



Democrats of Oro Valley *Newsletter August 2021*

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson
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No national crime passes unpunished in the long run. Were our present oppressors to reflect on the same truth, they would spare their own country the penalties of their present wrongs which will be inflicted on them in future times. Like their brother robbers on the highway, they suppose the escape of the moment a final escape and deem infamy and future risk countervailed by present gain.
Thomas Jefferson

2021 Dues Still Only \$20 **DOV Tee Shirts \$20**

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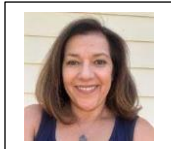
AUGUST ZOOM MEETING - Guest Speaker Rex Scott



Rex Scott, Pima County Board of Supervisors District 1

Background: Scott earned two bachelor’s degrees from Ohio University. In 1987, at the age of 24, he became the first Ohio University student elected to serve on Athens City Council. He was re-elected in 1989, chaired the Finance Committee in his second term, and joined with two of his colleagues to start the city’s curbside recycling program. In 1991, Scott moved to Pima County where he taught social studies at Flowing Wells Junior High School. In 2000, Scott began his 19-year career as an administrator, working in both middle and high schools. During that time, he served as an assistant principal at Ironwood Ridge High School and the principal at Tortolita Middle School.

Personal Statement: I am honored to serve as a part of the five-member Board of Supervisors and will work to ensure safe communities, nurture economic development, manage natural resources, and protect public health.



Raquel Mamani, Community Coordinator for Arizona Save Our Schools

Mamani will explain the recently passed laws that would devastate funding for public education and the petition drive to combat them. She is currently serving as the Community Action Team Coordinator for Greater Phoenix and Southern Arizona as a part of the Save Our Schools Arizona Network.

Mamani attended the University of Arizona where she received a bachelor’s degree in Special Education and Deaf Studies. She taught Special Education and dual languages for twelve years in three different states.

Up-Coming Guest Speakers

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|---------------|--|----------------------------------|
| September 13: | League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson | Topic: Redistricting & Fair Maps |
| October 11: | CD 1 Representative Tom O’Halloran | Topic: Legislative Update |

How To Beat A Ninja

by Tom Meconi

Our Republican legislators' Big Lie post-election power grab was so extensive and spread out over so many bills that it took three referendums to address the worst of the voter suppression laws they passed and three more to address their laws to continue to defund public education by rewriting Arizona's tax code. Add the Dark Money initiative and there are seven petitions which need to be signed to save our democracy. And that only begins to clean up their mess.

It is abundantly clear that our Republican legislators will do whatever they can to maintain their minority control of our state and our country. Their actions continue to show fealty to their rich supporters and nothing but disdain for everyone else.

So, what can you do? The first step is easy. Sign the petitions. Separate notices to DOV members are going out for specific signing events. If you haven't signed yet, stop everything and contact Jean at jmmecc@gmail.com to get the information you need.

Second, join us. There has been a tsunami of interest in the petition drive, but it will take a tsunami of action all across the state to meet our goals. The Oro Valley Library has been a hot spot the last two weeks and signing opportunities will continue through this week. In addition, our volunteers have started setting up signing tables at other high traffic locations, community functions, and family gatherings. What would help us the most is having a group of volunteer canvassers who are willing to circulate petitions, since very little money is going to paid solicitors. We will provide the petitions and a list of left-leaning voters in whatever area you wish to work. Or use your imagination. Kindred spirits are everywhere, and you can reach them.

This is another test of our democracy, Washington's "grand experiment for providing human happiness." We can pass it with your help. Please contact Jean at jmmecc@gmail.com.





Conservatives Do Not See This Cartoon as an Indictment

by Dee Maitland

Perhaps you too have spent the last five years in despair of ever finding a way to change a conservative mind since no fact, no expert, no amount of reason, no heartfelt appeals, and no calls for dialogue have worked. Previously, I brilliantly decided that to counter their endless stream of nonsense we needed to say “Oh, a Republican” and walk away anytime we encountered a bad person or situation. The goal was to ensure that over time “Republican” would become a common swear word and a taint on their brand. I now believe that while satisfying this isn’t a helpful idea if our goal is to bring conservatives to our way of thinking. No one responds well to ridicule. Besides, according to a 2020 Gallup poll: 50% of Republicans own guns while only 18% of Democrats do, so we are dangerously outgunned and need to be careful.

In the last two weeks I took a webinar titled [Countering Mis, Dis and Misinformation Online](#) presented by [rethinkmedia.org](#) and read “Don’t Think of an Elephant: Know Your Values and Frame the Debate” by George Lakoff. There is some hope for us. Dr. Lakoff uses family analogies to identify the key difference between conservative and liberal moral values: Conservatives follow the “strong father” model while Liberals believe in a “nurturing family” model. Spare the rod spoil the child versus bees and honey. He has evidence that both sides have these moral programs hardwired in their brains. Conservatives truly believe in a moral hierarchy of strength and superior knowledge that places God over man, man over woman, adult over child, white over black, rich over poor, Christianity over other religions, America over other nations, and man over nature. **This has worked for them.** Man’s role to protect and guide has also worked for conservative women because they have been protected and do not need to agonize over life problems. Success is measured in wealth and achieved by discipline. Teaching discipline involves punishment as a tool. An ideal conservative is a totally self-sufficient individual who owes nothing to any other person or organization. It is natural and right for them to protect this world order. Trump’s “I alone can fix it” is the perfect statement of this.

That is why the cartoon above does not prove hypocrisy in their brains because individual male autonomy has nothing in common with a woman killing a “person” through abortion. Their relentless drive to end abortion is not about abortion. It is about male moral authority over females and keeping them in their rightful place. If it were about caring for children, they would be advancing food, health, and education programs for those fetuses once they are born.

When you understand this, you can begin to understand that their positions are based on embedded beliefs that the Kochs and their allies have used over the years to expand their sense of white male power and privilege. Their own strong father upbringing gave them the wealth and moral authority to impose their will on the world. One of the best examples is their brilliant staging in their use of the phrase “tax relief” to form the Tea Party out of people who benefited from taxpayer funds. Tax cuts do more than just allow them to keep their wealth. It also allows them to cut all the social programs they believe were wasted on the undeserving and minimize government regulatory authority over them. The Arizona legislature’s recent tax cuts perfectly mirror this insidious pattern.

So, what can a liberal do to save democracy from “strong father” autocracy? Both *rethinkmedia.org* and Dr. Lakoff suggest the only way to counter these ingrained beliefs is to speak from our own moral positions, rather than spouting facts, policies, and programs. In reality, we share many of the same values: children should not be harmed; freedom is a right; terrorism corrupts freedom; generosity is Christian; greed is bad; the Golden Rule should be followed; democracy has the best political system, etc. One of the best arguments Dr. Lakoff makes is to point out that you are not free if you are starving or ill; you cannot help yourself if you are ignorant; you are a wage slave if you work hard and still are not able to support your family. These are the things we should be saying rather than championing a single policy, such as a national minimum wage. We need to drip, drip, drip as the Koch network did about “no new taxes” to attune their brains to our version of good life standards before we can sell our programs.

Conservatives had a 40 year start on selling people that government is bad, capitalists are morally superior, climate change is a hoax and/or remediation is too expensive, and the poor are lazy. I invite you to listen to *rethinkmedia.org* and follow Dr. Lakoff on YouTube if you cannot get his book, and then help us form our messaging game plan.

We may not be able to woo Arizona’s entrenched conservatives, but 32.3% of the state registered voters are Independents who are not hardwired. We need to develop our heartfelt messages and get them out before election time 2022.

The Best of Biden

by Jacolyn Marshall

According to a recent AP poll, 92% of Democrats approve of the way Biden is handling his job.

Economy

- Biden signed an executive order strengthen antitrust enforcement, protect consumers and workers, and tackle consolidation and anticompetitive practices in technology and health care. The 72 actions will lower prices, increase wages, and promote innovation and economic growth.
- US economy grew at a solid 6.5% annual rate last quarter. Consumer spending, the main fuel of our economy, surged for a second straight quarter. Commerce Department accepted applications for \$3 billion in economic development grants.

Climate:

- Biden proposed returning to aggressive vehicle mileage standards and instituting tougher anti-pollution rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage 40% of US drivers to opt for electric vehicles.
- The compromise infrastructure bill passed by Congress includes \$7.5 billion in federal grants to build a national network of charging outlets, a step toward Biden’s goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% in 2030.
- Biden conducted a virtual meeting with state governors to discuss efforts to strengthen wildfire prevention, preparedness, and response as climate change has worsened the spread and ferocity of these blazes.

Crime:

- Biden met with urban leaders to address the increased number of shootings across the nation. He promised to support efforts to combat crime by encouraging more community policing to intervene before violence erupts. Money for such proactive policing was included in his Covid relief bill.
- Attorney General Garland launched an effort to reduce gun violence in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Washington DC, by addressing illegal gun trafficking and prosecuting offenders who arm criminals.

Attacks on Democracy:

- Congressional hearings on the January 6 insurrection have begun. Congress passed emergency legislation to bolster security at the capitol and pay outstanding debts from the uprising, including police salaries and fortifying doors and windows throughout the building.
- The Justice Department issued guidance to all states regarding voting rights and post-election audits. Although states have the right to conduct elections, the Attorney General reminded them that they must comply with federal laws and where violations of those laws occur, the Justice Department will not hesitate to act.

Cybersecurity:

- Department of Homeland Security announced new requirements for US pipeline operators to increase cybersecurity by implementing specific mitigation measures to prevent ransomware attacks and other intrusions.
- The State Department is offering rewards for information leading to the identification of anyone engaged in foreign state-sanctioned malicious cyber activity. A task force has been assigned to coordinate efforts to halt the rise in ransomware attacks.
- The Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network is working with banks and technology companies to prevent money-laundering of cryptocurrency and improve tracing of ransomware payments made by virtual currency.

Health:

- Biden nominated former health commissioner Sanjay Gupta as the nation's top anti-drug official. The first doctor to head the Office of National Drug Control Policy, he will lead the fight against the opioid epidemic that killed over 90,000 people last year.
- Monthly Child Tax Credit relief payments are cutting child poverty rates in half, leading to better outcomes in adulthood and promoting economic growth.
- Biden announced that federal workers must show proof of Covid vaccination or submit to weekly testing and stringent social distancing. Guidelines are aimed at increasing vaccination rates among federal employees and setting an example for private employers. He directed the Department of Defense to consider adding Covid to its list of required vaccines.
- Biden called for social media giants to stop the spread of misinformation, noting that FB has allowed 12 people to spread of false or misleading information about the safety and efficacy of the vaccines on their site.
- The Justice Department announced that companies can legally require vaccinations as a condition of employment.
- US extended the closure of the land borders with Canada and Mexico to non-essential travelers until mid-August citing Covid concerns. Cross-border trade between Canada, Mexico and the US has not been affected by the closure.

DACA

- The Department of Justice intends to preserve and fortify the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.
- The Department of Homeland Security will continue renewing permits for current enrollees, giving Congress and Biden's administration time to correct legal defects that have undermined the program.



Thumbs Up to the Arizona Redistricting Commission

by Dee Maitland

The Arizona Redistricting Commission just finished its first listening tour, and we Arizonans can be proud of ourselves for establishing the commission 20 years ago and confident that its five volunteer commissioners are on track to do a carefully considered job of redrawing our voting districts for the next 10 years.

The commission is tasked with drawing 30 legislative and 9 congressional districts. They must draw districts using 6 criteria set out in Prop 106 that established the IRC. The criteria are:

- that they are in compliance with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act,
- that districts are roughly equal in population,
- that they appear compact and contiguous,
- that they respect communities of interest,
- that they incorporate visible geographic features; city, town, and county boundaries; and undivided census tracts;
- and that they are electorally competitive as long as the aforementioned criteria are satisfied.

Five of the criteria are based on tangibles such as law, geography, municipal boundaries, and voter registration. Only the community of interest criteria is not clearly defined and cannot be derived from printed materials. That is the reason for the listening tour that was just completed.

Between July 23 and August 9 there were 15 public meetings throughout the state to hear citizens testify on their communities of interest. All were held in three formats: live, via satellite locations, and live-streamed. They were all recorded so we and the commissioners can go back and review the testimony. This is important because not all commissioners could be physically present at every meeting. The meetings also included presentations by legal experts and the mapping consultants on the laws behind redistricting and the process of drawing maps. The commissioners were generous with their time, allowing one meeting to last an extra hour to permit all 50 people who were signed up an opportunity to speak.

One of the reasons Prop 106 passed was to prohibit gerrymandering by the legislature. After considering the other five criteria, establishing competitive districts will still be a struggle for the commission as “birds of a feather flock together”. This is of particular interest to those of us who live in LD11 which was specifically designed as a safe Republican district. Kudos need to go to the commission when they engaged presenters to specifically address this issue on Tuesday, August 3. It elicited this response from the League of Women Voters of Arizona:

Thank you to the IRC for arranging for these presentations and discussion about competitiveness measures. The experts were articulate, to-the-point, and able to translate their research into layman's terms. It's very valuable, thought-provoking information and has raised many questions for both the Commissioners and the public to consider. The League will be referring our members and the public to this part of today's IRC meeting. Comments and questions, especially those by Chair Neuberg and Commissioner Lerner touched on many critical points. Competitiveness is obviously complex and difficult.

If you missed the first round of public hearings, there will be another round when the first draft maps are released in September. In the interim, you can always go to <https://irc.az.gov/> to follow their progress and submit comments. It is anticipated that organizations such as the League of Women Voters, Indivisible, One Arizona, and Pima County Democrats will once again offer training on how to draw your preferred map and give testimony.

When you delve into the mountains of statistics and try mapping, you will appreciate the very difficult job the five commissioners have volunteered to do for no pay and most likely no glory from our contentious citizenry. If you have a chance, thank them.

help wanted

Writing letters to the Editor is one of the most powerful ways to persuade voters. They have been found to be more effective than calling, emailing, and texting.

Join our team of letter writers to:

- 1 educate, persuade & inspire others to take action
- 2 meet with likeminded progressives at convenient times
- 3 preview letters, give gentle suggestions & get support

Please consider joining our Letters to the Editor group, in association with Indivisible Tucson Action Alliance.

Email jacolyn@comcast.net to sign up.



Public Service Announcement

The new Covid delta variant is even more contagious than previously thought. Even those who have been fully vaccinated are experiencing breakthrough infections. The Center for Disease Control again recommends that everyone, the vaccinated and unvaccinated alike, return to avoiding crowds, wearing masks at indoor venues, and practicing social distancing.

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, tooth brushes, pocket novels and puzzle books.*

September Meeting

Monday, September 13
6:30 pm

Speaker: Representative
League of Women Voters

Topic: Redistricting