

*"Liberalism is trust of the people tempered by prudence. Conservatism is distrust of the people tempered by fear."*

William E. Gladstone

## Dustin Williams on Education



Dustin Williams is a life long Native Tucsonan. He graduated from Amphitheater High School in 1992 and began working with local youth- coaching youth softball. He entered the University of Arizona in 1992 and began studying business and accounting and considered joining his grandfather's accounting firm. His coaching experiences convinced him that he wanted to work educating Tucson's youth prompting him to change his major to Education. While completing his degree in education, he continued working with students in Flowing Wells 21st Century after school programs. He began his career teaching elementary education in Tucson. He was encouraged to pursue his passion for education, decided to become an administrator and enrolled in the Northern Arizona University program in Tucson where he successfully completed a Masters in Education.

Dustin traveled full circle and taught 6th grade math at Mansfield Middle School in Tucson Unified School District immediately prior to his election as Pima County Superintendent of Schools and is excited about the future. He is committed to improving the public education systems throughout Pima County. Dustin invites you to contact him to discuss ideas about student achievement. He needs input from you. Together, "we can do better."

## From the County Chair: Speak Up Now



A remarkably serious situation faces all of us in this country. We have a President who repeatedly and blatantly lies to the American people. He is neither Democrat nor Republican, thinking only of his personal wealth, popularity, and fame. If Americans are ever going to engage in the self-governance that we all say is so important to us, it has to be now. To engage in democracy is to speak up. It is refusing to be bullied. Yes, it can be confrontational to stand up for democracy, but most of the time it isn't. Let your Democratic incumbents know that you support them. Let your Republican incumbents know that you expect them to oppose the new administration in every way possible. Let your neighbors know where you stand with a yard sign or a bumper sticker. Write a letter to the editor. Don't assume all Democrats know what's going on. Millions of Americans are standing strong together, with hope that this terrifying situation will end up being America's finest hour. And you should be part of it.



The Democrats of Casa Grande have taken the 2017 "Growing the grass roots" theme of LD11 seriously. We have, thanks to PC John Trainor, produced a voter handout booklet and PC Practical Training Guide that have become resources for PC's throughout the district. We are asking our PC's to contact at least 20 new Democrats in their precinct per month. We have begun canvassing in Arizona City and Casa Grande with amazing results. In addition to canvassing:

We are assisting the Arizona Alliance of Retired Americans to get a Casa Grande Chapter started. We are assisting the Copa City Democrats in revitalizing their critically important club. We are working with newly forming clubs in Mission Royal (Casa Grande) and Robson Ranch (Eloy) to help them be successful.

We invite you to our next meeting: Thursday 3/23/17 6:30 PM at the VFW in Casa Grande. You will be able to spend some time with the hardest working Democratic club in the state and hang out with these two guys: (Contact Ralph Atchue for details 520 251-8247)



## Keeping Oro Valley Clean

Remember we will be meeting on Saturday, March 25 at 8:00 am for our quarterly clean-up of La Cholla Avenue from Overton to Hardy. This is not a long stretch of road and provides an opportunity to visit with fellow Democrats! And if the recent weather is an indicator, it should be a beautiful day.

\*\*\* Tom O'Halleran's Pima County office: 3037 W Ina Rd, Tucson, AZ 85741 \*\*\*

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

# The American Healthcare Act: The Republican Answer to Obamacare

The Republicans have finally released their answer to Obamacare and it is mostly *keep and repeal*, very little *replace*. Almost everything that Americans liked about Obamacare has been kept: children can still stay on their parents plan until age 26; one still can't be denied coverage for pre-existing conditions and there is still no lifetime maximum on what insurance companies must pay for care.

However, everything the Republicans hated has been repealed: gone are the subsidies that made insurance affordable for the poor, replaced by tax credits, based not on financial need but on age (The older you are, the more you get!); Medicaid expansion goes away in 2020 and Federal funding to the states will change dramatically. Some large employers will no longer be required to provide an employee health insurance benefit. This is how over 60% of Americans currently get healthcare coverage. Also gone are all of the taxes and penalties that provided funding for the programs in Obamacare. The bill prohibits Medicaid payments to Planned Parenthood clinics for one year, starting the date the bill is enacted. This effectively eliminates a significant source of care for low income individuals. And finally, the tax penalties for the uninsured, the individual mandate, has been eliminated.

The good news is that if you are eligible for a Health Savings Account, the amounts you can contribute would increase in 2018. Of course, this is something that will truly benefit the poor by providing a meaningful purpose for all of their discretionary income. The Speaker has said he wants a "quality, affordable, accessible healthcare plan".

Interestingly, healthcare has always been accessible if you could afford it. And generally speaking has been a quality product. The only issue has always been, who pays for it?

According to the Republican Party, the failure of Obamacare was demonstrated by excessive increases in insurance premiums and the departure of insurance companies from many markets, leaving people with little or no choice in plans. When Republicans succeeded in delaying the implementation of the individual mandate, the only people who bought insurance were those who were sick and needed it. Young healthy adults who didn't already have insurance largely stayed away. And as costs rose so did premiums. No healthcare plan, not Obamacare or the American Healthcare Act, can provide accessible, affordable, quality health insurance unless people who do not need insurance participate in the program. Insurance is based on shared risk and shared cost. If only those at high risk are sharing the cost, it is going to be high. That is the undisputed business model.

Unless we deny care to those without coverage who need it, and we hope this will never happen, those who are relatively healthy and deem the cost too high will not participate in the program, no matter what it is called. The only way to provide quality, accessible healthcare at an affordable price is for everyone to participate in the program. As long as we have millions of people without "insurance", the cost of their care, when it is necessary, will ultimately borne by those of us who do have coverage.

For more information, please read "The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care" by T. R. Reid

**Brian Bickel, DOV Newsletter Editor**

## 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.*

## April meeting

Monday  
April 10, 2017  
7 pm • OV Library

**Cheryl Cage**  
Former Pima County  
Chair

Come early at 6:45 and socialize! Meet new friends!