



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
January
2023

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Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson
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It was a good day for democracy. And it was a good day for America. With their votes, the American people have spoken and proven once again that democracy is who we are. The states across the country saw record voter turnout. And the heart and soul of our democracy — the voters, the poll workers, the election officials — did their job, and fulfilled their duty. And that’s a testament to the American people.
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>

Donations accepted at: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/dovdonate>



JANUARY ZOOM MEETING – Guest Speaker: Cathy Sigmon



Cathy Sigmon, Co-founder of CEBV & SOS

Cathy will focus on the ways in which Civic Engagement Beyond Voting follows Arizona’s legislation and what she anticipates for this new legislative session. She will also cover the Request to Speak program and how we can help influence legislation by becoming part of it.

Cathy is a 25-year resident of Arizona with a background in publishing, retail buying, product development, international sourcing, and project management. A co-founder of Civic Engagement Beyond Voting and Save Our Schools Arizona, Cathy serves as the Finance & Operations Director for both groups.

Her father was born in Bisbee and her great-grandfather was a timekeeper at the Copper Queen Mine, so her roots are authentically Arizonan.



DOV Recap of 2022 by Chair Mike Dayton

We hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Holiday Season. Welcome to 2023! We want to take a moment to thank you for all you have done, things you are already planning to do and are already doing to strengthen our democracy. Democracy is a fragile thing. We must be ever diligent in our resolve to protect it.

Your local Democrats of Oro Valley's main goal is keeping our members informed via our DOV Newsletter and Zoom meetings and inspiring positive action. Thank you for your help this year by joining our club and renewing your DOV membership. We also want to thank you for volunteering, supporting us financially, and donating your time. Thank you for getting petitions to put initiatives and referenda on the ballot and protect funding for public schools, writing postcards to support candidates and help get out the vote, holding House Parties to showcase our candidates, keeping up with the Independent Redistricting Committee map revisions and speaking out for our cause online and in person, composing Letters to the Editor, participating in our email blasts, and responding to our Facebook postings.

DOV's theme for this year is "Democracy in Action!" The 2024 election is only 665 days away, which will fly by quickly. Now is the time to make a plan that will further cement the idea that saving our DEMOCRACY is worth fighting for. Although the architect of autocracy is out of the picture, his ideas are firmly planted in the Republican party, so the challenge remains. We must continue with what worked for us in 2022 and look for additional ideas to make our work even more effective.

Glows and Grows

Our glows from 2022 include:

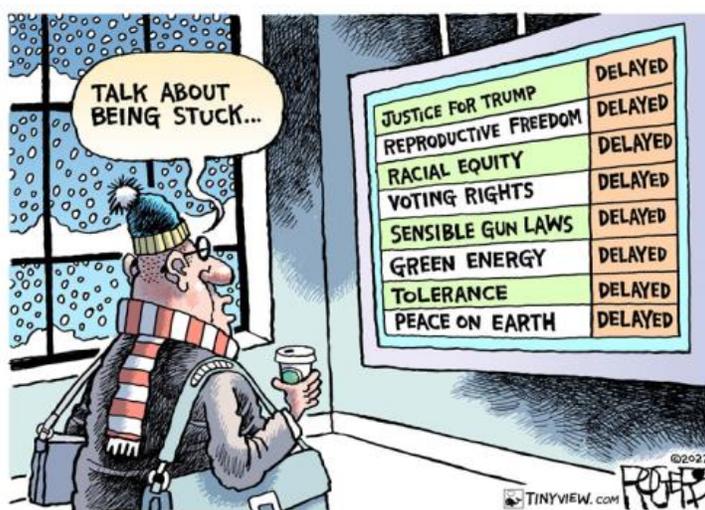
1. We had 17 volunteers who wrote 500 postcards to register new voters in Oro Valley.
2. We had 65 volunteers who wrote over 5,000+ postcards to get out the vote in Oro Valley.
3. We had 10 volunteers who wrote 400+ postcards to Georgia voters to elect Warnock, our 51st Democratic US Senator.
4. We had over 35 volunteers who gathered 3,000 signatures for petitions at the OV library.
5. We had numerous DOV members write in comments and/or speak at the Independent Redistricting Committee town halls.
6. We had numerous DOV members follow up on our email blasts.
7. We helped write 104 "Letters to the Editor" as well as several Editorial Opinion pieces.

Our Grows for 2023 include:

1. Democrats getting even louder and driving the media battle.
2. Democrats showing our pride in America by reclaiming our flag and demonstrating our patriotism.
3. Democrats broadcasting our Democratic accomplishments.
4. Democrats renouncing Republicans when they credit for what we have done!

5. Democrats repeatedly rebuking the Republican Extremism at every turn.
6. Democrats repeatedly promoting the three big bills that Biden signed into law:
 - The Inflation Reduction Act that brings down costs, reduces the deficit, and takes aggressive action on climate
 - The CHIPS and Science Act that will bring high paying jobs to Arizona, and
 - The American Rescue Plan Act that helps combat COVID-19 and supercharge our economy.

We want to continue and expand the work we have started in 2022. Our goal is to win in 2024!



We've Only Just Begun... by Dee Maitland

After our surprising success in November, I was planning to step back from the Democrats of Oro Valley and just exercise my civic responsibility by being an informed voter and nothing more. We have worked so hard; we have earned a rest.

However, this holiday season I had an epiphany: None of us can't stop now, myself included. The election was too close. The violent crazies are still out there and are well funded. The Supreme Court has been corrupted. Trumpism still lives. Evangelicals no longer follow Christ's teachings. ALEC still owns our Republican legislators. Tom Horne can once again damage our public schools and our children. Guns are still killing too many innocent people. Mining is still destroying our land. And then there's our ever-growing water problem...

I am asking all of you to take a short rest; hug your loved ones; toast the new year with one more cranberry margarita; and then join me in continuing the fight against stupidity, perfidy, racism, misogyny, Christian nationalism, and fascism.

We have learned so much in the last six years. We've read the books. Listened to the lectures. We've identified the good people and competent organizations. We've elected strong leaders. We've honed our messages.

We're practiced and ready. Let's not work to turn Arizona purple. Let's work to turn it bright blue together!



We are starting this new section of our newsletter to share books, podcasts, YouTubes and articles that enlighten and may lead us to ways of solving our current problems. We invite you to share sources you find relevant to our cause. Please send your recommendations to deemaitland@earthlink.net

ROADS TO WISDOM

The Democrats of Oro Valley Recommend

BOOKS: This month's theme is how capitalists sabotage "We, The People"

[Democracy in Chains, The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America](#) by Nancy

MacLean. The history of the rise of the Koch donor network which is controlling the Republican Party and Arizona's universities.

[Why We're Polarized](#) by Ezra Klein. The structural and psychological forces behind our current descent into division and dysfunction.

[The Scheme, How the Right Wing Used Dark Money to Capture the Supreme Court](#) by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse with Jennifer Mueller. An explanation of our current risks from the conservative Supreme Court Justices and the Federalist Society.

[People Get Ready, The Fight Against a Jobless Economy and a Citizenless Democracy](#) by Robert W.

McChesney and John Nichols. A case for a radical reform agenda to take power back from corporations and give it to the people and a vision on how to educate to live full lives.

[On Tyranny, Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century](#) by Timothy Snyder

[The Hidden History of American Oligarchy, Reclaiming Our Democracy from the Ruling Class](#) by Thom

Hartmann. An illuminating explanation of the reality of oligarchy in our past and present and the danger of it morphing into tyranny.

PODCASTS

[Rachel Maddow Presents: Ultra](#). In the lead up to WWII, members of Congress were aiding and abetting a plot to overthrow the government. Insurrectionists were criminally charged with plotting to end American democracy for good. An exciting tale with implications for our current situation.

[The Ezra Klein Show](https://www.nytimes.com/column/ezra-klein-podcast). <https://www.nytimes.com/column/ezra-klein-podcast> Excellent interviews with a wide-ranging ideas and guests. My favorite is Margaret Atwood on "Stories, Deception and the Bible" on 3/25/22.

[Supreme Court Oral Arguments: Moore v Harper](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyKOUHm0z8). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyKOUHm0z8>.

Fascinating hearing about the constitutional power of state legislatures over elections. Moore argues that the independent state legislature theory removes oversight of legislatures by the courts. If the Court sides with Moore, there would be no court recourse for partisan gerrymandering or faux electors being chosen over the will of the voters.



WISDOM



IDEAS



SOLUTIONS





Happy Inauguration Day!

For the first time in 50 years, Arizona has a Democratic governor, secretary of state and attorney general. Thanks to the hard work of so many volunteers, like you, who called, knocked doors, raised funds, fed volunteers, and invited friends to meet our candidates.

While many of us took much-needed breaks during the December holidays, LD17 Democrats continued to meet, plan and organize. Stay tuned as plans develop to stay active and connected throughout 2023.

Congratulations to Dana Allmond!

Dana Allmond, recent Arizona House of Representatives candidate for LD17, has joined Katie Hobbs' cabinet as Director of the Department of Veterans Services. She is pictured on Inauguration Day with Governor Katie Hobbs, Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes.



Dana Allmond & Governor Katie Hobbs



Secretary of State Adrian Fontes & Dana Allmond

The Very Best of Biden: 2022 Major Achievements by Jacolyn Marshall



Health & Safety

- 78% of American adults are fully vaccinated against Covid-19.
- **Omnibus Bill** containing 69 bipartisan bills, including one investing in maternal mental health care and extending of postpartum coverage up to one year, ended a year of historic progress.
- **Health Care Bill**, the second largest health care bill since Johnson, caps drug costs, helps 13 million Americans pay for health insurance and gives Medicare the power to negotiate drug costs.
- **PACT Act** expands VA health care and benefits for those exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxins.
- More Americans have health insurance than ever before, including 5 million people newly insured since 2021.
- **Gun Safety Bill**, the most significant reform in nearly 30 years, toughens background checks, keeps firearms from domestic violence offenders, establishes red flag laws, and bolsters mental health programs and aid to schools.
- Biden instructed DOJ and HHS to protect women's access to abortion medication and their ability to travel across state lines to access clinical abortion services.
- FDA approved an ALS drug to treat Lou Gehrig's disease.
- Biden flew in 22 tons of Nestle specialty formula from Switzerland to address a critical nationwide shortage.
- US veterans experiencing homelessness dropped by 11% since 2020, the biggest decline in more than five years.

Economy

- **Infrastructure Law**, with \$110 billion in funding, has 4,300 projects underway, constructing bridges and highways, replacing water pipes, and expanding and ensuring broadband internet access across in the US.
- US added 6.4 million new jobs last year & 10.5 million this year, including 700,000 new manufacturing jobs, the largest nationwide job increases in decades.
- **Inflation Reduction Act**, the largest economic recovery plan since Roosevelt, adds a new 15% tax on corporations, increases IRS audits of the wealthy and pays down federal deficit.
- US economists reported consumer spending is outpacing inflation. With retail sales outpacing inflation for a fourth straight month, consumers are not only sustaining their spending but increasing it.
- National debt plunged \$1.7 trillion in 2020, more than any other year in history, creating a stable growth economy.
- US dollar's value surged in April, reaching its highest level in 20 years.
- Annual inflation rate fell for the last 5 months with gas price falling and food price increases slowing.
- **American Rescue Plan** awarded \$2.2 billion to 35 financially strapped transit agencies in 18 states and \$11 billion to fund affordable housing programs.
- **CHIPS and Science Act** brings semi-conductor manufacturing back to US and microchip manufacturing to AZ.
- IRS announced larger standard deductions for 2023 and revised all seven federal income tax bracket levels upward.
- SSA announced an 8.7% increase in benefits for 2023, the largest cost-of-living adjustment in more than 40 years.

Climate Change

- **Inflation Reduction Act**, the largest investment in addressing climate change in US history, invests \$375 billion towards a clean energy economy with more solar, wind turbines, battery plants, electric cars, and EV charging stations along interstate highways.
- Companies building clean construction projects will receive tax credits and consumers will receive a tax credit of \$7,500 per electric vehicle purchased.
- US Postal Service announced it will add electric-powered mail vehicles to their fleet by next year.
- Biden issued its first clean energy loan guarantee up to \$1 billion to increase production of clean hydrogen to convert natural gas into commercial products.
- EPA is striving to meet Biden's "Justice 40" goal of providing 40% of clean water benefits to disadvantaged communities. Funding for water projects will be given to states once their plans have approved by the EPA.

Immigration

- Biden shifted immigration arrests to those without legal status who have committed serious crimes, resulting in a 40% drop in arrests.
- Overall deportations fell nearly 70%, the lowest in Immigration and Customs Enforcement history.
- Department of Homeland Security has the power to reject or approve asylum cases directly, accelerating the process and relieving the immigration courts of a backlog of 1.8 million cases.
- ICE is processing the most employment-based green cards in the history taking years off wait time.
- 20 countries from Chile to Canada who agreed to provide legal pathways to enter their countries, aid to their

Social Justice

- **Respect for Marriage Act** enshrines marriage equality for federal law purposes, provides additional marriage protections at the state level, and ensures same sex and interracial couples complete protection.
- Infrastructure investments are being made in all 50 state, DC, territories, and throughout tribal nations.
- **Affordable Connectivity Program** provides 14 million households with lower-cost or free high-speed internet.
- **CARES Act** stimulus package protects student loan borrowers with waived interest and deferred payments.
- Standard Pell Grants increased by \$400, enabling more young people to attend college.
- Biden administration announced 8 million student loan borrowers had applied for debt relief and encouraged other eligible individuals to apply.
- **DACA Program** that has protected hundreds of thousands of young undocumented immigrant children from removal has been extended.
- Biden and DOJ warned states that laws denying appropriate care of transgender minors may infringe on their rights protected by the Equal Protection and Due Process clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment.
- **Violence Against Women Act** has been updated to include new protections for Native American, transgender and immigrant women and provide housing stability and economic security.

Justice

- Biden had 150 federal judges confirmed, including a Supreme Court Justice, the most since Kennedy.
- DOJ subpoenaed Trump to appear before a grand jury in its probe into the assault on the Capitol.
- DOJ filed suit to block Arizona from enforcing a voting law that demands proof of citizenship, as a violation of the National Voter Registration Act.
- DOJ sued Idaho over its statute that criminalizes abortions, arguing that it violates federal law.
- DOJ is conducting a criminal investigation concerning more than 100 top-secret records seized by the FBI.
- DOJ announced 900 Capitol insurrection-related arrests are moving through the court system, and more than 2,000 new cases are expected to be filed.

Government

- **Postal Service Reform Act** provides stability and enhances the services of the USPS, lifting budget requirements previously imposed and requiring the establishment the Postal Service Health Benefits Program.
- **National Defense Authorization Act** authorizes \$768 billion in military spending for 2022, including a 2.7% pay raise for service members.

International Relations: Ukraine

- US and allies retaliated against Russia with a series of financial attacks, reflecting a massive change in how conflicts can be waged in a world that is globalized, digital and highly dependent on accessing money.
- US, EU, and UK agreed to target \$600 billion in reserves in Russia's central bank and remove Russian banks from the SWIFT, which moves billions around 11,000 banks worldwide.
- Biden and Western allies pledged humanitarian aid to Ukraine, welcoming refugees and sending an additional \$1 billion in food, medicine, water, and other supplies.
- US outlined the historic economic blockade with the wealthiest nations in the world, denying Putin access to cutting-edge semiconductors, telecommunications equipment, lasers, and sensors integral to war materiel.
- 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.
- US is providing detailed, timely intelligence to Ukraine to help them protect, defend, and retake territories.

International Relations: Other

- Biden launched a new trade deal with Indo-Pacific nations aimed at strengthening their economies and improving supply chains, digital trade, clean energy, worker protections, and anticorruption efforts
- Biden administration transferred \$3.5 billion in frozen Afghan funds to the trustees of the new Afghan Fund to address widespread hunger throughout the nation.
- Biden met with leaders from more than a dozen Pacific Island countries and affirmed our commitment to bolstering US presence in their region and collaborating on climate change.
- Biden convened a two-day Summit for Democracy in mid-December, calling for world leaders to strengthen their democracies and demonstrate their viability in a changing world.
- Biden and South Korean President Yoon agreed to expand joint military exercises to deter the nuclear threat from North Korea with a shared goal of complete denuclearization of the North Korea.

DOV Holiday Party Enjoyed by All







Special thanks to Dee Maitland for standing in for Mike Dayton as emcee, David Fitzsimmons for entertaining us and signing autographs, Rex Scott for announcing the raffle winners, and Leadership Committee members for donating raffle prizes.

**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.*

**February
Zoom Meeting**

**Monday, February 13
6:30 – 8:00 pm**

**Guest Speaker:
TBA**

**Topic:
Water Crisis**