



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
July
2025

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A great nation is judged by how we treat the most vulnerable amongst us: the children, the sick, the elderly, the disabled and the poor. If there has ever been a time in American history when our people must stand together in the fight for economic, social, racial and environmental justice, now is that time. Let us proudly stand together and create the kind of country we know we can become. **Sen. Bernie Sanders**

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Speakers: Mo Goldman, Dr. Teresa Ruiz & Larry Bodine

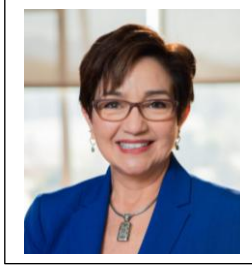


Mo Goldman, candidate for Congressional District 6

Having earned a J.D./M.B.A. from Hofstra University, Mo Goldman has been practicing immigration and nationality law since 2000. He has spent his professional career assisting individuals, businesses, research organizations and others navigate the complexities of the U.S. immigration system. His intimate knowledge of immigration is critical during a time when the system has limited functionality and leaves many businesses without necessary employees.

Mo has assisted a wide spectrum of clients and organizations including large corporations, small businesses, battered and abused spouses and children, research organizations, members of the military, Dreamers and many others. His impact has been felt throughout the congressional district, and across our nation with many successful cases that helped to benefit our communities, families and our economy.

Mo is currently a trustee to the *American Immigration Council* (AIC) and previously sat on the boards of the *ASISTA* and *Immigrants List*. Mo has served on multiple national American Immigration Lawyers Association's (AILA) committees and is currently the chair of the AILA national media advocacy committee. He previously served as the AILA Arizona chapter chair from 2007-2009.



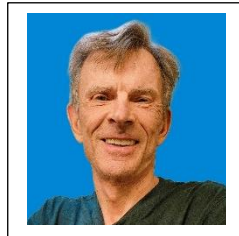
Dr. Teresa Ruiz, candidate for Arizona State Superintendent of Public Education

A first-generation college student, Dr. Ruiz dreamt of making a difference in the lives of students in her community of South Phoenix. She earned degrees from Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University, which led to a career teaching math in public schools at the middle school, high school, and college levels. Subsequently, she earned her doctoral degree from ASU and completed her career as the 8th President of Glendale Community College.

Her career has been focused on improving lives and ensuring that our students have the option to either pursue successful careers or further their higher education experience. Much of her work has been focused on developing partnerships with industry leaders, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations with the goal of building programs that benefit students and the community.

Now Dr. Ruiz is putting her experience to use by aspiring to become Arizona's next Superintendent of Public Instruction. She believes deeply in the power of education to uplift and change people's lives, strengthening their families and their communities.

Dr. Ruiz states: "Arizona will be prosperous, safe, and strong when children and adults are supported in having opportunities to continue learning. We must strengthen the pipeline of learning throughout the K-12 system and beyond so Arizona will be a strong and economically vibrant place for everyone."



Larry Bodine, political activist, journalist, marketer, and attorney

Larry served as Chair for LD18 Democrats from 2022-2024. He has also served as a Board member of Democrats of Greater Tucson for five years, three years as President. Larry has been an elected Precinct Committeeman for 19 years in Arizona and Illinois. He was a Delegate to the 2024 and 2020 Democratic National Conventions.

Larry began writing for the Blog for Arizona in June 2017 and has written 600 articles. You can review his work at <https://bit.ly/BodineBio>.

His 44-year career includes reporting for the New York Daily News, where he won 7 awards for investigative journalism. He ran a successful marketing consulting business for 20 years.

Larry is an attorney and a member in good standing of the Wisconsin State Bar.

Dr. Teresa Ruiz Has a Million Reasons to Become the Next Superintendent of Public Instruction; All of Them Arizona's Children by [David Gordon](#), March 12, 2025

Believing that public education must be strengthened for the million children who attend the state's public schools, Dr. Teresa Leyba Ruiz has launched her campaign to become the next Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction.

While the current Superintendent Tom Horne devotes time to promoting private school voucher Empowerment Scholarship programs on social media and eliminating any trace of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in school curricula, Dr. Ruiz, an educator with over 30 years of experience as an instructor and President of Glendale Community College wants to bring stakeholders together and ensure that all students have access to high quality education, whether they live in rural Arizona or the urban centers.

If elected, Dr. Ruiz will focus on further developing Career Pathway Programs in the state's public schools, increasing funding for them, giving teachers better support and the respect that they deserve, and working to improve student achievement. She will also push for greater accountability/transparency for all schools that accept ESA funds.

Dr. Ruiz graciously took the time to interview and discuss her candidacy to become Arizona's next Superintendent of Public Instruction. Some key points from that interview include:

- Right now, public education is under attack, and it is unacceptable to watch this on a national level and on a state level.
- I know firsthand the impact of what's happening inside the classroom, what it takes to make a system work, and what makes a college run.
- I have the skills. I have the expertise. I have the commitment, and while politics was never ever on my radar to run for office, I thought now is not the time to stay silent. Now is the time to use all of my years of experience and expertise and commitment to public education and put it to good use.
- We need to make sure that all kids have access to a high-quality education. And that starts with funding. We can no longer be 49th in the nation in per pupil funding and fully support our students.
- We need to start by having a stable and strong teacher workforce. And again, that comes from changing the culture around teaching and honoring and thanking the teachers that are in the classroom right now. Ensuring that every teacher who is in a classroom meets the certification and qualification requirements to be a certified teacher.
- We also need to recognize that education is economic development and that when we have a strong and thriving education system, we will have a strong and thriving economy. All of us want to live in strong and safe communities, and that begins with a strong public education system.
- Empowerment Scholarship Accounts have virtually zero oversight, There's no transparency. There's no accountability. We need to put some safeguards in place to prevent some of these expenses. That lack of oversight from the Superintendent of Public Instruction's office allowing up to two thousand dollars of receipts to be paid out without review is unacceptable. There must be audits that are done because these are public dollars that are being spent.
- We want all students to feel valued, welcome, and included in our classroom, and equity is just about fairness. Everybody wants to be treated fairly, so rather than calling it DEI and making it sound like a bad thing, let's honor and recognize how diverse we are.

For the complete interview and more information about Dr. Ruiz and her vision for our public schools go to: <https://blogforarizona.net/dr-teresa-leyba-ruiz-has-a-million-reasons-to-become-the-next-superintendent-of-public-instruction-all-of-them-arizonas-children/>

Democrats Must Stop Preaching & Start Listening to Win Young Voters *by Larry Bodine**

If Democrats want to win back young voters, they must stop treating them like interns and start empowering them as co-authors of the party's future. Young Americans are not apathetic. They're furious, and rightly so.

As Ben Armentrout, the President of the University of Arizona College Democrats, said it at a [Democrats of Greater Tucson meeting](#): "We're no longer going to be PAs (personal assistants). We're building a political bloc, a labor union of voters to hold the party accountable."

From Millennial activists like David Hogg, age 25, to Gen Z organizers like Armentrout, age 23, the message is clear: Democrats are bleeding support among young people because they've failed to listen, deliver, and evolve.

In 2024, Democrats suffered a 20-point drop among 18-29-year-olds. It wasn't because they ran toward Republicans - it's because Democrats ran away from the needs and values of young progressives. Hogg, a survivor of the Parkland school shooting and a prominent voice for gun reform, has worked tirelessly to register and mobilize Gen Z (ages 18 to 28). Yet even he couldn't convince many of his peers to stay loyal to a party they saw as aloof and condescending. "This election was much more an indictment, frankly, of our party than it was of our country," Hogg said. The Democratic establishment ignored his warnings, surrounded themselves with sycophants, and then acted shocked when young voters failed to show up.

Armentrout saw the same failings in Arizona. While organizing on behalf of candidates, he observed campaigns delivering stale messages and bland slogans that fell flat on college campuses. "The message didn't resonate," he recalled. "We weren't allowed to challenge the direction of the campaign. We were just there to follow orders."

Young Americans came of age in an era of collapse — economic, environmental, and institutional. Many are drowning in student debt, locked out of home ownership, and struggling to afford healthcare or rent. They've watched political leaders fail to stop school shootings, combat climate change, or meaningfully regulate corporate greed. The system has failed them at every turn, and they know it.

Armentrout was blunt: "Every institution has failed young people. Our schools. Our public health system. Our housing market. Even our democracy." And instead of addressing that pain with bold policy and honest dialogue, too many Democrats offer tired speeches and consultant-approved ads. Yet this generation is the most educated, diverse, and connected in history. According to Pew Research, 39% of Millennials have a bachelor's degree or higher. Yet college grads are seeing an impenetrable job market and higher jobless rates.

They are values-driven, deeply skeptical of institutions, and demand authenticity over polish. A whopping 63% say they are willing to pay more for environmentally sustainable products. These voters want action, not posturing. They want a party that reflects their urgency.

So, what must Democrats do?

First, give young voters real agency. Let them shape the agenda, lead campaigns, and have a seat at the table — not just a clipboard on the sidewalk. As Armentrout explained, "We need organizing structures that empower, not exploit. We're not here to fetch coffee — we're here to build political power."

Second, embrace generational change. Hogg and others have called for a new wave of leaders who understand the modern media landscape, who can speak directly to issues such as climate change, housing, healthcare, and the situation in Gaza with clarity and courage.

Candidates like Zohran Mamdani, 33, a New York Mayoral candidate, and Deja Foxx, age 25, a Democratic candidate for Congress in CD7, plus incumbents like Arizona Rep. Anna Abeytia, age 29 (D-LD24), and Arizona State Senator Flavio Bravo, age 31 (D-LD26) are proving that fresh leadership can energize voters and win tough races.

Third, meet young people where they are — online. Armentrout made it clear: “Young voters don’t get their news from NPR or newspapers. They get it from TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram.” If Democrats continue to avoid these platforms — or use them like digital brochures — they will continue to lose relevance. “Yelling that TikTok isn’t real news won’t help,” Armentrout said. “We have to model our communication to fit their lives, not the other way around.”

Finally, deliver. End fossil fuel subsidies. Cancel student debt. Fund public housing. Regulate AI. Protect abortion rights. Tax the ultra-rich. “We don’t need better marketing,” said Armentrout. “We need outcomes. We need to make voting feel like it matters.”

The stakes could not be higher. **Millennials and Gen Z now make up the majority of the electorate.** They have the numbers, the brains, and the passion to transform this country. But if Democrats continue to talk down to them, to patronize or ignore them, they will find another path — one that bypasses party leadership entirely. The opportunity is still there. “We will support candidates who buck corporate money and speak to our needs,” said Armentrout. “But we will not canvass for someone who’s just another cog in the machine.”

Young voters are not the future. They are the present. And they’re done waiting for their turn.

** Larry Bodine is a Former Chair of the LD18 Democrats and a Board Member of Democrats of Greater Tucson. He has recruited several members of the LD18 Board and DGT Board who are under 30.*

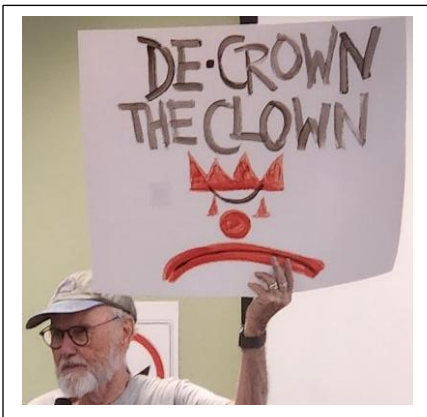
Nationwide protests continue and they’re getting bigger

Moveon.org estimates that the April 5 "Hands Off!" demonstrations mobilized 2 million people nationwide. The June 14 "No Kings" demonstrations mobilized 5 million people!

Locally, Tucsonans turned out for two “No Kings” events on June 14.

From 8:00 to 10:00 am, between 2,000-2,500 people made their voices heard at First and Oracle in Oro Valley.

From 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, between 6,500-7,500 cars joined the Democracy Unites Us and Indivisible Tucson Action Alliance motor march that stretched over 26 miles as they meandered through south Tucson.





Three Well-Tested Ways to Undermine an Autocrat *by Nicholas Kristof*

New York Times, May 21, 2025

The funny thing is that there's a playbook for overturning autocrats. It was written here in America by a rumpled political scientist I knew named Gene Sharp. While little known in the United States before his death in 2018, he was celebrated abroad, and his tool kit was used by activists in Eastern Europe, in the Middle East and across Asia. His books, emphasizing nonviolent protests have become contagious and have been translated into at least 34 languages.

A soft-spoken scholar working from his Boston apartment, Sharp recommended [198 actions](#) that were often performative, ranging from hunger strikes to sex boycotts to mock funerals.

Humor puts autocrats in a difficult position. They look ridiculous if they crack down on jokes but look weak if they ignore them. What's a dictator to do?

Take President Xi Jinping of China, who is sometimes mocked for resembling Winnie-the-Pooh. So China [bans Pooh bear images and movies](#) — giving people more reason to laugh at him.

Neither Winnie-the-Pooh nor a cavalry of grass-mud horses will topple Xi, but wit did help overthrow the Serbian despot Slobodan Milosevic in 2000. A dissident group called Otpor was so modest in size that protests by it wouldn't have been noticed. But Otpor, relying heavily on Sharp's work, engaged in street theater that got people buzzing: In Belgrade it put Milosevic's image on a barrel and encouraged passers-by to whack it with a bat.

Seeing a group of devil-may-care young people ridiculing Milosevic made onlookers smile," Tina Rosenberg writes in her book "Join the Club," "and encouraged them to think about the regime, and their own role, in a different light."

Rosenberg quoted one Otpor leader as saying, "It was a great party all the time." This made the protests trendy and cool, the ridicule grew contagious, and eventually the opposition became a mass movement that forced Milosevic to resign.

A second approach that has often succeeded is emphasizing not democracy as such but rather highlighting the **leaders' corruption, hypocrisy and economic mismanagement.**

Critics usually have plenty of ammunition when pointing to hypocrisy, for authoritarians tend to preen as moral guardians while the lack of accountability often leads to, er, lapses. One example: The police chief in Tehran, who was in charge of enforcing the Islamic dress code for women, was [reportedly](#) found naked in a brothel with six equally naked prostitutes.

Corruption is also usually an easy target, because as autocrats become increasingly powerful, they and their family members often decide to enrich themselves. Wherever there is authoritarianism, there is corruption. Chinese officials understand the sensitivity of the issue: They have told me that they're fine with journalists like me criticizing the Communist Party for repression or bad policies, but can we please just lay off reporting on the finances of party leaders (like the former prime minister whose family was so hard working that it rose from poverty and [amassed at least \\$2.7 billion](#))?

One of the people who seemed to scare President Vladimir Putin the most was [Aleksei Navalny](#), a master of mockery who posted videos of extravagances such as Putin's apparent \$1 billion pleasure palace — and who, when imprisoned in the gulag announced that he had tried to unionize the guards.

The third approach that has often succeeded is **focusing on the power of one** — an individual tragedy rather than a sea of oppression. Protesters against apartheid used to employ the slogan, “Free South African political prisoners,” but that never got much traction. Then [they switched](#) to “Free Nelson Mandela,” and we know the rest.

Likewise, the Arab Spring began in 2010 with a single wrenching story: A 26-year-old Tunisian street vendor set himself on fire to protest corruption — and millions of other Arabs demonstrated against their rulers.

In Iran, six months of protests started in 2022 when a young woman, Mahsa Amini, died after being arrested by police for wearing her hijab improperly. “With her killing, people lost their patience and poured into the streets,” Nasrin Sotoudeh, an Iranian lawyer known for her defense of human rights, told me.

Sotoudeh noted that **even a single creative protest by an ordinary person can** ignite a broader movement. She cited the woman who in 2017 stood on a Tehran street, removed her head scarf and waved it at the end of a stick; the incident went viral and began the “[girls of revolution street](#)” movement to end the compulsory hijab. And while the hijab law remains in place, women now sometimes get away with [ignoring it](#).

We often think of politicians as the natural leaders of such movements. But it's striking how often the stars have been from other worlds. A shipyard electrician in Poland named Lech Walesa. A Czech playwright named Vaclav Havel. Female lawyers in Iran. [A female engineering student](#) in Sudan. [A widow and housewife](#) in the Philippines named Corazon Aquino.

There's no simple formula for challenging authoritarianism. But these approaches have enjoyed a measure of success abroad and may be ones we Americans could learn from.





We must protect our public schools and our libraries by Dee Maitland

I am writing this from Lakeside, Ohio, on a screened in porch overlooking Lake Huron. It is one of the original Chautauqua communities formed in 1873 by Methodist ministers as camps for revivals in the summer. Their brilliance was the curriculum which went beyond religion to include intellectual education, cultural arts and recreation. The lectures on the founding of our nation combined with dinner discussions, Larry Bodine's newsletter article, news reports and the fiction book I'm reading called *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* coalesced to this one important imperative: **we must protect public schools and libraries at all costs!**

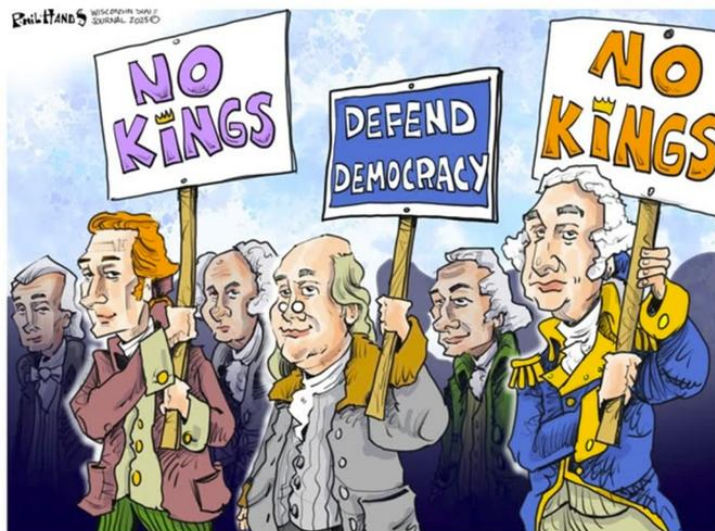
- 1) Education is essential to our democracy.
 - a) Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, James Madison, and George Washington shared a common conviction: public education is **indispensable for self-government and the preservation of liberty**.
 - b) After writing our Constitution they wrote legislation entitled "The Northwest Ordinance of 1787" which "mandated that every township was to have a portion of its land reserved for the maintenance of public schools. This revolutionary step embedded the means to educate the populace directly into the framework of territorial administration, ensuring that public education would be financially supported." *U.S.Constitution.net*
- 2) MAGA assaults on public education through tax cuts in the BBB, vouchers, banning books and increasing student loan debt will dumb down our voters and destroy our democracy.
 - a) The diverse backgrounds, religions and education of our Founding Fathers opened them to new ideas and solutions. We need to demand the same kind of diversity of ideas in our schools.
 - b) We also need to teach our common history; how laws and customs evolved over time as we learned and advanced. This includes the good and the bad so we can learn from our successes and our mistakes.
 - c) Trump's takeover of the Kennedy Center and his assault on Smithsonian exhibits are the antithesis of what our Founders envisioned for us and should be loudly challenged.
 - d) The banning of books particularly about slavery and championing the Confederacy are just two examples of George Orwell's admonition in 1984: "Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past."

- 3) We need public education to be well funded and as free as possible for students.
 - a) Our students need the best teachers to ensure their best future.
 - b) Excessive student loan debt prevents those burdened from having time to be good voting citizens and causes embitterment against government.
 - c) The fear of incurring debt will prevent talented young people from going into medicine, teaching, public service and liberal arts professions.
 - d) Only through diverse and quality education can we create the visionaries and inventors of the future.
- 4) Libraries need to be defended and well-funded.
 - a) Public libraries are open and free to everyone, so even the poorest person can have access to computers, repair manuals, job training and everything needed for self-education. Andrew Carnegie attributed his success to having access to his master's private library.
 - b) For some, public libraries provide the only place with the resources to research the facts and identify lies and misinformation.

Does this sound prophetic?

"I have a foreboding of an America in my children's or grandchildren's time when the United States is a service and information economy; when nearly all the manufacturing industries have slipped away to other countries; when awesome technological powers are in the hands of a very few, and no one representing the public interest can even grasp the issues; when the people have lost the ability to set their own agendas or knowledgeably question those in authority; when, clutching our crystals and nervously consulting our horoscopes, our critical faculties in decline, unable to distinguish between what feels good and what's true, we slide, almost without noticing, back into superstition and darkness..." *Carl Sagan*

Only by ensuring students are allowed to read books like 1984, learn from scientists and scholars like Carl Sagan and understand our journey from the founding of our nation until now, can we preserve our democracy and ensure its future.



Good News for Democracy *compiled by Jacolyn Marshall*



From the Associated Press:

- 5/30: Federal judge issued a temporary restraining order which allows Harvard to continue enrolling international students as their lawsuit against Homeland Security proceeds.
- 6/1: An appeals court upheld the freeze on downsizing the federal workforce that would have significant effects on everything from the nation's food safety system to veteran health care.
- 6/1: Federal court blocked Trump from imposing sweeping tariffs on imports that the US Court of International Trade ruled exceeded his authority and left the country's trade policy subject to his whims.
- 6/2: Kentucky Democratic Party has instituted a "Rural Listening Tour" to visit culturally conservative small towns to win back voters one small meeting at a time.
- 6/3: UK is building nuclear-powered subs to become a battle-ready, armor-clad nation designed to send a message to Moscow and DC.
- 6/4: South Korea's new liberal president vowed to fight inequality and corruption.
- 6/4: Federal judge ruled the Federal Bureau of Prisons must continue providing hormone therapy to transgender inmates to prevent gender dysphoria that causes side effects, including suicidal thoughts.
- 6/5: Pennsylvania sued the US Department of Agriculture for illegally cutting off funding for a program that distributes \$1 billion to states to buy food from farms for schools, childcare centers and food banks.
- 6/7: Abrego Garcia returned to the US after being wrongfully deported to El Salvador.
- 6/7: Federal judge blocked Trump from banning foreign students from entering the US to attend Harvard.
- 6/7: State Department instructed US embassies and consulates not to revoke visas previously issued to people from 12 countries that are under Trump's new travel ban.
- 6/8: French President Macron, whose nuclear-armed country has one of the EU's strongest militaries plans to travel to Greenland to discuss North Atlantic and Arctic security and demonstrate EU unity.
- 6/10: 92 NIH researchers, scientists and leaders sent a letter to NIH leaders and members of Congress challenging Trump's policies that undermine its mission, waste public resources and harm the health of Americans and people across the globe.
- 6/10: Federal judge blocked Trump from enforcing anti-diversity and anti-transgender executive orders regarding grant funding requirements that LGBTQ organizations say are unconstitutional.
- 6/10: 16 states sued Trump administration for allowing fast gun triggers that turn rifles into fully automatic weapons which violates federal law, poses a threat to residents and law enforcement, and worsens gun violence.
- 6/11: California Governor Newsom asked a federal court to put an emergency stop to the National Guard and Marines helping immigration agents conduct raids that heighten tensions and promote unrest.
- 6/11: Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Norway imposed sanctions on two far-right Israeli government ministers for inciting extremist violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.
- 6/12: Dozens of mayors across Los Angeles demanded Trump stop the stepped-up immigration raids that have spread fear across their cities and sparked protests across the US.
- 6/13: 7 Arkansas families filed a lawsuit challenging a proposed state requirement that public school classrooms post the Ten Commandments that would violate their constitutional rights as parents and create a coercive school environment for their children.

- 6/14: Federal judge blocked Trump's attempt to overhaul elections in the US that would require proof of citizenship for everyone registering to vote, usurping the States' constitutional power.
- 6/15: No Kings protesters packed streets, parks and plazas in nearly 2,000 locations across the US; huge crowds were reported in NYC, Atlanta, Denver, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia and LA.
- 6/15: Trump directed immigration officers to pause arrests at farms, meatpacking plants, restaurants and hotels, expressing alarm about the impact of their aggressive enforcement.
- 6/15: Federal judge issued a restraining order directing Trump to return control of the National Guard to California as his actions were illegal, violated the Tenth Amendment, and exceeded statutory authority.
- 6/17: 17 statewide anti-domestic and sexual violence coalitions sued Trump's administration over grant applications that must not promote 'gender ideology' nor include DEI programs.
- 6/18: Telehealth clinics like the Massachusetts Medication Abortion Access Project are prescribing drugs online and shipping them anywhere in the country.
- 6/18: Six of the G7 world leaders tried their best to wrap up the "G6" Summit with a unified show of strength despite the early departure of Trump; Canada, UK, France, Germany, Italy and Japan were joined by Ukraine and NATO chief to address Russia's relentless war.
- 6/19: FDA approved the world's first twice-yearly shot to prevent HIV that could protect millions.
- 6/21: Senate Republican suffered a setback on the plans to gut the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau when the Senate parliamentarian cited procedural violations.
- 6/21: Federal judge blocked Trump's efforts to keep Harvard from hosting international students.
- 6/21: Federal judge blocked Trump from withholding billions of dollars in transportation funds from states that don't agree to participate in his immigration enforcement actions.
- 6/21: Federal judge ordered US government to free former Columbia University graduate student Khalil from the immigration detention where he was held since early March.
- 6/22: Federal judge blocked Trump's attempt to cut research funding provided by the National Science Foundation that would strip universities of millions of dollars for AI, cybersecurity and other technology development.
- 6/22: In another blow to Republicans' tax bill, the Senate parliamentarian declared that a proposal to shift some food stamp costs from the federal government to the state would violate chamber rules.
- 6/22: A day after his release Palestinian activist Khalil rejoined his family and vowed to continue protesting Israel's genocide in Gaza.
- 6/23: Federal judge ordered Abrego Garcia's release as he awaits trial and scheduled a hearing to discuss the conditions of his release lest he be deported before he can stand trial.
- 6/24: Federal judge who blocked Trump from dismantling Voice of America asked DOJ attorney why he wasn't informed of layoff notices sent to 600 employees and gave his administration 3 days to file a written update on what they are doing at VOA.
- 6/27: US Senate parliamentarian advised that a Medicaid provider tax overhaul and GOP provisions barring certain immigrants from health care programs do not adhere the chamber's procedural rules.
- 6/27: Ukraine's top military commander reported their forces halted Russia's recent advance into the northern Sumy region and stabilized the front line near the Russian border.
- 6/29: Biden, Harris and Walz joined more than 1,000 mourners to honor former Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman for her legislative accomplishments and her humanity.

- 6/29: 32 NATO leaders agreed on a massive hike in defense and security related spending.
- 6/29: “Giving USA” reported charities received \$592.5 billion in donations in 2024, a 3.3% increase across all major causes, except for religion.
- 6/30: Lawyers representing a mother and her two children who entered the US legally during Biden’s administration filed for their release from a Texas immigration detention center.
- 7/1: Youth-led climate groups received \$25 million from a philanthropic collaborative that hopes other funders will follow its lead in supporting climate solutions.
- 7/2: Federal judge granted an injunction sought by AGs of 19 states and DC to block mass layoffs by HHS, noting the executive branch lacks authority to alter the structure and function of agencies created by Congress.
- 7/3: Federal lawsuit filed against Trump administration alleges federal agents violently and indiscriminately arrested brown-skinned people without probable cause in Southern California.
- 7/3: Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down the state’s 176-year-old abortion ban, ruling it is superseded by newer state law statutes that ban abortions only after a fetus can survive outside the womb.
- 7/4: Denmark launched its presidency of the EU with a call for Europe to unite to take on the war in Ukraine and the chaos caused by Trumps global tariffs.
- 7/4: Hakeem Jeffries held the House floor for more than eight hours and Chuck Schumer required Senate clerks read the bill in its entirety for 16 hours, delaying the passage of Trump’s budget bill.

From Capitol Media Services/ Arizona Daily Star/ Arizona Republic:

- 6/1: A long-time southside resident intervened on behalf of her neighbor from Honduras by advising him not to allow suspected ICE agents posing as TEP workers into his home.
- 6/3: Federal judge upholds her ruling that voided provisions of a 2022 Arizona law designed to require proof of citizenship in order to vote on federal races.
- 6/4: Pima County committed to spending \$250 million over 10 years for affordable housing efforts that will bring enough funds for 12,500 units or one-third of the projected need over the next decade.
- 6/5: AG Mayes announced her office secured a consent judgment in a consumer fraud case against Family Dollar Stores for inaccurately advertising and labelling prices; they agreed to pay \$275,000 in civil penalties, \$25,000 in legal fees, and ensure correct pricing.
- 6/6: Mexican President announced her government will continue to pursue an Arizona lawsuit against five specific gun dealers who work directly with the cartels to ship weapons to Mexico.
- 6/10: Governor Hobbs proposed her own law that would ban any foreign adversary nation or agent from owning, purchasing or otherwise having a substantial interest in real property in Arizona.
- 6/10: Senator Ruben Gallego, the top-ranking Democrat on the Senate subcommittee overseeing digital currency issues is working to ensure the Stablecoin bill contains safeguards against money laundering and protects national security.
- 6/11: Governor Hobbs vetoed legislation that would allow students and their parents to sue teachers over allegations of antisemitism.

- 6/12: More than 250 protesters gathered in downtown Tucson in a show of solidarity with thousands who have taken to the streets in LA and nationwide, part of the growing public resistance to the Trump administration's escalating mass-deportation efforts.
- 6/12: To request support during raids, prolonged stops or interactions with ICE and Border Patrol, or have someone assist you at a court hearing, contact Tucson's Rapid Response hotline at 520-221-4077.
- 6/14: Due to travel bans affecting newly admitted students across 19 countries, UA now offers a first-semester study-abroad option in London to keep them on track toward earning their degree.
- 6/15: Thousands of Tucsonans gathered across the city in various "no Kings" protests along East 22nd Street, at the DeMeester Performance Center, and at First and Oracle in Oro Valley.
- 6/21: Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted a \$1.7 billion budget that includes funding for affordable housing, road repairs in unincorporated areas, and early childhood education for low-income families.
- 6/23: Governor Hobbs rejected House Speaker Montenegro's request for an unprecedented "continuation budget" which she deemed a grandstanding farce since both parties have agreed to a \$17.6 billion spending plan for the new fiscal year.
- 6/25: Sabino Canyon, Madera Canyon, Mount Lemmon and Mount Graham are among a huge array of National Forest lands totaling 3.3 million acres that were removed from the "For Sale" list.
- 6/25: Attorneys general from more than 20 states and DC filed a federal lawsuit challenging billions of dollars in funding cuts made by Trump administration that would pay for everything from crime prevention to food security to scientific research.
- 6/26: Governor Hobbs vetoed two separate Republican-backed political theater, time-wasting spending bills, forcing them to work with her to craft something she could sign before the June 30th deadline.
- 6/26: Governor Hobbs' comment on vetoing a record 160 bills: "I will continue to be a backstop against bills that strip away Arizonans' freedoms, that don't solve problems, and that are flat-out extreme."
- 6/26: Senators Ruben Gallego and Mark Kelly and the US Embassy helped 19 Jewish teens, and 13 other Arizonans escape from Israel via Cyprus after harrowing days spent in Israeli bomb shelters.
- 6/26: Education Forward Arizona joined 170 organization urging Congress to reject cuts to Pell grants and need-based federal aid for college tuition that more than 7 million students rely on.
- 6/27: Arizona's congressional delegation called for the continuation of federal clean energy tax credits that are crucial to the transition to clean energy and protect Arizonans from escalating utility costs.
- 6/28: Governor Hobbs signed the \$17.6 billion budget that includes funds for pay raises for police and firefighters, childcare, K-12 education, colleges and universities, and drug and human trafficking.
- 6/29: AG Mayes vowed to keep fighting to block Trump's executive order on birthright citizenship despite the Supreme Court's limits on nation-wide injunctions.
- 7/2: Governor Hobbs vetoed bills that would penalize last minute voters and outlaw photo enforcement of red-light runners.

- 7/2: Governor Hobbs signed a bill to add more state oversight to county treasurer's offices to prevent the type of embezzlement that occurred in Santa Cruz.



From Run for Something by Amanda Litman:

- 6/2: We are continuing to beat the drum that to save the party and save democracy we need new leaders at every level of government. [Read my latest op-ed in US News](#) and [An absolute must-read about how mayors like Justin Bibb are continuing a commitment](#) to climate action even when the federal govt moves in the far-opposite direction.
- 6/9: Our community has built an incredible bench of talent — amazing leaders in nearly every state who have experience in governing and can show up and communicate with voters in authentic ways.
- 6/16: We're the only national org that works with hyperlocal candidates at scale. Ordinary people ready to do the extraordinary step of running for office is how we rebuild and reimagine what comes next.
- 6/23: Our pipeline of 210,000 young people thinking about running for office is the largest of its kind which combined with our best-in-class endorsement + support programs, makes Run for Something the premiere organization for young leaders stepping up for public service. We are one of the few national organizations building power at the hyperlocal level in all 50 states, day-in, day-out.



Please join us at our in-person monthly meetings in the large meeting room of the Oro Valley Library from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you!

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.*

August Meeting

Monday, August 11
6:00 -7:30 pm
Oro Valley Library

Speaker:
ACLU