



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
February
2023

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Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson
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Every generation of Americans has faced a moment where they have been called on to protect our democracy, to defend it, to stand up for it. And this is our moment, where the decisions we make now will decide the course of this nation and of the world for decades to come. We must be the nation we have always been at our best. Optimistic. Hopeful. Forward-looking.
Joe Biden

2023 Dues Still Only \$20

Please be sure to pay your **2023 DOV DUES** now. The price is still only \$20.00 a year. You can pay on Act Blue on the DOV website below or by sending a check to DOV at P.O. Box 68186, Oro Valley, AZ 85737. Thank you.

Dues accepted at: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/dovdues>

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FEBRUARY ZOOM MEETING – Guest Speaker: Josh Ruddick



Josh Ruddick, Master Naturalist

Josh Ruddick is a former high school science teacher who currently administers water education programs in southern Arizona as part of the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension's Arizona Project WET, one of the most well-established water education programs in the nation. The project develops water stewardship and STEM literacy by providing professional development for teachers that evolves instructional practices and deepens content knowledge.

Josh has been locally and internationally recognized for the community sustainability work he and his students accomplished while he was a classroom teacher. He is a co-founder, former chapter president, and former instructor for the Pima County Master Naturalists and the Arizona Master Naturalist Association.

Prior to entering the formal education space, Josh spent 15 years as an executive in the healthcare industry. He and his family live in Tucson where he enjoys gardening, wood and leather working and hiking in his spare time.

Every little thing helps! *by Mike Dayton*

There are 630 days until the 2024 elections. It may seem like a long time, but it's not when you consider how much there is to be done. Time will fly by!

What are you doing now to promote "Democracy in Action?" Can you do more to help?

Here are a few suggestions:

- Join DOV if you are not already a member. And please remember to [pay](#) your dues.
- Tell your family, friends, and colleagues to join DOV at demsov.org. We need to inform even more like-minded individuals so they will be well prepared and committed to cast their vote on election day.
- Follow our "Take Action" plans that are sent out periodically require as little as 5 minutes, 10 minutes, or 30 minutes depending on what you are prepared to do.
- Sign up for RTS (Request-To-Speak) which was outlined during our January DOV Meeting with a speaker from Civic Engagement Beyond Voting. See [RTS training video](#), if you missed the meeting or would like a refresher.
- Write a letter to the Editor. Here's the link: [Submit a letter to editor of the Arizona Daily Star](#)
- Write a letter, call, or email your Congressperson with your concerns and requests for action. Find your representative here: [U.S. Senators](#). [U.S. House Representatives](#). [Arizona Legislators](#)
- Sign a petition. You can begin with [Sign the petition: Ban assault weapons](#).
- Tell a friend, neighbor, family member, shopping companion about the great accomplishments the Dems have done for you and our state. For instance, the CHIPS act is bringing hundreds of new microchip manufacturing jobs to Arizona.
- Register to vote or update your registration. Help a friend or neighbor to register at [Register to vote](#).
- Remember every little thing helps!

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead



The Great Pretender by Jean Meconi

Recently on Twitter, AZ Congressional District 6th Republican Juan Ciscomani posted another picture of his family. But behind the benign images of this naturalized Mexican immigrant living the American Dream is a MEGA MAGA. You won't find posturing like Kevin or Marjorie or Jim. You will find a chameleon who perfectly blends in with the crazies while camouflaged behind a more moderate GOP-speak.

Ciscomani never publicly aligned himself with Trump which may be one of the reasons he was elected in CD6. He did embrace the election lie and is all in on voter suppression laws. Like the other MEGA MAGA's, Ciscomani mixes his religion & politics. He was part of The Torch of Freedom Foundation that groomed children in religion and firearms. He opposes gay marriage, calling it "A signal of the end of society" and supports discriminatory laws against the LGBTQ+ community. And he is a proponent of parents' choice, i.e., public funding for private religious schools.

Ciscomani's extremist agenda is reflected in his Congressional voting record:

H.R.21 - Strategic Production Response Act - This bill limits the drawdown of petroleum in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve until the Department of Energy develops a plan to increase the percentage of federal lands leased for oil and gas production. The drawdown was implemented to lower gas prices. The bill is unnecessary since President Biden has already worked to increase the amount in the reserve in an economic windfall to the United States. A barrel of U.S. oil costs \$80 today — down from \$120 in June.

H.CON.RES. 3 – This performative resolution condemns attacks on pro-life groups & churches. Such attacks are illegal and already widely condemned.

H.R. 26 - Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act – This is another performative bill. Infanticide is already illegal. Ciscomani is a longstanding opponent of a woman's right to choose and celebrated the overturning of Roe v. Wade. He vows to further restrict reproductive health care access.

H.RES. 12 – This resolution establishes a Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government as an investigative subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary – but only during the Biden administration.

H.R. 23 - Family and Small Business Taxpayer Protection Act – This is a bill to rescind the Inflation Reduction Act, including the additional funding for the IRS. Ciscomani heralded his vote as a vote to protect hard working Americans from the IRS. Moreover, while Ciscomani served as Ducey's senior advisor, Arizona had one of the highest rates of uninsured children, because they intentionally slowed implementing the CHIP Act that will bring good paying jobs to AZ. He really doesn't care about Arizona's hard working and struggling American families.

H.R.497 - Freedom for Health Care Workers Act – This bill nullifies the rule that required health care providers, as a condition of Medicare and Medicaid participation to ensure that staff are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. We know the only way to control a pandemic is to curtail the spread of the disease.

In his recent tribute to Hon. James Thomas Kolbe, Ciscomani lauded Kolbe's ability to work across the aisle and recognize the Mexican migrant problem as an economic problem, which led to the passage of NAFTA. Meanwhile he continues to support Trump's "Remain in Mexico" policy and calls for migrants to be stopped when they reach the Mexican border. Just like every MEGA MAGA, he doesn't see the hypocrisy.

Ciscomani's veneer of moderation is just a guise. Underneath lurks a far-right extremist bent on turning our country into a religious totalitarian state.



Republican Mayhem *by Dee Maitland*

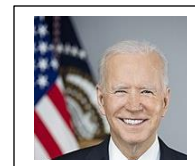
There are 15 official Republican House and Senate members of ALEC. This is down from a few years ago when the number hit 26. It is early in the session, so the newly elected Republicans haven't had a chance to be signed up with ALEC. Unfortunately, the power people: Speaker, Speaker Pro Tem, Majority Leader and Majority Whip are long time members. Senator Shupe is on the ALEC Board and Minority Whip Senator Kerr is chair of an ALEC committee. Fortunately, Vince Leach and Karen Fann are no longer in the legislature. Fann was National Chairperson last year and Leach was on the Board. What is important is so far this year our ALEC politicians have proposed 32 (29%) of the 110 bills that CEBV and the League of Women Voters were asking us to oppose through Request to Speak as of 2/4/23. Since their previous review another 249 bills have been submitted and bills will continue to be submitted until 2/17/23.

All the Republican bills create some form of harm and/or advance the Koch donor network's anti-government goals. There are 30 that sabotage voting; 15 that seek to micro-manage and harm schools; 16 that deny health science in favor of anti-vaccination and religious nonsense; 7 that harm the homeless; and 14 that reduce taxes on the wealthy. There are a surprising number of bills aimed at micro-managing local governments, punishing Maricopa County, creating hardships for the unemployed, penalizing drag events, and halting climate mitigations. One can only despair.

Our own LD17 trio are equally horrifying. They may not be ALEC members yet, but they are with the program. Morticia Addams' evil twin who is notorious for terrorizing school boards proposed SB1428, a bill that would exempt gun shows from gun laws. Apparently, she doesn't have a problem with more school shootings and more dead children. McGarr sponsored HB2303, an anti-vaccination bill; HB2304, a bill to do away with voting centers, and HB2307, a bill to require a hand count of elections. Jones sponsored HB2316, another anti-vaccination bill; HB2309, a bill that says the AZ constitution trumps the US constitution, HB2546, a bill to allow schools with over 35,000 students to break into separate districts, and HB2308, a bill to forbid the Secretary of State to oversee elections if running for office. Jones' school district bill would allow rich areas to separate their schools and funds from poorer areas and her constitution bill would waste taxpayer dollars on hopeless court cases.

Fortunately, with Katie Hobbs in office we are assured these bills will be vetoed. Nevertheless, it is important to register our opposition through RTS now. Our comments will travel with the bill and maybe, just maybe, give the perpetrators pause before they try again...and give us ammunition for 2024. Thanks for anything you can do to help the cause.

The Best of Biden by *Jacolyn Marshall*



Health & Safety

- US broadened availability of abortion pills to more drug stores and online pharmacies.
- US imposed new Covid testing requirements for all travelers from China in response to the surge of infections.
- CDC encouraged US families to immunize their children with new educational materials for doctors and parents.
- Omicron-specific booster kept 81% of seniors out of hospitals, greater than the CDC had predicted.
- Dept of Transportation announced 50 businesses & nonprofits pledged millions to stem a crisis in road fatalities.
- Dept of Agriculture announced new rules limiting sugar & salt in meals served to school children.
- FDA merged existing programs & regulatory authorities to effectively oversee 80% of foods Americans eat.
- US allocated \$930M to mitigate wildfire dangers in 10 western states.

Economy

- US inflation continues to drop month after month along with food and gas prices and unemployment benefits.
- US added 517K jobs in January, pay rose 4.4%, & unemployment rate dropped to 3.4%, the lowest since 1969.

Environment & Climate Change

- Dept of Energy announced a \$700 M loan to mine lithium in Nevada for electric vehicle batteries.
- Dept of Treasury makes more electric vehicles eligible for tax credits up to \$7,500, including higher prices cars.

Immigration

- US accepts only those who arrive legally, have eligible sponsors, and pass background checks.
- Mexico agrees to accept more migrants expelled by US rather than returning to hostile, dangerous homelands.
- US launches online appointment system for asylum seekers at seven crossing points from Texas to California.
- Migrants who report labor abuses gain access to streamlined requests for protection from deportation.

Social Justice

- DOJ requires CA bank to pay \$31M for refusing to underwrite mortgages in Black & Latino neighborhoods.
- 15 Native American tribes get \$580M in water rights settlement for pipelines, pumping stations, and canals.
- FDA eases rules to allow gay and bisexual men in monogamous relationships to donate blood.

Justice

- DOJ secures convictions of four Oath Keepers for sedition in Jan 6 attack which carries up to 20 years in prison.
- DOJ & eight states file an antitrust lawsuit against Google for its dominance in digital advertising.
- US expects \$4.7B in fraud penalties from insurance companies for improper charges by Medicare Advantage.

Government

- US shot down suspected Chinese spy balloon over the Atlantic to prevent undue risks to people on the ground.
- US Navy retrieved the balloon's shell and divers gathered debris for analysis.
- Dept of Treasury took extraordinary accounting measures to avoid defaulting on our national debt.
- Biden highlighted record job creation, rebuilding the economy & US resilience in State of the Union address.

International Relations

- US reopens Solomon Islands Embassy to counter China's increasing assertiveness in the Pacific.
- Visa services resume at US Embassy in Havana as thousands of Cubans are desperate to flee its failing economy.
- Biden visits Mexico to discuss migration, drug trafficking, and electric car manufacturing.
- US, Canada, and Mexico participated in North America Summit on migration, trade, and climate change.
- US and Japan increase military and security cooperation to confront rising threats from North Korea and China.
- US struck deals with 2 Pacific Island nations, Marshall Islands and Palau, to maintain US influence in the region.
- US approved a \$10B arms sale to Poland to bolster their defensive capabilities and maintain political stability.
- Treasury Secretary met with counterparts in three African nations, crucial to the global economy due to growing population and natural resources.
- US deploys fighter jets and bombers to South Korea to counter North Korea's nuclear threat.
- US gains access to four more Philippine military camps to counter future confrontations over Taiwan by China.

International Relations: Ukraine

- Biden announced PM of Netherlands pledged to aid Ukraine in war effort by sending Patriot systems.
- US and Germany send battle tanks and dozens of heavy weapons to Ukraine to break combat stalemates in Kyiv.
- Dept of Treasury imposes more sanctions on Russia's private military company that is aiding the war in Ukraine.



ROADS TO WISDOM

The Democrats of Oro Valley Recommend

BOOKS:

The Common Good by Robert B. Reich. A small book with a fundamental statement about the purpose of society and cri de coeur to save America's soul.

ARTICLES:

Politico: [One Woman is Holding Politicians Accountable for Nasty Speech.](#) A rating approach we can use.

Slate: [Unfortunately, the Biggest Elections Case of the Supreme Court Term Could be Moot.](#) Last issue we recommended you listen to the Moore v Harper hearing at the Court. This complicates things.

Blog for Arizona: <https://blogforarizona.net/t-and-a-1-benefit-of-public-schools/> by Linda Lyons

PODCASTS

Ezra Klein Show: [A Guide to the Legal Fictions that Create Wealth, Inequality and Economic Crises.](#)

A clear account of how our legal and tax systems were corrupted to assure the rich get richer and the rest of us get poorer.

Send your recommendations to deemaitland@earthlink.net



WISDOM



IDEAS



SOLUTIONS



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.*

March Zoom Meeting

Monday, March 13
6:30 – 8:00 pm

Guest Speaker:
SOS Coordinator

Topic:
AZ Public Schools