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If we are to have another contest in the near future of our national existence, I predict that the dividing line will not be Mason and Dixon's but between patriotism and intelligence on one side, and superstition, ambition, and ignorance on the other.
Ulysses S. Grant

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DEMOCRATS DELIVER!



MAY ZOOM MEETING – Featured Guest Speaker: Larry Waggoner



Larry Waggoner, LD17 Chair

Before being elected as the Chair of LD17, Larry served as second vice-chair of LD10, where he worked as a territory lead, a volunteer coordinator, and head of their operations team, interacting with C3 and C4 organizations working on voter outreach. Passionate about voter engagement, Larry will provide an overview of our newly formed LD17.

Larry grew up in Tucson, attended the University of Arizona where he completed his BA in Political Science, and subsequently enrolled in the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey CA where he earned his BS in Business. After a 30-year career in the United States Marine Corps, he worked for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Naples, Italy for 17 years. He retired to Tucson in 2011. In addition to his political activism, Larry is a volunteer with Tucson Samaritans, a mission of the Southside Presbyterian Church that renders humanitarian aid to migrants along our southern border.

Barbara Tellman

Larry will be joined by Barbara Tellman who will be making a slide presentation outlining LD17 demographics.

Barbara is a longtime volunteer and activist who has worked on election integrity, data analysis and mapping, and getting Democratic candidates elected.

Casa Alitas Program to Aid Migrant Families *by Pat Brown*

Casa Alitas Program to Aid Migrant Families is a humanitarian aid project committed to providing assistance to asylum-seekers released from ICE and Border Patrol detentions into our community. Volunteers offer support by providing hospitality, including housing, food, clothing, toiletries, advocacy, and travel assistance.

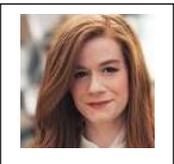
Our goal is to provide a welcoming, comfortable, safe and healthy location for our guests as they await their journeys and prepare to be reunited with families across the country.

The program began in June of 2014 as a response to hundreds of Central American travelers who were being dropped off by ICE and Border Patrol at the Greyhound Bus station here in Tucson. What began as a few people from local churches coming together to bring food to the bus station became an entire formalized program in a large, welcoming shelter space. As of December of 2019, Casa Alitas has served over 35,000 asylum-seekers.

Casa Alitas Aid for Migrant Families is starting up again with requests for linens for immigrants. To find out more, go to <https://www.ccs-soaz.org/agencies-ministries/detail/alitas-aid-for-migrant-women-and-children>.



Senator Mallory McMorrow’s “We Cannot Let Hate Win” Speech *by Jacolyn Marshall*



Michigan State Senator McMorrow made national news and became a media sensation with her spirited defense of such marginalized groups as LGBTQ and Black communities that were being attacked by her colleagues. McMorrow’s speech on the Senate floor was specifically in response to one senator’s vitriolic email charging her with “grooming” children because they are being educating about social inequities.

McMorrow stated: “I am a straight, white, Christian, married, suburban mom who knows that the very notion that learning about slavery or redlining or systemic racism somehow means that children are being taught to feel bad or hate themselves because they are white is absolute nonsense.” She concluded by saying “we cannot afford to turn away from such attacks. We cannot let hate win.”

In a later interview, she noted:” If more people like me who are straight, white and suburban and who are not under attack, stand up and call these accusations for what they are – hateful, hollow nonsense - then we take away their power.” Here is the direct link to her speech before the Senate: <https://youtu.be/0-k8I0A4g1Q>

The States Project by Dee Maitland



Last week I attended a webinar by The States Project. It's exciting that this national group has chosen Arizona as their focus for this election cycle. Our Minority Leader Rebecca Rios talked about choosing the districts they will be targeting. I chatted with her and there is a chance that LD17 will be one of the districts.

WHY STATES MATTER

State legislatures drive every issue that impacts your daily life. If we want to move our country past the tyranny of a radical, self-interested minority, the work begins in the states.

They improve lives by providing clean drinking water, equal opportunity for all, quality, and affordable healthcare. Good state policy improves all of our lives. When we elect state lawmakers who are invested in ensuring a healthy, prosperous, and sustainable future for all, we secure the future of our state and our country.

They protect Democracy from the radical rightwing that has launched attack after attack on our democracy through state legislatures, pressuring state lawmakers to steal the presidential election, introducing of hundreds of voter suppression bills in state legislatures around the country, and creating policies that give themselves unmitigated power to ignore the popular vote. Electing state majorities that believe in democracy is the only way to return power to the people and secure our future.

They respond to Crises. From mitigating climate-driven disasters to policies that save lives or cost them during a pandemic, state lawmakers make life or death decisions during a crisis. Failures in power grids during extreme weather, poisoned water flowing from your tap, and lack of access to testing and treatment during a once a century public health crisis are the result of state lawmakers prioritizing narrow special interests over the lives of their constituents.

They pilot National Policy. States pioneered the recognition of marriage equality. Before Obamacare, they passed Romneycare in Massachusetts, and years before that, Hawaiicare. The most critical issues spread from state to state until they become national priorities, and federal policy either for the good of the whole or not.

They launch new leaders. Stacey Abrams and Barack Obama both got started in state legislatures, and so did the likes of David Duke and Matt Gaetz. States are where tomorrow's leaders emerge.

The States Project is considering the 5 districts labeled by the IRC as competitive. My argument to Senator Rios for selecting LD 17 over LD16 is that it's no more competitive than LD17 and with our gerrymandered district we have a far worse candidate to defeat in Leach.

To learn more, go to [The States Project website](https://thestatesproject.org). And let Senator Rios know why you believe we have a chance of flipping LD17 with their help.

The Worst of Leach by Dee Maitland

According to his website <https://vinceleach.com>, Leach believes in

- Constitutionally Limited Government (Really?! Where does it say "limited government" in the Constitution?)
- Limited Taxation (Only on corporations and the top 1% of America's wealthiest people)
- Free Markets (Only to the extent that allows corporations to steal our resources, underpay and abuse their workers, and buy politicians who would allow them to pollute our environment without regulations or penalties)
- Personal Responsibility (Only for the underpaid poor and homeless who must be held responsible for their situation.)
- The Rule of Law (Only the laws they themselves want to obey, but not laws against trying to overturn an election or attempt to overthrow our government.)

According to Wikipedia, Leach is guilty of the following

- In 2018, Leach criticized Arizona public schoolteachers over the [Arizona teachers' strike](#) and for wearing red shirts to support salary increases. Leach called the "Red for Ed" movement a "political action" and, in 2019, supported a Republican bill to impose fines of up to \$5,000 on educators deemed to have attempted to "indoctrinate" students by influencing their political or religious views.
- In 2019, Leach voted for a bill expanding so-called "junk" [health insurance plans](#) in Arizona that do not protect against [pre-existing conditions](#).
- In 2019, Leach also sponsored legislation that would give unrestricted power to the [Arizona attorney general](#) to rewrite the ballot text of citizen voter initiatives.
- In 2020, Leach sponsored legislation to weaken the 1998 Voter Protection Act, an voter-approved amendment to the [Arizona Constitution](#) that barred the legislature from changing initiatives approved by the voters, unless they "further the purpose" of the voter initiatives and obtained a three-quarters supermajority vote of the Legislature. Leach said that he sponsored the Republican-supported measure due to his opposition to the voter-approved initiatives that [authorized medical marijuana](#) and [raised the state minimum wage to \\$12](#).
- Leach sponsored several anti-[medical marijuana](#) bills in the state Senate.
- In 2020, Leach promoted the [conspiracy theory QAnon](#), a radical pro-[Trump](#) fringe movement, on social media.
- In 2021, Leach supported legislation that made it easier to purge Arizona voters from the early voting list. The bill, signed into law by Republican Governor [Doug Ducey](#), was one of many [efforts by Republicans nationwide to restrict voting](#) following Trump's loss in the [2020 United States presidential election](#).
- In 2021, Leach sponsored legislation that would block any Arizona county or municipal government from [banning so-called gay "conversion therapy."](#) At the time, 20 states and [Pima County, Arizona](#) had enacted such bans.
- In 2022, Leach sponsored legislation to give the legislature the power to overturn election results.

Our Democracy needs heroes like you! *by Jean Meconi*

“AZ Supreme Court throws out ballot measure aimed at repealing flat tax” screamed the headline. You worked so hard to get this one, out of the seven petitions we carried last summer, on the November ballot. Now the voters will not get the chance to decide, and the rich get a huge tax break in AZ. Defeat. Isn't that the point. The GOP erects so many obstacles and enacts so many outlandish policies that you feel defeated before you begin. Yet, there are heroes out there. They are carrying petitions that could restore our democracy, protect you from medical debt, and provide stewardship for AZ's future.

The following initiatives would initiate a new law if the required 237,645 signatures are gathered by the July 7th, 2022, due date to make it on the November ballot and then would be voted on by AZ voters.

Arizonans for Free and Fair Elections

- Restores PEVL, permanent early voting list.
- Allows same day automatic online voter registration.
- Expands polling places on native lands.
- Allows clean election grants to be used by county election officials.
- Increases funds available to candidates running on the clean election platform.
- Protects petition signatures from being thrown out for minor errors.
- Enhances ballot privacy.



Voters' Right to Know Act (formerly known as Dark Money)

- Any non-profit or political party spending \$50,000 or more on any combination of statewide races (\$25,000 local races) would have to disclose all donors who contributed more than \$5,000 to a campaign.
- Requires that campaigns disclose largest donor for campaign materials.
- Protects local officials' ability to require additional disclosures.
- Violators could incur substantial penalties.

Predatory Debt Collection Protection Act

- Would cap interest rate on medical debt.
- Would increase the value of assets protected from medical debt.
- Allows courts to reduce earnings subjected to garnishment.

Never to be outdone, the GOP has also filed initiatives, but theirs make voting more restrictive and cumbersome. They are working hard to avoid collecting signatures by having the GOP led legislature pass their initiatives as bills & when signed by the governor they will automatically go on the November ballot.

Arizonans for Voter ID Act (already signed by AZ governor)

- Must show photo ID to vote, no exclusions.
- Requires identification on mail-in ballots that must be verified.
- Provides Arizona electors standing to sue to enforce this measure.



Arizona Spartan Amendment

- An absentee ballot must be stamped by a notary.
- A voter must have a photo ID to cast a ballot.
- Ballots must be hand counted only; no electronic count permitted.
- Registered voters and officials can file a complaint against anyone they believe has violated this statute.

Easier to Vote, Harder to Cheat Act

- Every voter's name, address & method of voting would be published online as well as scanned images of all ballots.
- Makes Election Day a state holiday which only affects government workers.
- Restricts ability for election officials to promote voter registration events for targeted groups (i.e., Native Americans, low-income citizens, etc.)
- Shortens the time early ballots need to be received to be counted (They must be counted by 11 p.m. on election night without any provision for what happens to ballots still uncounted).
- Eliminates the five days after the election to cure a signature if contested.
- Eliminates early emergency voting.

To read the official language in the initiatives click [HERE](#). No referendums (recently passed laws being referred back to the voters) have yet been filed at the [AZ Secretary of State site](#).

Saving our democracy is up to us.

Our democracy needs heroes like you. Please sign these three petitions: [Arizonans for Free and Fair Elections](#), [Voters' Right to Know Act](#) and the [Predatory Debt Collection Protection Act](#). Check out Pima County Democrats' [site](#) for information on signing locations. You can click on the petition names to get petitions to circulate. Every signature counts. Even if you just collect signatures from like-minded friends and family members, you've done your part.

“Democracy is alive and like any other living thing, it either flourishes and grows or withers and dies.”
Saul Alinsky. We need to make sure it continues to flourish.

The Best of Biden by *Jacolyn Marshall*

Health & Safety

- Biden ordered a new national research effort on long Covid, the multitude of symptoms that include brain fog, pain and fatigue, and shortness of breath that linger long after recovery that affects 1 in 3 patients who recovered.
- Biden signed an executive order updating the Affordable Care Act.
- CDC extended the nationwide mask requirement for planes and public transit in response to rise in Covid cases.
- US launched the Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics, a warning system to help guide the response to future pandemics.
- FAA announced it will impose fines of \$78,000 to \$82,000 for unruly passengers who disrupt flights.
- FDA released a plan to ban menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars to prevent children from becoming the next generation of smokers, help adult smokers quit, and prevent up to 650,000 smoking deaths over the next 40 years.
- Biden administration enacted into law a legislative package that includes 12 bills focused on improving maternal health and reducing maternal deaths, which are the highest among developed nations.
- Biden released the first national drug control plan to help prevent death and illness among drug users and get them in care and treatment programs.

Economy

- Biden granted a waiver to allow more ethanol in gasoline year-round to lower gas prices and announced plans to boost domestic supply chains.
- Biden administration released a 17-page playbook to help communities identify more than 100 programs designed to fund rural infrastructure. It explains how to apply for funds to expand rural broadband, clean up pollution, improve transportation, fix rural bridges and roads, ensure clean water and sanitation, prepare for climate change disasters, and upgrade the electrical grid.
- Biden sent Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Interior, Transportation, and an EPA official into rural communities to ensure billions of federal infrastructure dollars and the resources are being used across the states.
- Biden administration issued new guidance for infrastructure projects that requires construction materials used for bridges, highways, and water pipes, and broadband internet be produced in the US.
- Biden's infrastructure law allocated \$66 billion to improving rail systems including Amtrack, America's only interstate passenger rail service.
- The job market, the most important pillar of the economy, remains strong with the unemployment rate at a 50-year low and wages rising steadily resulting in robust spending, higher profits, and increased investments by companies.

Environment & Climate Change

- Biden administration launched a \$6 billion effort to rescue nuclear power plants at risk of closing, citing the need to continue nuclear energy as a carbon-free source of power that helps combat climate change.
- Energy Secretary stated that US nuclear power plants already provide 20% of our electricity, or half of our nation's carbon-free energy.
- Energy Department will require manufacturers to sell energy-efficient light bulbs to accelerate the use of compact fluorescent and LED bulbs that last up to 50 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Consumers should save \$3 billion per year on their utility bills and cut carbon emissions by 222 million metric tons over the next 30 years.
- Biden administration finalized a rule to restore key provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, a bedrock law designed to ensure community safeguards during reviews of federal proposals.
- Biden signed an executive order to help restore national forests devastated by wildfires, drought, and blight, noting that old growth trees are key buffers against climate change, absorbing significant amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Immigration

- Biden administration is phasing out the use of a pandemic-related rule that allowed migrants to be expelled without an opportunity to seek asylum. US authorities processed more single adults from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador in recent weeks which included the right to seek asylum.

Social Justice

- Biden administration nominated Admiral Fagan as the next Commandant of the USCG, which would make her the first woman to lead one of our military branches.
- US Bureau of Land Management proposed making more land available to Alaskan Natives who are veterans of the Vietnam War.

Justice

- DOJ announced a rule that manufacturers of gun kits, which enable people to build weapons at home, will be considered gun manufacturers and must be licensed, the gun parts must have serial numbers, and buyers must have background checks to help eliminate untraceable ghost guns that have become increasingly widespread.
- DOJ charged 21 people with pandemic health care fraud amounting to \$150 M in false billings, theft from Medicare and pandemic assistance programs, identity theft, and the sale of fake vaccine cards. DOJ seized more than \$8 M in cash and other proceeds from those arrested.
- DOJ challenged an Alabama law that makes it a felony for doctors to help transgender youth affirm their new identity with puberty-blockers and hormones as unconstitutional.
- House January 6 committee has new evidence of GOP lawmakers' direct involvement in plotting and orchestrating the insurrection and will launch public hearings in June.
- A federal jury convicted an ex-cop in the US Capitol riot on all six charges; he could face up to 20 years in prison.

Cybersecurity

- National Security Agency's own hackers have disrupted ransomware operators' networks.
- DOJ has a special ransomware task force which has been responsible for hundreds of arrests worldwide.

Government

- Biden's budget asks the wealthiest Americans and corporations to pay a fair share in taxes with no increased taxes for any individual making less than \$400,000 a year.
- Biden released his tax returns once again, reestablishing the tradition of presidents making their filings public.
- Biden administration released an action plan to protect Americans and our national security by expanding the number of agencies that track and monitor drones, establishing a list of detection equipment, and creating a national training center to counter the malicious use of drones.
- Biden administration announced a new US ambassador to Ukraine.

International Relations: Ukraine

- US ambassador to the UN initiated a resolution to ban Russia from its seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council over video evidence of atrocities against civilians in Ukraine. The General Assembly voted to suspend Russia.
- Biden administration is providing detailed, timely intelligence to the Ukrainians on a range of fronts to help them protect, defend, and retake territories.
- Pentagon announced \$800 million in new military assistance, including weapons and defensive equipment.
- US rolled out new sanctions against individuals and entities for evading penalties against a Russian cryptocurrency mining firm.
- Biden asked Congress for \$33 billion to bolster Ukraine's fight against Russia with \$20 billion in defense spending for Ukraine and US allies in the region, \$8.5 billion to keep Ukraine's government providing services and paying salaries, and \$3 billion in global food and humanitarian programs.
- Department of Homeland Security formed a Disinformation Governance Board to counter disinformation coming from Russia as well as misleading information aimed at migrants. The Board will be led by a disinformation expert who has researched Russian misinformation tactics and online harassment.
- Defense Secretary announced the list of arms flowing to Ukraine is growing longer, including new American battlefield aerial drones, the most modern US and Canadian artillery, anti-tank weapons from Norway, armored vehicles and anti-ship missiles from Britain, and Stinger counter-air missiles from the US, Denmark, and others.

International Relations: Other

- US and Japanese warships conducted joint naval exercises to demonstrate their strong military alliance in response to North Korea's missile testing.
- Treasury Secretary met with finance leaders of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank concerning food insecurity around the world. Possible solutions include reducing export restrictions, relieving price controls, and subsidizing small farmers globally to stave off starvation, social unrest, and political upheaval. The President of the World Bank pledged \$17 billion per year to strengthen global food security.
- Biden administration completed the exchange of a former Marine who had been detained in Russia for three years for an incarcerated Russian pilot, a negotiation that took three months to finalize.
- Biden and Mexican President Obrador met to address the unprecedented flow of migrants to the US; they agreed to continue working on coordination to reduce migration which included addressing its root causes, guaranteeing safe passage, and providing legal pathways for migrants and refugees.
- US and Mexico want to accelerate infrastructure projects along the border, strengthen supply chains, and increase cross-border agricultural and commercial activity.

US Supreme Court is poised to overturn Roe v. Wade

In response to the breaking news concerning Roe v. Wade, President Biden was quoted in USA Today as saying, "If the Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade, a whole range of rights beyond abortion are in question. The same arguments included in the draft opinion could also be used to strike down the right of gays and lesbians to marry as well as constitutional protections for birth control. Every other decision based on the notion of privacy is thrown into question. It's a fundamental shift in American jurisprudence."

Community Service Road Clean-Up Project *by Kurt Ohlrich*

Volunteers are needed for this month's Road Clean-Up on **Saturday, May 14**. Please plan to meet at **8:00 am** at the southwest corner of Overton and La Cholla.

Be sure to wear comfortable shoes, appropriate clothing and bring a "grabber" if you have one. The Clean-Up usually takes about an hour. Together we can all help beautify our community.

Please let me know if you will be volunteering by calling 520-742-5223 or emailing me at kaogolf@aol.com.



One of our DOV Roadway Clean-up crews in action - from left to right: Sandy Salz, Ken Smith, Brian Bickel, Mike Zinkin, Chris Dayton, Kurt Ohlrich, Kathryn Boyne, Mike Dayton, and Nancy Smith.

Kurt Ohlrich heads up our Adopt-a-Roadway Clean-up events. As our representative for the Department of Transportation, he organizes and sets up each of the Democrats of Oro Valley roadway clean-up efforts.

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.*

June Zoom Meeting

Monday, June 6
6:30 pm

Guest Speaker:
Kris Mayes, Candidate
for Attorney General

Topic:
Campaign Platform