

"I am a strong supporter of school choice. I just believe that a constitutionally mandated, properly funded public school must be one of those choices. I choose to have my children in public school and that should be a choice available to every parent."

Dr. David Garcia

Atchue to Speak on "P.C. and Neighborhood Volunteer activism in 2017"



Ralph Atchue was born and raised in inner city Chicago. He moved to Arizona in 2006 with his wife Pat. He served in the U.S. Air Force for four years from 1967-1971. His educational accomplishments include an Associate of Arts degree from Wilbur Wright Jr. College and a Bachelor of Arts from Northeastern Illinois University. He worked for the United States Postal Service for thirty-three years, starting

in 1972 as a Letter Carrier. He retired in 2005 as a Postmaster. Ralph served as steward and local president with the National Association of Letter Carriers for twelve years. He was affiliated with the National Association of Postal Supervisors for twenty-one years, serving as an Area Vice-President. Atchue is a first time candidate for political office. He has served as the Secretary/Treasurer Casa Grande Democrats, Democratic Precinct Committee Person and is a Democratic State Committee member. His top priority is to prioritize funding for public education from pre-K through University/Community College and JTED per voters' will and state constitution.

Bickel to Speak on the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission



Brian Bickel is speaking on the AIRC because of the long term impact on the future of the State of Arizona. Even though it still three years away, it is never too early to engage in the process. He is a native of Michigan and has been married to his wife, Susan for 45 years. She is a native of Douglas, Arizona. He is a graduate of the University of Arizona and has a Masters degree from

Texas Tech University. He served on active duty in the US Marine Corps and retired as a Major from the Army Reserve. He is a combat veteran having served in Vietnam, Panama, Bosnia and Saudi Arabia, where he was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service. In his civilian career he was a laboratory director for twenty-two years. In 1998 he began a career in hospital administration where he rose to the position of Chief Executive Officer at three different hospitals. He is a member of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation, the American Legion and the Arizona Town Hall, where he has served as a member of the board of Directors.

Keeping Oro Valley Clean



On Saturday, March 25th members of Democrats of Oro Valley picked up trash along La Cholla between Hardy and Overton. Members participating are Kurt Ohlrich, Ken Harry, Sandy Salz, Chris Dayton and Mike Dayton. Not pictured are Mike Zinkin and Delia Donlon-DeMarini.

This and That for the Month of April

This month's activity is another post card to President Trump (that's really hard to write!). Since it is tax month and taxes are due on the 18th, we feel it is only proper that we remind the president that he has still failed to share any of his tax returns with the public. I doubt this will make him change his mind, but at least he knows we are thinking of him!

The leadership committee met and sent Membership Letters to nearly fifty lapsed and potential members. The increase in membership this year has been great, but we are always looking for more. If you have a friend who you think might be interested in what we do, invite them to attend a meeting.

Speaking of the Leadership Committee, we are in need of people willing to participate. If you are interested, please contact Mike Dayton at teachers12@q.com.

It's time again to pay your DOV dues, still only \$20!

The Future of Education in Arizona: The Impact of Thursday's Legislative Action

In a marathon session Thursday, Republicans in the Arizona Legislature voted to expand the state's Empowerment Scholarship Account program, sending to the governor legislation that allows any student to use taxpayer dollars to pay private-school tuition or for other educational expenses.

The legislation is not as expansive as the original proposal. An estimated 5,500 additional students would be allowed to sign up each year, but no more than about 30,000 could sign up by 2022. While the program would be capped at a lower number than originally proposed, Democrats and moderate Republicans seized on the expansion as evidence of conservatives' desire to "dismantle" public education because the program takes money from public schools and directs it to private and sometimes religious schools. Minutes after the bill's passage, the governor promised to sign it Thursday night.

The program began in 2011 to help parents of students with learning disabilities but has since expanded to students from poor-performing schools, Native American reservations, and others. The move to open it to all public school students came at an opportune moment for its key architects and supporters.

The legislation gives Ducey, who touts himself as both a proponent of school-choice and public schools, a win with conservatives and national school-choice groups. The Senate, meanwhile, is controlled by Sen. Steve Yarbrough, a school-choice proponent who reaps personal financial benefits of a separate school-choice program. Throughout the session, the Chandler senator repeatedly told *The Republic* he hoped ESA expansion legislation would advance.

The House of Representatives is overseen by Rep. J.D. Mesnard, another Chandler Republican who is favorable to school-choice. His chief of staff is Michael Hunter, a previous top staffer for the Goldwater Institute, a key proponent of the legislation. Hunter urged members last year to pass similar legislation. Mesnard also hired a former top staffer of the Center for Arizona Policy, which played a key role in passing the measure.

"It's a perfect storm," said Richard Herrera, an Arizona State University associate professor of political science. "You've got everyone in place that they need to expand — they're taking the opportunity to do it while they have it.

"Their fortunes are tied to the governor, and to the Senate leader," Herrera added. "This is them clearly taking the opportunity when it's being presented to them."

Sen. Steve Farley, D-Tucson, said he believes the program will most benefit wealthy families who might already plan to send their children to private school. He said Thursday's battle over expanding the ESA program reflects the broader fight "over the future of public education" in Arizona.

"We're looking at a transfer from the have-nots to the haves," he said. "A lot of people have said this is a six-year experiment. I don't believe we should experiment on our children."

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OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE BE GENEROUS.

HELP OUR LOCAL FOOD BANK

Please bring a donation of non-perishable food to our monthly meetings.

If everyone brings only one or two items it will add up to a significant contribution!

The Dems of Oro Valley care about the well-being of our less fortunate friends.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

Thanks to all of you who support our brave troops.

Please bring any of these items to DOV for distribution to disabled veterans: deodorant, shaving items, toothpaste, tooth brushes, pocket novels and paper back puzzle books.

Please – no candy.

No May meeting

LD11 Spring Picnic
Saturday May 6, 2017
4-6 pm • Sun City Activity
Center

David Fitzsimmons
Keynote Speaker
Doors Open at 3:30 pm
Come socialize! Meet new
friends!

Buy your tickets securely at:
actblue.com/contribute/page/ld11picnic2017



Saturday, May 6, 2017

Doors open at 3:30 PM
Program from 4 to 6 PM
Sun City Activity Center
1495 E. Rancho Vistoso Blvd, Oro Valley

**Grilled Hamburgers, Brats and Veggie Burgers with all the fixin's
Delicious salads, side dishes**



David Fitzsimmons

Scrumptious desserts, drinks, and popcorn provided by the LD11 Clubs

\$30.00 per person

(Buy from your Club Seller—fill out the State required donation form.)



**Bring a few extra dollars
\$\$\$ for pass the hat!**



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