



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
October
2021

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson
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When middle-class families can no longer afford to buy the goods and services that businesses are selling, it drags down the entire economy from top to bottom. America was built on the idea of broad-based prosperity. That's why Henry Ford made it his mission to pay his workers enough so that they could buy the cars he made. It is our task, then, to reignite the true engine of America's economic growth - a rising, thriving middle class. **Barack Obama**

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BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE



OCTOBER ZOOM MEETING - Guest Speaker Tom O'Halleran



Tom O'Halleran, CD 1 Representative

Upon retiring to Arizona, Tom 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, and will always be, about the people he serves, not party or title. He has served as U.S. Representative for Arizona's 1st congressional district since 2017. Tom currently serves on:

Two House Committees:

- House Committee on Energy and Commerce, including subcommittees on Energy; Communications and Technology; Environment and Climate Change; Oversight and Investigations, and
- House Committee on Agriculture, including subcommittees on Conservation and Forestry; General Farm Commodities and Risk Management

Two Coalitions:

- The Blue Dog Coalition, as Co-chair for Communications, and
- The New Democrat Coalition

Twelve Caucuses that include

Rural Broadband Caucus, Co-Chair; Congressional Native American Caucus; Problem Solvers Caucus; Law Enforcement Caucus; Labor and Working Families Caucus; Impact Aid Coalition; Animal Protection Caucus; Safe Climate Caucus; Pre-K Caucus, and

Five Task Forces:

Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence; Bipartisan Heroin Task Force; House Rural Broadband Task Force; Women Veterans Task Force; Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity, as Vice Chair on Rural Poverty.

*Illegitimi Non Carborundum** by Tom Meconi

The counting is not done, and the lawsuits are just getting started, but here's what we know. From "Invest In Arizona" we learn that two of their three tax/education initiatives had enough signatures to go to the Secretary of State for processing. Specifically, 1828, the flat tax, received 215,000 signatures, and 1783, the business tax "cut out" received 124,000. Business interests and corporate jihadists have lawsuits awaiting both of these once the numbers are confirmed by the individual counties. 1828 probably has enough cushion to survive, but 1783 will be close.

There are already lawsuits pending which threaten the initiatives. The Arizona Supreme Court recently remanded *Fann v. Arizona* to the trial court with a virtual road map for finding that Prop 208 exceeds the constitutional expenditure limit and is therefore void. The Arizona Supreme Court will also hear arguments on Nov. 2nd in a government appeal challenging a trial court's ruling finding the inclusion of policy matters in budget bills was unconstitutional. This year, lawmakers folded a bevy of laws into the budget process, including 89 separate policy issues, including voter suppression restrictions in bill 1819.

Sadly, while we have no hard numbers, it appears that none of the voter suppression initiatives received enough signatures to be submitted. The numbers are still being processed but early results show southern Arizona leading the state with approximately 40,000 signatures or 42% of the statewide total. Oro Valley alone accounted for about 11% of southern AZ's numbers!

The outpouring of public support during this drive demonstrates just how aware, engaged, and kindhearted our fellow Oro Valley residents are. Our morning sessions at the library were always met with smiles, curiosity and, once the initiatives were explained, plenty of signatures. Whether it was the library, the aquatic center, the community center, wherever we went we found concerned and caring citizens.

We couldn't have come this close nor leave the experience with such optimism if not for you. Whether you were able to manage a table or forward email alerts to your friends, you made this happen. If the rest of the state had responded the way you did, all of the petitions would be in Phoenix being counted. And we have tried to share our winning ways with what leadership exists in hopes that next time, and there will be a next time, we will get it done. So, remember our motto "Illegitimi Non Carborundum." We are the forces of change.

*A mock-Latin saying, often translated as "Don't let the bastards grind you down."



DEMOCRATS of ORO VALLEY
for the petition-signature drive



from the Highland/Dove Mountain Democrats on your petition efforts



Tucson grid map meeting attendees. Sept 29, 2021

6

‘Stupid-And-Proud-Of-It-Party’* Storms the IRC Public Hearings *by Dee Maitland*

If I were poetic, I would write an Ode to the IRC Commissioners detailing their patience, stamina, and dedication. I made it to two of 19 public hearings, and I don't think my mental health will ever recover. Last week I only made it through 2.5 hours and approximately 25 of the 79 signed-up speakers before running away in horror. (A shout-out to our dear friends Brian and Susan Bickel who went the distance.)

The first Tucson hearing held in August was to solicit public input on communities of interest, one of the six parameters the commission must consider in creating the final maps. Republicans bussed in their crowd of mask-less white folks from Saddlebrook and Green Valley. Their testimony had two parts: 1) Tucson is a terrible crime ridden cesspool populated by the homeless and they don't want any part of it; and 2) they should not be in a minority/majority district. "Minority/majority" is the new code to hide their racism. The complaint came from Green Valley as their district includes South Tucson. They begged to be placed in majority white Republican districts even if meant circling Tucson from Green Valley over to Vail up to Oro Valley and across to Marana. They didn't know donut shaped districts are not allowed.

The hearing on September 29th was to elicit feedback on the recently released Grid Maps. Again, Republicans were bussed in with even more people all in red shirts. They filled up half the large room and signed up in mass to speak, cheer for their own, and showcase their stupidity. Only one speaker gave any indication that he had visited the IRC website, and he spent his 3 minutes railing about the Grid Map that had a blowup of congressional districts in Phoenix but not a blowup of Tucson districts. Being a part of the victimhood party, he saw offense where there was none. Tucson, unlike Phoenix, does not have the population to support multiple congressional districts. Everyone else carried on with the same themes as in the community of interest hearings with one additional chant. The people from Saddlebrook whined about suffering for ten long years in an unfair safe Democrat district. Say what?! It took me awhile to realize that they were complaining about Congressional District 1 where Tom O'Halleran is the Congressman. To claim victimhood when our Congressman's power is restricted to one vote among 435 Representatives is astoundingly! We have suffered for 10 years under LD11's Finchem, Leach, and Roberts. These people have absolutely no sense of perspective. The best victimhood speaker was the scrawny little bottle-blond who vehemently told the commissioners that there is no document that says they have to consider diversity (Voting Rights Act) and that competitive districts are unfair (Prop 106 requirement).

I am no longer afraid of these information-free, loud, and arrogant voices. Drawn maps and written analyses will have the most influence, and those speakers were incapable of either. Their whines cannot be quantified. Over 1,000 people have participated in the hearings, but to date only 52 maps have been published. Further, the demographics of the state will not give them the preference they want. I drew a legislative map only focusing on keeping Pima County as intact as possible and keeping us out of Pinal County. I came up with 8 competitive, 9 safe Democrat and 13 safe Republican districts. Remember, for the last 3 elections the competitive districts have leaned Democrat so it could be 17 to 13 in our favor. More interesting: I unwittingly came up with 8 minority/majority districts: 7 Latino; 1 Native American. Whites represent only 60% of the state now so that is 8 is pretty close to fair.



The Grid Map process has now been culminated, and the IRC will be putting together all the public information they have received. The plan is to have the final maps released before Halloween. Then there will be a 30-day period for soliciting public input on these maps. The goal is to have the final maps published before Christmas in time for the 2022 election season.

Finally, I have come to respect and appreciate these commissioners. They get along with each other unlike the 2010 group. They have patiently listened to hours and hours of public testimony and presentations by experts in demographics, legal considerations, voting and technology, all with no pay and the certainty that no matter how fair the final maps turn out to be they will be vilified. When we make proposals or criticisms let us pledge that, unlike the Stupid-and-Proud crowd, we will come from a place of careful study and an appreciation of the complexity of the task.

*New GOP moniker is courtesy of Max Boot



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration Voluntary Service
Tucson-Southern AZ VZ HCS
3601 South 6th Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85737

August 17, 2021
Democrats of Oro Valley
P.O. Box 68186
Oro Valley, AZ 85737

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Tucson-Southern AZ VA HCS patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of toiletries, two umbrellas and reading material for the Homeless Program, in memory of all Veterans, on July 7, 2021. It is through the efforts of community partners like you that we are able to continue providing quality care and services to our deserving Veterans.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Mandy Martell, MHA, CAVS, Chief, Chief, Center for Development & Civic Engagement

Health

- Biden announced sweeping new federal vaccine requirements affecting as many as 100 million Americans. The mandate requires that health facilities that receive Medicare or Medicaid and employers with more than 100 workers either require vaccinations or test workers weekly. Enacted through OSHA, the mandate also requires paid time off for workers to get vaccinated and carry penalties of \$14,000 per violation.
- Biden signed an executive order requiring the vaccination of all employees of the executive branch and contractors who do business with the federal government.
- The Department of Health and Human Services will require vaccinations in Head Start Programs as well as schools run by the DOD and Bureau of Indian Education, affecting about 300,000 employees.
- Biden is doubling the federal fines for airline passengers who refuse to wear masks or maintain face covering requirements on federal property in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- Biden is sending additional federal support to assist schools in operating safely, including more money for testing.
- Biden has directed Attorney General to explore all possible options to block the enforcement of the Texas abortion law. AG said federal officials will not tolerate violence against anyone who is trying to obtain an abortion in Texas, under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE)
- Justice Department is suing Texas over the state law that bans most abortions, arguing that it was enacted in open defiance of the Constitution.
- Biden administration reversed the ban on abortion referrals by family planning clinics. HHS said its new regulation will restore the federal family planning program, strengthening and restoring services.
- Biden administration finalized consumer protections against “surprise” medical bills, due to take effect January 1. Hospitals, doctors, and insurers will be required to negotiate their fees among themselves without involving patients.
- Biden administration’s plan to replace lead pipes and remove lead paint from US homes is aimed at helping the 50% of young children who have been found to have lead in their blood, 2% of whom have levels considered high.
- New restrictions have curtailed underage use of e-cigarettes among high school and middle school children, including a federal law that raised the purchase age for all tobacco and vaping products from 18 to 21.
- Nearly 3 million consumers took advantage of a special six-month period to sign up for subsidized health insurance coverage made more affordable by the Covid-19 relief law.
- Biden administration is working to protect workers and communities from extreme heat and drought-worsened wildfires due to rising temperatures caused by climate change. OSHA has issued a new rule on heat illness prevention in outdoor and indoor work settings and will focus on interventions and workplace inspections. The Low Income Home Energy Program will be expanded to help purchase air conditioning and provide cooling assistance.

Economy

- A new White House Council on US Economic Conditions met to consider at least 18 actions that would help consumers and lower prices by refocusing the economy around the interests of consumers, workers, and entrepreneurs.
- The Treasury Department is reallocating billions in federal rental assistance to get more money into the hands of tenants facing eviction.

Cyber Security

- The Biden administration imposed sanctions against a Russia-based virtual currency brokerage that helped at least eight ransomware gangs launder virtual currency. The goal is to go after the financial enablers, exposing and disrupting their illicit infrastructure used in these attacks.

Immigration

- Biden’s US Citizenship Act will create a pathway to citizenship, keep families together, protect workers from exploitation, improve the employment verification process, supplement existing border resources with technology, improve the ability to process asylum seekers, and prevent narcotics from entering the US.
- Biden administration expanded its effort to reunite migrant families who were separated at the US-Mexico border with a new program to locate parents and help them return to the US where they will then have three years of legal

residency and other assistance. The administration's Family Reunification Task Force has reunited 50 families since February but has been hampered by poor record keeping in locating between 1,000-2,000 missing parents.

Climate Change & Wildlife

- Biden's Infrastructure Bill includes grants to build charging stations and tax credits and rebates for those who buy electric cars.
- Since 2020 the US has installed a record 15 gigawatts of solar generating capacity. Solar now represents over 3% of the current electricity supply.
- Biden administration reactivated the Arctic Executive Steering Committee, which coordinates domestic climate regulations and works with other Arctic nations. It added six new members to the US Arctic Research Commission, including two Indigenous Alaskans.
- Biden and congressional Democrats are developing a Civilian Climate Corps that would create hundreds of thousands of jobs, installing solar panels, planting trees, digging irrigation ditches, boosting outdoor recreation, and training the next generation of land managers, park rangers and other stewards of our natural resources. "It is national service meets family-supporting careers meets the moment."
- The EPA is limiting domestic production and use of hydrofluorocarbons. It is intended to decrease US production and use of HFCs by 85% over the next 15 years. The administration is also cracking down on imports of HFCs that are thousands of times more destructive than carbon dioxide.
- Biden administration is addressing urban "heat islands" in cities by expanding urban forestry programs and other greening projects to reduce extreme temperatures and heat exposure.
- Biden administration has drafted rules to govern the killing of wild birds by industries and resume enforcement actions against companies responsible for deaths that could be prevented.

Government

- Congress passed and Biden signed legislation to avoid a partial federal shutdown and keep the government funded through December 3rd.
- Biden met with heads of Citi, JP Morgan Chase and Nasdaq who agreed that lifting the debt limit is necessary to avoid an international financial crisis, applying additional pressure on the Senate to follow suit.
- Biden indicated that changing the filibuster is a real possibility.
- Biden directed agencies to pair their services with voter registration. Veterans can now register to vote when they receive medical treatment, job seekers when they apply at federally funded employment centers, and those seeking public housing when they arrive at their local housing agencies. Other agencies are due to follow.

International Relationships

- Biden addressed the United Nations where he offered a robust endorsement of the UN's relevance and reassured allies of US cooperation. He urged haste in combating the coronavirus, climate change, and human rights abuses.
- Biden announced that the US is doubling its purchase of vaccines to 1 billion doses to share with the world in order to vaccinate 70% of the global population within the next year.
- US and Mexico held high-level economic talks to advance progress on issues of infrastructure, trade, and migration.
- Biden hosted a Quad Leaders' Summit, which included Australia's PM Morrison, India's PM Modi, and Japan's PM Suga. The Quad committed to an Indo-Pacific region that is free, open, inclusive, and resilient.
- US climate envoy Kerry will attend the UN 12-day climate talks, aimed at reducing global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, mobilizing financing, and protecting vulnerable communities and habitats.
- The US and European Union agreed to carry on the work of 10 expert-level panels to explore and recommend solutions to a variety of trade disputes and challenges, including tariffs that have strained US-EU relations and predatory commercial practices by China.
- Biden announced a new US-British-Australian security alliance (AUKUS) for the Indo-Pacific that will allow greater sharing of defense capabilities, developing nuclear-powered submarines for Australia, and countering China's increased assertiveness in the region.

Want to Elect Democrats? Sign Candidate Petitions Online

Sign a candidate's petition at the following Secretary of State site:

<https://apps.azsos.gov/apps/election/eps/op/>

(You will need your driver's license or voter registration number + SS last four digits)

Candidates can choose to run as a traditional candidate or a participating Clean Elections candidate. Candidates who opt into the Clean Funding program are participating candidates. The participating candidates agree to adhere to the Act and Commission rules in return for receiving funding from the Citizens Clean Elections Fund. When you sign a petition of a participating Clean Elections candidate, you will be asked if you would like to donate \$5 to that candidate.



Want Clean Elections? Support Clean Election Candidates.

Want to Support Justice for All?

Pima County Justice for All/Justicia Para Todos was founded as a non-profit, 501(c)(4) social welfare entity in 2020 with the mission of securing universal representation for indigent Pima County residents in immigration proceedings.

Their ballot initiative would give Pima County residents who are facing detention or deportation access to a public defender. Petitions can be signed at the Pima County Democratic Headquarters or visit the following website:

<https://www.pimacountyjusticeforall.org/about/> or pimajusticeforall@gmail.com

Pima County Justice for All
2432 E Broadway
Tucson, AZ 85719
Phone: 520-203-8099
Text: 520-276-8805



The League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson will host **The Filibuster: Protection for Voter Suppression Tyranny by the Minority** on Saturday, October 16th from 10:00 -11:30 am.

The word "Filibuster" derives from a Dutch word that means "pirate." Therefore, "go to filibustering" referred to the act of seizing control of other ships. In its modern context, a filibuster is used as a means for senators to seize control of a bill they want to oppose. Join us for this critical discussion of the pros and cons of the Filibuster.

[Click here to register](#) on Zoom or go to <https://www.facebook.com/lwvgreatertucson> to view the live stream.

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.*

November Meeting

Monday, November 8
6:30 pm

Speaker: Raquel Terán,
Democratic Party Chair

Topic: Arizona
Democratic Party