



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
February
2026

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Despite horrific acts by the federal government, Minnesotans are still standing up for the rule of law and the dignity of all people. They are helping their neighbors, walking their kids to school, and feeding their families. I salute their courage and their restraint. They think they can provoke us into abandoning their own values. They are wrong. We will keep the peace. We will secure justice for our neighbors. We will see this occupation end. **Governor Tim Walz**

2026 Dues Still Only \$20

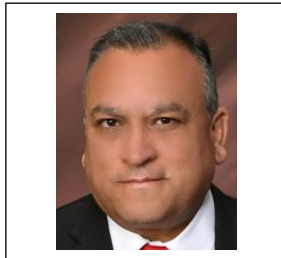
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Speakers: Benny Rodriguez, Edgar Soto, Holly Lyon, & Friends of Aphasia



Benny Rodriguez, Candidate for Arizona CD 6

A respected public servant, Benny is running for Congress to fight for working families and restore trust in our government. With more than 30 years of experience as a teacher, athletic coach, school counselor, and school principal, and nearly a decade advocating for causes in DC, Benny brings proven leadership, credibility, and results focused service to this race.

Benny is running to defend affordable healthcare; lower costs for working families; invest in education; support teachers, veterans and military communities; hold federal agencies accountable; advance humane and lawful immigration; protect civil rights, land, water, and communities; and promote a people-centered foreign policy.

A native Arizonan, Benny learned the values of hard work from his farming and ranching grandparents, integrity from his grandmother who was Sandra Day O'Connor's nanny, and public service from his father who served as a Vietnam Army helicopter pilot before becoming an educator and his mother who dedicated her career to education.



Edgar Soto, Candidate for LD 17 State Senate

Edgar is a lifelong Tucsonan, educator, veteran, and community leader. He currently serves as Vice President at Pima Community College, overseeing the Desert Vista Campus. He is a bold advocate for increasing college completion rates and closing equity gaps. He believes that all students should have equal access to completing a college education or a credential of value.

Edgar is a frequent presenter and public speaker at many events and has served on many community boards of directors including Chair of the Lapan College & Career Club, Chair of the Southern Arizona Sports, Tourism, and Film Authority and member of the Southern Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce board.

Edgar is a native Tucsonan and veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. After graduating from Tucson public schools, Edgar earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from the University of New Mexico, a Post-Baccalaureate Certification in Education from the University of Arizona and a Master's Degree in Multicultural Education from Northern Arizona University.



Holly Lyon, Candidate for LD 17 State House

Holly is an Air Force veteran, former educator, and proven leader. She believes LD 17 deserves an experienced leader who is willing to listen, work through differences and focus on practical solutions that put families and communities first. Her priorities include holding government officials to the highest standards while ensuring they have the resources to do their jobs safely and effectively, using taxpayer dollars responsibly, and working to ensure all Arizonans can afford housing and healthcare, and have access to quality education and a sustainable supply of water.

Holly began her career as a 7th grade math teacher before serving 26 years as a communications and computer officer. She commanded twice, served at the NATO Headquarters in Belgium, and taught war planning at the Armed Forces Staff College to multi-national military leaders. She retired from the Pentagon and subsequently worked for two large companies in the DC area where among other assignments she researched and formulated a proposal to enhance border security operations.



Friends of Aphasia Kym Olsen and Clare McNamara

Kym Olsen, Executive Director of Friends of Aphasia became aware of Friends of Aphasia through her sister-in-law who joined FOA as a client in 2024. She moved to Tucson in 2025 from San Francisco and has over 20 years working in the nonprofit world. Her work has focused mainly on social services and the arts. She has an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Kym is committed to reaching more individuals experiencing aphasia, educating the community about aphasia and leading the way to innovative options for our Aphasia Groups.

Clare McNamara, Clinical Director and Speech Language Pathologist has a strong passion for supporting individuals with aphasia. In her five-year journey as a travel Speech-Language Pathologist, she has had the opportunity to work with and learn from multiple healthcare professionals with a variety of perspectives and experiences across diverse environments and patient populations. It was through this work with a wide range of patient populations that Clare found her true calling in serving those with aphasia



Tucson Protests ICE, courtesy of the *Tucson Agenda*, 2/3/26

The **ICE OUT!** protest in Tucson on Friday was one for the record books, as an estimated **6,000 people** poured into downtown Tucson, dozens of businesses voluntarily closed and enough teachers called out to force the closure of nearly two dozen schools in Tucson Unified School District.

The protests mirror those across the country as citizens participated in a national strike tied to violent and deadly clashes with immigration enforcement agents in Minnesota.

The largest local protest took place in downtown Tucson, where locals marched down streets without violence.

On the University of Arizona campus, students demanded that the university leadership take a stand on the ICE sweeps. Students, especially international students are concerned that while other Tucson officials have made powerful statements against immigration raids, the UA leadership has been quiet.



Thousands of protesters filled streets in downtown Tucson on Friday as part of the **ICE OUT!** national protests. (Photos by Rebecca Noble / rebeccanoblephoto.com)



LD17 Bill Review *by Dee Maitland*

The period for submitting bills for consideration in the Senate has ended. To date over 900 bills and 50 direct to ballot initiatives have been introduced. As expected, Republicans have introduced bills to cut taxes, limit SNAP, eliminate DEI, prevent abortions and micro-manage public schools. For details I recommend following [CEBV's Weekly newsletter](#). Here's a summary of what our three legislators have submitted:

Senator Leach originated no bills and co-sponsored only 5. It is a mystery why he picked these bills. The one good one is to establish and fund tourism improvement zones. After that you have a recognition of Judea and Samaria as belonging to Isreal which also is co-sponsored by Keshel; limitation on vapor products; public school civics requirement; and request for a constitutional convention and term limits from legislators.

Representative Keshel is the prime sponsor of 27 bills and co-sponsor of 33. Two of her bills are direct to ballot proposals. One would eliminate voting centers and break the state into voting precincts of 2,500 voters each. That would mean establishing 1,733 manned voting places in the state. Besides being confusing, it would make voting difficult for people who work outside their precinct. The other would ridiculously have voters determine citizen requirements for in-state college tuition. The worst of her bills would criminalize a person who knowingly sells, furnishes, mails, ships, delivers or buys an abortion-inducing drug. She would also criminalize any mention of abortion by public school staff and including fetal development instruction separate from sex education. She co-sponsored other bills saying partial-birth abortions are never medically necessary and prohibiting people from facilities that perform abortions from teaching health education. She submitted a patient rights bill that seems to assign the unborn the right not to be harmed by medical treatments. She also followed the Republican agenda proposing bills that give tax breaks, prevent transition therapy, prevents DEI teaching including about slavery and Japanese internment, reverses national monument designations in favor of mining, and delists the Mexican wolf as endangered. Finally, it appears that Keshel or a family member had a problematic divorce as several of her bills are about family court, confidentiality and parental custody.

Our Representative Kevin Volk is the primary on 6 bills and co-sponsored 49. He agreed with Leach on the tourism bill. Of the bills where he is primary, two are significant. One would outlaw out-of-state money going to ballot campaigns. The other would require data center owners to bear the full cost of enlarging electric utilities to meet their needs. The bills he co-signed do everything we would wish: repeal abortion reporting requirements; require coverage of contraception and fertility treatments; make ESA schools follow the teacher qualifications, testing and safety requirements of public schools; assistance in affordable housing; re-authorize the civil rights advisory board; prevent use of permanent funds for other purposes as the legislature did with the education land trust; and protect our national monuments.

Fortunately, the performances of Leach and Keshel give us ammunition to ensure we win the Senate and both Representative positions. Let's work hard to advance our candidates!



Keep Arizona Blue Student Coalition

In January, we joined our partner organizations Blue Future and Swing Left at a door knocking and deep canvassing training! Rooted in the belief in listening and learning, we were honored to learn better ways to talk to voters and meet them where they are at! We're excited to continue our partnership!

Speaking Around the State 🗣️ — This month, we hit the road and traveled all around the state, speaking to voters and organizations alike about the work we're doing! From Optimists Resist in Scottsdale to Democrats of Red Rocks in Sedona, we're grateful their support as we continue to partner with our community and ensure an overwhelming victory in 2026!

Opening Day 🗳️ — On January 12th, the 57th Legislature convened for its Second Regular Session, marking the opening of what is hopefully the last legislative session with the GOP in the majority! As we work to elect Democrats up and down the ballot, we'll be busy tracking what's happening at our State Capitol and how it impacts students (take a look at our other newsletter [The Desert Dissent](#))!

In the News 📰 — Just this month, our very own Deputy Political Director Jazmine Garcia spoke to Univision about reproductive rights, immigration, and the importance of young voters in this upcoming election!

Feeding the Community 🍲 — Our team was proud to work with Glendale Community College to provide food and hygiene products to students on campus! We're proud to be able to serve our community and provide much-needed support to young people around the state.

2026 Spring Fellowship Program is a cohort group of 9 dedicated fellows at ASU, U of A, Yavapai College, Downtown Tempe, Mesa, North Valley and Chandler who are working around the clock to register voters, talk about the importance of upcoming elections, and help elect Democrats across this state!

Citizens Must Act to Halt Autocracy *by Phineas Anderson*

We know that Donald J. Trump will utilize legal, illegal and even violent means to stay in power. In 2020, he tried to use fake electors. On Jan. 6, 2021, he incited a mob to attack Congress in an attempt to delay the certification of election results. He failed, particularly in court, where all of his 62 election cases arguing fraud were dismissed, except one minor case.

Trump knows if he loses the midterm elections this coming November, his march towards authoritarianism will be stymied. Even more important to him, he will likely be impeached by the House. Should the Democrats win both chambers, he will be removed from office. Therefore, he will use every means to rig the midterms in his favor. Note: if Trump invokes the 1792 Insurrection Act, it does not legally prevent the election from happening.

Trump started by intimidating prominent law firms involved in cases upholding voting rights, by threatening to prohibit the federal government from hiring them. Nine unprincipled major law firms capitulated and did not fight. Their partners placed personal wealth above helping to preserve the integrity of our elections. Those firms have agreed to do nearly a billion dollars of pro bono work for causes that Trump approves. Extortion. Other law firms, who did fight, won.

Trump then promoted mid-census (very rare) congressional redistricting in Red States, like Texas, to gain more House seats for Republicans. Gerrymandering is a more accurate word. Predominantly black and brown districts were particularly targeted.

Through an Executive Order, Trump attempted to impose the requirement that those wanting to register to vote must show proof of citizenship with a passport or similar document. He has no authority to make such a requirement. Registration and elections are run by the States according to the U.S. Constitution. Research has shown that voter fraud is basically non-existent. Yet, because Trump denied the 2020 election result, saying it was stolen with absolutely no proof, some States run by Republicans are falling in line and making it more difficult for people to register to vote.

Have you asked yourself why the Department of Justice (DOJ) is suing 23 States (all blue or purple) for their sensitive voter registration data? Trump wants to keep the big lie alive, since it is the cornerstone of the MAGA movement – denying that Trump lost in 2020. DOJ, previously the upholder of free and fair elections, is now a tool of Trump.

It most likely would weaponize such data by finding ways to disenfranchise segments of the voting population, suppress votes, spread lies and false information about the 2026 election, and use the data to litigate and delay the certification of election results.

Other initiatives that Trump and Republicans in Red States will likely attempt to undermine free and fair elections include arguing to overturn the Voting Rights Act, seizing voting equipment, making it harder to vote by stopping early voting and voting by mail, and prolonging wait times by reducing polling places in Democratic districts.

How do we combat Trump's efforts to rig the 2026 midterms? The U.S. District Courts and U.S. Courts of Appeal have stymied Trump. But more lawyers are needed to join this fight. Retired lawyers and judges, law school deans and professors, law school students (to do important legal research) and law firms in general need to devote pro bono time to maintain our voting rights through initiatives in state Legislatures and state courts.

Republicans and independents, who voted for Trump and now are offended by his actions to undermine free and fair elections might consider, as Americans who believe in our democracy, that Trump no longer deserves their support.

Local activists must continue to expose and protest Trump-inspired actions that move our country away from democracy and toward autocracy, as well as actions that are damaging, if not cruel, to those among us who are particularly vulnerable.

Every concerned citizen needs to join nationally announced mass protests and boycotts to show strength in numbers. Every concerned citizen needs to help get out the vote by knocking on doors, leaving literature, donating, writing postcards, and then vote out of office those members of Congress who support a president who rigs elections.

Good News for Democracy *compiled by Jacolyn Marshall*



From the Associated Press:

- **1/9:** Avelo Airlines, the only commercial carrier operating deportation flights on a regular basis, ended its relationship with ICE that led to financial losses and put them in the center of political controversy.
- **1/10:** Hundreds protested ICE agents who shot two people inside their car in Portland, Oregon; a day later in freezing rain hundreds protested the fatal shooting of Renee Good in her car in Minneapolis.
- **1/10:** Environmentalists are suing the federal government over a failure to protect the horseshoe crab that is crucial to the survival of shore birds in South Carolina and other coastal states.
- **1/10:** Amazon agreed to pay \$1.5 billion to the 35 million Prime customers who meet the criteria and pay a \$1 billion civil penalty to settle a Federal Trade Commission lawsuit over its subscription service.
- **1/10:** Musk's AI startup reported a loss of \$1.46 billion, up from a \$1 billion loss in the first quarter.
- **1/10:** Gabby Giffords returned to the House floor on the 15th anniversary of the assassination attempt on her life; Democrats pledged to prioritize gun control legislation should they win the majority in November.
- **1/11:** An Associated Press analysis of 8,000 posts 36 hours after the shooting at Brown University on Dec. 13 showed how social media has become central for students navigating emergencies.
- **1/11:** Videos shot by bystanders from several angles challenge the official narrative coming from the office of Homeland Security; an expert on policing pointed out a series of questionable actions by ICE.
- **1/12:** Criticism grew for Trump's Golden Fleet plan that would redirect decades of US Naval planning; critics' skepticism could result in a congressional challenge.
- **1/12:** A report from the University of California, Berkeley found that early intervention can help prevent youth homelessness with targeted interventions from our nation's schools and child welfare organizations.
- **1/13:** Federal Reserve Chair Powell said the DOJ served the central bank with subpoenas and the threat of criminal charges regarding Trump's efforts to undermine the Fed's independence to set interest rates.
- **1/14:** Mark Kelly sued the Pentagon over attempts to punish him for his warnings about illegal orders to block Defense Secretary Hegseth's censure and push back against an out-of-control president.
- **1/14:** Days of demonstrations against ICE agents continued in cities across Minnesota as state and local leaders sued to fight the ICE surge that led to the fatal shooting of Renee Good.
- **1/14:** The Norwegian Nobel Institute that oversees the Nobel Peace Prize announced the award cannot be revoked, transferred or shared with others, stating "their decision is final and stands for all time."
- **1/14:** Trump's GOP is showing fractures from pushback to his self-described "Donroe doctrine" of aggression that have led to breaks in the party over health care and recent shootings by ICE.
- **1/14:** Washington National Opera announced it will move performances away from the Kennedy Center in another high-profile departure following Trump's takeover of the performing arts venue.
- **1/16:** European troops from the UK, France, Germany, Norway and Sweden continued to arrive in Greenland to show of support for Denmark and portray their unity in opposing Trump's treats to invade.
- **1/17:** European Policy Center analysts noted that while NATO allies in Greenland are largely symbolic, they send a political and military signal to the US and emphasize the need to increase Arctic security against us.
- **1/17:** FDA employees and a Harvard Medical School professor voiced their alarm over the agency's push for speedy drug reviews that run afoul of legal, ethical and scientific standards that ensure safety.

- **1/18:** MacKenzie Scott, ex-wife of Jeff Bezos donated \$45 million to the Trevor Project to run its independent hotline for LGBTQ+ young people that reaches more than 500,000 young people annually.
- **1/18:** More than half of US adults believe Trump has gone too far in using the military to intervene in other countries: 57% regarding his actions in Venezuela and 61% regarding his foreign policies.
- **1/18:** Senate Democrats see a path to winning a majority with announcement of Mary Peltola's candidacy in Alaska; if elected, she along with candidates Sherrod Brown in Ohio, Roy Cooper in North Carolina and Janet Mills in Maine would edge out Senate Republicans.
- **1/18:** Mattel Inc worked in partnership with the Autistic Self Advocacy Network to add an autistic Barbie to its line that celebrates diversity that already includes dolls with Down syndrome, blindness and vitiligo.
- **1/18:** ACLU of Minnesota filed a lawsuit on behalf of six residents that seeks an emergency injunction to limit how federal agents operate during protests.
- **1/18:** US District judge ruled federal ICE agents cannot detain or tear gas peaceful protestors.
- **1/19:** Democrats across the country proposed state law changes to restrict federal immigration officers from violating constitutional rights and require judicial warrants to enter businesses and private residences.
- **1/19:** A Seattle-based law firm filed a class-action lawsuit accusing Starbucks of having an unethical supply chain and alleging its decaffeinated coffee contains harmful chemicals
- **1/19:** DNC is making a million-dollar investment to register new voters in Arizona which includes training youth fellows to reach out to their peers and get them registered before the midterm elections.
- **1/20:** Tasked with electing Democratic governors, Governor Beshear advised the 36 candidates to focus on offering solutions to the high costs of housing, health care and other essentials that concern voters.
- **1/23:** Denmark's prime minister made it clear that security, investment and economic issues can be negotiated but her country cannot negotiate their sovereignty.
- **1/23:** Democratic Senator Gillibrand and Republican Senator Moody introduced a bill to bar lawmakers and their immediate family members from trading or owning individual stocks.
- **1/24:** Canadian Prime Minister Carney condemned coercion by great powers on smaller countries in response to Trump's derogatory comments at the Davos World Economic Forum, noting "the arc of history can still bend toward progress and justice. Canada must be a beacon, an example to a world at sea."
- **1/24:** DOJ indicted a Pentagon contractor on five charges that he illegally removed and shared classified national defense information with a journalist who wrote at least five articles containing the information.
- **1/25:** Federal judge found the anti-DEI effort by the Department of Education violated the First Amendment and Federal procedural rules, dismissing the department's appeal.
- **1/26:** Federal judge blocked ICE from destroying evidence; another ruled they cannot use detain or tear gas peaceful protestors, and Governor Walz directed the Minnesota National Guard to assist local police.
- **1/27:** Federal judge heard arguments to temporarily halt ICE's crackdown in Minnesota that led to two fatal shootings, reduce the number of agents and limit the scope of their operations.
- **1/27:** With electricity prices rising while the price of wind and solar power are plummeting, a Vermont green energy activist is starting to see a shift in public sentiment toward renewable energy.
- **1/28:** Minnesota federal judge ordered the head of ICE to appear before him to explain why he shouldn't be held in contempt for failing to comply with court orders to hold hearings for detained immigrants

- **1/29:** Minnesota Department of Corrections launched a website dedicated to combating DHS misinformation regarding two killings, deepening the divide between the policing authorities.
- **1/30:** Congressional Democrats voted to block DHS funding as they negotiate new restrictions on ICE agents.
- **1/30:** Stand Together will celebrate July 4th with its new “Be The People” campaign aimed at connecting millions of Americans with nonprofit agencies and move them to step up and take action to solve problems.
- **1/31:** A third “No Kings” national protest will occur on March 28th; organizers expect it to be the largest protest in American history with as many as 9 million people participating.
- **1/31:** Senate leaders scramble to save a bipartisan deal to separate ICE funding from a broad spending bill and avoid another government shutdown.
- **1/31:** Minnesota volunteers have been sheltering families in safe houses, paying their rent, cooking meals and arranging regular check-ins and emergency custody arrangements for their children.
- **2/1:** Governor Hobbs and six other state leaders left DC without the Colorado River deal they wanted, although Hobbs indicated progress was made thanks to newfound flexibility from upstream states over their willingness to cut river water use, as Arizona and Lower Basin states have done.
- **2/1:** DOJ filed charges against the man who accosted and squirted apple cider vinegar on Representative Ilhan Omar at a Minneapolis event.
- **2/1:** Consumer confidence index cratered 9.7 points to 84.5 in January, the lowest level since 2014 as Americans grow increasingly concerned about their financial prospects.
- **2/1:** The fierce backlash against Trump’s immigration crackdown has become a cultural revolt encompassing the worlds of business, sports and entertainment.
- **2/2:** The first stand-alone trial is underway in New Mexico against Meta for its role in amplifying sexual solicitation of minors through its complex algorithms that proliferate harmful material.

From Capitol Media Services/ Arizona Daily Star/ Arizona Republic

- **1/9:** Arizona Supreme Court upheld lower court rulings that Public School Superintendent Horne lacks legal standing to enforce English immersion for students not proficient in the language.
- **1/9:** Rep. Grijalva and Sen. Gallego condemned ICE’s fatal shooting of a Minneapolis motorist as horrific; Grijalva noted ICE’s activities have led to chaos and violence making our communities less safe; Gallego shared an eyewitness’ video on social media and called for an immediate investigation.
- **1/9:** AG Mayes’ deal to save groundwater resulted in the owner of mega-dairies in Willcox taking 2,000 acres of farmland out of production and creating a \$11 million fund for those whose wells dried up.
- **1/10:** Governor Hobb’s 2026 priorities include ending data-center tax incentives and adding a water usage tax, establishing a fund for affordable housing, and creating a middle-class tax cut program.
- **1/10:** Pediatricians across Arizona announced they will ignore a recent overhaul of the Federal childhood vaccine schedule which was created without any input from the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- **1/11:** Senator Gallego warned Latino Arizonans and those who look Hispanic to make sure they have a point of contact and their passports as ICE continues to target cooks, mechanics and ordinary people.
- **1/12:** Governor Hobbs supports law enforcement that prioritizes public safety and rejects policies that chase deportation quotas at the expense of stopping drug smuggling and human trafficking.

- **1/12:** National Institutes of Health highlighted the ways donated blood is used to save lives. Blood donations are used in surgeries and aid cancer patients, people with sickle cell disease and burn victims.
- **1/13:** Navajo solar power project with utility-scale clean solar energy and storage on tribal lands is being built by Navajo Power, a public benefit corporation founded by Indigenous entrepreneurs.
- **1/13:** United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona highlighted ways to participate in MLK Day of service; last year 140 volunteers donated 1,000 hours in community projects with an impact of \$34,000.
- **1/14:** Governor Hobbs highlighted affordable housing, water regulation and security, voucher oversight, public schools funding, and a water tax for data centers in her State of the State address.
- **1/15:** AG Mayes spoke at a spirited town hall meeting on TEP's requested 14% rate increase, calling it "blatant corporate greed and an abuse of the system."
- **1/16:** Bipartisan state lawmakers moved to restrict corporations and investors from buying up single-family homes in a bid to make housing more affordable for Arizonans.
- **1/17:** Governor Hobbs vetoed a \$440 million package of tax cuts approved by Republican lawmakers and urged them to approve her own plan with a \$250 million price tag.
- **1/18:** An increase in Rapid Response reports about ICE agents in Tucson indicate a heightened interest in protecting our neighborhood; Tucson's Human Rights Coalition, Defend Tucson and Women's March planned a protest march on January 20, the one-year anniversary of Trump's inauguration.
- **1/19:** Arizona Department of Water Resources designated southeastern La Paz County an active management area to regulate groundwater where Saudi-owned farms grow alfalfa for export.
- **1/20:** AG Mayes opened an investigation into the use of X's AI chatbot Grok after reports the tool was used to create and distribute illegal sexual imagery including sexual abuse of children.
- **1/20:** Integrative Touch in Tucson has been relieving pain for over 20 years, offering 30 different holistic treatments and therapies through online and in-person classes; its Healing Center is fully accredited.
- **1/22:** Organizers estimated 2,000 people marched through downtown Tucson protesting Trump's aggressive crackdown on immigrants and activists and his threats against other nations.
- **1/23:** Pima County Attorney Conover called for a peaceful recording of ICE actions to capture evidence of their illegal actions including excessive force that could help prosecute them later.
- **1/23:** Representative Grijalva and 20 other members of Congress went to Minnesota to attend a hearing on ICE activities; they are opposing any further funding for Homeland Security until ICE is reined in.
- **1/24:** Non-profit A Sip for Nourish held its annual fundraising event to provide family support for children with feeding challenges that affect 80% of children with developmental disabilities and up to 45% without disabilities.
- **1/24:** Pinal County Board of Supervisors informed the County Attorney's Office that they overstepped its legal bounds by signing an agreement with Homeland Security to assist in immigration enforcement.
- **1/25:** AG Mayes set up a website for pictures and videos of unlawful acts by ICE that could be critical in misconduct investigations.
- **1/26:** DNC is jumpstarting their Arizona voter registration effort ahead of the midterms with \$1 million to train youth to reach out to their peers and register them to vote.

- **1/26:** ASU launched Operation Comeback to encourage students to complete their studies and receive funding and advising assistance along with a new program to forgive student debt.
- **1/26:** Tucson council asked for an ordinance to keep ICE agents off city-owned property and a list of procedures for city employees and specialized training for relevant departments when confronted.
- **1/27:** Tucson Pickleball tournaments sought to raise money to benefit local nonprofits including FACES of Narcolepsy and Sonora Behavioral Health.
- **1/28:** UA faculty chair is distributing emergency whistles to faculty, students, staff and community members to alert people to any kind of trouble and increase safety in their vicinity.
- **1/29:** Arizona House Commerce Committee approved a bill making it illegal for retailers to refuse to accept cash for goods and services worth \$100 or less without any fees or penalties.
- **1/30:** Arizona and Colorado officials are building war chests for future litigation over Colorado River water rights; Central Arizona Project plans to spend up to \$6 million in lawsuits to protect our water.
- **1/30:** Governor Hobbs met with Interior Secretary to make her case that Arizona took major cuts in its Colorado River supply while Upper Basin states took none; the river supports 40 million residents and farms that grow the bulk of the nation's winter produce, much of that in Arizona.
- **2/1:** Several thousand people protested in downtown Tucson as part of a national demonstration against ICE; TUSD closed 21 schools due to an anticipated high volume of student and staff absences.

From Run for Something by Amanda Litman

- **1/5:** In 2025, Democrats flipped 21% of GOP-held legislative seats.
- **1/12:** As we enter 2026 and attention starts turning toward the midterm elections in November, we must win at every level. Your support is changing things, one office at a time.
- **1/20:** We've officially enrolled **250,000 people** - that's a quarter million young people interested in running for office. It's the biggest list of potential leaders in politics.
- **1/26:** Our hearts and gratitude go out to everyone in Minneapolis. Every person who is stepping up and showing courage right now is proving why, when all is said and done, we *will* win.
- **2/2:** RFS candidate Taylor Rehmet ran in a special election to fill a Texas state senate the GOP held for 30 years. Over the weekend, he knocked it out of the park, winning by 14 points.
- **2/2:** We are ready for 2026 and what comes beyond. Our long-term plan lays out exactly what we're doing to get as many people as possible to run and help them win big to build sustainable power – plus what you can do to help. Read it, share it, and chip in to help make it happen. [Read the plan](#)

**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.***

March Meeting

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

**Speaker:
TBA**

**Topic:
Updates**