

We have to be bold in our national ambitions. First, we must win the fight against poverty within the next decade. Second, we must improve moral standards in government and society to provide a strong foundation for good governance. Third, we must change the character of our politics to promote fertile ground for reforms.

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

Congressman Tom O'Halleran to Speak



Growing up, Tom O'Halleran was taught the value of hard work and honesty in serving his community. It is no surprise he took these lessons and joined the Chicago Police Department where he was commissioned as one of the youngest homicide detectives in the city's history. He served with distinction — receiving countless commendations and awards for his work to serve and protect his community.

Following his service, Tom became a member of the Chicago Board of Trade and opened his own small business. As a member of the board of directors, he chaired the finance, floor operations, and planning committees. His work gave the Board of Trade a vision for the future.

Never one to rest, Tom took on public service once again upon retiring to Arizona and served three consecutive terms in the Arizona House of Representatives and one term in the Senate. Tom used his eight years in the legislature to take on tough challenges and make the right decisions for his constituents, regardless of the political implications. For Tom, it is about the people he serves, not his title.

Tom and his wife, Pat, live in unincorporated Yavapai County. They have been married for over 48 years and have three children and four grandchildren.

Bond Issues, Initiatives and More

In the upcoming general election there will be several initiatives, referenda and bond issues on the ballot that weren't on the primary ballot. That's because these are general election items only. They are, however, some of the most crucial votes you will cast in this election because the results will impact our lives for years if not decades to come.

There is a \$430 million bond issue that will benefit Oro Valley in the amount of \$2.3 million per year for five years. The two most talked about initiatives are Save Our Schools and Invest in Ed. Both deal with public education funding.

Then there is the Dark Money initiative which requires candidates and committees to disclose where the money that they are spending on a campaign comes from. It does not prohibit donations, it just requires that they be public.

The Clean Energy initiative requires that 50% of the power consumed in the state be generated from renewable sources. And the realtors have an initiative that prevents the state from ever levying a sales tax on services.

Next month's program is a forum on these and other initiatives, providing you with the information that you need to make an informed decision when casting your vote. Please make an effort to attend.

What is the greatest threat to Arizona?

By Ralph Atchue, Candidate for Arizona Senate, LD11



I believe the greatest threat to Arizona is a lack of ethical government. Today's Arizona state government is controlled by a majority party that is operating at the behest of dark/dirty money lobbyists rather than in the best interest of its citizens. There is a blurred line between illegal and unethical.

The GOP has failed in its fiscal responsibility to conduct audits on private prisons, sales tax loopholes, tax credits, school vouchers, charter schools, corporate income tax filings and other revenue leaks. The GOP allows state legislators to directly profit on bills they sponsor and support.

When asked about increasing state revenue, LD11's GOP candidates offer the lease or sale of public lands as a solution. They don't consider the environmental impact on air and water - their focus is on short term profit for developers.

LD11 Rep Leach championed abusive legislative over-reach, bullying cities and voters alike. When Tempe voters passed a measure by 90%, Leach stepped in, and shut them up! He protected the influence of unmitigated dirty money in elections rather than the will of the voters! This past session proved the GOP cared more about NRA ratings than protecting AZ's families. For more information to to <http://atchue4azsenate.com/>

Pay your 2018 DOV dues now, still only \$20!

Water, The Next Crisis

By Hollace Lyon, Colonel, USAF, Retired



Yes, it IS a dry heat. With an average of 8.04 inches of rainfall per year, Arizona is the fourth driest state in the nation. It stands to reason then, that we consider water our most precious resource. Unfortunately, lax regulations, allowing unimpeded growth and out-of-state or foreign land purchase and water pumping, are helping cause a perfect (dry) storm that we have yet to adequately deal with.

According to New York Times Magazine, few laws govern the extraction of groundwater and aquifers which are “unimaginably complex and incredibly fragile; and once tapped, can take more than 6,000 years to replenish.” In Arizona, such aquifers provide about 44 percent of our water. To make matters worse, 2018 brought record-low snow pack levels to parts of the West, making it one of the worst drought cycles over the last 1,200 years.

The more visible evidence, is the bathtub ring around Lake Mead, the storage reservoir for Colorado River water providing 40 percent of Arizona’s water along with allocations to California, Nevada and Mexico. Now, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation says Lake Mead could drop below 1,075 feet by 2022, driving a federally declared water shortage and following an estimated 20 percent of Pinal County agriculture.

You would think then, that Arizona lawmakers would be laser-focused on this issue. Instead, most groundwater rights are still based on the frontier legal doctrine of ‘reasonable use,’ allowing landowners to pump what they want. In 1964, the first Arizona Town Hall on water issues reported, “Arizona’s water problem is grave” and since then, our state population has increased by over 720 percent. In 1980, we became the first state to pass groundwater reform, deeming groundwater a public, rather than private, resource. Progress since then, has been lackluster.

With the situation now more dire than ever, 2018 saw Arizona’s 53rd Legislature declare sine die with nothing for Lake Mead, or to crack down on CAP, or for water metering, or for desalination, or to stop out-of-state water transfers. They also failed to adopt the multi-state drought contingency plan (DCP) which may force reduced deliveries to Arizona.

Kathy Ferris, a former director of the AZ Department of Water Resources (ADWR), says, “The Legislative session was a complete failure where water is concerned. We should be embarrassed. We have lost the respect of our sister Colorado River Basin states for failing to take action to protect Lake Mead. Every year that goes by without action means we are further in the hole, and failing to take action is a grave failure of leadership.”

Real problems require real leadership. We don’t need our lawmakers to “go with the flow” but rather, to make the hard decisions to “keep the flow going.” This is a complicated, looming problem that will take much time, talent, and tenacity to solve. If ever there was a time when failure was not an option, this must certainly be it.

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.

September Meeting

Monday
September 10, 2018
7 pm • OV Library

Forum on the Ballot Initiatives

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