



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
February
2024

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

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

I believe America is big enough, strong enough, and blessed enough for all of us to succeed. That's why we're finally building an economy that grows from the middle out and the bottom up. Because when you do that, the poor have a ladder up, the middle class does well, and the wealthy still do very well. We all do well.

Joe Biden

2024 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>



Guest Speakers: Brian Johnson, Joshua Polacheck, Nancy Burton, and Michael Byran



Brian Johnson, Candidate for Pima County Treasurer

Brian Johnson is a 25-year resident of Pima County who resides in the community of Picture Rocks. He is a life-long Democrat, having cast his first vote for President for Jimmy Carter in 1976. He has been a member of the Democrats for Picture Rocks for eight years, serving as its Chair in 2021. He is also a member of the Tucson Mountain Association.

Brian is running for Treasurer to ensure responsible management of public funds through transparency and a robust data system that is integrated with the County Assessor, Recorder, and Finance Department. He understands the need for the Treasurer's office to play a meaningful role in our Pima County government.

Brian brings fourteen years professional experience in county government to the table.

His prior role in Finance & Risk Management provides the expertise needed to navigate the complexities of property tax administration, and his involvement in property tax litigation has educated him in the statutes governing the Treasurer's responsibilities and limitations.



Joshua Polacheck, Candidate for Arizona Corporation Commission

The son of an immigrant mother and a father in the Indian Health Service, Joshua grew up across the rural West, spending his middle and high school years in Tucson where he saw firsthand the struggles Arizona families have had in the past and continue to have since his return to the state in 2018. He has been fighting for common sense solutions for the common good ever since.

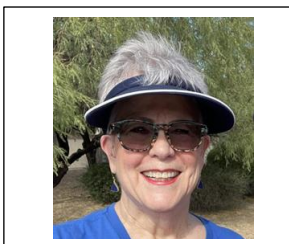
Joshua is running for the Arizona Corporation Commission to secure Arizona's future for all our families. He states "like Arizona's Legislature, the GOP majority on the Commission gets more extreme with every passing day. We desperately need to flip the Arizona Corporation Commission to a Democratic majority."

After college, Joshua joined the US State Department where he served twenty years as a commissioned Foreign Service Officer. His tours included northern Iraq, Pakistan, Lebanon, Zimbabwe, and the Dominican Republic.

For more information on his campaign, go to www.JoshuaforArizona.com

To sign his nomination petition on E-equal, go to <https://go.azsos.gov/x7yh>

To sign his teammate Ylenia Aguilar's nomination petition, go to <https://go.azsos.gov/x8kk>



Nancy Burton, LD17 Representative

Nancy will be updating us on the status of LD17 senate race. For many years she has been a hard-working volunteer for Arizona Deserves Better, LD10, the 2020 coordinated campaigns, and LD17.

She has also served the Democratic Party in Pima County as a board member, 2nd Vice Chair, and member of the Ops team for LD17, and served as a member of the PCDP Executive Committee.

Originally from Albany, NY, Nancy worked for over 19 years in both state and local government as a political and government leader, analyst, strategist, and organizer. She retired as the Assistant State Comptroller who was responsible for the customer-facing operations of the NYS Retirement System, the third largest public pension system in the country.



Michael Byran, founder of BlogForArizona

Michael founded BlogForArizona.net as the Howard Dean presidential campaign blog for Arizona in 2003 and has been blogging ever since. The Blog is now coming up on 20 years of continuous publication, a major achievement for political blogs that usually have the lifespan of mayflies.

In 2008, Michael remade BlogForArizona into a collaborative project. Michael is now but one of the contributors to the blog and provides editorial and publishing direction in consultation with the Board of Directors and the other authors.

Michael is also an attorney, the Program Director for the Democrats of Greater Tucson, a member of the American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC) who consults on political campaigns, strategies, and communications.

A campaign poster for Rex Scott, County Supervisor. The poster features a photo of Rex Scott in a light blue shirt against a light blue background. Below the photo, the text reads: "Rex Scott County Supervisor". A diamond separator follows. The text continues: "Please join REBECCA & GORDON WICKER for Pima County Supervisor Rex Scott's CAMPAIGN KICKOFF". Another diamond separator follows. The date and time are listed: "Sunday, February 18, 2024 2:00 - 4:00 PM". The address is: "9981 N Calle Solano Oro Valley, AZ 85737". The RSVP information is: "RSVP: Hello@Scott4Supervisor.com". At the bottom, it says: "Paid for by Re-Elect Rex. Authorized by Rex Scott." The entire poster is framed by a blue border and set against a background of saguaro cacti.

Rex Scott
County Supervisor

◆

Please join
REBECCA & GORDON WICKER
for Pima County Supervisor Rex Scott's
CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

◆

Sunday, February 18, 2024
2:00 - 4:00 PM

9981 N Calle Solano
Oro Valley, AZ 85737

RSVP: Hello@Scott4Supervisor.com

Paid for by Re-Elect Rex. Authorized by Rex Scott.



Welcome BACK to the Oro Valley Library *by Chair Mike Dayton*

The Democrats of Oro Valley are resuming **in-person meetings** at the Oro Valley Library located at the corner of La Canada and Naranja Drive.

We will continue to meet the second Monday of each month in the library's large meeting room.

Our meetings are open to the public at no cost and will begin at our **new 6:00 pm** time. The earlier start time is due to the shortened hours of service by the public library system.

In the unlikely event there is a conflict with the library schedule we will revert to zoom for that particular month. We will notify you well in advance if that is the case.

Each meeting will feature candidates running for office and/or guest speakers on current issues. Our program coordinator and emcee Dee Maitland always offers us enlightening topics and informative speakers.

Our DOV Newsletter will be emailed to our members in advance of our meetings as usual.

This may seem like a terrible time to start back to the library with COVID, RSV and the flu among us, so **we encourage you to wear a mask.**

Get informed, meet the candidates, and sign available candidate and AAA petitions at our in-person general meetings.

Thank you for your continued support and membership as DOV celebrates **20 years** of service to our Democrat community.

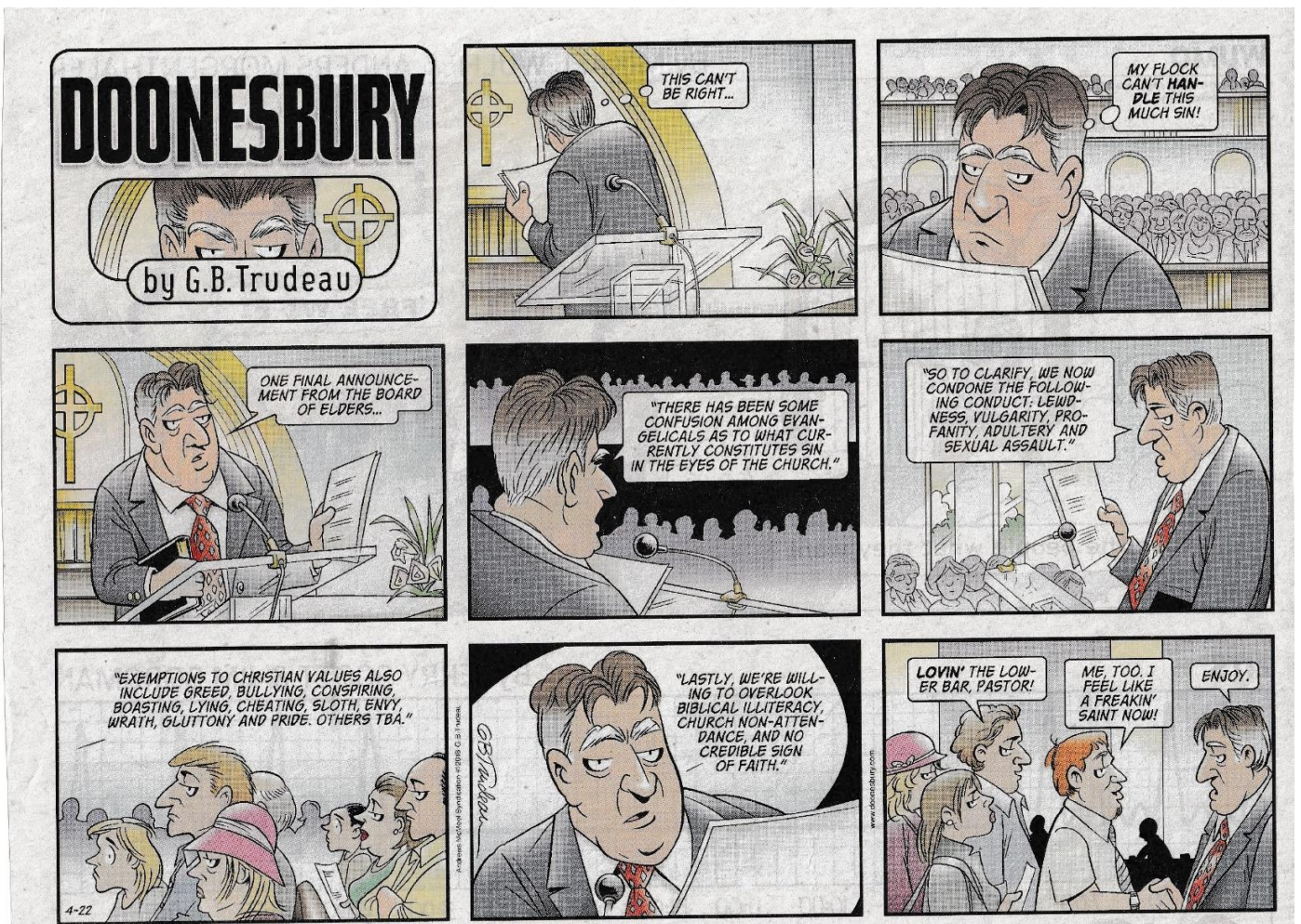
Let's work together to win our upcoming 2024 election and save our democracy.

Evangelical church hosted Trump by Dee Maitland

On January 26th Dream City Church in Phoenix was set to host Trump for the Arizona Republican Party event. Per its website Dream Church's motto is "Love People. Cultivate Community. Inspire Hope." Their first and greatest commandment is to 'love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' Their second commandment is to 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Leaders Luke and Angel Barnett said, "the Dream City Church is a community of people united in our common mission to gather as God's people, grow in understanding of God's Word and grace, and reach out to serve others in Jesus' name."

How does this square with giving space, messaging, and fundraising to the least Christian of all our politicians? It is time for true Christians to rise up and defend the faith of Jesus. Instead of acting like a political arm of the Republican party, Evangelical churches should be preaching and practicing His Gospel. They should be bringing warring factions together in peace, love, and good works in His name. Instead Dream City Church agreed to host a hatemongering, cruel, child-caging, violence-provoking, greedy capitalist, liar, and convicted rapist. Trying to redeem him is one thing. Helping him get elected is a sacrilege.

This political activity by Dream City Church is closely associated with Charlie Kirk, the dangerous head of [Turning Point USA](#) and should be evidence enough to remove its religious tax-exempt status. True Christians will denounce Dream City Church for their actions and will stick to the original commandments.



What our current Legislature has been up to *by Dee Maitland*



Our Legislature in Review

A summary of our 2024 legislative session’s first month with 8,400 bills introduced demonstrates how overwhelming and impossible bills are to follow. Two of the most disturbing developments are the proposed 107 SCR and HCR bills. If passed, these bills bypass the Governor and go directly to the voters. If even a small portion of those bills pass, our 2024 ballot will be overwhelming for voters. And voters will either decide to not vote on the measures or vote 'no' on all of them. The Arizona Abortion Access initiative that we have been petitioning for so diligently could become a fatality.

This past week Civic Engagement Beyond Voting (CEBV) reviewed 108 bills and recommended Request to Speak (RTS) positions on all of them. Of those, 30 were advanced by Democrats with only 5 getting assigned to a committee which is another form of Republican sabotage.

Please sign up for CEBV’s weekly legislative update and take the time to use RTS. If you aren’t on RTS, CEBV can get you signed up and train you. You can find them here: <https://www.cebv.us/>. Thank you!

2024 Fifty-Sixth Legislature - Second Regular Session As of 2/7/2024

THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR
4515	Democrat proposed bills	4319
3972	Republican proposed bills	2936
8487	TOTAL	7255

DIRECT TO BALLOT BILLS (Ballot Clouding)

44	Senate
63	House
107	TOTAL

ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE

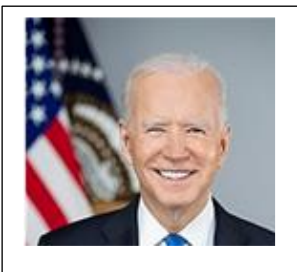
SENATE	HOUSE	
97	93	Appropriations
84	96	Education
67	61	Elections (& Muncipal Oversight in House)
101	89	Finance & Commerce
75	75	Government
111	99	Health & Human Services
79	97	Judiciary
50	48	Military Affairs, Public Safety & Border
69		Natural Resources, Energy & Water
	39	Land, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
733	697	TOTAL
	1430	GRAND TOTAL BOTH HOUSES
	16.8%	Percent of total

LD17 LEGISLATORS SPONSORSHIP

PRIME	CO-SPONSOR	
50	93	Wadsack
12	110	Jones
8	81	McGarr
70	284	TOTAL



Children dressed as Secret Service agents keep watch as U.S. President Joe Biden speaks at a "Take Your Child to Work Day" event at the White House in Washington, April 27, 2023.



The Best of Biden by *Jacolyn Marshall*

Health & Safety

- FAA grounded Boeing 737 Max planes after an Alaska Airlines jetliner experienced a blowout of a fuselage panel and required immediate inspections of Max 9 planes, affecting 171 planes worldwide.
- TSA seized more guns than ever before at security checkpoints in 2023; the vast majority were loaded.
- Biden launches an advertising campaign supporting women's reproductive rights by focusing on how abortion restrictions have affected women and health care providers.
- Biden convened his reproductive health care access task force to discuss threats to emergency care for women and new steps for implementing executive orders on the subject.
- CDC issued a report warning about cosmetic surgeries in the Dominican Republic where 93 Americans have died since 2009 and cautioned medical tourists to research facilities carefully before traveling abroad.
- Biden administration proposed new regulations on meat and poultry processing plants to reduce pollution of nearby rivers and streams.

Economy

- Federal Reserve is confident inflation will continue falling to the Reserve's 2% target level, noting that with inflation slowing even as growth and hiring remain solid, the combination is as good as it gets.
- Commerce Department announced consumer spending, which accounts for 70% of the US economy doubled in December.
- WH announced a proposal to limit overdraft fees to as little as \$3 to ease the burden on consumers living paycheck to paycheck with some banks charging up to \$39 each, totaling \$8 billion in fines per year.
- Biden announced \$82 million to help connect 16,000 new households and businesses in North Carolina to high-speed internet along with other infrastructure investments that have already resulted in good paying jobs.
- US job market remains strong with 9 million new job openings in December, up from November's job listings, and consumer confidence rose for a third straight month.

Environment & Climate Change

- Biden announced \$623 million in grants to fund EV charging stations and 7,500 EV ports across the nation.
- Biden administration announced a new rule fining oil and natural gas companies for methane emissions that exceed prescribed levels.
- Energy Department announced \$104 million in grants for projects at 31 government sites to boost carbon-free electricity at federal facilities, including solar panels at the Pentagon.
- EPA announced Biden's Clean School Bus Grants will fund 2,700 electric buses serving over 7 million students in 37 states, including Arizona in 280 school districts, including TUSD and Flowing Wells.

Justice

- DOJ has charged more than 1,230 people with federal crimes in the January 6th riot; 900 have been convicted with prison sentences totaling 840 years.

- DOJ announced Biden's Gun Safety Law, the most sweeping gun legislation in decades requiring extra checks for those under 21, has prevented more than 500 youths from obtaining firearms.
- DOJ report identified an array of failures in response to the Uvalde elementary school massacre, citing training, communication, leadership, technology problems and a failure to follow accepted practices.

Social Justice

- Biden administration has begun cancelling student loan debt ahead of schedule to provide faster relief for those who have made payments for at least 10 years.

Immigration and Border Security

- US officials announced Mexico's leadership agreed to help slow the high volume of migrant arrivals.
- Biden's new 'safe mobility offices' in Colombia, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Ecuador are designed to streamline the refugee process; so far 9,000 refugees have been approved for entry through the program.
- CBP installed a large, heated tent to shelter up to 1,000 asylum seekers awaiting processing in response to Tohono O'odham Nation's environmental damage and humanitarian concerns at San Miguel Gate.
- Biden lobbies Congress for a deal on border security that maintains his authority that has been in effect since the 1950's to grant migrants humanitarian parole during emergencies and global unrest.
- FEMA granted Pima County an additional \$5.2 million to continue its work aiding asylum seekers who need medical care to stop the spread of Covid.

Technology and Cybersecurity

- US officials disrupted a Chinese-backed effort to plant malware that could be used to damage civilian infrastructure should the US and China ever go to war.

Government

- Biden signed a short-term spending bill to keep the federal government operating until early March.
- Federal transportation department announced a \$95 million grant to widen I-10 between Chandler and Casa Grande plus the removal and replacement of bridges over the Gila River.
- WH laid out new guidelines for Cabinet agencies to follow when there is a transfer of authority that occurs due to medical issues, travel, or other occurrences.
- IRS launches a Direct File pilot program in 12 states that will allow eligible filers to calculate and submit their returns to the government directly without using commercial tax preparation software.

International Relations:

- Defense Department announced a US airstrike killed the leader of Iran-backed militia responsible for the attacks on American personnel in Baghdad.
- US designated the Houthis as global terrorists and invoked financial sanctions against them that minimize the amount of harm to Yemen's 32 million people who are among world's poorest.
- US fighter jets struck Houthi rebel sites for the sixth time, taking out anti-ship missile launchers in Yemen to stop the militants' harassment of vessels in the Red Sea that have disrupted global shipping.
- US and British militaries and other allied nations launched new retaliatory strikes on eight Houthi storage and missile sites in order to defend lives and the flow of commerce in one of the world's critical waterways.
- US national security advisors met with China's Foreign Minister who agreed to use their country's influence with Iran to help ease tensions in the Middle East.

- Biden met with Germany’s Chancellor to discuss new aid for Ukraine and Israel while his US foreign aid package remains stalled in Congress.
- US and Iraq held their first formal talks aimed at winding down the US-led coalition formed to fight the Islamic State group in Iraq.

International Relations: Israel

- Secretary of State went to the Middle East for the fourth time in three months to ease fears that the Israel-Hamas war could erupt into a broader conflict.
- Secretary of State announced Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Turkey agreed to begin planning for the reconstruction and governance of Gaza once the war ends.
- WH National Security Council again asked Israel to scale back its military offensive in Gaza by transitioning to low-intensity operations.
- Secretary of State Blinken noted Israel cannot achieve security without a pathway to a Palestinian state, insisting such a move would help unify the Middle East and isolate Israel’s top rival Iran.
- US and key Hamas mediators announced a framework for a cease-fire and hostage release was reached.
- Biden issued an executive order targeting Israeli settlers in the West Bank who attacked Palestinians and Israeli peace activists by imposing financial sanctions and visa bans on them.
- US military launched an attack on 85 command headquarters, intelligence centers, and drone and missile storage sites in response to the Iranian-backed drone strike that killed US troops in Jordan.
- US and UK mounted a second wave of assaults, striking 36 Houthi targets in Yemen to further disable their attacks on American and international interests amid the Israel-Hamas war.
- US Secretary of State returned to the Middle East on his fifth urgent diplomatic mission since Israel’s war with Hamas began.

International Relations: Ukraine

- Biden convened congressional leaders to underscore security needs related to Ukraine, Israel, and other US allies that could unlock \$110 billion in aid that Congress has tied to a landmark immigration deal.

**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.*

**March
OV Library Meeting**

**Monday, March 11
6:00 - 7:30 pm**

**Guest Speakers:
TBA**

**Topic:
2024 Election**