



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
January
2025

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson
demsov.org • facebook.com/demsov

For their integrity, their patriotism, and their courage, today we award these individuals the Medal of Honor. Together, as a nation, it's up to us to give this medal meaning. To keep fighting for one another, to keep defending everything these heroes fought and died for - the freedoms we cherish and the democracy that has made our progress possible. **Joe Biden, January 3, 2025**

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>



Speakers: Dee Maitland & Nancy Burton

Dee Maitland on the importance of Request to Speak

Every Monday while our legislature is in session, we have a unique opportunity to voice our opinions on proposed bills. Our legislative representatives in both houses pay attention to these citizen responses regarding their bills. Imagine the impact of 600 No votes versus 100 Yes votes on a bad bill. Even more important than the numbers themselves, legislators pay particular attention to the comments being made on Request to Speak which can become part of their own arguments for or against the passage of a particular bill. This is especially true of newly elected representatives like Kevin Volk.

Request to Speak is an opportunity to make your opinions count in our houses of government where they can have the most immediate and greatest impact,

Nancy Burton on what's ahead for LD17

As the newly elected chair of LD17, Nancy will be sharing our past successes along with her vision for our legislative district and her thoughts on how her leadership team can achieve their goals for the betterment of our district, our democratic party, and our state.

Another festive DOV Holiday Party



Special thanks to our emcee Dee Maitland for her acknowledgement and congratulations to our newly elected democratic representatives, David Fitzsimmons for his humor and words of encouragement moving forward, Brian Bickel for announcing our raffle winners, photographer Evelyn Latham for her party pictures, and our DOV Leadership Committee members for donating the raffle prizes.



Happy New Year! Let's Have Some Fun! *by Dee Maitland*

During the 2024 election we learned lessons, formed important relationships, founded advocacy organizations, located benefactors and assembled tools that will assure we regain Congress and turn Arizona blue in just two years. We are also fortunate the wealthy are no longer hiding behind obscurely named organizations such as Americans for Prosperity, Freedom Partners and the Federalist Society to do their dirty work.

Now Musk, Bezos, Zuckerberg and others are showing their megalomania (and their bellies) in public giving us visible targets to rally against. While we don't have their money or connections, we have the vote and each other. Here are some suggestions of what we can do to assure we disarm them and their puppet politicians:

1. **Embrace Timothy Snyder's protections against tyranny:** Do not obey in advance. Defend institutions. Believe in the truth. Investigate. Be as courageous as you can.
2. **Understand who the megalomaniacs are, what damage they have already done, and what they want now.** In my realm they got rid of the 1933 Glass-Steagall Act which protected us from monopolies and banks gambling with and losing our deposits. Now they want to profit by privatizing public institutions like the Post Office and Social Security. Pay attention to Project 2025.
3. **Don't let anything slide.** When people spout nonsense ask them where they got the information. With Zuckerberg removing fact checking from Facebook and billionaires owning and censoring opinions including political cartoons at major newspapers, we have a responsibility to question anyone and do our own careful research before believing what others are espousing. My dear friend and fellow DOV member Lynne Hudson wrote [an excellent article](#) for the Star about this.
4. **Start lists of all the unnecessary deaths caused by Republican policies,** i.e. school shootings due to lax gun laws; lack of health insurance, miscarriages, refusing vaccinations and spreading disease, etc. If you can find out their political registration, you can even call out other perpetrators as well. The man who killed John McLean was a registered Republican. Anyone who voted for Trump is an accomplice in such deaths.
5. **Make The Leach's life miserable.** I plan to carry a sign that says "John McLean was the better man" whenever he is present. Challenge his cruel bills through Request to Speak And assist our friends in Yavapai County who will now suffer from our ex-representative and Oath Keeper Mark Finchem. Send them all the negative information you have on him and use RTS to hold him accountable as well.

6. **Have fun. Laugh at them.** Share political cartoons and funny stories with friends and family. I'm prejudiced about Blog for Arizona's Cartoons of the Week. Email me pertinent cartoons when you find them so I can add them to my collection. Use them or favorite quotes as your email signature.
7. **Keep a gratitude list so you don't despair.** The Good News for Lefties podcast [Good News for Lefties...and America](#) can help you with that. Get the word out about all the good things Democrats support. Children don't get fed, housed or educated without us. Workers won't be paid a living wage.
8. **Assemble human interest stories** from your personal experience about the reasons for the laws, agencies, policies or norms in your professional area to give the public the civics education they missed or have forgotten about. Remind them why things we now take for granted exist and are important. If you are uncomfortable writing, Jackie's Letters to the Editor group has people who are happy to work with you. Don't be shy.
9. **Make sure your church is following Jesus' admonition to love your neighbor and care for the poor.** If sermons are preaching an eye for an eye call them out. Independent Redistricting Commissioner David Mehl who gerrymandered LD17 for The Leach attends Catalina Foothills Church along with his good friend The Leach. Don't honor them.
10. **Actively support public education.** Attend school board meetings to assure books aren't being banned and Biblical nonsense isn't being added to the curriculum. Develop short presentations on your specialty. For example, the League of Women Voters has short courses on voting and the benefit of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs that they can present to schools and civic groups. Does your area of interest lend itself to volunteering to make a presentation at one of our schools?

Let's join together to assure that the MAGAs don't rewrite history, rape, pillage or steal our democracy. They want us to be afraid. Be brave with me. We can do this!





People's March in Tucson, Arizona



We all march for different reasons, but we march for the same cause: to defend our rights and our future. If you believe that decisions about your body should remain yours, that books belong in libraries, not on bonfires, that healthcare is a right, not a privilege for the wealthy; if you believe in the power of free speech and protest to sustain democracy; or if you want an economy that works for the people who power it—then this march is for you. The People's March is about one thing: our power.

It's a bold demonstration of the resilience of resistance:

- We march to unite the people who've been the backbone of resistance for generations—and to welcome even more
- We march to remind civil servants they answer to us
- We march to inspire, energize, and drive change long after the day is done.

This is our moment to remind Washington elites — and Americans everywhere — where the power truly lives: with the people.

Let's make it count.

Event Saturday, January 18, 2025, from 10:30 AM MST to 2:00 PM MST

General Location: Downtown, Tucson, AZ

Once the host has confirmed the event's location, attendees will receive the address via email.

Register at:

https://action.womensmarch.com/events/people-s-march-in-tucson-arizona?fbclid=IwY2xjawHjigVleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHYraVte6dWCrvbuFr2GY4jyp2flkpO9--W_fNsKtHj0QBIBM-aIX2DmGkw_aem_u8NXm0bt229r2hnx1gp0gQ

It's time *by Jean Meconi*

It's time to tune out of mainstream media. They've turned their backs on factual reporting, sensationalized any Democratic misstep while normalizing MAGA, and decided that their bottom line was more important than honest headlines. Keep yourself sane by refusing to feed the outrage machine. If you pay for cable news, you are putting money in Fox's pockets along with the other mainstream networks. Cancel your cable news subscription. You'll feel better and your wallet will be a little heavier. You'll still be able to stream your favorite shows or watch them for free online with a little delay.

If you are on X (formally Twitter), subscribe to Bluesky instead. It has all the same features without the toxicity: <https://bsky.social/about>

Find political news on the Meidas Touch Network which publishes articles, podcasts, newsletters, and YouTube videos. You can subscribe for free: <https://meidasnews.com/>

National & state news:

Democracy Docket (legal news on voting rights): <https://www.democracymarket.com/>

Raw Story News (news mainstream doesn't cover): <https://www.rawstory.com/>

Popular Information by Judd Legum (contains deep investigative reporting and it's free to subscribe). <https://popular.info/>

Good News for Lefties podcast: <https://podcastai.com/shows/77wu9f-good-news-for-lefties-and-america>

Jen Rubin's Green Room, columnist and author of Resistance: How Women Saved America from Donald: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIMaYVqnSs68Qfw32vvIKbUdn2tZbMJrl>

Keep subscribing and reading news sources that you like. The Atlantic, BBC, AP, Reuters, NPR, PBS News Hour, and The Guardian are still providing factual reporting.

State & local news:

Arizona Agenda: <https://www.arizonaagenda.com/>

Tucson Agenda: <https://tucsonagenda.substack.com/>

Lastly, check out the latest Hopium Chronicles substack where Simon Rosenberg reminds us what Democrats have accomplished and guides us to a way forward: <https://www.hopiumchronicles.com/p/on-trumps-ugliness-and-becoming-the>



THE REPUBLICAN VERSION OF JANUARY 6th

The Best of Biden *by Jacolyn Marshall*



Health & Safety

- US food policy experts released the 2025 federal dietary guidelines that, like every guideline since 1980 recommends eating your veggies and reducing the intake of foods high in salt, sugar and saturated fat.
- CDC reported the first human case of bird flu that resulted in severe respiratory symptoms linked to exposure to backyard birds in Louisiana.
- California governor declared a state of emergency as the bird flu virus rampages through dairy cattle in Southern and Central California farms.
- Federally funded Monitoring the Future reported two-thirds of teens are abstaining from drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and e-cigarettes.
- FAA grounded American Airlines flights nationwide at their request 12/24 due to an outage of their technology maintaining dispatch, boarding, weight and balance data causing 2-hour delays for most.
- National Highway Safety Administration proposed new voluntary self-driving car guidelines that would require safety plans and data reporting for autonomous vehicles operating on public roads.
- National Institutes of Health announced a new microscope that can freeze LDL molecules which could help create new drugs to lower bad cholesterol and prevent heart attacks and strokes.
- National Highway Safety Administration launched a new investigation into 2.4 million Teslas after learning of unreported crashes involving low visibility and the use of a phone app to change locations.

Economy

- Labor Department reported America's job market rebounded in November by adding 227,000 workers, unemployment remained at a low of 4.2%, and job openings increased to 8.1 million, the highest in 8 months.
- Federal Reserve cut its key interest rate by a quarter-point, its third cut this year, and expects to lower rates more slowly next year than previously envisioned.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau sued Scottsdale-based operator of Zelle and co-owners the Bank of America, Chase, and Wells Fargo for failure to protect consumers from \$870 million in fraud.
- Labor Department reported December jobless claims dropped to their lowest level since March, suggesting most US workers continue to enjoy unusually high job security.
- Biden blocked a \$15 billion deal for Nippon Steel of Japan to purchase Pittsburgh-based US Steel due to a lack of transparency regarding the United Steelworkers existing labor agreement.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau reported unpaid medical bills will no longer appear on credit reports since they are a poor indicator of one's ability to repay a loan, raising credit scores by 20 points.

Environment & Climate Change

- Biden issued a ban on new offshore oil and gas drilling along the East and West coasts under the federal Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prevent irreversible damage to coastal waters and communities.

Immigration & Border Security

- Biden administration reported a new low of migrant apprehensions at the US-Mexico border, down another 17% in November in a steady, steep decline due to Mexico's enforcement and Biden's policies.
- December marked the 6th straight month of declining border arrests, ending the year with the lowest level during Biden's four years in office.

Justice

- DOJ announced a former FBI informant plead guilty to federal charges for falsely claiming Biden and his son Hunter accepted bribes that led to the Republican congressional impeachment inquiry.
- IRS recovered \$4.7 billion in back taxes and proceeds from crimes since the boost in funding from the Democrats' 2022 tax, climate and health law.
- DOJ and the city of Louisville KY reached an agreement to reform the city's police force that engaged in a pattern of violating constitutional rights and discrimination against the Black community.
- DOJ announced a Tucson man pled guilty to the theft of \$56,000 in cryptocurrency while working for the Secret Service in Phoenix; he will serve prison time and pay full restitution plus any appreciated value.
- Biden's 235th federal judge's confirmation was approved by the Senate, exceeding Trump's total.
- DOJ announced the indictment of an Arizona man accused of making nearly 1,000 antisemitic death threats against NYC residents along with interstate threats throughout the US.
- Biden commuted 37 of the 40 federal death row sentences to life without the possibility of parole in keeping with his moratorium on executions other than terrorism and hate-motivated mass murders.
- FBI again seeks tips in the planting of pipe bombs outside the offices of the Democratic and Republican national committees in Washington on the eve of the January 6th attack on the Capitol.
- FBI reported 1,500 people were charged with January 6th crimes, 1,100 were convicted and sentenced, and more than 700 received prison sentences ranging from days to 22 years.

Social Justice

- Biden created the Carlisle Federal Indian Boarding School National Monument in Pennsylvania to honor the resilience of Indigenous tribes during the period of abusive assimilation of their children.
- Biden commuted sentences for 1,500 people who served their home confinement during Covid and pardoned 39 others convicted of non-violent crimes who demonstrated remorse and rehabilitation.
- Transportation Department fined JetBlue Airways \$2 million for chronically late flights along the East Coast; half the money will go to passengers who were delayed.

Government

- Biden issued a statement on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day honoring the USS Arizona's recently deceased last survivor and his fellow shipmates as true heroes who defended our freedom and safety.
- US Navy is refitting the USS Zumwalt and two other stealth destroyers with hypersonic weapons that travel at Mach 5, provide precision strikes from greater distances, and greater maneuverability.
- Pentagon announced that US military service academies reported a drop in sexual assaults for the second year in a row, a result of sweeping new reviews and an overhaul in leadership.
- Biden signed into law a bill that funds the government at current levels through March 14, averting a shutdown, and providing \$100 billion in disaster aid and \$10 billion in agricultural assistance to farmers.
- Biden signed legislation amending the United States Code making the bald eagle the country's national bird that has been a symbol of the US for more than 249 years.
- Biden bestowed the Presidential Citizens Medal to honor Senator Liz Cheney and Representative Bennie Thompson for leading the congressional investigation into the January 6th insurrection along with 20 others who demonstrated a lasting commitment to serving others.
- Biden bestowed the Medal of Honor to six men and one living recipient for their heroic acts of selflessness and personal bravery in times of war.
- Biden awarded the Medal of Valor to eight first responders who showed exceptional courage in their attempts to save lives: 5 police officers from Tennessee, 1 police officer from Nebraska, and 2 New York firefighters.
- Biden awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to 19 leaders who made America a better place, including Hillary Clinton, Jane Goodall, Michael J. Fox, Bill Nye, Robert F Kennedy (posthumous).

- Biden signed into law the Social Security Fairness Act that provides full benefits for 3 million current and former public employees without previous penalties for retirement payments from other sources.

International Relations:

- Secretary of State arrived in Iran to press ahead with efforts to unify Middle East nations in support of a peaceful political transition in Syria following the overthrow of Assad's regime.
- US officials along with counterparts from eight Arab nations, Turkey, the EU and UN signed off on a set of principles to guide Syria's transition to nonsectarian, inclusive country and offered their support.
- US embassy in Damascus, Turkey reopened for the first time in more than a decade.
- US Marines began partial transfer of personnel from Okinawa to Guam as part of 12-year agreement to reduce American troop presence on the Japanese island.
- Biden canceled his scheduled trip to meet with Pope Francis, Italy's Prime Minister and President to focus on directing the full federal response to the wildfires in Los Angeles.
- Treasury Department imposed sanctions on two groups linked to Iranian and Russian efforts to target American voters with fake videos, news stories and social media posts leading up the 2024 election.
- Biden administration imposed sanctions on the leader of a Sudanese paramilitary group for committing genocide in a civil war with the country's military.
- Vice President Karris will meet with leaders on military bases in Singapore, Bahrain and Germany, to address their role in maintaining global security and foreign policy challenges once Trump takes office.

International Relations: Israel

- US renewed its push for a ceasefire in Gaza during Secretary of State's 12th trip to the Mideast since the Israel-Hamas war erupted last year.

International Relations: Ukraine

- Defense Department provided \$1.25 billion in a presidential drawdown of existing stock of weapons for immediate use and \$1.22 billion in a long-term weapons package to support Ukraine's future military capabilities.
- Treasury Secretary provided \$3.4 billion in economic assistance to help Ukraine pay for critical government services, allocating the remaining congressionally approved funds.
- US Embassy in Kyiv reported Russia bombardments of the country's energy sector also targeted transport networks and other facilities, noting that half of Ukraine's energy infrastructure has been destroyed during the war.

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 Meeting

**Monday, February 10
6:00 -7:30 pm
Oro Valley Library**

**Speaker:
SOS representative**

**Topic:
Arizona Public Schools**