



Newsletter
June
2021

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson
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We need to keep making our streets safer and our criminal justice system fairer, our homeland more secure, and our world more peaceful and sustainable for the next generation. If the people cannot trust their government to do the job for which it exists – to protect them and to promote their common welfare – all else is lost.

Barack Obama

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BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE



JUNE ZOOM MEETING - Guest Speaker Sheriff Chris Nanos



Pima County Sheriff Chris Nanos

Sheriff Nanos began his career in law enforcement in 1976 with the El Paso Police Department. He became a member of the Pima County Sheriff's Department in 1984 as a corrections officer and was promoted to deputy the following year. Throughout his career Sheriff Nanos has maintained a strong emphasis on his work in Criminal Investigations, particularly Violent Crimes, Sex Crimes, and Narcotics Interdiction. He previously served as Chief Deputy and was later appointed Sheriff. In 2020, Nanos was elected as Sheriff and returned to the department ready to serve the community. He is responsible for a multi-million-dollar budget and a department comprised of nearly 1500 highly qualified, trained, and committed employees, complemented by over 400 volunteers who provide support throughout the organization.

His plans for meaningful reform include:

- Providing deputies with body cameras, which will provide transparency, accountability, and protection for both deputies and members of the public.
- Creating a regional Critical Incident Team to handle investigations of in-custody deaths and officer involved shootings, which will put other agencies in charge to ensure transparent and objective investigations and avoid conflict of interest.
- Creating a community board to assess policies that impact the training of our deputies and our approach to discipline and accountability.
- Reducing the population at our jail by creating a program that connects those suffering from mental illness and addiction with needed resources and treatment options.
- Using technology to find alternatives, such as electronic ankle monitors, for those serving time in our jail for low level, nonviolent misdemeanors.

Personal Statement: " I am committed to ensuring our community has a positive and professional experience when they are in harm's way or in crises."

Up-Coming Guest Speakers*

July 12:	Pima County Attorney Laura Conover	Topic: Progress Report
August 9:	Pima County Supervisor Rex Scott	Topic: Progress Report
September 13:	Arizona League of Women Voters	Topic: Redistricting & Fair Maps

***Please note: Zoom meetings will continue through December**

The Wheels of Justice: An Update

by Tom Meconi

It has been a couple months since we took a look at the number of lawsuits and civil and criminal investigations pending against Trump, his family and organization. While the suits remain the same, both the New York Attorney General and the Southern District of New York have upped the ante with the AG indicating she is now investigating criminal offenses and Cy Vance is convening a grand jury.

The Civil suits proceed slowly, but Trump's pretrial Motion to Dismiss has been denied in the Zervos case, as has his attempt to force arbitration in the Jane Doe case.

Again, this is not an exhaustive list of all actions involving his businesses, but only those that personally involve the Trump family and have consequences that threaten to take the grift out of their existence. That this is happening to someone who made it a business practice to overwhelm creditors with frivolous lawsuits just to price them out of their meritorious claims is an appetizer worth savoring.

CIVIL CASES / INVESTIGATIONS

Plaintiff	Cause of Action	Jurisdiction	Status
E. Jean Carroll	Defamation (rape denial)	U.S. District Court, S.D.N.Y.	Pretrial. Trump's immunity defense remains on appeal
Summer Zervos	Defamation (sexual misconduct denial)	N.Y. Superior Court	Pretrial, N.Y. highest appellate Court denied Trump's dismissal motion. On to trial.
Mary Trump	Fraud (Inheritance dispute)	N.Y. Superior Court	Pretrial. Motion to Dismiss still pending.
Ithica Capital	Fraud (hotel value)	S.D.N.Y.	Pretrial, in discovery.
J. Doe (anonymous class action)	Fraud (scam business opportunities)	S.D.N.Y.	Pretrial. Trump's attempt to stay and force arbitration denied.
District of Columbia	Misuse of inauguration funds	D.C. Superior Court	Pretrial, in discovery. Motions to dismiss pending.
Rep. Benny Thompson, et al	Incitement/Klu Klux Klan Act	U.S. District Court, D.C.	Pretrial, in discovery.
Rep. Eric Swalwell, et al	Incitement/Klu Klux Klan Act	U.S. District Court, D.C.	Pretrial, in discovery.
State of New York	Fraudulent Real Estate Practices	N.Y. Superior Court	Pretrial, in discovery.
State of New York	Tax Fraud (Civil and Criminal Investigation)	No filings to date	Investigation now includes potential criminal activity.
Blassingame/Hemby (D.C. Police Officers)	Incitement/Conspiracy	U.S. District Court, D.C.	Pretrial. Plaintiffs have filed to add two new conspiracy claims.
NAACP	Violation of Voting Rights Act	U.S. District Court, D.C.	Motion to Dismiss pending

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Jurisdiction	Charges	Status
Washington D.C.	Incitement to riot	Investigation pending
Fulton Co. GA	Election Interference	Two Grand Jury subpoenas issued
Southern District of New York	Tax fraud	Grand jury proceeding.



Rural Arizonans for Accountability Denounces Political Intimidation *by Chesney Richter*

In the past month, our organization has been served with a cease-and-desist letter from Finchem's lawyers, threatening us with a lawsuit if we do not close up shop and abandon our campaign. We have also had team members verbally and physically harassed while collecting petition signatures.

One such incident occurred outside the Oro Valley Library, when a young woman collecting petition signatures was aggressively confronted by a man demanding to know what Finchem had done to violate his oath of office. Dissatisfied by the information offered him, he aggressively tried to take her clipboard of signatures. Concerned about the privacy of those who had signed the petition, our volunteer did not release the clipboard. The man managed to tear the petitions, but he disengaged when a bystander ran from the parking lot to intervene. Despite being shaken up, our volunteer managed to take a photo of the man and his license plate. Library staff called the police for help, and the man was subsequently taken into custody and cited for disorderly conduct and the destruction of property. Incidents like these will not stop us from doing the work that needs to be done. We will not be bullied or intimidated from holding Finchem accountable. We are working every day to make that happen.

To force a recall election and put State Rep. Finchem before the voters this November, we need to collect about 25,000 signatures from registered voters in LD11 before July 8th. To date, we have collected approximately 15,000 signatures and are well on our way to meeting our goal. We have a strong team of canvassers knocking on doors every day and a dedicated base of volunteers.

With just over one month left to go, we are on track to meet our goal, but we need your help to keep the momentum going and keep collecting those signatures. Have you already signed a petition? Can you volunteer to collect signatures? Can you help us continue our work by simply making a donation?

Please go to www.mobilize.us/ruralarizonansforaccountability to find out where you can sign a petition, volunteer to collect signatures, and donate to the cause. Because we deserve to have elected officials who are responsible leaders and advocate for the needs of our communities, our work continues.

Letters to the Editor Have a Real Impact

by Jacolyn Marshall

Letters to the Editor are considered one of the most powerful ways to persuade voters. They have been found to be more effective than calling, emailing, and texting. If you would like to help combat misinformation and elect Democrats in future elections, please consider joining our Letters to the Editor team. We write to educate, persuade, and inspire others to take action for the good of our state and our country, and we would like you to join us.

Please email jacolyn@comcast.net if you would like to sign up. Together we can make a difference.

The Legislature's Bad Bill Recap

by Dee Maitland

First let's start with the just-plain-stupid category of proposed bills such as: a bill passed allowing higher speed limits and lowering the fines; a passed bill designating gun shops as essential; and one that didn't pass that would remove the mandate to vaccinate pets. Why? Why? Why? Is there any evidence that Arizona roads and drivers can handle higher speeds safely? Guns are essential because the rise in murders and suicides is not yet high enough? And Senator Anti-vax Barto obviously has not seen a rabid animal.

The 11 awful voter suppression bills that passed are disturbing similar. All passed with every Republican House and Senate member voting for them. All were sponsored by ALEC legislators though there is some evidence the other Koch funded organization, the Heritage Foundation, supplied these. All passed with significantly more Request to Speak responses against them than for them. HB 2308, which makes recalls (such as Finchem's) more difficult, had 105 for postings vs 1089 against and still passed. Of course, just as they believe the Big Lie, Republicans believe the Request to Speak system is trolled by bots instead an indication their bills are not popular. There are only 2 bills where their constituents logged in with almost as many pro votes and we posted con. Both bills "oddly" were about guns: 856 for vs 963 against a law allowing defiance of any federal laws restricting the second amendment; 874 for vs 972 against the law designating gun shops as essential. It seems only the NRA can get out support.

The slightly good news is that our 3 stooges (Finchem, Leach and Roberts) had little legislative success. Finchem proposed 8 bills, of which only one received a hearing and passed. It transferred some public land to the VA. Roberts proposed 5 bills with only one receiving a hearing and passing. It started out as a bad bill to prevent municipalities from reducing funding for police and ended up just as bad with our legislature giving the Attorney General the responsibility to determine if a Presidential order is legal and the ability to undermine it at will. Leach proposed 3 bills, of which only one received consideration and passed. It relieved businesses defying CDC Covid recommendations of liability for sickness and death of employees. Leach deserves the Most Anti-Democracy Legislator award for his proposal to give the legislature the right to override voter initiatives.

These are the significant take-a-ways from this legislative session:

- ✓ The session is not over until it is over, so we cannot let down our guard. Bills that appear dead can be resurrected when legislators return on June 10th. SB2648 which gives "religious" organizations exemption from civil and criminal penalties was retained and could be revived.
- ✓ Republicans are not swayed by Request To Speak, so we will need to physically be in their face. Read, write, and assemble. But do not stop using RTS, that way your opinions become part of the public record.
- ✓ We need to change the law that allows tax decreases to pass with 51% of the votes while increases require 66%. Time to do more than burn Grover Norquist in effigy.
- ✓ The S-1 Voting Rights Act sponsored by Senator Sinema **must pass!** Pressure on her to end the filibuster must be relentless. She had her chance to show her ability to win over 10 Republicans with the January 6th commission bill. She failed.
- ✓ The same perfidious legislators (hopefully except Finchem) will be back for the next session in January 2022. We need to keep stay focused and attack eloquently.
- ✓ Redistricting has become more important than ever. Currently, there are 4 safe Republican, 2 safe Democrat and 3 competitive Districts. LD11 is safe Republican. There is now almost a 3-way split of registered voters between the parties and independents. We must ensure the new districts reflect the migration away from Republicans.

The Best of Biden

by Jacolyn Marshall

A true statesman, President Biden has been acting to improve the lives of all Americans across the country and regain our stature across the world.

He has already proven that he has the experience, integrity, and compassion to guide our nation. Under his leadership, we have witnessed

- A dramatic reduction in Covid cases. By the end of May, 40% of all Americans had been fully vaccinated, with an anticipated rate of 70% by the end of July.
- A 43% decrease in hunger rates among adults due to the American Rescue Plan, which is the lowest rate since the start of the pandemic.
- A return to safe and humane immigration reforms, sheltering unaccompanied minors, reuniting children with their families, and reinstating asylum procedures and pathways to citizenship.
- A rebuilding of our economy with the Jobs Plan. Prior to his taking office, the economy was creating an average of 60,000 jobs per month. That number is now over 500,000 per month, with 1.8 million new jobs this year.
- Improvements in healthcare, education, housing, and the environment through the use of his discretionary funds to finance them.
- An effort to decrease to gun violence through the use of his executive orders and decrease violence against Asian Americans with the passage of the Hate Crimes Act.

He has already proven that he has the knowledge and experience to represent us in international affairs. Under his leadership, we have witnessed

- A return to the Paris Climate Accord and the President's Global Climate Summit to combat global warming.
- A return to the World Health Organization and the authorization of 80 million doses of Covid vaccines to other nations to help prevent a destabilization of their economies.
- An effort to restore and strengthen our relationships with countries throughout the world, including China, India, South Korea, Japan, Russia, Israel, Palestine, and other Arab nations. Later this month, Biden will be attending the G-7 Summit in the U.K. where he will meet with British PM Johnson, and the NATO Summit in Brussels where he will meet with Turkish President Erdogan.

At home and across the globe, President Biden is working to promote cooperation and improve lives.

OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE BE GENEROUS HELP OUR LOCAL FOOD BANK SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

* 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.

* 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.*

June Meeting

Monday, July 12
6:30 pm

Speaker: Laura Conover
Pima County Attorney

Topic: Progress Report