



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
September
2023

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson
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It is a time for boldness, for there is so much to do. And this is certain. We will be judged, you and I, for how we resolve the cascading crises of our era. Will we rise to the occasion? Will we master this rare and difficult hour? Will we meet our obligations and pass along a new and better world for our children? I believe we must, and I believe we will.

Joe Biden

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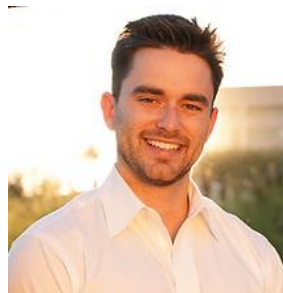
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GUEST SPEAKERS: Morgan Abraham & Abbie Hlavacek

Morgan Abraham, Candidate for Arizona House of Representatives



A current State Representative, Morgan has a track record of supporting public schools, advocating for K-12 education, ensuring that students have a permanent qualified teacher in every classroom, and opposing skyrocketing tuition prices and budget cuts at our colleges and universities.

He plans to increase funding for public schools, provide affordable housing, protect voting rights, and secure Arizona's water future.

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

Abbie Hlavacek, Coordinator for Save Our Schools



Abbie currently serves as the Southern Arizona coordinator for Save Our Schools AZ, where she focuses on Legislative Districts 16 and 17. Her passion for education and technology has driven her to become a vocal advocate for Arizona's schools and communities, ensuring that every child has the resources they need to learn and succeed.

A product of public schools and a mother with a disability, Abbie understands the crucial importance of providing access to education for all children. With a background in technology and a focus on AI, she brings a unique perspective to the table. Her experience living and organizing in the Marana area has given her a deep understanding of the community's unique needs.

She has a proven track record of working with local parent groups and rural communities and is dedicated to improving Arizona's public schools.



Next year, AZ will divert \$900 million to ESA vouchers with no oversight, no accountability, and no transparency.

Source: AZ Department of Education



"I am worried about what students are learning in voucher schools. Without curriculum requirements or testing... who knows what they're being taught or if they are learning at all!"

- Maggie P, Flagstaff mom



"I toured a local ESA voucher funded microschool, and I am concerned about the safety of students. There are no background checks required for their teachers, no fingerprinting, no safety standards at all."

- Roberta, Laveen grandmother



"As a lifelong Republican and a fiscal conservative, the ESA voucher program is just bad policy. It's irresponsible."

- Kevin R, Phoenix businessman



FACT CHECK

No, ESA Vouchers Do NOT Save the State Money!



AZ public schools are funded 48th in the nation.

Source: US Census Bureau

ESA VOUCHER MYTHS VS. TRUTHS



Myth: "Universal vouchers save the state money."

Fact: Universal ESA vouchers draw directly from state funding and will siphon \$1B from public schools every year. The baseline universal voucher costs an average of \$500 more than the state per-pupil funding district schools receive.

Myth: "ESA vouchers are accountable."

Fact: ESA vouchers have no financial or academic accountability, and no safety measures or protections for students' rights. Vouchers are used for extravagant expenses like home gyms, espresso machines, and bounce houses.

Myth: "Universal ESA vouchers don't hurt public schools."

Fact: Universal vouchers will drain an average of \$300,000 from every AZ school this year alone. Funding for AZ schools is 48th in the nation, and students already go without critical resources. Teachers and staff desperately need raises. AZ cannot afford to fund these needs & \$1B in ESA vouchers per year.

Myth: "Education dollars should follow the child."

Fact: Most ESA vouchers go to families already using private options that don't receive state funding. These vouchers are an entirely new cost to the state that subtracts directly from the budget used to fund public schools. AZ cannot cover those costs without cutting the budget for public schools and other state services.

Myth: "Education dollars should follow the child."

Fact: Voucher families don't choose their school – private schools pick and choose their students. Private schools aren't required to provide special education or English Language Learner services and can discriminate based on gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation & identity.

Myth: "Parents should use their taxpayer dollars however they see fit."

Fact: Public education is a public good, and local schools rely on the vast majority of taxpayers without kids in school. The average AZ household pays \$1,100 into K-12 each year, not \$7,000 per child. Therefore, voucher funds are not their tax dollars.

Myth: "There is plenty of money to go around for vouchers."

Fact: AZ's state budget is one of the smallest per capita in the entire US – and only 43% goes to K-12 education. The AZ legislature didn't budget enough for universal vouchers, which are now set to divert \$950,000,000 every year – ultimately forcing teacher layoffs and school closures.

Myth: "Families are leaving public schools to use vouchers."

Fact: Public school enrollment has held steady at 1.1M students for the past 5 years. According to the ADE, 75% of universal vouchers go to families that never attended public schools in the first place – not students leaving public schools.

Myth: "AZ's public schools are failing."

Fact: AZ's public schools perform at the national average on math and reading assessments (NAEP). Bottom line – the AZ legislature has failed AZ's public schools. Every issue is based on inadequate funding – from the teacher retention crisis to crumbling buildings and overcrowded classrooms.

It's time to roll back ESA vouchers to pre-universal expansion levels, prioritizing the program for students with special circumstances and prioritizing public dollars for public schools. It's time to stop AZ's failed \$1 billion voucher experiment – before it's too late. Read more at bit.ly/ESAmys

In praise of activism by *Jacolyn Marshall*

I have done a lot of petitioning over the past few years, and I have to say I was blown away by how well orchestrated the Sack Wadsack campaign was. I expected the clip board, signature guides, petitions, and detailed instructions. I appreciated all the buttons, flyers, business cards, and ready access to notaries. But what impressed me the most was the brilliant sackwadsack.com website created and maintained by Rolande Baker and her team.

The website identified the organizers as a grassroots group of local citizens concerned about Wadsack's extremism; provided an explanation of her worst, most harmful, and patently illegal bills; contained current articles, news interviews, and most importantly, links to all the times and places in the Northwest, East, Central, and South Tucson areas where people could go to sign.

From the very beginning the effort was a heavy lift with 40,000 signatures required from registered voters residing in LD17, one of the most gerrymandered districts in the state, stretching from Saddlebrook in Pinal County, through parts of Pima County, over two mountain ranges and all the way down to Vail.

Many interested signers had never heard of Wadsack and her shenanigans, and either didn't know or were unsure of their legislative district. Fortunately, petitioners had a QR code where potential signers could enter their address and verify their legislative district – a time-consuming, but necessary task.

The 4-month recall effort began May 8th and continued all the way through to September 4th with a final Labor Day petition signing event at Kennedy Park prior to the September 5th deadline. One can't help but admire that kind of dedication to the cause.

As disappointing as the final result might be, the failed recall effort was definitely worth all the time, effort, and dedication Rolande and her petitioners put into it. Thousands of voters now know Justine Wadsack's name, what she stands for, and why she and those just like her need to be voted out of office in 2024.

So, thank you Rolande Baker and your team of volunteers, and thank you to every voter in LD17 who took the time to find them and sign their petitions. Your combined actions demonstrate democratic activism at its finest.

Final thoughts by *Roland Baker, Organizer of the Sack Wadsack Campaign*



We trust that LD17 will continue the difficult work the recall started to ensure Wadsack NEVER has the opportunity to sabotage so many of our most vulnerable communities or continue her vile attacks on our public schools. LD17, you now have the framework to finish the job by electing Amy Fitch and Morgan Abraham.

In solidarity, Rolande Baker & the Recall Volunteers.

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress" Frederick Douglass

September Fundraising Event for Kirsten Engel

Please join hosts

Alison Jones, Patricia Wiedhopf & Lori Cinnamond

with co-hosts

Hon. Laura Conover | Hon. Pam Powers | Hon. Ron Barber
Eva Bacal | Susan & Brian Bickel | Jeanne Buell | Annette Everlove
Maria Hidalgo | Dorothy Kret | Catherine Morton | Dr. Eve Shapiro
| Maggie Winchell |

for an afternoon reception to support
Kirsten Engel for Congress (AZ-06)!
featuring special guest David Fitzsimmons

➤ [RSVP HERE](#) ◀

Saturday, September 23rd, 2023
Tucson - Catalina Vista Neighborhood
2pm-4pm

*For more information, please
contact Wes Share at wes@kirstenengel.com.*

Guest - \$100 | Supporter - \$250
Co-Host - \$500 | Champion - \$1,000

PAID FOR BY KIRSTEN ENGEL FOR CONGRESS

The address will be provided to RSVPs 48-72 hours before the event.



Sun City Oro Valley Democratic Club Annual Party

October 2024 Election KickOff!

Tickets are now on sale using our [ActBlue account](#).

(Please advise ASAP if you want gluten-free or vegan)

Join us at our Democratic Club party to eat, hear speakers and meet other local Democratic Clubs on **October 14 from 1—4 PM** in our Activity Center at 1495 E Rancho Vistoso Blvd in Oro Valley.

\$35 ticket includes speakers and lunch (sandwiches, chips & dessert from Baggin's) and non-alcoholic beverages. Bring a few extra dollars for our 50/50 raffle.

Speakers who have expressed interest at this point:

- Governor Katie Hobbs (hopes to attend)
- Ruben Gallego - US Senate, 2024 (hopes to attend)
- Amy Fitch runs for AZ Senate LD17 in 2024 (attendance confirmed)
- Kirsten Engel - US House 6th CD, 2024 (attendance confirmed)
- Morgan Abraham - AZ State House, 2024 (attendance confirmed)
- Jonathon Hill for AZ Corporate Commission (attendance confirmed)
- Rex Scott - Pima County Board of Supervisors (attendance confirmed)
- Dustin Williams - Pima County Superintendent of Schools (attendance confirmed)

Paid for by the Sun City Oro Valley Democratic Club and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Donations, dues or gifts are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.



Arizona Daily Star

Letter: Democrats' Ruination of American Society

Bradford Davis
August 17, 1923

I believe that Democrats and their policies have ruined American society. They have ruined free speech with political correctness. They have ruined public education, no longer focusing on reading writing and arithmetic, but indoctrination in the leftist agenda. School administrators believing they take precedence over parents. Progressive Democrat prosecutors have ruined the justice system, with their "restorative justice" wherein perpetrators get lighter sentences if they just apologize to the victim. Democrats have ruined the definition of life with their support of on demand abortion. Their social welfare policies have ruined the nuclear family, especially in the black community. The military has been ruined with service personnel being forced to undergo endless hours of "wokism" training. Recruitment is way down. Democrat spending has caused decades high inflation rates. Free markets and choice have been destroyed with the litany of coercive dictates coming from the Democrat controlled central government. Democrat support of transgenderism has ruined women's sports. Democrat discriminatory DEI policies have ruined hiring practices. I think Democrats have ruined America society.

Letter: Republican Ruination of American Lives

Dee Maitland
September 1, 2023

None of Mr. Davis' accusations against Democrats result in death. His party, however, can justly be accused of policies that do. Americans died because of Republican opposition to masking and vaccinating during Covid. 40,000 Americans die a year from Republican fealty to the NRA. American deaths can be attributed to Republican billionaire's demand for unregulated capitalism: asthma deaths due to polluted air; poisoned water as in Flint; deaths of despair due to wages insufficient to support life (with guns and Big Pharma drugs easily available for suicide). Americans die because of Republican opposition to universal health care and reducing drug prices. Americans die from weather related fires and floods due to Republican climate change denial preventing mitigations. Americans die from at-risk pregnancies due to the Republican stand on abortion. Republican leaders' hate filled vitriol results in the deaths of Americans who are not white, male, "Christian" or heterosexual. And then there's January 6th...

Democrat policies do not end lives or Democracy.



Your Guides to Trump Indictments

January 6th Congressional Hearings

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgawtcOBBjr-xOvmmc6y3VsbjFXqJXsfl>

Trump/Nauta Records Indictment

https://www.justice.gov/storage/US_v_Trump-Nauta_23-80101.pdf

Trump January 6th Indictment

https://www.justice.gov/storage/US_v_Trump_23_cr_257.pdf

Trump et al Racketeering Indictment

<https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000189-f730-dc32-ab89-f7fc1f760000>

Trump Falsifying Business Records – State Attorney General Leticia James

https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/tto_complaint.pdf

Trump Falsifying Business Records – Alvin Bragg, District Attorney, District Attorney New York Civil Court

<https://manhattanda.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Donald-J.-Trump-Indictment.pdf>



The Best of Biden by *Jacolyn Marshall*

Health & Safety

- FDA approved the first RSV vaccine for pregnant women to protect their babies from this dangerous, sometimes fatal respiratory infection.
- Biden administration proposed nursing home rules to raise staffing and require registered nurses 24/7.
- Biden administration proposed a rule that requires dealers who sell guns online and at gun shows to be licensed and run background checks prior to sales, affecting up to 328,000 sellers.
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ordered Tesla to reveal how many vehicles use its Autopilot system for extended periods without driver contact with the steering wheel, a clear safety risk.
- White House targeted 10 prescription drugs for Medicare price negotiation, benefiting 9 million seniors.
- Transportation Department fined American Airlines \$4.1M for keeping passengers onboard during excessively long delays.
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration took steps toward forcing defiant ARC Automotive to recall 52 million airbag inflators known to explode, hurling shrapnel and injuring or killing people.

Economy

- Biden urged major automakers and United Auto Workers union to reach a fair deal as they transition to electric vehicles, noting UAW helped create the middle class and it deserves a contract that sustains it.
- Labor Department reported US employers added 187,000 new jobs in August and unemployment figures fell again as the market continues to prosper.
- Labor Department proposed a new rule that would make 3.6M salaried workers eligible for overtime pay.

Environment & Climate Change

- Energy Department awarded \$1.2 billion to two projects to directly remove carbon dioxide from the air with new technology that aims to capture up to two million metric tons of carbon dioxide per year.
- Interior Department finalized tighter rules for devices meant to prevent catastrophic blowouts on offshore oil and gas drilling rigs, reversing Trump policies and returning to stringent regulations and mandates.
- Federal officials announced a \$10B wind energy project stretching 550 miles to transport more than 3,500 megawatts of power to New Mexico, Arizona, and California.
- Energy Department and Hualapai Tribe completed a solar project on the western edge of the Grand Canyon, and the Navajo Nation, Hopi, and San Carlos Apache tribes received \$8.7M for renewable energy projects.

Justice

- DOJ announced the Election Treats Task Force has successfully prosecuted 14 cases of individuals threatening violence against election workers, resulting in years-long sentences.

Social Justice

- Biden administration urged colleges to promote racial diversity by recruiting in high minority areas, offering affinity clubs to retain minority students, and ending biased admissions policies that work against them.
- Biden administration announced \$667 million in new grants and loans for internet access in rural areas to provide more economic opportunities for farmers and access to medical care through telemedicine.
- Education Department canceled \$72M in student loans for 2,300 borrowers who were cheated when Ashford University lied to students about costs, their college accreditation, and how long it would take to complete their degrees.

Government

- FEMA provided \$700 to displaced Maui residents to cover food, water, and medical supplies in the wake of the deadliest US fire in a century, along with more funds for the loss of homes and personal property.
- Pentagon plans to restructure the National Guard in DC to provide rapid response, coordination, and more military police trained in crowd control.
- Pentagon calls for academies to improve their leadership, end toxic hazing, provide behavior training and add senior officers and enlisted leaders to assist in the reforms.
- Homeland Security Department announced a major expansion of temporary legal status for Ukrainians and Sudanese living in the US and making them eligible for work authorization.
- White House asked Congress to pass a temporary spending measure in September to prevent a potential partial governmental shutdown.

International Relations

- Biden met with South Korean President and Japanese Prime Minister to expand military cooperation on ballistic missile defense and technology development to share missile warning data in real time.
- US, Japan, and Australia conducted joint navy drills in the South China Sea in response to China's aggression.
- US deepened military cooperation with the Czech Republic with the ratification of a defense treaty.
- Biden administration approved a \$500 million arms sale to Taiwan to increase US military assistance.
- Biden administration asked courts to rule against a floating buoy barrier in the Rio Grande that jeopardizes US-Mexico diplomatic relations and to retain a program allowing migrants from four countries to immigrate.
- US, Indonesia, and five other nations began training exercises on Java Island to deter Chinese aggression.
- US government opposed a Titanic expedition as a violation of federal law and an international agreement to treat the shipwreck as a hallowed gravesite.
- Biden administration approved \$80M US military transfer to aid Taiwan.
- Commerce Secretary and her Chinese counterpart agreed to exchange information on export controls and other commercial issues.

International Relations: Ukraine

- US will begin training Ukrainian pilots to fly F-16 fighter jets at Tucson National Guard base in October.
- US will send \$250M in weapons from existing stockpiles to aid Ukraine's ground and air defenses.

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.*

October Zoom Meeting

Monday, October 9
6:30 – 8:00 pm

Guest Speakers:
TBA

Topic:
TBA