



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
January
2024

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson
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For all we've done, the real heroes of our story are the people. In thousands of towns all across America, we hear the stories of revival and renewal; hope and optimism; and pride - pride in your work, pride in your family, pride in your town, and pride in this nation.

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>

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Guest Speakers: Jane Fry, Kevin Volk, and Holly Lyon



Jane Fry, LD17 Candidate for State Senate

Jane holds an undergraduate degree in business administration and psychology and a graduate degree in law. She worked for Charles Schwab for nearly 30 years as corporate counsel providing legal advice and as a member of their Financial Crimes Unit addressing money laundering, fraud, scams, and other financial risks.

Subsequently, Jane served as a member of the board of directors of the Women's Daytime Drop-In Center, empowering vulnerable women and children by providing case management services, a comprehensive children's program, and transitional housing.

Jane's key issues include ensuring working families don't have to struggle to make ends meet; creating a water sustainability plan that ensures every community has access to clean, safe water for our future generations; ensuring women have individual autonomy to make their own reproductive health decisions; and investing in our public schools to ensure 90% of all Arizona students receive an excellent education.

Jane states: "Protecting our freedoms, fully funding public schools, securing our water supply, and balancing our books are the keys to creating an Arizona that works for everyone. It's time we take control of Arizona's future and I'm ready to work for you."



Kevin Volk, LD17 Candidate for State House

Kevin was born and raised in Tucson where he attended public schools and later graduated *magna cum laude* from Brown University with a degree in Economics.

He was a 5th grade public school teacher in California; interned for Representative Gabby Giffords handling constituent communications; worked as an English language teacher in Mexico; and helped former Governor Tim Kaine's campaign for Senate in Virginia.

Upon his return to Arizona, he joined the Volk Company as a real estate agent focused on win-win deals for small businesses. Currently, Kevin is dedicated to the development and re-development of commercial and housing properties, and founded a small manufacturing facility to create affordable, sustainable prefabricated housing units in Tucson.

Kevin's key issues include bringing the cost of living down for Arizonans; investing in our schools so they are adequately equipped to give students the opportunities they need to succeed; securing our water future in Southern Arizona with proper groundwater management; and restoring women's reproductive freedom.

Kevin states: "I've dedicated my career to solving some of our most pressing challenges, like our housing affordability crisis. I'm ready to take my experience to the next level in the legislature serving the people of Legislative District 17."

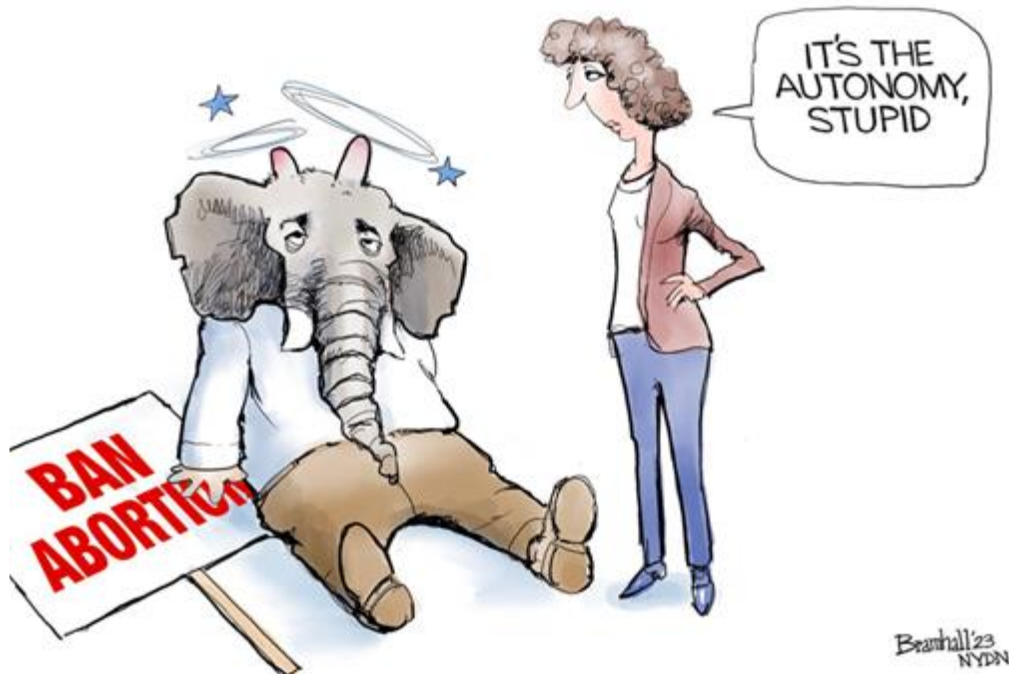


Holly Lyon, Vice Chair of the Saddlebrooke Democratic Club

An active member of the Saddlebrooke Democratic Club, Holly is spearheading their Arizona Abortion Access petition drive.

Holly's presentation will focus on promoting the AAA initiative and asking for volunteers to help her expand her pool of dedicated volunteers who are petitioning to get it on Arizona's 2024 ballot.

For those of you who can spare a few hours for the cause, Holly will refer you to her AAA link for more information and an opportunity to sign up for specific dates and times at Cataline-Dewhirst Library.



DEMOCRATS need a BIG WIN by Christine Dayton, DOV Treasurer



2024 is going to be a challenging election year.

It is crucial that the DEMS have a **blue wave** across America. Hopefully DOV will organize and manage a Northwest Dems Office. Such an office could help LD17 win an AZ State House position and even an AZ State Senate position.

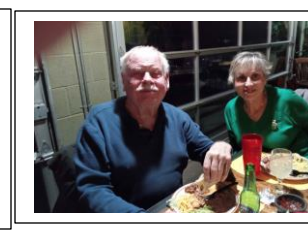
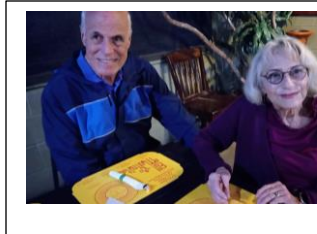
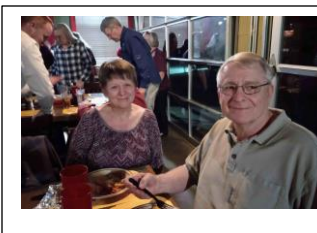
Democrats need to take back the **Arizona Congress**. If we can mobilize the Democrats in Oro Valley, Marana, Northwest Tucson, Catalina, SaddleBrooke and across to Tanque Verde and Vail, maybe we can pull-off a **BIG WIN**.

So please pay your annual **DOV dues** of just \$20.00. It will go directly into running and maintaining the Northwest DEMS office.

On February 12, 2024, we will **meet in-person** at the Oro Valley Library large meeting room at 6:00 P.M. January 8, 2024, will be our final ZOOM meeting.

Keep your eyes open for our DOV's **20th Anniversary celebration** in April 2024! We have been a force to reckon with in Northwest Tucson.

DOV Holiday Party 2023 was enjoyed by all



Special thanks to

- Dee Maitland for acting as our emcee,
- Our new LD17 candidates Jane Fry and Kevin Volk for joining us,
- Jim Lombardo for announcing the raffle winners, and
- the Leadership Committee for donating raffle prizes.

We wish all our DOV members enjoy a happy and healthy new year.



It's time for all good Democrats to come to the aid of our Country by Dee Maitland

You have by now watched a number of 2023 year-in-reviews. So many horrors; so many hateful speeches and actions; so much cruelty, stupidity, division, and death. Except for Fox News and the Q-Anon sites, the universal consensus is that a second Trump presidency would mean further destruction of our democracy that started with the stacking of the Supreme Court with far-right religious plutocrats who proceeded to overturn our voting rights, ban a woman's right to bodily autonomy, and preserved a gun owner's right to kill.

We Democrats are the party championing diverse people, cultures, and ideas as the stimulus of innovation and progress. We believe everyone is entitled to food, shelter, healthcare, education, safety, and a healthy environment. We believe that no one should work a 40-hour week and still not be able to provide for themselves and their family. To assure this is America's future, we need to dedicate ourselves to one thing for the next 11 months: **THE TOTAL DEFEAT ALL THINGS MAGA**. No quarrelling over other things. No demand for perfection. Unless we win and win big, none of our aspirations can be realized.

Besides donating to candidates, phone banking, canvassing, writing postcards and letters to the editor, and devising protest signs, there is one even tougher thing we need to do.

It is time to take an aggressive stand against Evangelicals and their "Christian" nationalism. We need to save true Christianity from them to restore the moral fiber of our nation. There is nothing Christian in anything they are doing and nothing patriotic. Do not give them office, voice, donations, or respect.

We are truly battling for the soul of America.





The Best of Biden by *Jacolyn Marshall*

Health & Safety

- FDA sought new powers to mandate drug recalls and require manufacturing plants to undergo inspections before shipping products to the US in response to repeated recalls involving over-the-counter eye drops.
- White House unveiled 48 drugs whose prices increased faster than inflation and required drugmakers to pay rebates to the government that will lower costs for Medicare recipients.
- EPA strengthened chemical safety laws under the Toxic Substances Control Act that reviews risks posed by vinyl chloride and 4 other chemicals used to make plastic to better protect people from toxic exposure.
- Biden asked states to boost the number of ACA doctors and hospitals and expand access to adult dental coverage in ACA marketplaces.
- White House hosted 100 lawmakers from around the country to find better ways to reduce gun violence.
- FDA seized counterfeit Ozempic, a drug used for diabetes and weight loss.

Economy

- White House announced US economy is rock solid. December employment report showed employers added 199,000 jobs in November, unemployment rate dropped to 3.7%, and inflation plummeted from 9.1% a year ago to 3.2% without causing a recession.
- Federal Reserve officials kept its key interest rate unchanged for a third time as inflation steadily cools and the labor market gets back into balance. In response, Dow closed above 37,000 for the first time.
- Biden extolled his administration's support for minority-owned businesses, a \$15 billion investment in lead pipe replacement, and a surge in federal assistance for distressed communities.
- Labor Department reported consumer prices continue to fall with the largest month-to-month drop since April 2020 when the economy was reeling from the Covid pandemic.
- As immigrants fill service jobs with higher wages due to US labor shortage, Hispanic middle-class families have reached near-parity with white middle-class families in seven states, including Arizona.
- Federal Reserve responded to lower inflation with plans to reduce interest rates two or three times in 2024, resulting in a rise in the stock market and a decrease in interest rates for government securities.

Environment & Climate Change

- US and 200 other countries agreed to reduce fossil fuels for the first time in decades of UN climate talks.
- Agriculture Secretary adopted an ecologically driven approach to conserve groves of old-growth trees in national forests across the US as climate change amplifies threats of wildfires, insects, and disease.
- Biden supported standardizing charging plugs for all EVs in the US to boost consumer confidence as the White House, the auto industry, and other stakeholders strive to encourage mass adoption.
- Biden administration announced for the first time in the US turbines are sending electricity to the grid from two large wind farms off the coast of New York and Massachusetts.

Justice

- DOJ announced it has charged four Russian men accused of torturing an American during the invasion of Ukraine with war crimes in a first-of-its-kind case.
- DOJ special counsel asked Supreme Court to take up and rule directly whether Trump can be prosecuted on charges he plotted to overturn the 2020 election results.
- Pentagon announced a new law giving sole authority to independent attorneys to investigate and prosecute cases of sexual assault and other major crimes across all branches of the military.
- DOJ sued Texas over a new law allowing police to arrest migrants which violates the federal government's exclusive authority to regulate entry and removal of noncitizens and interferes with US foreign relations.

Social Justice

- White House joined critics accusing presidents of Harvard and Pennsylvania universities of failing to protect Jewish students from antisemitic attacks on their campuses.
- Biden pardoned thousands who were convicted of simple possession and use of marijuana on federal lands and in DC in his latest round of executive clemencies to rectify racial disparities in the justice system.
- FBI investigated two Tucson residents who are now facing a 40-count indictment for embezzling millions from Apache Behavior Services, a tribal healthcare provider.
- Indian Health Service agency announced 12 primary health care facilities for the Navajo Nation are being upgraded, including a new replacement facility at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

Immigration and Border Security

- Biden asked Congress for more funding for border security.
- US Census Bureau announced immigration powered population growth in US for a second consecutive year. US added 1.6 M people in 2023, two-thirds from international migration, for a total of 334 M.
- US authorities reopened two cross-border railroad crossings in Texas.
- Secretary of State and Homeland Security Secretary met with Mexico's president to address reopening of key ports of entry and curbing the surge of migrants fleeing poverty, disasters, repression, and crime.

Technology and Cybersecurity

- In partnership with US Air Force Research Lab, Naval Surface Warfare Center, and Undersecretary of Defense, Tucson-based Raytheon plant contracted to build systems to defeat drones and other threats.

Government

- FBI called for renewal of government surveillance tools regarding foreigners outside the US which are deemed vital in combating terror attacks, cyber intrusions, espionage, and other foreign threats.
- Biden signed \$886 billion defense bill with the biggest pay raise for troops in more than two decades.

International Relations:

- US, South Korean and Japanese national security advisers met to urge stronger international efforts to suppress North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and missiles.
- US and British navies shot down 15 drones launched by Yemen rebels who have been targeting commercial ships in the Red Sea and attacking Israel.
- Biden administration announced the release of 10 Americans imprisoned in Venezuela in exchange for a close ally of their president, the largest release of prisoners in Venezuela's history.
- US authorities announced the first seizure of a Chinese company's shipments, confiscating 1.4 million illegal, flavored vaping devices that specifically target underage US teens.

- US consulate advised against travel to Rocky Point while the Lukeville-Sonoyta port of entry is closed due to crime and kidnapping after 3 US residents with Oregon plates were fired on, killing one of them.
- Biden authorized three targeted retaliatory airstrikes on facilities in northern Iraq following drone attacks on US personnel by Iranian-backed militia groups.
- US Ambassador to Japan praised the country's contribution to the reform and modernization of their alliance with the US and their agreement to ship Japanese-made Patriot guided missiles to the US.

International Relations: Israel

- State department implemented new visa restrictions targeting those committing acts of violence or unduly restricting civilians' access to essential services and necessities in the West Bank.
- Biden approved an emergency sale of tank ammunition to Israel in the interest of US national security.
- Biden advised Prime Minister that Israel is losing international support due to its indiscriminate bombing.
- Defense Secretary traveled to Israel to show US support, press the need to avoid more civilian casualties, and advise on transitioning from major combat operations to a more limited and precise campaign.
- CIA top official met with Israeli and Qatari officials seeking a deal on a new ceasefire and release of hostages in Gaza.
- Defense Secretary asked Israeli leaders to scale back major combat operations against Hamas.
- Biden administration approved an emergency weapons sale to Israel for their defensive needs.

International Relations: Ukraine

- Biden asked Congress for \$110 billion of wartime funding for Ukraine, Israel, and other security priorities.
- Biden warned Congress if new money is not provided it will have swift consequences for Ukraine's capacity to hold its territory and take back land captured by Russia.
- Biden signed an executive order giving the US Treasury authority to target financial institutions that facilitate Russia's efforts to boost its defense industry during its war on Ukraine.
- Biden used his Presidential Drawdown Authority to transfer \$250 M worth of military aid from Pentagon stockpiles to Ukraine, including missiles, artillery, anti-armor systems, and medical equipment.

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.*

February OV Library Meeting

Back together!
Monday, February 12
6:00 - 7:30 pm

Guest Speakers:
TBA

Topic:
2024 Election