



Newsletter  
May  
2021

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

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We have state legislatures that are deliberately trying to make it harder for people to vote. That is contrary to who we are. We should have no tolerance for laws that aim at disenfranchising our fellow citizens. At the federal level, we need a new Voting Rights Act. At the state and local levels, we've got to fight back against efforts to make it harder to vote and embrace those who are prepared to make it easier. *Barack Obama*

**2021 Dues Still Only \$20**

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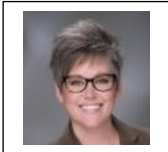
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**BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE**



**MAY ZOOM MEETING - Guest Speaker Katie Hobbs**



### **Katie Hobbs, Secretary of State**

Secretary Katie Hobbs has led a life of service. Beginning with her job as a social worker and chief compliance officer at one of the largest domestic violence centers in the US, the focus of her life has been to help others to gain security, be heard, and create better lives.

Secretary Hobbs has a Bachelor of Social Work from Northern Arizona University and a Master of Social Work from Arizona State University. She has been a professional social worker since 1992. Prior to being elected to the legislature, she worked in the areas of domestic violence, behavioral health, and homelessness. She is a former volunteer for the Arizona Democratic Party and Chair of District 15 Democrats.

After serving in the Arizona House of Representatives and Arizona Senate as minority leader, that fundamental desire to serve inspired her to run for Secretary of State. She brings years of experience to the Office of the Secretary of State to ensure that it runs productively, and that Arizona elections are secure, fair, and efficient.

Secretary Hobbs' mission statement:

- \* I will fight to make every Arizonan's voice heard.
- \* I will act to protect your right to vote.
- \* I will work to end long lines that prevent voters from participating in our elections.
- \* I will fight to protect access to the ballot.
- \* I will remain dedicated to serving the best interests of the people of Arizona.



**When fascism comes to Arizona it will be wrapped in a flag and carrying a cross . . . and funded by the Koch donor network.**

*by Dee Maitland*

If you have spent the last 4 months following proposed legislation, registering your opinion on Request to Speak, contacting your legislators, and writing letters to the editor, you watched in horror as bad bill after bad bill was passed on 31-29 margins and signed by the governor. You also know that many of the bills you fought to stop and thought dead are suspended in committee and may rise again. You too have watched in horror and embarrassment at the national ridicule our state is receiving over a costly and useless audit. (continued)

If you are struggling to understand the perfidy and cruelty of the Republican agenda, two recent articles may give you clarity and possible ways forward as we try to save democracy from the Koch sponsored Republican and religious fanatics.

In his letter to the editor in the Arizona Star on April 20, Gerry Lessells stated:

*Republicans and the Republican Party place rights first and responsibilities (to others) second. Democrats and the Democratic Party place responsibilities (to others) first and rights second. Too bad our Founding Fathers didn't provide us with a Bill of Responsibilities as well as a Bill of Rights!*

Although our Constitution does not include a Bill of Responsibilities, every religious text clearly espouses our responsibilities to others. It is obscene that our Republican legislators wave the flag of constitutional rights and champion religious freedoms while advancing legislation that seeks to harm others. Instead of bills to feed the poor or heal the sick, they propose cruel and punitive bills. Bills they have proposed this session claim the right:

- ☛ to immunity for religious organizations from civil and criminal laws;
- ☛ to ignore safety precautions, allowing unmasked clergy to spread Covid 19 in hospitals;
- ☛ for “religious” medical personnel to refuse health care that would save the lives of pregnant women and members of the LBGTQ community;
- ☛ to force women to bear the cost and trauma of birthing an unviable child;
- ☛ to protect gun stores as essential services during emergencies, at the cost of countless lives;
- ☛ to spend taxpayer funds to override the will of voters with audits and challenges to voter initiatives;
- ☛ to reap tax exemptions while engaging in political activities from the pulpit;
- ☛ to receive taxpayer dollars for phony adoption services and women’s health clinics;
- ☛ to have tax funded school vouchers pay for religious schools that breed dangerous zealots;
- ☛ to override science and declare citizenship begins at conception, giving parental rights to rapists;
- ☛ to refuse food, housing, healthcare, and education to the poor.

In his article for the Washington Post, “A New Poll Result Reveals Sharp Pessimism on America’s Political Right,” Philip Bump found a surprising difference between the world view of Democrats and Republicans. 66% of Trump voters agreed that “Our lives are threatened by terrorists, criminals, and illegal immigrants and our priority should be to protect ourselves”. 77% of Biden voters felt that “It’s a big, beautiful world, mostly full of good people, and we must find a way to embrace each other and not allow ourselves to become isolated.” Since Republicans believe the world is full of bad people, they are comfortable proposing legislation that rewards themselves and punishes others. Now that we know this, we are going to have to mount a long, relentless, multi-faceted campaign. They have convinced themselves that Democrats are the enemy and government is bad.

We need to convince voters otherwise. Here are some suggestions:

- ☆ Sign the Finchem recall petition to show our voting power;
- ☆ Continue to contact our legislators and the governor so our opinions are on record;
- ☆ Write letters to the editor and opinion pieces;
- ☆ March when called upon by organizations you respect;
- ☆ Fund organizations such as the League of Women Voters, Civic Engagement Beyond Voting, the Secular Coalition, Planned Parenthood, and the ACLU who can mount legal actions on our behalf;
- ☆ Spread the news on every beneficial action taken by the Biden Administration;
- ☆ Champion our elected officials such as Katie Hobbs, Gabriella Cazares-Kelly, Laura Conover, Sheriff Nanos, and Rex Scott;
- ☆ Call out Republican bad behaviors and lies over and over again. If we keep their harmful and despicable actions in the forefront, more and more people will vote them out.

You can help make 2022 our biggest victory yet.



## The Campaign to Recall Mark Finchem

by Chesney Richter

State Representative Mark Finchem is not fit to serve. He lacks integrity, spreads dangerous conspiracy theories, and is an ineffective legislator. He violated the oath of office he swore to defend and uphold the US Constitution and the laws of Arizona. His role and presence at the Capitol on January 6th represent a dereliction of duty. Finchem must be held accountable. We deserve to have elected officials who are responsible leaders and who advocate for the needs of our communities.

To force a recall election and put State Rep. Finchem before the voters this November, we need to collect a minimum of 24,775 signatures from registered voters in LD11 before July 8<sup>th</sup>. Arizonans from across District 11 are working together to remove Mark Finchem from office. To date, we have collected over 8,000 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.

Our Rural Arizonans for Accountability organization is on track to meet our goal, but we need you to help keep up the momentum and keep collecting those signatures!

To sign up to volunteer or request petition sheets, follow the links below.

Volunteer events: <https://www.mobilize.us/ruralarizonansforaccountability/>

Petition request form: <https://forms.gle/RUdbwtXji6PA8APT6>

For general campaign questions, please reach out to the Campaign Manager, Chesney Richter.

Chesney Richter

[chesney@ruralazaction.org](mailto:chesney@ruralazaction.org)

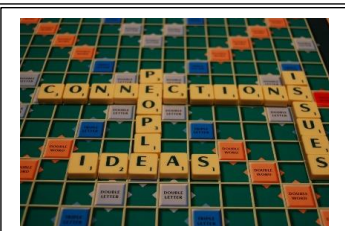
719.406.0553

For questions about volunteering, please reach out to Nick Medel, our Volunteer Coordinator.

Nick Medel

[Nick@ruralazaction.org](mailto:Nick@ruralazaction.org)

469.865.5693



### An Invitation to Writers

In a world filled with misinformation, would you like to discredit lies with the truth?  
In a world filled with disinformation, would you like to discredit propaganda with honesty and accuracy? Would you like to make a difference in our future elections?

If you answered yes to any of the above, please consider joining our Letters to the Editor group, in association with Indivisible Tucson Action Alliance.

Whatever your passion or interest, we hope you will join us in writing letters to educate, persuade, and inspire others to take action for the good of our state and our country.

Please contact [jacolyn@comcast.net](mailto:jacolyn@comcast.net) if you would like to sign up. We would love to have you as part of our group. Together we can make a difference.

## **The Best of Biden**

*by Jacolyn Marshall*

### Biden's American Jobs Plan: An Opportunity to Reimagine and Rebuild our Economy

The plan includes:

- Fixing 20,000 miles of federal highways, rebuilding 10 major and 10,000 smaller bridges, upgrading ports and airports, and replacing thousands of transit systems.
- Delivering clean drinking water, a renewed electric grid and highspeed broadband to all Americans
- Building, preserving, and retrofitting 2 million homes and commercial buildings, and modernizing schools, childcare centers, veteran hospitals, and federal buildings.
- Making significant investments in our care economy by creating jobs and raising wages and benefits
- Revitalizing manufacturing; securing US supply chains; and investing in Research and Development
- Creating good quality jobs with fair wages in safe and healthy workplaces with a choice to organize, join a union, and bargain collectively
- Developing a Made in America tax plan aimed at ensuring corporations pay their fair share in taxes and encouraging job creation in the US. The Plan would be fully paid for within 15 years and our deficits would be reduced in years to come.

### Biden's Executive Orders to Fight Gun Violence

His orders include:

- Increasing regulations of ghost guns and related devices
- Providing guidance for states to implement extreme risk laws
- Requiring annual reports from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) on illegal firearms trafficking for the first time in 20 years
- Providing multi-agency investments in violence interventions
- Nominating a former ATF agent and senior Policy Advisor as the new ATF Director
- Calling for Congressional action to ensure long-term safety of Americans

### Biden's Budget Plan seeks funding hikes for healthcare, education, housing & the environment

After decades of underfunding public services, his plan will bring spending in line with historical averages. \$769 billion in non-defense discretionary funding will increase:

- Education Department budget by 40.8%, including \$20 billion for high poverty schools
- Health & Human Services by 23.1% to combat opioid addiction and Covid, and establish a biomedical research agency to address prevalent diseases.
- Housing & Urban Development by 15.1% for housing vouchers, civil rights enforcement, and addressing gun violence as a public health epidemic.
- Office of Immigration Review by 21% to hire immigration judges & support teams to reduce backlogs
- National Security: Defense Department by 1.6% and Homeland Security by 0.2%
- US State Department by 12%, including funds for the US Agency for International Development
- Address Climate Change with \$14 billion to boost environmental justice for communities with refineries, power plants, and other hazardous sites, and invest \$891 million in Central American countries of decrease the number of people fleeing to the US.

### Biden's Global Climate Summit: A Return of the US to International Efforts Combat to Global Warming

Highlights include:

- US plans to cut coal and petroleum emissions in half by 2030
- China and Russia pledged cooperation on climate change
- Kenya is a leading user and producer of geothermal and wind power. They have developed small, inexpensive solar panels to charge mobile phones and lights, replacing kerosene lanterns.
- Israeli companies are working to improve battery storage for solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources.
- Denmark pledged to end oil and gas exploration in the North Sea in favor of wind farms
- Along with the US, our allies committed to new efforts and financing to reduce harmful emissions.

Submitted by Jean Meconi:

## Timeline:

**February 26**- 2 additional certified audits completed and find no fraud, but judge rules county must turn over ballots

**March 31** - announced Cyber Ninjas will conduct audit

**April 23**- audit begins

**April 23** - AZ Secretary of State asks for investigation of audit

**May 4** - AZ Secretary of State sends letter with concerns of how audit is conducted

**May 5** - agreement allows independent experts to observe, ensures secure personal voter information, and makes public audit policies/procedures.

**May 5** - DOJ sends letter with concerns about ballot security & voter intimidation.

**May 14** - deadline; Veteran's Memorial Coliseum where audit is taking place reserved for HS graduation ceremonies week of May 17th.

## Used blue pens



**Jen Fifield** @JenAFifield · Apr 23

I noticed the counters had blue pens. Supposed to only have red when you're around ballots since ballots can read black and blue ink.

Those blue pens the counters have could potentially be used to mark the ballots.

I pointed this out to Doug Logan with Cyber Ninjas...

142

1.2K

2.1K

Show this thread

## Inspecting folds

**They are examining folds in the ballots with the assumption that all early ballots have folds in them, which they don't. All mail-in ballots are early ballots, but not all early ballots are mail-in ballots.**

# Unhinged partisan Maricopa audit will continue until ... they find something

## Looking for watermarks

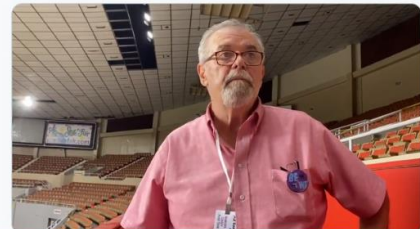
Workers hired by the Cyber Ninjas, are shining what appears to be an ultraviolet flashlight on each ballot. Maricopa county doesn't use watermarks on ballots.

## Checking for bamboo



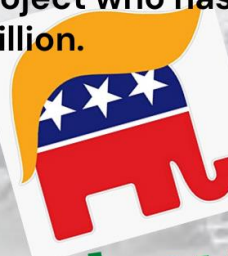
**Dennis Welch** @dennis\_welch · May 5, 2021

John Brakey, an official helping oversee the audit of the 2020 Arizona election, says auditors are looking for bamboo fibers because of a baseless accusation that 40K ballots from Asia were smuggled here. #AzAuditPool



## Who's paying?

**AZ taxpayers have paid \$150,000. One America News Network has been raising funds along with The American Project who has raised over \$1.5 million.**



# they profit

## \$1.3 Billion Owed to Arizona's Public Schools

by Jacolyn Marshall

We pay our federal, state, and local taxes to fund public education. Yet an exorbitant amount of our taxpayer money is being spent on vouchers for private and parochial schools. Currently, parents are receiving \$20,000 per student per year to be spent in whatever manner they wish with no strings attached. If the Voucher Expansion bill passes, that amount will double to \$40,000 per student per year. By contrast, funding for children attending public school is less than \$10,000 per student per year.

Our State Constitution requires the legislature to provide for a uniform public school system. However, the funding for public schools and taxpayer funded vouchers for "private" schools is far from uniform. Our legislators need to do better.

Our State Constitution also requires the legislature to increase funding to sufficiently maintain all public schools. The current funding for Arizona's public schools is far from sufficient. According to US Public Education Statistics 2021, Arizona spends less on public education than the national average and less per capita, ranking 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Although Arizona received \$9645 per pupil funding from our federal, state, and local taxes, our governor allocated only \$8239 per pupil. The resulting deficit of \$1406 per pupil amounts to a \$1.3 billion shortfall in funds earmarked for our public schools. Our governor needs to do better.

Although over 90% of our children attend public schools, our legislators continue to under-fund public schools in order to over-fund private school vouchers. Although over 70% of Arizona voters support public education, our governor continues to withhold our tax dollars specifically designated for public schools. Our students deserve better.

Our governor and legislators are misusing our tax dollars and violating our State Constitution. As conscientious citizens and taxpayers, we must demand that Governor Ducey veto Voucher Expansion bill SB1452 and pay Arizona's public schools the \$1.3 billion owed to them. You can message him at [azgovernor.gov](http://azgovernor.gov) or call him at 602-542-4331.

### Slate of Up-Coming Speakers

June 12	Pima County Sheriff Chris Nanos	Topic: Department Reorganization
July 14:	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: People Power Fair Maps

#### 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.*

#### June Meeting

Monday, June 12  
6:30 pm

Speaker: Chris Nanos  
Pima County Sheriff

Topic: Reorganization