



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
October
2023

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson
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Democracies don't always die at the end of a rifle. They die when people are silent, when they are willing to give away what is most precious to them because they feel tired, frustrated, or disillusioned. Democracy is up to us. The more engaged we are, the stronger our democracy will be. The answer to the threats that we face is engagement, building coalitions and community, and reminding ourselves that a clear majority of us believe in our democracy and are ready to protect it.

Joe Biden

2023 Dues Still Only \$20

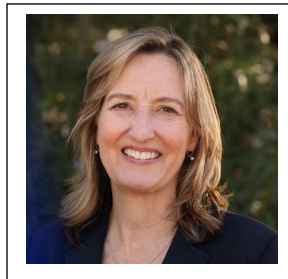
Pay using the DOV website below or sending a check to DOV at P.O. Box 68186, Oro Valley, AZ 85737

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

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



GUEST SPEAKERS: Kirsten Engel, Francesca Martin & Robert Nichols



Kirsten Engel, Candidate for CD 6 House of Representatives

Kirsten Engel is a mom, an environmental attorney, and a former State Legislator who has fought for years to restore funding to public schools, protect Arizona's natural resources, and make our communities safer. She's ready to take that fight to Washington to find common-sense solutions to the challenges we're facing here in Arizona's Sixth Congressional District.

Kirsten's top issues include combating drought and rising utility bills with smart water policies and green energy jobs; reducing prescription drug costs and expanding access to affordable health care, including mental health services; fighting for women's fundamental freedom to make their own reproductive health care decisions; strengthening Social Security and Medicare and protecting Veteran's benefits; securing our Southern border and reforming our broken immigration system; and supporting common sense gun safety laws to protect our children.

Specializing in environmental and administrative law, Kirsten is currently the Co-Director of the Environmental Law Program at the University of Arizona.



Francesca Martin, Deputy Director of Keep Arizona Blue Student Coalition

Keep Arizona Blue Student Coalition is an organization that focuses on involving students in the political process and expanding the youth electorate. They have worked hard to elect Democrats up and down the ballot over the past election cycle by being active on social media, knocking on doors, sending out texts, and planning effective strategies for candidates. They have engaged young voters and promoted candidates across the state.

As Keep Arizona Blue Student Coalition is looking toward the upcoming 2024 election cycle, they believe it is important now more than ever that everyone is prepared and ready to engage young voter and ensure they are filling out their ballots for Democrats.



Robert Nichols, Representative of Arizona Works Together Initiative

AZ Works Together is a grassroots campaign for workers, by workers. Right-to-work laws don't protect or create jobs. They only protect giant corporations' ability to pay hard-working Arizonans less than they deserve.

Arizona was built by the middle class, and the middle class was built by unions. By fighting for strong unions, we will build a strong middle class with higher wages, better benefits, safe workplaces, and secure retirements.

Arizona's "Right to Work" laws make that impossible. That name is deceiving, but the numbers don't lie. In the U.S., workers in Right to Work states earn about \$10,000 less than in non-Right to Work states on average every year. To build strong unions, we must repeal Arizona's Right to Work law.

Our initiative campaign exists to ensure fair laws for fair pay. We know the road ahead is long, but when Arizona Works Together, we win!

Robert Nichols is an Arizona attorney who has lived in the desert since 2001. His professional background is in tenant advocacy, veteran's advocacy, artist advocacy, and public interest law. He has been organizing community action in Arizona since 2020.

Please join hosts
Don and Mallory Riegger

with special guest Supervisor Rex Scott
(Co-Host committee in formation)

for an evening reception to support
Kirsten Engel for Congress (AZ-06)

➤ RSVP HERE ◀

Sunday, October 15th, 2023
Address sent upon RSVP
4-5:30pm

For more information, please
contact Madison at madison@kirstenengel.com

Guest - \$100 | Supporter - \$250
Friend - \$500 | Co-Host - \$1,500

Contributions and gifts to Engel for Arizona are not tax deductible. Individuals may contribute \$3,300 per election, \$6,600 per cycle; federal political action committees \$5,000 per election, \$10,000 per cycle. Federal law prohibits contributions to the campaign from corporations, labor organizations and national banks; from any person contributing another person's funds; from foreign nationals who lack permanent resident status; from federal government contractors.

ENGEL FOR ARIZONA

Food & drink provided

DEMOCRATS
of **GREATERTUCSON**

Wear a Hawaiian shirt!

and co-hosts *Larry Bodine, Mary Ganapol and Ricky Sage* invite you to support *Kirsten Engel for Congress*

DATE: October 21, 4 to 6 p.m.
LOCATION: TBA

RSVP

Plus a special performance by *Hawaiian Dance Studio*

Tickets are going fast for the Democrats of Greater Tucson's Luau fundraiser to support Democrat Kirsten Engel for Congressional District 6. **Don't delay. Get your tickets today at <https://bit.ly/DGTEngel>**

Kirsten Engel is the clear choice to represent Arizona in CD 6 by *Jacolyn Marshall*

Kirsten Engel has pledged to:

- Protect Arizona's natural resources
- Protect women's reproductive rights
- Expand access to affordable healthcare
- Expand access to mental healthcare
- Strengthen Social Security and Medicare
- Protect Veterans benefits
- Invest in smart water policies and green energy jobs
- Restore funding for public schools
- Support common sense gun safety laws

In stark contrast, MAGA Juan Ciscomani has:

- Voted to repeal women's reproductive freedoms
- Voted to repeal important water and infrastructure laws
- Voted to make it easier for the ultra-rich to cheat on their taxes
- Voted with the MAGA majority over 85% of the time
- Voted for the Default on America plan that would destroy programs and services here in Arizona by:
 - Making huge cuts to Meals on Wheels that many seniors depend on
 - Rolling back crucial funding for infrastructure and energy upgrades
 - Gutting funding for local schools and hospitals
 - Cutting funding for the Veterans Administration, increasing wait times and reducing services
 - Eliminating important water protections
 - Causing Arizonans to lose their jobs and interest rates to skyrocket
 - Providing big handouts to Big Oil and Gas companies

As a former State Senator, Kirsten Engels has the knowledge, experience, and compassion to serve the needs of Arizonans, improving our lives and securing a brighter future for our state. She deserves our vote.



Candidate house party and art show in Picture Rocks by *Chair Nancy Musgrave*

The Democrats for Picture Rocks club is having a candidate house party on Sunday, Nov. 5 from noon to 5:00pm. The house party will be combined with an art show highlighting artists from Picture Rocks, Marana, Tucson Estates and Avra Valley with a focus on environmental and nature themes. There will be a meet and greet reception (with refreshments!) where people can view the artwork and talk to the artists, then around 2:00 we'll ask the candidates to speak.

The candidates who have accepted our invitation are Morgan Abraham and Amy Fitch (LD17), Keith Seaman (LD16), Kathryn Mikronis (Supervisor, District 3) and Jonathon Hill (AZ Corporation Commission) with more candidates possible. Everyone is invited to attend to meet the candidates, ask them questions and hear what they have to say about their campaigns. We typically get about 30 people at our candidate house parties although we anticipate more for this one because of the combined art show. The house party/art show will be at a home in Picture Rocks. Please RSVP at dems4prandav@gmail.com for the address.

IF CONGRESS REALLY WANTS TO INVESTIGATE THE
EVIL EMPIRE'S INFLUENCE ON OUR ELECTIONS...



Our Democracy Has Been Rigged by *Dee Maitland*

I became acquainted with the Koch donor network eight years ago while taking classes at UA. At that time, they were trying to establish a “Freedom Center” at UA. They were very successful and The Center for the Philosophy of Freedom now has three branches at our state universities in Tucson, Phoenix and Flagstaff. At one point the centers were also funded by a \$5 million off-budget item approved by AZ Republican legislators.

I bring this up because finally the Kochs are in the news because of their founding and support of the Federalist Society which has corrupted our Supreme Court. Their Freedom Centers (there are now over 300 nationally) indoctrinate our university students in the Koch hubristic and egomaniacal version of capitalism. They vilify government for trying to regulate the damage unfettered capitalism creates such as polluted air and water. Koch dollars helped to establish the Tea Party, Americans for Prosperity, and the American Legislative Exchange Council which at one point “owned” 26 of our state legislators, including Vince Leach. Because of their deliberate, long-term funding of anti-government messages and organizations, Republicans and their MAGA cultists now fully embrace the idea of limited government and the elevation of businessmen as “saviors” of democracy.

If we are going to win the 2024 election decisively, we need not only to vilify these billionaires and their candidates, but we also need to fully understand the difference between capitalists and government. Capitalism is the best economic system created so far. It allows for innovation and efficient use of resources and has made us the richest nation in the world. Unfortunately, it also encourages greed, selfishness, and the denegation of others. Capitalists have no need for roads that go anywhere except to their plants. Or schools that teach anything beyond their current employment needs. They do not care about paying a living wage or cleaning up the environmental damage they cause. They only care about making more money for themselves. We the people are just capital inputs to them not fellow human beings. Their excesses need to be regulated.

Unfortunately, over the years their wealth has allowed them to influence politicians and our government to put in place laws and policies that greatly benefit them. The tax code is one example, but one very clear example

of their corruption of justice is this: If you were to steal from a Trump construction site \$500 in building materials you would be caught on camera, arrested, and sent through the criminal justice system and perhaps to prison. But if Trump decided to not pay a contractor \$50,000 on a contract, it would go through the civil justice system where the maximum penalty, if the contractor could afford to pursue payment, would be a fine. We are seeing this play out now in Trump's fraud case. Most horrifying, capitalists are now advocating shooting shoplifters when we don't even put murderers to death. Their possessions are more important than human lives and they expect government to protect them.

We need to relentlessly separate capitalism and government in our minds and counter the anti-government messaging by championing all the good things only government can provide such as Social Security and the interstate highway system. And we have to campaign against "self-made" businessmen who run for office. Just as you would not want your accountant to perform surgery, we cannot afford profit and glory-seeking business people to enter government. Their philosophy and skills are completely out of line with the needs of a democratic government for We the People. Look at what their privatizing of prisons and schools has wrought if you need further proof.

We are for regulated capitalism, talented civil servants, and well-funded government programs. Biden and the Democrat-controlled Senate are demonstrating the good government can do. Celebrate and spread the message.

For a 30-minute crash course on the continuing danger of the Koch agenda, you may want to watch the following YouTube presentation by Nancy McClean: <https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=yhs-invalid&ei=UTF-8&p=Nancy+McClean#id=6&vid=a90bca9c53d069ff536c99da590c5ddc&action=click>



On September 21, 2023, Arizona for Abortion Access launched its paid and volunteer petition gathering effort to put abortion on the ballot in 2024. The campaign must collect nearly 400,000 valid signatures from Arizona voters by July 3, 2024.

The Arizona Abortion Access Act would enshrine the fundamental right to abortion in Arizona's constitution for generations to come. The amendment is critical to ensure abortion access in the state. In the coming months, the Arizona Supreme Court will hear a case that could fully reinstate a near-total abortion ban from more than a century ago.

There are many reasons why someone may decide to have an abortion. But no matter how you personally feel about abortion, every person should be able to make their own decisions with their healthcare provider and those they love and trust.

At the Arizona for Abortion Access press conference, several advocates for abortion access shared why they are invested in this campaign for reproductive freedom and signed the first petitions of the campaign.

Dr. Candace Lew, chair of Arizona for Abortion Access: We have written this ballot measure because Arizonans deserve the freedom to make our own decisions about pregnancy and abortion. These deeply personal decisions should be treated with compassion, dignity, and privacy, not political interference.

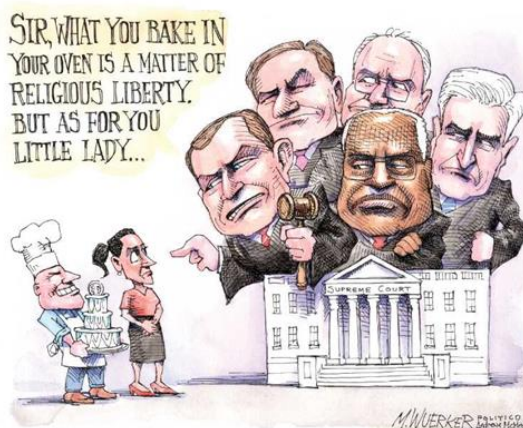
Reverend Dr. Samantha Wilson: In my faith, we believe that human beings have inherent worth and dignity – our first principle – which means, people’s bodies, their needs, and choices matter. They have a say over what happens to their bodies and the choice to reproduce or not. They have agency and conscience.

Dr. Jill Gibson, chief medical officer of Planned Parenthood Arizona: We cannot rely solely on our representatives, our judges, or our officials to protect our health care rights. We cannot and will not rest until we remove barriers to accessing abortion. It falls to us to fight for our communities and safeguard the right to abortion in Arizona. And the first step in the path towards achieving reproductive freedom is this ballot initiative. It’s ensuring abortion is on the ballot and allowing voters to let their voices be heard.

Chris Love, senior advisor to Arizona for Abortion Access: We are energized knowing that the majority of Arizona voters, no matter how they personally feel about abortion, agree with us — that pregnant people should have the freedom to make decisions about pregnancy and abortion with trusted healthcare providers and without government interference.

Arizona for Abortion Access is a coalition of reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations working to ensure Arizonans can make the decisions that are best for them and their families — free from government interference. This ballot committee is supported by the ACLU of Arizona, Affirm Sexual and Reproductive Health, Arizona List, Healthcare Rising Arizona, Reproductive Freedom for All Arizona, and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona. Together, these organizations represent hundreds of thousands of Arizonans in every community and from every walk of life.

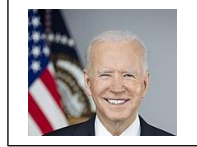
These trusted institutions have worked extensively together protecting and expanding abortion access over the years. They have now partnered to begin collecting signatures to place a constitutional amendment on the November 2024 ballot. This amendment will protect abortion access in Arizona and ensure every person can make this deeply personal decision with dignity.



Arizona Abortion Access petition signing events at Oro Valley Library are:

Tuesdays 10-12 and Thursdays 10-1. Or visit mobilize.us for other signing events throughout Arizona.

The Best of Biden by *Jacolyn Marshall*



Health & Safety

- FDA & CDC approved an updated Covid vaccine for everyone 6 months and older in response to the hundreds of Covid hospitalizations and deaths in the US each week.
- Since the new Covid vaccine is not fully covered by the federal government, the CDC will temporarily provide vaccines for some 25-30 million uninsured adults through \$1.1B left over in pandemic emergency funds.
- Biden issued an executive order to continue holding Norfolk Southern accountable for the Ohio derailment and appointed FEMA officials to oversee recovery efforts.
- Biden administration announced it will provide \$600 million to produce new Covid tests, provide four free tests per household at covidtests.gov, and replenish federal stockpiles for government use.
- Biden launched the first-ever federal gun violence office dedicated to ensuring the new gun safety law is fully implemented nationwide, exploring new solutions, and increasing support for communities ravaged by shootings.
- Biden announced manufacturers of the first 10 prescription drugs selected for Medicare's price negotiations agreed to participate, clearing the way for lower drug costs.

Economy

- IRS announces an aggressive plan to collect unpaid taxes from 1600 millionaires and 75 large business partnerships that owe hundreds of millions of dollars in past due taxes, following its successful collection of \$38M from more than 175 high-income taxpayers in the span of a few months.
- Transportation Department announces a new rule to boost rail competition, establish minimum service standards for railroads, and require more detailed reports concerning their efforts to prevent severe supply chain issues.
- US market remains robust with a healthy 187,000 jobs added in August and unemployment at an 8-month low.
- Federal Reserve moderates its fight against inflation and projects faster economic growth and lower unemployment this year and next with inflation continuing to cool.
- Federal Trade Commission and 17 states filed a lawsuit against Amazon for violating federal and state antitrust laws, asking court to prohibit its unlawful practices and loosen its monopolistic control to restore competition.
- US economy grew at 2.1% annual pace, a second-quarter expansion of the nation's GDP due to consumer spending, business investment, state and local government outlays, and strong job market.

Environment & Climate Change

- Interior Department cancels the seven remaining oil and gas leases in Alaska's Artic National Wildlife Refuge, overturning agreements that were made during the Trump administration's waning days.
- Agriculture Department announces \$1B in grants to 400 projects across the nation to plant and maintain trees, including \$5 million to Tucson to reduce extreme heat, benefit public health, and decrease energy consumption.
- EPA announces new regulations to empower state authorities and Native American tribes to protect rivers and streams while supporting infrastructure projects that create jobs.
- Biden asked judge to block a ruling ordering the Interior Department to expand a sale of Gulf of Mexico oil and gas leases by millions of acres and rejecting the administration's plan aimed to protect endangered whale species.
- Biden vetoed bills intended to undo federal protections for two endangered species with plummeting populations.

Justice

- DOJ announces Proud Boys leader received a 22-year prison sentence for orchestrating his group's attack on the Capitol, topping the 18-year sentence of the Oath Keepers founder.
- DOJ issues scathing reports of wide-spread dysfunction and lack of staff competency of two NJ state-run veterans' homes during the Covid pandemic resulting in its unchecked spread throughout the facilities and dozens of deaths.
- DOJ filed a civil suit against eBay for unlawfully selling hundreds of thousands of prohibited products, including pesticides and vehicle emissions control-evading devices.

Social Justice

- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau begins removing medical debt from credit scores since mistakes and inaccuracies in medical billing are so common which will improve credit worthiness for 1 in 5 Americans.
- Pentagon begins restoring LGBTQ vet benefits to former service members forced out of the military due to policies targeting their sexual orientation that has affected over 30,000 members since 1980.
- Education Department issued a guidance report to increase diversity in US colleges and universities urging them to boost scholarships and minority recruiting, and address the adversity students face due to their race or finances.

- Biden outlined new federal student loan forgiveness plans, using the SAVE Plan, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, income-driven payments, and Social Security data to aid borrowers with a disability.

Cybersecurity

- National Security Agency launches an artificial intelligence security center as AI capabilities are increasingly acquired, developed, and integrated into US defense and intelligence system.

Government

- IRS announces plan to collect unpaid taxes from 1600 millionaires and 75 large business partnerships owing millions in past due taxes, and its collection of \$38M from 175 high-income taxpayers in recent months.
- Biden administration strengthens protections for 2.2 million federal employees, ensuring rules covering political appointees won't be misapplied to career, nonpolitical government workers.
- Biden administration targets fentanyl trafficking. DOJ issued indictments against 8 Chinese companies and 12 executives for their roles, and Treasury Department issued sanctions against 28 people and companies in China and Canada to cut them off from the US financial system and prohibit US entities from doing business with them.

International Relations

- Biden attends G20 summit where India unveiled its plan with the US, EU, and others to build a rail and shipping corridor linking the Middle East and Europe to foster economic growth and political cooperation.
- Biden and Indian Prime Minister reaffirm US-India partnership on key issues, including computer chips, higher education, access to shipping lanes, and reduction of carbon emissions.
- Biden visits Vietnam where the US has been elevated to its highest diplomatic status and strategic partner. US seeks Vietnamese imports that will generate economic growth and strengthen US global alliances.
- Biden administration clears the way for the release of five American citizens detained in Iran by agreeing to release five Iranian citizens and lift some US sanctions against Iran's frozen monetary assets.
- Biden announces new sanctions on Iran's most egregious human rights abusers, including their morality police.
- Biden addressed the UN General Assembly asking world leaders to remain united in defending Ukraine against Russia aggression and emphasizing the value of international coalitions in defending world democracies.
- Biden met with leaders of the 18-member Pacific Island Forum, to increase ties, promise funds to prepare for climate hazards and improve infrastructure, and establish diplomatic relations with the Cook Islands and Niue.

International Relations: Ukraine

- Secretary of State tours Ukraine and pledges \$1B in new funding for military and humanitarian aid.
- State and Treasury departments issue new sanctions targeting 150 businesses and individuals from Russia, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates aimed at restricting technology, money, and financial channels fueling the Putin's war in Ukraine.
- Biden convened key allies in Europe, Canada, and Japan to affirm their backing of Ukraine remains unchanged and coordinate their on-going efforts to assist them in their fight to stave off Russian forces.
- US Navy confiscates 1.1 million rounds of ammunition from an Iranian vessel bound for Yemen, in clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions, and transfers the munitions to Ukraine under the legal authority of the DOJ.

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.*

November Zoom Meeting

Monday, November 13
6:30 – 8:00 pm

Guest Speakers:
TBA

Topic:
TBA