



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
August
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Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson
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This is truly an inflection point in the nation's history. You and I are doing the most important work by meeting the most important challenges we've ever faced as a nation. Our country, our planet, and our democracy are all in our hands right now. There's no one else coming to do this work. It's up to us. Let's stay together. Let's stay engaged. Let's get involved.
Joe Biden

2022 Dues Still Only \$20 **DOV Tee Shirts \$20**

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LET'S MAKE SURE DEMOCRATS DELIVER!



AUGUST ZOOM MEETING – Speakers: Andrea Dalessandro & Christina Vasquez



Andrea Dalessandro, Former LD 2 House Representative

A resident of Sahuarita, Andrea previously served as LD 2 Arizona State Senator from 2014 to 2021 and, more recently, as House Representative from 2021 to 2022.

After earning her M.B.A. from Rutgers University, Andrea became a C.P.A., a small business owner, and a college professor. With her background in math and accounting, fiscal responsibility and accountability were two of her top priorities. Others included promoting economic development, job growth, and the quality public schools that are necessary for a well-trained workforce.

Throughout her legislative career, Andrea served on the Judiciary Committee and was the Ranking Member of the Natural Resources, Energy & Water Committee, among others.



Christina Vasquez, Southern Arizona Coordinator for Save our Schools

Christina serves a vital role in coordinating the Save Our Schools statewide effort to repeal HB2853 and stop the \$1B universal ESA voucher expansion. Christina helps coordinate the distribution of petitions and informational flyers throughout Southern Arizona. Christina also helps coordinate volunteer efforts, training sessions for petition circulators, and contacts for notary services.

Christina was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, and is a proud product of public education. She has been part of the mariachi community for the past 13 years and is currently a student at the University of Arizona. She is focusing on Family Studies and Human Development and Spanish. Christina hopes to one day help students the way her teachers helped her.

Gathering Petition Signatures *by Jean Meconi*

Most people who walk past our petition table at the Oro Valley library are civil and many sign the petition. Your advertising of our petition events is paying off. One challenge we are facing is the effectiveness of the Republican messaging. Private schools, including religious schools are telling their parents that they pay taxes and therefore their schooling should be covered just like public schools. Homeschooling parents are already counting the dollars they'll get for each kid.

Important things to know:

Parents who sign up for the "empowerment" voucher will get a debit card. The card can be used to pay for private school tuition, transportation, any textbook the school requires, technology, and a plethora of other items that Republican lawmakers wouldn't enumerate. The AZ Department of Education responded to my inquiry about a list of qualified private schools: "We don't have a list of qualified schools, as parents can choose any private school that best meets their child's needs."

If every student who currently attends a private school uses the voucher this school year, it will drain about 350 million dollars from AZ coffers and that is without public schools losing even one student.

There are few purchase exclusions, but two that are listed are that students cannot attend any public school for academics and must pay for any extracurricular public-school expense that would have been free without the voucher. They also can't purchase a TV, a favorite purchase of the last voucher expansion.

AZ taxpayers won't know what they are getting for their money. Private schools and homeschools do not have to report academic achievement to the state nor seek approval for curriculum or teacher effectiveness. The law reduces instruction time for on-line private schools often used by homeschoolers and doesn't specify how much time must be spent on teaching academics.

Taxpayers won't know what is being taught or if students are even learning.

HB2853 is wealthy welfare. In AZ, the private elementary school average tuition cost is \$10,000 per year and the private high school average is \$15,000 per year. The private school with the highest tuition in AZ is Sedona Sky Academy, with a cost of \$83,000 annually. The approximate \$7,000 empowerment scholarship will not enable most lower- and middle-class families to go to private school. It will simply be a \$7,000 giveaway per child to the families that can afford them.

This Republican plan will benefit the few to the detriment of the vast majority.

School districts across our state face an uncertain funding future since the archaic 40-year-old spending cap on public schools wasn't repealed. State Representative David Livingston has already warned that there would be "war" if the voucher expansion law is put before voters in 2024. LD17's Republican Senator Vince Leach voted against lifting the spending cap last school year.

HB2853 passed on an entirely partisan vote by Republicans. Republican legislators ignored the majority of voters who have repeatedly voted against vouchers and voted to fully fund our public schools.

"The path to a better future goes directly through our public schools. I have nothing against private schools, parochial schools, and home schooling, and I think that parents with the means and inclination should choose whatever they believe is best for their children. But those choices cannot compete and cannot come at the expense of what has been -- and what must always be -- the great equalizer in our society, a free and equal public education." *Howard Dean*

How Republicans Envision the Future by Dee Maitland

I am still trying to figure out how Republicans envision the America of the future. I do know it's not good.

If everyone they disdain were locked up, deported, or killed, where they are going to find all the services they want for their good life? First, they came after immigrants. Once they have deported all of immigrants where will they find construction workers, housekeepers, childcare providers, retail clerks, orderlies, and landscapers?

Then they railed against healthcare providers for masking mandates and vaccinations. Now that their harassment is leading many healthcare workers to resign, who is going to care for sick Republicans and their families?

Then they accused teachers of "grooming" students and making children feel bad. Since they also refuse to fund public education there is now a teacher shortage. Who is going to teach their children? In Arizona even private schools are experiencing teacher shortages. Why would anyone enter this field?

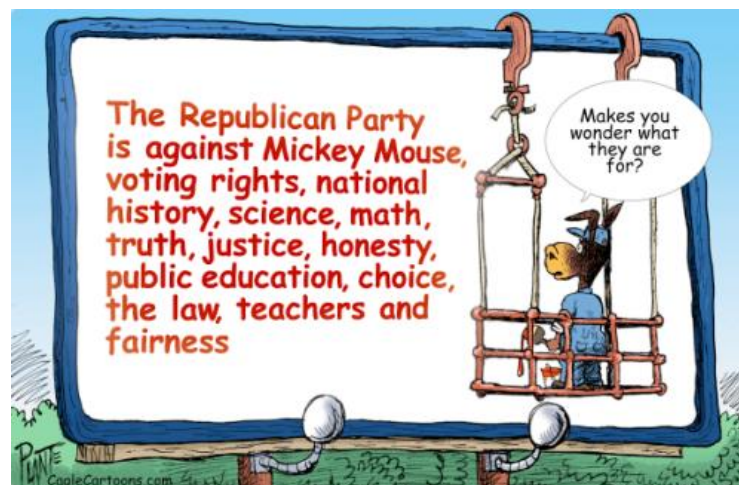
Now they have forced birth on women without any subsidy for childcare. Have they counted how many women are in retail, medicine, education, government, and industry? Do they realize that forced motherhood will derail women's education, careers, and earning power? Will that be good for our economy?

They have criminalized doctors for performing any abortion procedure even if it is the best interest of the health and safety of their patient. After all the years it takes to become a doctor, why would one want to work in a state that will second guess and criminalize their medical decisions? Will Republican women be alright having no obstetricians and gynecologists available?

They put all the blame for mass shootings on mental health issues rather than the accessibility and proliferation of guns in this country. ? Is there a possibility that the volume of unwanted children caused by banning abortion may lead to an increase in violence as they lash out in hurt and anger? Do Republicans understand that there is a shortage of mental health professionals, few health plans that cover the psychiatric costs, and counseling is only effective in the long term? Republicans are as much at risk of being shot in schools, in stores, and at events as the rest of us. Their good guys with guns are no protection. The number of justified homicides by these good guys is less than the number of deaths by children finding their parents' gun.

Then there was the Republican who wanted to add librarians to the list of people to be charged and locked up for murder if they checked out books or allowed access to the internet by those who researched reproduction. By the time Republicans are done the only book available will be the Bible and few people will be able to read it.

To assure a better future for our children: VOTE OUT REPUBLICANS





Congratulations to our Democratic Primary Winners!

Mark Kelly for U.S. Senate
Kirsten Engel for U.S. House District 6
Katie Hobbs for Governor of AZ
Adrian Fontes for AZ Secretary of State
Kris Mayes for AZ Attorney General
Martín Quezada for AZ State Treasurer
Kathy Hoffman for AZ Superintendent of Public Instruction
Sandra Kennedy & Lauren Kuby for the Corporation Commission
Mike Nickerson for the AZ Senate LD17
Dana Allmond for the AZ House LD17
Brian Radford for the AZ House LD17

They will be facing a slate of awful Trumpublicans in the November 8th general election.

Congratulations on their re-election to the Oro Valley Town Council: Mayor Joe Winfield and Council members Joyce Jones-Ivey, Josh Nicolson, and Melanie Barrett.

All results are unofficial

Goodbye and Very Good Riddance

to
The Leach

Republican voters of LD17 voted the Senator out of office. Blog for Arizona's "AZ Worst Legislator" and corruptor of the Independent Redistricting Commission to create a safe district for himself failed. As a board member of ALEC, Leach will no longer carry Koch funded radical right corporate bills to our legislature. He can no longer find tax breaks and special privileges for private jet and gun owners. And best of all, he can no longer champion vouchers and the destruction of our public schools.



The Best of Biden by *Jacolyn Marshall*

Health & Safety

- Biden credited his mild Covid symptoms and swift recovery to his vaccinations, booster shots, and treatments.
- Biden administration notified hospitals they must provide abortion services if the life of the mother is at risk, citing the federal law on emergency treatment guidelines that preempt state laws in jurisdictions that now ban all medical procedures without exception.
- Biden signed an executive order instructing the DOJ and HHS to protect women's access to federally approved abortion medication, to protect their ability to travel across state lines to access clinical abortion services, and to educate medical providers and insurers about privileged patient information they must share with authorities.
- Biden instructed the Federal Trade Commission to protect privacy of those seeking information online about reproductive care and establish a task force to coordinate federal efforts to safeguard access to abortion.
- Biden directed his staff to assemble a list of volunteer lawyers to provide women and medical providers with pro bono legal assistance in navigating new state restrictions on abortions.
- FDA announced pharmacists can prescribe the leading Covid pill Paxlovid directly to patients.
- FDA announced plans to help overseas infant formula producers secure long-term authorization to market their formula in the US, especially those that sent supplies to the US to address the recent shortage.
- Biden administration reached an agreement with Moderna to buy 66M doses that target the highly transmissible BA5 omicron variant, following a similar agreement with Pfizer for 100M doses.
- HHS declared a public health emergency to bolster the response to the monkeypox outbreak that has infected more than 6,600 Americans.

Economy

- Biden administration proposed new rules to make it easier for borrowers to get their federal student debt forgiven by removing burdensome paperwork and long processing times.
- Transportation Secretary announced FAA is investing \$1 billion in 85 airports to expand and upgrade terminals using money from the infrastructure bill.
- US Treasury Office of Recovery Programs issued a warning to Governor Ducey that it is illegal to dole out the cash Arizona is getting from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund only to public schools that do not mandate that students and staff wear masks. If Ducey does not rescind his policies the state will have to forfeit the funds.
- US consumer confidence remains high at 95.7 despite higher prices for food and gas.
- Energy Department announced a \$2.5 billion loan for a joint venture between General Motors and South Korean LG Energy to build battery cell factories for electric vehicles.
- Chairman of the Federal Reserve noted a still robust labor market with 11 million job openings and an uncommonly low 3.6% unemployment rate suggest the economy is still growing despite recent declines in GDP.
- Biden signed into law the bill that will boost the semi-conductor industry and scientific research, thus creating more high-tech jobs and making the US more competitive with China.
- Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 will lower prescription drug costs, help pay for health insurance, provide the single biggest investment in addressing climate change in US history, add a new 15% tax on corporations that earn more than \$1B annually, and pay down federal deficits.
- Biden administration announced oil and gas prices are coming down, noting a 17% drop.

Environment & Climate Change

- Biden announced new steps to combat climate change. His executive actions will bolster the offshore wind industry in the Gulf of Mexico and the Southeast, and provide programs administered by the FEMA, DHH, and other agencies to help communities cope with soaring temperatures.
- Vice President Harris detailed Biden administration efforts to respond to the climate change crisis with more than \$1 billion in grants to states combating floods and extreme heat.

Immigration

- Federal investigation found that four US Border patrol agents engaged in unnecessary use of force against non-threatening Haitian immigrants and recommended they receive disciplinary action.
- Deportation agents are now using a monitoring app to track immigrants scheduled for deportation hearings instead of locking them up.

Cybersecurity

- FBI and DOJ disrupted the activities of a hacking group sponsored by the North Korean government that targeted US hospitals with ransomware, recovering half a million dollars in ransom payments and cryptocurrency.

Justice

- HUD announced it is providing \$2.8B in new funding for homeless service organizations as part of its Continuum of Care Program which currently funds 7,000 homeless services projects.
- DOJ filed a lawsuit against some of the largest poultry producers in the US over longstanding deceptive and abusive practices for workers.
- DOJ filed a lawsuit against Idaho's abortion law as it violates the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act that requires doctors to provide pregnant women medically necessary treatment, which could include abortion.
- DOJ filed charges against four police officers with unlawful conspiracy, use of force, and obstruction of justice in death of Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old medical worker.
- DOJ subpoenaed two Trump lawyers, intensifying its investigation of the January insurrection.

International Relations: Ukraine

- US and G-7 allies have taken new measures to starve the Russian war machine by forming a buyers' cartel and agreeing to a price cap on Russian oil, forcing Russia to accept below-market prices for oil.
- US and allies committed more rocket systems, ammunition, and other military aid to Ukraine.

International Relations: Other

- Biden and Israeli Prime Minister unveiled a joint declaration cementing their close military ties and strengthening calls to take military action to halt Iran's nuclear program.
- Biden announced that US peacekeepers will leave the island of Tiran where Saudi Arabia hopes to develop tourist attractions to expand its economy beyond oil. As part of a complex diplomatic arrangement, US departure required Israel's assent. In exchange, the Saudis agreed to end strict limits on Israeli commercial flights over their territory, signaling warmer relations between the two nations.
- Biden met with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince who wants to reshape their security relationship with the US. Biden stressed the importance of human rights and a partnership that will ensure security, stability, and the flow of oil worldwide.
- Biden offered Palestinians living under Israeli military rule \$200 million to help refugees and a proposed \$100 million for hospitals.
- Secretary of State announced US is strengthening ties with Thailand, a key regional ally in the Southeast Asia.
- Top financial officials from the G20 rich and developing nations met in Bali to develop strategies to counter inflation, food insecurity and other issues that have worsened due to the war in Ukraine.
- Biden and China's Xi held their fifth two-hour conversation to chart the future of their complicated relationship.
- US and the EU resumed talks over Iran's tattered nuclear deal, seeking a halt in its uranium enrichment expansion.

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, toothbrushes, pocket novels and puzzle books.*

September Zoom Meeting

Monday, September 12
6:30 pm

Guest Speakers:
Martin Quezada

Topics:
Campaign Platform