



# Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter  
December  
2024

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson  
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Two years ago, I pledged over \$55B for Africa's first trans-continental railroad and other new investments. Today, I authorized \$1B more. By 2025 one out of every four human beings will live in Africa. The challenges that define our age demand their leadership. African ingenuity and determination will expand clean energy, tackle global health threats, and grow a global middle class. In many ways, Africa's success is and will be the world's success **Joe Biden** at the *US-Africa Summit in Angola on December 3.*

## 2025 Dues Still Only \$20

Pay using the DOV website below or send a check to DOV at P.O. Box 68186, Oro Valley, AZ 85737

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

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



Come help us celebrate the season and honor our democratic winners at our holiday party. As we face the challenges ahead, may we keep Chair Mike Dayton's sentiments in our hearts: May we always be fired up with enthusiasm for our democratic ideals. May we always appreciate our candidates who support our constitution and democracy. May we always cheer for our Veterans, heroes for protecting the Red, White and Blue. May we always cheer for our volunteers who work hard to keep our democracy strong. May our children and grandchildren always live in our great country, free and safe.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR DEMOCRATIC WINNERS

US Senate Ruben Gallego



AZ House Kevin Volk



Co Attorney Laura Conover



Co Sheriff Chris Nanos



Co Recorder Cazares-Kelly



Co Treasurer Brian Johnson



Co Superintendent Dustin Williams



Co Assessor Suzanne Droubie



District 1 Supervisor Rex Scott



Beginning Monday, January 13, 2025, DOV monthly meetings return to the Oro Valley Library from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. We look forward to having you join us.



# *It's Holiday Party Time*



*with*

*The Democrats of Oro Valley!*

*Monday, December 9, 2024*

*5 PM to 7 PM*

*at*



*10180 N. Oracle  
Oro Valley, AZ 85737*

## *Menu:*

*Build you own Ground Beef Taco  
Mini Chicken Chimís  
Chilaquiles (enchilada casserole)  
Refried Beans and Spanish Rice  
Chíps, Salsa and Guacamole  
Coffee, Tea and Sodas included  
Cash bar*

*Raffle to benefit the Democrats of Oro Valley*

*Tickets \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00*

*RSVP by December 4<sup>th</sup> to Dee Maitland*

*[deemaitland@earthlink.net](mailto:deemaitland@earthlink.net)*

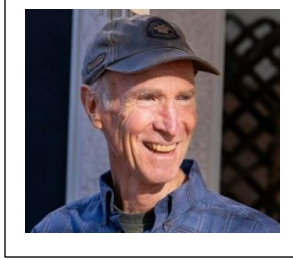
*Cost of \$20 per person*

*will be collected at the door*

*Cash or check only please*

*Checks payable to Democrats of Oro Valley*





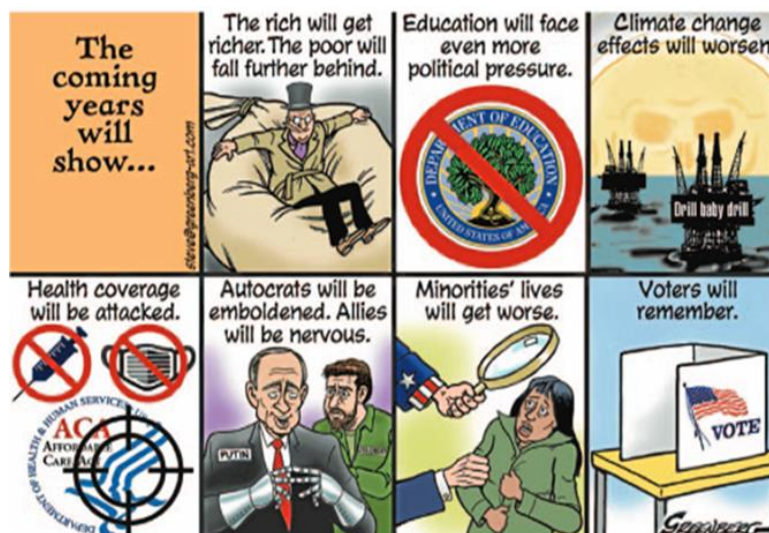
## John McLean's unexpected passing by LD 17 chair Larry Waggoner

Many of you knew and worked with John during his campaign for LD17's state senate seat.

John's life had a broad impact and reflected his love for southern Arizona and respect for others. He was committed to making a difference and dedicated himself to improving the environment and continually stressed the importance of social and civil rights. Further, he strongly believed that education was the great equalizer and advocated for education at every opportunity.

John was open and honest. He gave so much throughout the senate campaign—opening up about his beliefs, struggles, joys, and what he hoped to accomplish as our senator. I believe his message was more than that. I believe he wanted people to understand that even when things are complicated, there are always solutions. We just need to be open to the possibilities.

I hope you will take the time to grieve his terrible loss, and when you are ready, I hope you will celebrate the life of a truly great guy. My sincerest respect and regards go out to all those who knew and loved him, but especially to his family. I hope you know how much he meant to so many people, including me.



## Concept of a Plan for the New Year by Dee Maitland

We did not lose this election by much. There is no mandate. There were unfortunate circumstances coupled with perfidy. After suffering through COVID and then inflation, ordinary people were angry and punished incumbents worldwide. The perfidy began with Reagan saying, “Government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem,” which ushered in a decade’s long propaganda campaign by billionaires to foster distrust of government and loathing of Democrats. They hated our government because it made them pay taxes; demanded product safety; stopped price gouging; prevented gambling with our savings that caused

banks to fail; made them cleanup their pollution; and insisted they treat workers humanely. Their campaign went from the Kochs funding the Tea Party, to privatizing public lands and institutions for profit, to dismissing sources of intelligent information such as experts, scientists and public schools, to the financial crisis of 2008, to stacking the Supreme Court and Citizens United, to creating media empires, and finally, to Project 2025. Their money is buying a government and laws designed to solely protect them and their billions from the rest of us. They are driven by hubris and greed. The culmination is the ascent of a white South African bigot billionaire, Elon Musk, as key advisor to the incoming felon president.

**All is not lost!** We clearly have legitimate, highly visible scapegoats that trump their racist and misogynistic ones. Together we can meet this challenge.

This month I ask you to quit doom scrolling and following the manufactured affronts of the day. Instead, spend time counting our blessings and remembering all the good we have achieved. The podcast [Good News for Lefties](#) will help. Spend some time learning about our current media landscape, so come January we can find a way to reach low-information voters. The [On the Media](#) 11/29/24 episode “How Conservative Talk Radio Came to Dominate the Airwaves” gives a good overview of the corruption of the mediums where so many Americans receive their news.

Many of our laws and infrastructures have existed for so many decades they are taken for granted: the underlining rationales lost to history and not taught in schools. Take some time to consider what you want people to understand about the *raison d'être* for your area of expertise. For example, my area is banking.

Project 2025 wants to eliminate the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). You can read how important this 90-year-old organization is [here](#). I'm working on how I can reintroduce the public to the FDIC, not with facts and statistics, but with stories about the devastation and death caused by bank failures during the Great Depression which precipitated its formation. What stories do you have to share?

And please don't get involved in the circular firing squad of blame and paralysis through analysis. Cancel the blathering blamers and doomsayers. We are the educated ones! We are the Good Guys! And we are not alone as we learned during this election. Together we will save Democracy.



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



### **Health & Safety**

- CDC announced US drug overdose deaths continued to decline with a 14% drop this year.
- CDC announced E. coli food poisoning from McDonald's Quarter Pounders rose to 104 people across 14 states with one death and four people developing life-threatening kidney disease complications.
- FAA prohibited US airlines from flying to Haiti until mid-December after gangs shot two planes and the UN suspended humanitarian aid from entering the country.
- CDC announced an outbreak of E. Coli that infected 39 people in 18 states who ate bagged organic carrots from Grimmway Farms, Cal-Organic, Nature's Promise, O-Organics, and Trader Joe's.
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration finalized changes to automobile safety ratings with new driver-assistance technologies and improved tests to protect pedestrians.
- Health officials announced a new rule allowing people with HIV needing a kidney or liver transplant to receive an organ from a donor with HIV.
- Health and Human Services proposed a new rule making obese people eligible to have weight-loss drugs covered by Medicare or Medicaid, a measure supported by a bipartisan congressional coalition.
- CDC estimates 3.5 million people on Medicare and 4 million on Medicaid could qualify for drugs that would save the government from spending billions on treating chronic ailments stemming from obesity.
- CDC chief urged the next administration to continue protecting Americans from disease outbreaks and other health threats.
- CDC director noted the agency has four political appointees out of 13,000 employees who have civil service protections against efforts to fire them for political reasons.

### **Economy**

- Labor Department announced unemployment dropped by 4,000 to the lowest level in seven months.
- Average 30-year mortgage rate dropped to 6.78% in September, down from 7.4% a year ago.
- Transportation Secretary reported US airlines continue to make large profits despite new passenger protection rules.
- Consumer confidence index rose slightly in November as Americans' view of the economy has improved.
- Commerce Department will make a final CHIPS Act award of \$7.87 billion to Intel Corp. Arizona will receive \$4 billion for 2 new semiconductor factories and modernization of a third factory in Chandler.
- Labor Department announced a Phoenix-based drywall company must pay \$1.7 million in back wages, liquidated damages, and civil penalties for defrauding 246 workers of overtime wages.

### **Environment & Climate Change**

- Biden administration announced a new EPA rule requiring oil and natural gas companies to pay a federal fee if they emit dangerous methane above certain levels.

- Biden signed an official proclamation designating November 17 as International Conservation Day during his visit to the Amazon rainforest.
- Biden authorized millions to reforest the Amazon and launch the Brazil Restoration Coalition to protect 20,000 square miles of land and an additional \$50 million for the Tropical Forest Forever Fund.
- Biden contributed \$335 million to the World Bank clean technology fund.
- EPA announced \$3 billion to help companies meet nationwide deadline for removal of lead pipes.
- Energy Department announced a \$544 billion loan to a Michigan company to expand manufacturing of silicon carbide wafers for electric vehicles.

## **Justice**

- DOJ announced a high-ranking leader of a Mexican drug cartel who lived in the US under a false name after faking his own death was arrested on federal charges this week.
- Biden administration is pushing Senate confirmation of federal judges before Jan 20<sup>th</sup> – a dozen nominees in the Senate Judiciary Committee, 8 awaiting committee votes, and 6 awaiting committee hearings.
- Biden pardoned Hunter Biden stating that politics infected the process and led to a miscarriage of justice.

## **Social Justice**

- Education Department plans to expedite finalizing a new federal rule cancelling student loan debt for those who face financial hardship after the Dec 2 public comment period.
- Biden administration plans to speed up student debt cancellation for those already promised relief because they were cheated by their colleges.

## **Government**

- Biden and Vice President Harris observed Veterans Day by laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, honoring the service and sacrifice of America's military veterans.
- Department of Veterans Affairs expanded the types of cancers covered under the PACT Act.
- Biden met with Trump regarding a peaceful transition of power.
- Biden asked Congress for \$100 billion in emergency disaster aid following hurricanes Helene and Milton and other recent natural disasters.
- FAA awarded \$970 million in federal grants to airports nationwide through the Infrastructure Law's Airport Terminals Program; Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport will receive \$35 million for AC upgrades.
- Transportation Secretary announced \$3.4 billion in grants to improve passenger rail service, help US ports, reduce highway deaths, and support domestic manufacturing of sustainable transportation materials.

## **International Relations:**

- Biden attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Peru and the G20 summit in Brazil where he and heads of state addressed climate issues, global infrastructure, and counternarcotic efforts.

- Biden welcomed home three American citizens wrongfully detained for years by China in exchange for the return of four Chinese citizens, one of whom was sought by Beijing for crimes.
- Biden met with Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Zambia leaders regarding the US-backed railway project, security and stability, trade and deepening collaborations.

### International Relations: Israel

- US vetoed a UN resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire in Gaza because it did not require the release of hostages taken by Hamas and it would allow Israel to strike Lebanon's Hezbollah.
- Israel approved a United States-brokered ceasefire agreement with Lebanon's Hezbollah to halt 14 months of fighting and lessen the likelihood of war between Israel and Iran without addressing the war in Gaza.
- Biden administration will make another push for a ceasefire deal in Gaza after Israel rejected Hamas' demand for a complete withdrawal from the territory.

### International Relations: Ukraine

- Biden administration will send as much aid as possible to Ukraine before January 20<sup>th</sup> so it might hold Russian forces at bay and have a strong voice in potential peace negotiations.
- Biden authorized the use US supplied long-range missiles to strike deeper inside Russia as thousands of North Korean troops were deployed, following his meeting with leaders of South Korea, Japan and China during the Asia-Pacific summit in Peru.
- Biden announced the US will cancel half of Ukraine's debt, approximately \$4.6 billion to assist them as much as possible before leaving office.
- Biden administration aims to spend down the funds Congress authorized for Ukraine before leaving office with \$7.1 billion in weapons from the Pentagon's stockpiles and \$2.2 billion to put weapons systems on long-term contracts.



### 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.*

### December Holiday Party

**Monday, December 9  
5:00 pm**

**Location:  
El Molinito Restaurant  
10180 N Oracle**

**Dinner & Raffle**

