



# Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter  
January  
2022

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson  
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I did not seek this fight brought to this Capitol one year ago today, but I will not shrink from it either. I will stand in this breach. I will defend this nation. And I will allow no one to place a dagger at the throat of our democracy.

*Joe Biden*

**2022 Dues Still Only \$20**

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**BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE**



**JANUARY ZOOM MEETING - Guest Speakers Tim Steller, Dana Allmond & Sylvia Andersh**



## **Tim Steller, Columnist**

Reporting on issues and stories that matter throughout the Tucson area, Tim has been employed as a reporter and an opinion columnist for the Arizona Daily Star since January 2013.

A 25-year veteran reporter, Tim received his MS degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1995. He is a member of Arizona Newspaper Association and received the APME Journalist of the Year award for 2021.

In addition to the Arizona Daily Star, his articles have appeared in AZCentral.com, La Estrella De Tucson, Las Vegas Sun, Arizona Daily Sun, The Anniston Star, Olean Times Herald, The Bradford Era, Courier Express, and Kokomo Perspective among others.

## **Dana Allmond & Sylvia Andersh, Former Members of Sinema's Advisory Board**

Five veterans who worked on Senator Kyrsten Sinema's advisory council resigned their posts and published a scathing letter accusing her of failing her constituents.

West Point graduate and retired Army lieutenant colonel, Dana Allmond was among those who resigned from her advisory council role in protest. Like so many former supporters of Sinema, Allmond became increasingly frustrated by the Senator's opposition to President Biden's legislative agenda.

Retired U.S. Air Force Sgt. Sylvia Gonzalez Andersh also resigned her position on the advisory council and subsequently narrated a version of the group's letter to Sinema in a video produced by Common Defense, a Democratic political action committee.

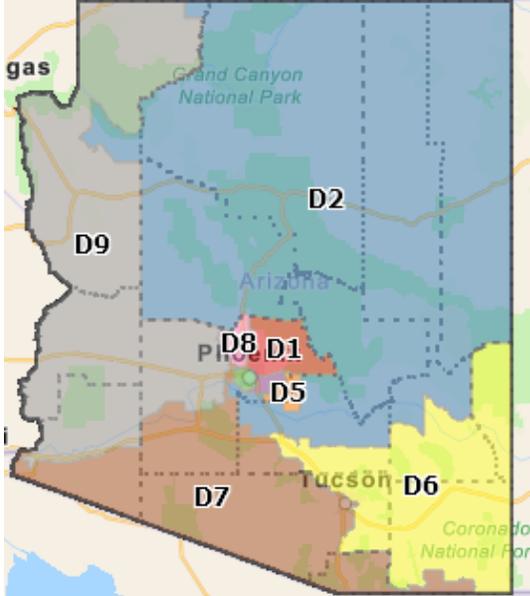
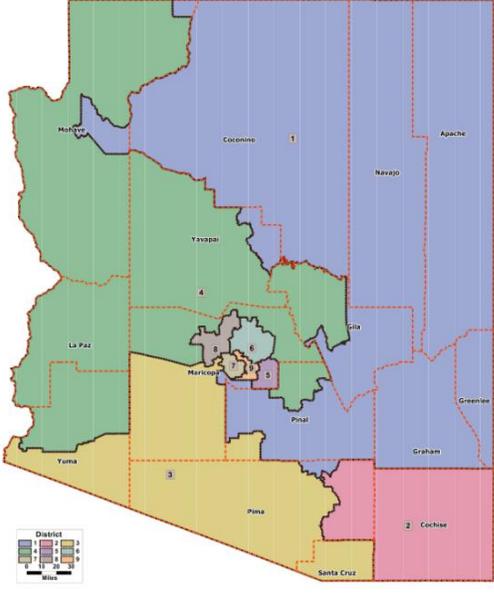
## INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION UPDATE by Dee Maitland

Tuesday, January 4, 2022, was to be the day Final Maps to be voted on to become our Congressional and Legislative Maps for the next 10 years. That did not happen as only 6 of 15 counties submitted reviews and the mapping team did not have time to incorporate the data. What did happen was a long speech by Chair Neuberg. She “feels really good about the work we have done” and believes the districts will ensure “more talented candidates” will run. She boldly asserted that 1/3 of the congressional districts are competitive, 5 of the legislative districts are competitive, and 4 are “extremely” competitive. **Her interpretation of competitiveness does not coincide with accepted practice.**

**Fortunately, Democrat Commissioner Shereen Lerner demanded the floor and laid out the case that congressional districts did not meet constitutional criteria for competitiveness, compactness, nor contiguousness.** She carefully listed map numbers and their evolution into partisan maps. By doing so, she has given future legal teams a road map for lawsuits.

Below is a side-by-side comparison of the final draft maps that will probably be approved at the IRC meeting on January 18 side by side with the 2011 maps to show how the Republican commissioners and Neuberg gerrymandered the state to their undeserved benefit. **Our constitution clearly states that competitive districts are “to be favored”.** Instead, with only 35.2% of registered voters being Republicans, they carved out 66.7% of congressional districts and 56.7% of legislative districts for themselves. While Democrats also have a larger % of districts than their voter registration, **the point of the law and the favoring of competitiveness is to ensure independents have a true choice of qualified candidates.** Safe districts do not provide that. There should be significantly more than 3 competitive maps. **Lerner’s exposé lists all the maps that provided more.**

### ARIZONA DISTRICTS

2021 Approved Congressional Final Draft Map	2011 Congressional Districts
	
<p><b>2021 DATA – 9 Districts</b>                  2 Competitive Districts both lean Republican                  4 safe Republican                  3 safe Democrat                  With lean included: <b>6 to 3 Republican</b>  <b>(66.7% vs 33.3%)</b>                  2 Hispanic/Latino majority (grew 10.3%)</p>	<p><b>2011 DATA – 9 Districts</b>                  3 Competitive Districts 2 lean Dem, 1 Rep                  4 safe Republican                  2 safe Democrat                  With lean included: <b>5 to 4 Republican</b>  <b>(55.6% vs 44.4%)</b>                  2 Hispanic/Latino majority</p>

<b>VOTER REGISTRATION - 11/2020</b> 32.2% Democrat 35.2% Republican 31.7% Other	<b>VOTER REGISTRATION - 11/2010</b> 31.9% Democrat 36.0% Republican 31.2% Other
<b>PIMA COUNTY in 2 Districts</b> 1 safe Democrat, 51% Hispanic/Latino 1 leans Republican 6/3	<b>PIMA COUNTY in 3 Districts</b> 1 safe Democrat, 60.6% Hispanic/Latino 2 very competitive, 50/50 and 51/49 R/D

<b>2021</b> <b>Approved Legislative Final Draft Map</b>	<b>2011</b> <b>Legislative Districts</b>
<b>2021 DATA – 30 Districts</b> 3 Competitive Districts, 1 6/3 R, 2 5/4 R 14 safe Republican 12 safe Democrat With lean included: <b>17 to 13 Republican</b> <b>(56.7% to 43.3%)</b>	<b>2011 DATA – 30 Districts</b> 3 Competitive Districts, 2 lean R, 1 lean D 16 safe Republican 11 safe Democrat With lean included: <b>18 to 12 Republican</b> <b>(60% to 40%)</b>
<b>VOTER REGISTRATION 11/2020</b> 32.2% Democrat 35.2% Republican 31.7% Other	<b>VOTER REGISTRATION 11/2010</b> 31.9% Democrat 36.0% Republican 31.2% Other

### PIMA COUNTY DISTRICTS

Pima County when combined with just Cochise and Santa Cruz counties could support 5 Legislative Districts. Instead, Pima now finds itself with 7 other counties. When combined with Pinal and Santa Cruz, Pima supports 2 congressional districts. Instead, Pima County finds itself combined with six other counties. This proves Chair Neuberger’s contention that she championed communities of interest is a lie. **Pima County does not share interests with most of these other counties. The new districts further defy the specific constitutional requirement for**

**compactness and contiguousness, since they cover vast expanses which are broken up by mountain ranges.** Competitiveness is totally disregarded except in the case of the Voting Rights Act with Hispanic/Latino voters packed in safe Democrat districts. Below is the Pima County data showing that **with only 28.7% of registered voters Republicans will control 50.0% of congressional and 42.9% of legislative districts in Pima County.**

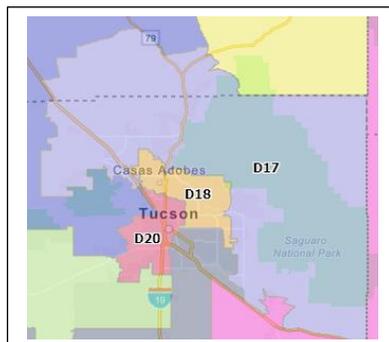
<b>Pima County Registered Voters</b>	<b># of Voters</b>	<b>% of Voters</b>
Democrats	252,231	40.3%
Republicans	179,743	28.7%
Other	194,348	31.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>626,322</b>	
<b>% of population Hispanic/Latino</b>	<b>37.8%</b>	

<b>Pima County Proposed Districts</b>	<b>Democrat Wins</b>	<b>Republican Wins</b>	<b>Vote Spread</b>	<b>% Hispanic /Latino</b>
<b>Congressional</b>				
District 6	3	6	2.4%	21%
District 7	9	0	35.4%	51%
	<b>50%</b>	<b>50%</b>		
<b>Legislative</b>				
District 16	0	9	3.6%	30%
District 17	0	9	8.3%	16%
District 18	9	0	20.4%	19%
District 19	0	9	22.2%	25%
District 20	9	0	53.3%	47%
District 21	9	0	30.5%	50%
District 23	9	0	16.9%	54%
	<b>57.1%</b>	<b>42.9%</b>		

### LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 17

**The district that proves gerrymandering is Final Draft Map District LD17,** which will incorporate most of us currently in LD11. It wraps around from Marana east to Oro Valley capturing the part of Pinal County housing Saddlebrooke then heads south to capture the area surrounding Vail. It disregards Casa Adobes and Amphi School District which is shared with Oro Valley. The map was prepared by Pima County Republicans transferred to Mehl’s Southern Arizona Leadership Council and submitted to the IRC by Mehl with written blessing from Vince Leach and Marana Mayor Ed Honea.

Chair Neuberg supported this district saying that “center right” voters are a community of interest rather than partisans to be considered in competitiveness.



## CONDEMNATION OF CHAIR ERIKA NEUBERG

- 1) Gave \$10,000 to Ducey.
- 2) Communities of interest were never defined but she knew them when she saw them
- 3) Played mind games that Lerner did not catch until too late. Bait and switch.
- 4) Spoke balderdash: "I'm deeply concerned a little bit." "I am ready to lock it in temporarily." "My goal now is perfecting the criteria", "Lack of competitiveness is in deference to keeping communities of interest together"
- 5) Never had mapping consultants assemble public input: 233 submitted maps; thousand comments. Report on Communities of Interest showed they could do such collation.
- 6) My data from Tucson hearing showed 28 people spoke in favor of version 9.0 while only 23 spoke in favor of adopted 10.0 which became the base for final maps. In total 59 speakers listed specific map preferences other than 10.0.
- 7) Never produced polarization data though it was discussed at every meeting.
- 8) Letters received from public officials addressed during meetings were not published in timely manner and held more weight than public input. The Commission was created to prevent drawing districts to benefit any particular elected officials.
- 9) Sided with Republicans in preponderance of 3 to 2 votes.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

- ✓ Donate to organizations that are prepared to sue the commission.
- ✓ Actively fight the reelection of Leach in 2022 and Honea in 2024 by digging up dirt and asking questions at their meetings.
- ✓ Understand why our Democratic institutions were formed and defend them.
- ✓ Register voters and join campaigns to elect Democrats.
- ✓ Serve on school boards, judicial oversight committees, and commissions
- ✓ Write letters, articles, blogs.
- ✓ Don't let lies go unchallenged.
- ✓ Keep fighting the good fight.
- ✓ Encourage others to join you in doing the same.

## Public Service Announcement: A National Day of Racial Healing

When: Jan 18, 2022, 6:30 PM Arizona

Topic: "Seeking Truth, Embracing Courage: A Youth Perspective of the National Day of Racial Healing"

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BNvJW9NiRHKajoJruitjdw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BNvJW9NiRHKajoJruitjdw)



## **BEWARE REPUBLICANS BEARING LEGISLATION** *by Dee Maitland*

Monday, January 10, 2022, began the Arizona Legislation Session. To date 124 bills have been submitted, 102 (82.3%) from the 15 Senate and 20 House legislators who belong to the American Legislative Exchange Council plus Wendy Rogers who acts like a member. 56 of these bills are in areas where we have strong disagreement with the insurrection party of Trump. Here is a summary of the worst:

### Covid

- 6 bills counter Covid best practices making vaccine mandates and proof of vaccine illegal

### Voting

- 11 bills sabotage elections, election officials, and voters.
  - Form a Bureau of Elections under the Governor
  - Give AG and legislature oversight of voter rolls, the Secretary of State and County Registrars
  - Limit drop boxes to election sites only

### Education

- 13 bills to override teachers and school boards
  - 2 major anti-trans bills including one where school officials must tattle to parents if a student displays sexual ambiguity, and they may not engage in any counseling of said student. Same bill forbids health care professionals from any type of assignment therapy. And of course, a ban on trans athletes.
  - 4 give property and income tax breaks to send kids to private schools, including one for the amount up to \$10,000.
  - 2 expand parental rights to require approval over any class, club or group that discusses sex or sexual identity and expands the ability to sue.
  - Schools may not hire “lobbyists” or use tax funds for memberships in education organizations
  - Schools must allow “peaceful” protests on school property and at board meetings
  - School board elections must be partisan

### Republican Nonsense

- Declare June 14<sup>th</sup> President Donald J. Trump Day and a legal holiday
- Demands the federal government remove IRS disclosure requirements for financial institutions. This would override laws established for income reporting and money laundering investigations.
- Removes prohibition on gun silencers
- Removes Margaret Sanger (founder of Planned Parenthood and the League of Woman Voters of Greater Tucson) from the Arizona Women’s Hall of Fame
- Demands designation of Antifa as a terrorist group (but not the Oath Keepers to which Finchem and Rogers belong and who were both at the insurrection)

Please commit to following this legislative session and registering your opposition to Republican sabotage. I highly recommend signing up for notices from Civic Engagement Beyond Voting. They are terrific. If you haven’t signed up for Request to Speak, CEBV can facilitate it.



<https://www.cebv.us/>

# **The Best of Biden** *by Jacolyn Marshall*

## **Health**

- FDA & CDC approved boosters 16 and 17-year-olds. 200 million Americans are fully vaccinated, including 4.7 million teens 16 and above. CDC announced the Omicron variant cases appear to be mostly mild so far.
- FDA authorized the first pill to treat early Covid infections to prevent the worst effects of the virus. Its efficacy is high, its side effects are low.
- FDA permanently removed key restrictions on abortion pills, allowing women to get a prescription via an online consultation and receive the pills by mail.
- Biden announced the government will provide 500 million free rapid tests for Covid-19, increase support for hospitals under strain, redouble vaccination /booster efforts, establish new testing sites, and manufacture more tests.
- CDC recommends doubling down on known measures of protection against the omicron variant, as new cases have soared to over 265,000 per day on average.

## **Economy**

- Labor Department announced that jobless claims are at a 52-year low, more evidence that the US job market is recovering from last year's coronavirus recession.
- Commerce Department announced the US economy grew at a 2.3% rate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, although prospects for a solid rebound are unlikely due to the spread of the Omicron variant. Even so, consumers are optimistic as job openings remain high and prices are gas prices are dropping.
- Biden's American Rescue Plan will provide \$15.7 M in federal relief funds to Tucson International Airport to improve airport operations, sanitization, concessions, and airfield safety.
- Biden signed a bill raising the nation's debt limit by \$2.5 trillion, avoiding a potentially catastrophic default.
- Biden administration extended a student loan moratorium through May 1, noting that financial recovery from the pandemic will take longer than job recovery, especially for those with student loans.
- Institute for Supply Management reported US service industry where most Americans work has grown for 19 consecutive months.

## **Environment & Climate Change**

- Biden's Social Safety and Climate bill that has already passed by the House will change how the nation battles wildfires by dramatically increasing funding to prevent them rather than putting them out. The bill increases funding for national forests to clear vegetation and other dry debris that fuel fires.
- Biden continues to stress the importance of addressing Climate Change in his personal appearances at each of the sites of extreme weather events such as Kentucky's tornadoes; Houston's historic storm; Idaho, Colorado and California's wildfires; and Louisiana, New Jersey, and New York's hurricanes.
- US officials announced two solar projects in California and opened public lands in three other Western states to potential solar development.
- Biden administration issued new rules to raise automobile mileage standards starting in 2023 model year with a projected nationwide target of 40 mpg by 2026.

## **Cyber Security**

- Biden announced new sanctions on Chinese biotech and surveillance companies, a leading drone manufacturer, and government entities for committing genocide in their treatment of the Uyghurs in the Xinjiang region.

## **Justice**

- The House Committee investigating the January 6<sup>th</sup> insurrection announced they will go public with televised hearings and reports. With 35,000 pages of records, including the financing behind the insurrection and the extensive WH campaign to overturn the 2020 election, they will reveal the full story of the worst attack on the Capitol in two centuries.
- AG Garland vowed to hold all January 6<sup>th</sup> perpetrators at every level accountable under the law - whether they were present that day or were otherwise criminally responsible for the assault on our democracy.

## **Government**

- Biden signed an executive order that requires the government to work more efficiently, making it easier to renew passports, apply for Social Security benefits, get aid after natural disasters, and millions of other routine interactions people have with the government

- US District Judge ruled that an obstruction charge applies to those accused of storming the US Capitol to obstruct the Electoral College vote certification proceedings.
- US Senate finally confirmed more than 30 ambassadors and other Biden administration nominees.
- Pentagon issued new rules prohibiting service members from actively engaging in extremist activities. The new policy lays out in detail the banned activities, such as advocating terrorism, supporting the overthrow of the government, fundraising or rallying on behalf of an extremist group, or “liking” and reposting extremist views on social media.
- DOD is overhauling how it keeps track of its guns and explosives, requiring that lawmakers be given an annual report on weapons loss and security assessment under the National Defense Authorization Act.
- DHS will wear body cameras as part of a six-month program to focus on the costs and benefits of using technology in federal law enforcement, as well as providing transparency and accountability in keeping communities safe.
- Biden signed the National Defense Authorization Act, authorizing \$768 billion in military spending for 2022, including a 2.7% pay raise for service members.
- NASA announced the launch of the world’s largest and most powerful space telescope which will scour the universe for evidence of life.
- VP Harris’s consultations with corporate executives resulted in their \$1.2 billion commitment to address the surge of immigration from Central America and their success in pressuring banks to distribute more pandemic funds to small and minority-owned businesses.

### International Relations

- Biden convened a two-day virtual Summit for Democracy in mid-December, calling for world leaders to strengthen democracies and demonstrating their worth in a changing world.
- Biden reached out to Ukraine’s leaders as the US takes a more direct role in diplomacy to dissuade Russia from a destabilizing invasion of the region.
- Biden’s two-hour video call with Putin emphasized the need for diplomacy and de-escalation, which also included issuing stern warnings to Russia on the consequences of an invasion.
- US and its allies refused to offer Russia any guarantees that Ukraine and other former Soviet countries would be denied membership in NATO, citing their principle that membership is open to any qualifying country.
- Top US and German diplomats met in Washington to present a unified front in response to Russia’s threat to European security, and the EU’s foreign policy chief called for the 27-nation bloc to play a bigger role in the standoff.
- Biden signed a bill barring imports from China’s Xinjiang region due to widespread abuse of ethnic and religious minorities.
- Top US and Japanese officials held strategic and security talks to strengthen and modernize our alliances in order to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific region.
- US and Russia will hold talks on January 9-10 in Geneva to coordinate steps for the sake of peace in Ukraine and security throughout Europe. Russia-NATO Council talks and a meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation will follow.

### 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, toothbrushes, pocket novels and puzzle books.*

### February Zoom Meeting

**Monday, February 14  
6:30 pm**

**Guest Speakers: TBA**

**Topics: New LD’s  
Impact on Voting &  
School Districts**