DEA strips one of nation's largest drug distributors of its license to sell addictive painkillers due to their failure to flag thousands of suspicious orders at the height of the opioid crisis.

Economy

- Commerce Department announces April retail sales up due to a job gains, pay increases, and lower costs.
- Commerce Department announces US economy's resilience with a 3.8 % rise in consumer spending, the most in nearly two years and a sign of consumer confidence.
- Commerce Department announces US employers add 339k jobs in May, a robust growth in an historically tight market.

Environment & Climate Change

- Agriculture Department announces \$11 billion investment to bring affordable clean energy to rural communities by funding rural electric cooperatives, renewable energy companies, and electric utilities.
- US officials announce BP subsidiary to pay a \$40M penalty, install technology to harness benzene and other pollutants, and invest \$197M to improve their oil refinery on the shoreline of Lake Michigan.
- Interior Department approves a multibillion-dollar transmission line to send wind-generated electricity from the rural plains of New Mexico to big cities in the West.
- EPA proposes new limits on greenhouse gas emissions from coal and gas fired power plants, the second largest contributor to climate change. Plants unable to meet the new standards would be forced to retire.

Immigration

- Biden's new immigration policy requires that migrants ask for protection in the countries they pass through before applying online to enter the US, a policy meant to limit illegal crossing and create new legal pathways for asylum seekers.
- Biden's policy pairs stricter enforcement at the border with a growing avenue for migrants to apply for asylum through an app or at hubs in Guatemala and Colombia, as long as they come legally, have a sponsor, and pass background checks.
- Homeland Security Department announces activity on border fell 50% as pandemic-era restrictions end due to new US policies and the enforcement measures of Mexico and Guatemala along their borders.

Justice

- DOJ announces a series of criminal cases tracing the illegal flow of sensitive technology to Russia, China and Iran, such as software code for self-driving cars and materials used for missiles.
- DOJ disrupts a long-running Russian cyber-espionage campaign that stole sensitive information from computer networks in dozens of countries, including the US and other NATO countries.
- DOJ issues new guidance requiring that all investigations must be free from bias involving race, gender, and disability, expanding anti-profiling rules to include lawyers, prosecutors, analysts, and contractors.
- Attorneys general across US joined in a lawsuit against Avid Telecom accused of making more than 7.5 billion robocalls to those on the national Do Not Call Registry, seeking a jury trial to determine damages.
- Federal judge agrees with the DOJ that Oath Keepers founder's January 6th actions should be punished as terrorism, sentencing him to 18 years in federal prison.

Social Justice

- Biden announces the most ambitious and comprehensive plan to fight hate, bias and violence against Jews, detailing 100 steps his administration and partners will take to combat a rise in antisemitism.
- Energy Department announces grants totaling \$50M for tribes in four states to modernize power grids, build clean energy projects, and build remote microgrids to pump water in 18 tribal communities.

- Biden administration has paused plans to erect an Arizona copper mine Oak Flat, a sacred site indigenous nations in the area.
- Interior secretary bans new oil and gas leases and mining for 20 years in Chaco Canyon, a sacred place for Indigenous peoples.

Government

- Biden administration announces new regulations that require airlines to compensate travelers, refunding the costs of tickets, meals, and hotel rooms, if stranded for reasons within airlines' control.
- Biden administration pledges \$1.2 B to compensate CA, AZ & NV for water saving efforts to protect the country's largest reservoirs Lakes Powell & Mead from dropping to critical levels over next 3 years.
- Biden signs a long negotiated bipartisan bill raising the debt limit until 2025, narrowly averting a national and global economic crisis.

International Relations

- US and Taiwan reach a modest trade agreement, signaling support for the island democracy that is under increasing pressure from China.
- Biden meets with Japanese Prime Minister to bolster supply chains for critical minerals and forge new partnerships with Japanese companies and universities to promote renewable energy.
- US and 27- nation European Union work on Artificial Intelligence rules of conduct in response to warnings about the risks AI poses to humanity throughout the world.
- US imposes sanctions against key defense companies and figures who perpetuate violence in Sudan.
- US imposes sanctions against the Iranian Revolutionary Guard that conspired to kill former national security adviser and others around the world, including at least one additional US government official.
- Biden administration announces US willingness discuss a future nuclear arms control framework for managing nuclear risks once the current treaty expires in 2026.

International Relations: Ukraine

- Biden approves F-16 fighter jet training of Ukrainian pilots for defensive purposes.
- Biden attends G-7 summit in Hiroshima, Japan where leaders introduced a new wave of global sanctions on Moscow and ways to increase the effectiveness of existing financial penalties against Russia.
- Biden meets with Prime Minister of Denmark lauding his country for its support of Ukraine against Russia's brutal aggression and focusing on what lies ahead for the joint international plan.
- US Defense Secretary meets with his counterparts in India to set a roadmap for cooperation for the next five years, strengthen military collaboration, and provide security in the Indo-Pacific.

OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE BE GENEROUS HELP OUR LOCAL FOOD BANK SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

* 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.

* 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.*

July In – Person Meeting

Monday, July 10
5:00 – 7:00 pm

Dayton Open House
10049 N Rancho Sonora Dr
Oro Valley

Topic:
Candidate Speakers