



# Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter  
May  
2025

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson  
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Never before in our history have so few had so much wealth while so many Americans are struggling. Never before have so few had so much political power. This May Day all over our country workers are coming out, demanding justice. And all over the world, in dozens of countries workers are standing up to oligarchy and demanding a world in which all people have a decent standard of living. **Senator Bernie Sanders**

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### Message from Kevin Volk, LD17 House Representative

I've spent the past three and a half months learning everything I can to become an effective legislator, building relationships with fellow lawmakers and staff, understanding how bills and amendments are structured, and navigating the processes and quirks of the Arizona Legislature.

Last week we finally passed a bipartisan bill that provides sustainable funding for the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) that includes reforms to strengthen the Parents as Paid Caregivers program. But make no mistake – we could have reached that deal and gotten the bill signed months ago if it weren't for the Republican legislative leadership playing politics.

For months, families were not able to testify and Democratic efforts to fund the program were shut down. Months of political posturing, press conferences, press releases, and a made-up committee. Months of prolonging the incredible stress that families caring for their disabled loved ones. Months of providers wondering if they could keep the lights on, employees not knowing if they will have a job, families facing impossible choices. I'll always pursue bipartisanship—but what happened with DDD funding was shameful!

That's why your involvement matters so much. We'll only create a more responsible, compassionate government with your continued effort and voice.

## RESIST, America! *by Christine Dayton*

All across our country, in every state and small towns, Americans are protesting the Trump Agenda. Our Democracy is at risk, and it depends on us, “We the People” standing firm against what Trump is doing against us. As you have seen, Trump is not giving up. So, we are forced to make our voices heard. We must try to stop this assault on Democracy. Let Mike and me be your examples. We have attended over 20 protests since February. Look at our DOV notices of upcoming events and join us! Say “NO” to Trump. RESIST, America!





## Protests Work!

Statistical analyses have shown that protests do make a difference. They raise awareness, change attitudes, and ultimately move voters of all parties further to the left. Take a few minutes to watch this fascinating YouTube video for the facts: [https://youtu.be/e1t5RLfY\\_CA?si=YbGgdCR5fJvjVSbX](https://youtu.be/e1t5RLfY_CA?si=YbGgdCR5fJvjVSbX)

## How to speak out without falling victim to Trump's playbook by Jonathan Smucker

A few highlights:

- Federal workers who are organizing and showing the real-life impacts of Musk's reckless cuts are very effective spokespeople right now. From park rangers to USPS employees, these workers are protesting threats to their livelihoods and to the valued public services they provide, speaking up as workers about the devastation wrought by Musk's "chainsaw" on their lives and the communities they serve. Importantly, they represent a cross-section of America: diverse in race, geography, education and political leanings. They are relaying their experiences and connecting with millions of Americans who see themselves in their stories. Using plainspoken language rather than jargon, they present themselves not as "protesters" but as parents, neighbors and workers who have a stake in their country's future.
- The story of a *worker* who is so fed up that she decides to join with others in collective action is very different from the dominant story about generic *protesters*.
- When Trump attacks vulnerable people because of their immigration status, their advocacy for Palestine and their gender identity, each of these attacks warrants its own strategic counter-response and it's vitally important that we show solidarity and narrate his targeting of *any* of us as an attack on *all of us* and on our shared values and rights – as has been on display in the outpouring of support for the detained Columbia graduate student Mahmoud Khalil.
- When we name powerful economic culprits, it takes the wind out of Trump's fake populist sails. Billionaires who rigged our economy and political system make for a more convincing culprit to millions of Americans than vulnerable scapegoats such as immigrants, Trans people, or the woke.
- It's important that we consistently punch *up* at billionaires and the politicians doing their bidding and refrain from punching *down* at people who voted for Trump. To break out of Trump's story of the "smug and condescending affluent liberal protester," we should avoid messages that are, indeed, smug and condescending ("In this house, we believe science is real") or that mock people for their economic struggles ("How are you feeling about voting for cheaper eggs now?"). Such messages are self-indulgent and counterproductive, and we can do so much better.
- Ultimately, we're not trying to build "protest movements," we're trying to build *people's* movements; movements that use protest as one tool among many, whose ultimate aim is to win a real voice for working people in determining the policies that impact our lives and communities – and to make an America that works for *all of us*.

To read the full article go to: [The power and pitfalls of protest: how to speak out without falling victim to Trump's playbook](#)



# STUFF THE TRUCK FOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

9:30 - 12:00 NOON

UDALL PARK



**SPECIAL GUEST: AZ REP. KEVIN VOLK,  
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 17**

Interfaith Christian Services reported 3,226 pounds of food and \$697 in donations were collected at the LD17 food drive on Saturday, April 26 at Udall Park. These generous donations will support their food banks, mobile food distribution, senior food boxes, and emergency financial assistance programs across the Tucson metro area. Following the food drive, LD17 celebrated their amazing volunteers with a Spring Picnic. DOV did their fair share to the Stuff the Truck Food Drive with 13 bags of groceries and \$130 in donations.





## LEACH AND KESHEL ARE IN LOCK STEP WITH MAGA *by Dee Maitland*

As of May 5, our Governor Katie Hobbs has vetoed 75 bills. Leach voted “yes” on all of them. He was the primary sponsor on only 1 bill and a co-sponsor on 2. Keshel voted “yes” on 70 bills and “Not Voting” on 5. She was busier than Leach, being the primary on 3 bills and the co-sponsor on 9. This term she was the primary on 23 bills and a co-sponsor on 83. Leach on the other hand was the primary on 17 bills and a co-sponsor of 23. This lack of production makes me wonder if he will not run again, leaving Keshel to run for his seat. She co-signed a number of bills proposed by powerful Republican legislators which indicates she is developing significant allies. Keshel voted “no” on only one bill, HB2704, that would give Ken Kendrick, the owner of the Diamondbacks and a Koch Brother chum around \$500 million in taxpayer funds to use as he sees fit. He could fund this himself. The bill has yet to pass the Senate.

The bills the Governor vetoed were exactly what we have come to expect. 14 bills would suppress voting; 8 would micro-manage schools and universities; and 5 were anti-DEI and anti-Trans. The most egregious would have exempted power companies from liability should their equipment start damaging fires which had a devastating effect in California. There were also bills to protect the water rights of private individuals and companies which would make solving our water crisis even more difficult. Thank goodness for Governor Hobbs’ veto power.

With each legislative session under Republican control our state becomes worse off. It is crucial we do everything we can to re-elect the Governor Katie Hobbs, Secretary of State Adrian Fontes, and Attorney General Kris Mayes. We also need to elect a Democratic State Treasurer and Superintendent of Public Instruction, and more Democrats in both houses. We must!

PUBLIC VOUCHER MONEY GOING TO  
FOR-PROFIT PRIVATE SCHOOLS EXPLAINED:





## **Two Keshel Bills Vetoed** *by Larry Bodine*

Among the other bills Hobbs rejected Tuesday was a proposal by Tucson Republican Representative Rachel Keshel that would require the state's Medicaid program to provide a conspicuous link on its website to direct individuals where they can find more information on adoption and 'support' for pregnant women.

Hobbs said she saw the proposal as one-sided, particularly in the wake of the repeal last year of the state's territorial-era law outlawing most abortions, a vote that occurred over the objection of most Republicans.

Another Keshel bill rejected by Hobbs would have barred the state's attorney general from bringing criminal charges or filing a civil lawsuit against any county supervisor who refused to certify election results. That measure followed the indictment of two Republican members of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors on charges of interfering with an election after they initially refused to perform the formal canvass following the 2022 general election, claiming they had questions about the equipment. Peggy Judd eventually pleaded guilty to a single count of failing to perform her duties and was placed on probation for 90 days. Tom Crosby continues to battle the charges.

"My priority lies with protecting the voice of every eligible Arizona voter, not protecting politicians," wrote Hobbs, who was secretary of state at the time of that election.



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!

## **Good News for Democracy** *compiled by Jacolyn Marshall*



### ***From the Associated Press:***

- 4/9: Republican and Democratic members of the House Armed Services Committee voiced sharp criticism about Trump's plan to reduce US forces in Europe noting our leadership is essential to ensure our nuclear weapons remain under US command.
- 4/10: Federal judges in New York and Texas barred the government from deporting Venezuelans jailed without first affording them due process.
- 4/11: Federal judge halted Trump's efforts to end a humanitarian program that allows thousands of Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans to temporarily live here.
- 4/11: The Supreme Court ruled Trump must bring back citizen Abrego Garcia who was mistakenly sent to prison in El Salvador; US District Judge ordered he be returned by midnight 4/14.
- 4/14: Senator Schumer called on the National Transportation Safety Board to halt all flights by New York Helicopter Tours while they investigate the chopper that broke apart in midair and called on the FAA to increase safety inspections.
- 4/16: NATO allies pledged \$22 billion in security assistance for Ukraine in the first three months of the year.
- 4/16: Federal judge blocked deportations of immigrants in Colorado who face possible removal under the 18<sup>th</sup> century Alien Enemies Act on behalf of the ACLU.
- 4/17: Federal judge found probable cause to hold Trump administration in criminal contempt for violating his order last month to turn around planes carrying deportees to the infamous El Salvador prison.
- 4/17: Federal judge ruled the EPA unlawfully and without due process terminated Climate United Fund's contracts worth billions to finance clean energy and climate-friendly projects.
- 4/17: Sanders and AOC took their "Fighting Oligarchy" tour to red states, including 12,500 people in Boise, Idaho and 15,000 in Salt Lake City, Utah among others.
- 4/18: The Supreme Court kept Trump's restrictions on birthright citizenship on hold which was halted nationwide by three District courts and Appeals courts that declined to overturn them.
- 4/19: Federal judge stops Trump's attempt to fire almost everyone at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that safeguards against fraud, abuse and deceptive practices.
- 4/20: The Supreme Court blocked the deportations of any Venezuelans held in Texas under an 18<sup>th</sup> century wartime law in response to an emergency appeal from the ACLU.
- 4/22: The Supreme Court justices appear likely to uphold a key preventive-care provision of the Affordable Care Act that effects an estimated 150 million Americans.
- 4/23: The Supreme Court ruled immigrants who agree to leave the country must be allowed some deadline flexibility to do so.
- 4/23: FDA will phase out petroleum-based artificial colors in the nation's food supply and switch to natural alternatives by the end of 2026.

- 4/25: Federal judge barred the Trump administration from denying or conditioning the use of federal funds to “sanctuary” jurisdictions ruling them as unconstitutional
- 4/25: Federal judge halted Trump’s executive order overhauling US elections that prompted swift lawsuits from the League of United Latin American Citizens, the League of Women Voters, the Democratic National Committee and others calling it unconstitutional and the province of the states and Congress, not the president.
- 4/25: Federal judge blocked Trump’s threats to cut federal funding for public schools with DEI programs brought by the National Education Association, the ACLU, and the American Federation of Teachers.
- 4/25: Federal judge ordered Trump to fix a second deportation error regarding a Venezuelan man sent to El Salvador despite having a pending asylum application.
- 4/26: Musk announced he’s scaling back his DOGE work to focus on Tesla as sales have plummeted worldwide.
- 4/26: Federal judges’ rejection of the removal of international students’ records from federal databases and a growing number of legal wins for students prompted Trump to reverse course and restore them.
- 4/27: Trump reverses his threat to fire Federal Reserve Chair Powell that caused a stock market selloff.
- 4/27: A dozen states sued the Trump Administration in the US Court of International Trade to block its unlawful tariff policy that has brought chaos to the US economy.
- 4/30: Federal judge barred Border Patrol agents from arresting suspected illegal immigrants without a warrant.
- 5/1: Federal judge released a Palestinian student who was arrested by immigration officials during an interview to finalize his US citizenship.
- 5/2: According to an AP tally, Trump executive actions have been partially or fully blocked by the courts at least 64 times with dozens of others still pending.
- 5/2: Senators Chris Murphy and Rep Maxwell Frost held town halls in Republican congressional districts in recent weeks, including Murphy’s home turf in North Carolina.
- 5/2: Federal judge barred the Trump administration from deporting Venezuelans under the 18<sup>th</sup> century wartime law known the Alien Enemies Act which he deemed unlawful and contrary to its meaning and its terms.
- 5/3: Federal judge blocked the Trump administration from taking any more steps to dismantle the agency that funds and promotes libraries across the US.
- 5/3: Trump administration agreed to halt efforts to freeze funds for a child nutrition program in exchange for the State of Maine dropping its lawsuit against the US Department of Agriculture.
- 5/4: Federal judge ordered Trump administration to restore \$12 million in funding to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty that was appropriated by Congress.
- 5/4: Rock Band R.E.M. issued a special rerelease of its “Radio Free Europe” single with all proceeds for vinyl sales going to benefit Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty government-funded media services that deliver news to overseas markets.

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

- 4/16: Tucson law firm sues Trump administration on behalf of two international students whose legal statuses were terminated without cause and due process, just one of a dozen cases filed in federal courts nationwide since the State Department started revoking students’ visas and Homeland Security terminated their legal status.



- 4/16: Senators Ruben Gallego and Mark Kelly urged Trump to ensure the continuation of the upgrades to our four major land ports of entry responsible for intercepting fentanyl, illegal weapons and cash smuggling.
- 4/18: Rep. Greg Stanton, D-Arizona, and Representative Robert Bresnahan, R-Pennsylvania, introduced a bill in the US House to restore FEMA that helps local governments pay for disaster mitigation projects.
- 4/20: Governor Hobbs vetoed 33 ill-advised measures from the Republican-controlled Legislature including forcing local police to work with ICE and changes in state water laws and elections.
- 4/22: More than 60 top professors urged UA President Garimella to uphold our commitment to academic freedom and our Constitutional rights of freedom of speech, equal protection and due process under the law.
- 4/24: Attorney General Kris Mayes along with AGs in 11 other states filed suit with the US Court of International Trade to strike down as illegal the host of international tariffs imposed by Trump.
- 4/25: Governor Hobbs signed a breakthrough bipartisan compromise measure to provide \$112 million to provide necessary services for tens of thousands disabled Arizonans.
- 4/29: Running for her second term Governor Katie Hobbs led the pack in campaign funding among the top 2026 Arizona races with another \$1.17 million in donations in the first quarter of the year.
- 4/30: Attorney General Mayes and other attorneys general sued the Trump administration for halting grant funds and unilaterally gutting employees from the community service agency AmeriCorps created by Congress.
- 5/3: Across the US and the world hundreds of thousands of people rallied on May 1, International Workers Day; US protests focused on Trump's illegal actions against immigrants, federal workers, and foreign students; global protests focused on Trump's tariffs and the rise of dictatorships.
- 5/4: Governor Hobbs vetoed the anti-DEI bill passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature that would remove all state funds from schools offering even one such course calling it harmful and unacceptable.

***From Run for Something by Amanda Litman:***

- 4/21: More than 200,000 candidates have signed up for Run For Something, the largest candidate pipeline in politics. 20% of them, over 40,000, have signed up since the November election. Many of the newest candidates signing up are laid off federal workers. The work is working and we're going to keep doing it.

## 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 Meeting

**Monday, June 9  
6:00 -7:30 pm  
Oro Valley Library**

**Speakers:  
Larry Bodine and Fitz**

**Topic:  
Politics**