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Time and again, Democrats and Republicans came together. In fact, I signed over 300 bipartisan laws since becoming President. If we could work together in the last Congress, there is no reason we can't work together in this new Congress. The people sent us a clear message. Fighting for the sake of fighting, power for the sake of power, conflict for the sake of conflict, gets us nowhere.  
**Joe Biden**

## 2023 Dues Still Only \$20

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## MAY ZOOM MEETING – Guest Speakers: Ruben Gallego & Laura Terech



### Ruben Gallego, Candidate for US Senate

Congressman Ruben Gallego represents the 3rd District of Arizona, including parts of Phoenix, Glendale, and Tolleson, in the U.S. House of Representatives. A member of the House Armed Services Committee and chair of the Intelligence and Special Operations subcommittee, Ruben is committed to ensuring that servicemen and women are never sent into harm's way without a plan for winning the fight, securing the peace, and providing post-conflict medical, psychological, and familial care.

A member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, Ruben works to improve the health and well-being of veterans and offer them improved economic and educational opportunities. Ruben has championed funding to address veterans' homelessness in the Phoenix and across the country.

A member of the House Natural Resources Committee and the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States (SCIP), Ruben fought to uphold Tribal sovereignty and our federal trust responsibility to Native Americans and Alaskan Natives. Ruben is a member and former First Vice-Chair of the Hispanic Caucus, a member of the Progressive Caucus, a Vice-Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus, and a Democratic Caucus Assistant Whip. Watch as Ruben discusses his plan to defeat Sinema at:

<https://www.msnbc.com/the-reidout/watch/rep-ruben-gallego-on-how-he-plans-to-defeat-kyrsten-sinema-in-potential-three-way-race-161668165697>



## Laura Terech, Member of the Arizona House of Representatives

Laura represents Legislative District 4, which includes Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, and North Phoenix. Laura sits on the House Education committee as well as the House Municipal Oversight & Elections committee.

Laura is a proud product of Arizona public schools, including both U of A and ASU. After earning her master's degree in education, she taught kindergarten and 2nd grade in a Title I school district.

She is now a consultant working as the Community Outreach Coordinator for the nonpartisan group Civic Engagement Beyond Voting.

Watch two must-see video clips of Laura in action as she delivers her response to HB2075 at:

<https://twitter.com/AZHouseDems/status/1631420035964243969?s=20> and her response to SB1040 at:

<https://twitter.com/CapitolWatchdo2/status/1640848305243701248?s=20>

### April Road Clean Up Completed

Although the turnout was smaller than expected, the Democrats of Oro Valley's community service project was satisfactorily completed by our dedicated group of volunteers.

Thank you, Brian Bickel, Kurt Ohlrich, Mike Dayton, Chris Dayton, and Susan Bickel (photographer), for keeping our section of the Oro Valley roadways clean. Great job everyone.



## **THE WORST OF WADSACK** by *Dee Maitland*

The good news so far is that Justine has been unsuccessful as a legislator. Of the 53 bills she sponsored, only one made it out of chambers and subsequently was vetoed by our governor. That was her bill to make it illegal for local governments to ban gun shows within their jurisdiction. While most of her bills did get consideration in the Senate, very few made it to the House.

By 2024 all the damning information about her should be public, including caging her disabled child and filing over a dozen frivolous lawsuits. Unfortunately, that might also prompt the return of the Leach. We need to remain vigilant and continue to gather and dispense information about these two dreadful characters.

It is also incumbent for us to reflect on how we ended up with Wadsack. As someone who closely followed the Independent Redistricting Commission, I can say that the Arizona Democratic Committee (ADC) did not pay attention to the Commission on Appellate Court Appointments (CACA) which creates the lists used to select the IRC commissioners. At the beginning of the process there were only 4 Democrats on the 16-member CACA. They did not encourage applicants and further, they did not scrutinize the final lists to see the vast difference in Republican and Democrat candidates.

Once chosen there is no evidence of Arizona Democratic Committee providing resources and support to Independent Redistricting Commissioners Lerner and Watchmen. We had an academic and a tribal elder up against millionaire businessmen who obviously went home each night with full staff support. The Democratic Committee did nothing to challenge the Mehl, Leach, Honea, and SALC gerrymandering subterfuge that led to LD17.

The Arizona Democratic Committee also dropped the ball during the election. They did not strongly encourage and support our LD17 candidates. Even without their support, they came close to winning those seats. Imagine what might have happened if they had some ADC backing.

Those of us who followed the process from the selection of members of the Commission for Appellate Court Appointments (CACA) through to approval of the final maps want to leave a legacy of what we learned. We strongly recommend that the Arizona Democratic Committee (ADC) form, fund, and staff a standing committee to study the 2021 process and prepare for 2031 redistricting which needs to begin soon. So much needs to be done and so much preparation is needed to counter Republican dirty tricks at all levels. Candidates need to be found and encouraged to join CACA. We need strong applicants for the IRC. Outreach and education are needed to ensure an accurate census. And voters need to be educated on the process.

If you have a voice with ADC members, please encourage them to implement these measures so we never again have a Wadsack, Finchem, or Leach as our representative.



"The Gerry-Mander" political cartoon that led to the coining of the term depicts a district created by the Massachusetts legislature in 1812.



President Joe Biden formally announced his candidacy for reelection on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> in a [video](#) entitled “Freedom,” in which he says: “Freedom. Personal freedom is fundamental to who we are as Americans. There’s nothing more important. Nothing more sacred,” as the video depicts Republican extremists trying to roll back access to abortion, cut Social Security, limit voting rights and ban books they disagree with, adding: “Around the country, MAGA extremists are lining up to take those bedrock freedoms away.”

In his first public appearance after his announcement, Biden offered a preview of how he plans to navigate the dual roles of president and presidential candidate, using a speech to North America’s Building Trades Unions members to highlight his accomplishments and undercut his GOP rivals, while showing voters he remains focused on his day job.

Greeted with chants of “Let’s Go Joe” from a raucous crowd of union members, a strong base of Democratic support, Biden showcased the tens of thousands of construction jobs being created since he took office, jobs that are being supported by legislation he signed into law.

Biden urged “We, you and I together, we’re turning things around and we’re doing it in a big way. It’s time to finish the job. Let’s finish the job.”

And he added “I said we are in a battle for the soul of America, and we still are. The question we are facing is whether in the years ahead we will have more freedom or less freedom. More rights or fewer.”

Few things have unified Democratic voters like the prospect of Trump returning to power. Moreover, Biden’s political standing within his party stabilized after Democrats notched a stronger-than-expected performance in last year’s midterm elections.

The president is set to run again on the same themes that buoyed his party last fall: preserving access to abortion and building the economy from the bottom up and the middle out with millions of new jobs, new factories, and American-made products.

As the contours of the campaign begin to take shape, Biden plans to run on his record. He spent his first two years as president combating the coronavirus pandemic and pushing through major bills such as the bipartisan infrastructure package and legislation to promote high-tech manufacturing and climate measures.

Biden also plans to point to his work over the past two years shoring up American alliances, leading a global coalition to support Ukraine’s defenses against Russia’s invasion, returning the U.S. to the Paris climate accord, and building and, in some cases, rebuilding alliances throughout the world.

Biden allies say his time in office has demonstrated that he has proven himself to be a transformational leader.

WASHINGTON (AP)

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



### **Health & Safety**

- EPA imposes new rules on chemical plants to reduce risks to nearby communities and requires them to make their data public.
- Agriculture Secretary warns 18 largest meat & poultry producers against illegally using child labor.
- Labor Department currently has more than 600 violations of child labor laws under investigation.
- CDC approves a flexible booster schedule allowing high risk people to receive a second Covid bivalent booster earlier than the required waiting period.
- Transportation Department commits \$800M for community projects to reduce highway deaths under its new plan.
- FDA approves a first-of-a-kind drug for ALS, otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's disease.
- Health & Human Services investigates two hospitals that refused to provide emergency care for women who experienced premature labor for putting their lives in jeopardy and violating federal law.

### **Economy**

- Commerce Department seeks stronger measures to test the safety of artificial intelligence tools, including mandatory audits of companies that use them.
- US adds 236,000 jobs in March, unemployment rate fall, and inflation appears to be easing.

### **Environment & Climate Change**

- Biden announces largest community solar effort in US history, powering 140K homes and businesses in three states.
- Biden makes \$450M available for solar and other clean energy projects at five former coal mine sites.
- Interior Department officials seek middle ground for cutting Colorado River Basin water usage.
- Biden administration releases \$80M to produce more solar panels in US, increasing their availability.
- BLM & Forest Service craft new ways to protect woodlands from fires, insects, and other effects of climate change.
- EPA releases new regulations that impose greater automobile pollution limits.

### **Immigration**

- Homeland Security tests expedited screenings that will provide legal representation to asylum-seekers.
- New rules requiring migrants to receive prior authorization aim to reduce the number of those crossing the border and their reliance on human smuggling networks, while expanding pathways to asylum.
- Biden administration announces new measures to stop migrants from illegally entering the US by opening centers in Guatemala and Colombia where they can apply to fly legally to the US, Spain, or Canada.
- Biden administration sends troops to border to do data entry, warehouse support and other administrative tasks so that Border Patrol can focus on their law enforcement duties during the expected migrant surge.

### **Justice**

- DOJ & DEA indicted more than two dozen members of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel for fentanyl trafficking.
- DOJ has secured convictions of sedition against leaders of neo-fascist Proud Boys and Oath Keepers which carry a prison sentence up to 20 years.

### **Social Justice**

- Biden proposes federal rule to prohibit health care facilities from sharing medical records related to productive care.
- Biden administration proposes the landmark gender equity law Title IX will specifically include transgender athletes.
- Biden announces DACA Dreamers will be eligible for Medicaid and the ACA health insurance exchanges.

### **Government**

- IRS will upgrade technology and spend half of its \$80B increase to audit wealthy individuals and large corporations.

- FBI charges Air National Guard member with espionage for disclosing highly classified military documents about the Ukraine war and other top national security issues.
- Federal Trade Commission proposes sweeping changes that would prohibit Facebook from misleading parents and failing to protect the privacy of children using its Messenger Kids app.
- FAA refers 250 unruly airline passengers to the FBI for possible criminal prosecution since 2021.

### International Relations

- US and Philippines launch combat exercises in waters in disputed South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait.
- US Navy deploys guided-missile submarine to Middle East in response to Iran’s increasingly aggressive attacks.
- Biden declares WSJ reporter wrongfully detained by Russia; State Department proceeds in securing his release.
- Biden hosts Colombian President at WH to deepen cooperation on climate change, migration, and energy policies.
- Pentagon increases troops and equipment sent to nearby naval bases to prepare for possible evacuation of US embassy in Sudan.
- US facilitates land evacuation of thousands of Americans trying to escape the fighting in Sudan, by linking them up with convoys of other foreigners and placing intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets along routes.
- US and Vietnam boost ties with a new embassy in Hanoi and a third Coast Guard cutter to maintain peace in the South China Sea.
- Biden and South Korea’s president agree to dock US nuclear-armed submarines along the Korean Peninsula, bolster training, and improve information sharing on strategic weapons operation plans to ensure a sustainable peace.
- Biden administration sanctions Russia’s Federal Security Service and Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard intelligence organization for wrongfully detaining Americans providing an inducement to release them.

### International Relations: Ukraine

- Pentagon sends \$500M in ammunition to Ukraine and spends \$2B on equipment to help counter Russian drones.
- US and other G-7 democracies vow to present a united front against China’s threats to Taiwan and commit to tough sanctions against Russia for its aggression in Ukraine.
- US pledges an additional \$325M in military aid, including Patriot missiles in response to Russia’s war crimes.

## 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.*

### June Zoom Meeting

Monday, June 12  
6:30 – 8:00 pm

Guest Speaker:  
TBA

Topic:  
TBA