



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
September
2025

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

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

Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Do not become bitter or hostile. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble. We will find a way to make a way out of no way. **John Lewis, former House Representative**

2025 Dues Still Only \$20

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

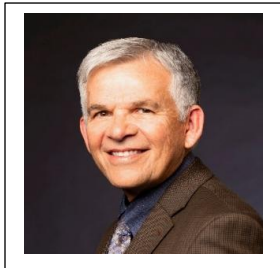
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October meeting will be on ZOOM

Speakers: Joe Winfield, Harrison Redmond & Randy Gold



Joe Winfield, Mayor of Oro Valley

Mayor Joe Winfield is a dedicated leader and advocate for his community. He completed his bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Arizona and went on to have a successful career with the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service.

Joe's commitment to public service led him to several roles within Oro Valley's local government, including serving a second term as mayor.

Joe is known for engaging citizens and stakeholders to ensure the town's future aligns with the needs and aspirations of its residents. A man of integrity and fairness, he strives to maintain and enhance Oro Valley's unique qualities while promoting progress and prosperity and making our town a desirable place to live, work, and play.



Harrison Redmond, ACLU of Arizona Community Organizer

Harrison has been involved in community and electoral organizing for more than 10 years and most recently worked for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. He joined the ACLU of Arizona to fight for criminal legal reform, LGBTQ+ equality, immigrants' rights, and abortion access across Arizona.

In addition to community organizing work, Harrison is a registered lobbyist for the ACLU of Arizona. In that capacity, he advocates for civil rights and civil liberties at the Arizona Legislature and other governmental bodies by lobbying elected officials through written and oral testimony, coalition building, and one-on-one meetings.

Harrison is a graduate of the University of Arizona, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with bachelor's degrees in both Law and Political Science with an emphasis in Law and Public Policy. He aims to empower people through sustained investment in their community and a radical belief in collective action, abolitionist ideals, and people power.



Randy Gold, Activist

Randy has been involved in political activism for over 20 years. His most recent resistance activity is the Resolutions Project which asks local jurisdictions and organizations to pass resolutions condemning the current administration.

Modeled after the Declaration of Independence, the Resolutions Project has become is a movement that is spreading across the country.

The movement continues

Over 100 people demonstrated at Ciscomani's office on August 16 with great support from passing vehicles.



Welcome to E-Qual - Arizona Secretary of State Citizens Clean Elections Commission

Are you interested in making a difference in the political process? E-Qual simplifies participation, ensuring it's easy, secure, and convenient. Support your preferred candidate from the comfort of your home or any location with internet access. Get involved and make your voice heard today by clicking [Equal](#).

Courtesy of Maureen Salz, Vice Chair of SCOV Democratic Club

Petitions for CD6, Governor, LD17 Senate, LD17 Representative, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Mine Inspector, and ACC candidates are now available.



Town Criers *by Bennett Burke*

Would you like to get involved in some street theater protests? Performance art pieces which won't involve "preaching to the choir," but will spread our protests all over town to all kinds of people? If so, Democracy Unites Us needs you!

We're calling our performer-protesters "Democracy Town Criers ("DTCs," generically called "flash mobs"). Our performances will be strictly nonviolent and legal, with zero risk of arrest - but designed to be briefly disruptive in a wide variety of public places.

Our goal? To deliver important pro-democracy messages - and warnings - to people who don't come to our stationary protests for a variety of reasons. That includes Trump supporters, as well as others who have, sadly, tuned out and aren't paying attention to the dire daily news.

News about the extreme danger into which the MAGA movement has plunged our nation, threatening the Constitution, our civil and human rights, and democracy itself.

That means it's time to escalate the energy of our protests with some widespread non-violent disruptive performances, with small troupes of five to ten people delivering short, scripted messages loudly, proudly, and theatrically, all over Tucson! There are many ways you can help.

First, sign up on our email list here: <https://tinyurl.com/dmpu3md7> We'll contact you by email soon with more information about how you can become a Democracy Town Crier. We expect most of the planning will be done in Signal chats. And speaking of planning here's the second ask. This creative vision will be led by me, with one other person from DUU, but we want to bring in new volunteers and new skills specifically for this effort.

Our first priority is to assemble a production team, and we need people with experience planning protests, and/or producing and directing theatrical productions, and/or people with project planning experience for the core team. We'll also need DCT troupe leaders and DCT troupe members.

Current and/or former "theater kids" of all ages are particularly encouraged to join us, but anyone can pitch in! We can also use people with the experience and skills to create graphic art, do social media support, tech support, software design, and much more. If you'd like to be part of the production team (we'll select four to six members), email me at BennettBurke_DUU@proton.me, and tell me why you think you'd be a good fit!

Looking forward to hearing from you!



THEY JUST LOVED THEIR GUNS MORE, THAT'S ALL.

Guilty by Dee Maitland

As a relocated Minnesotan I'm extremely upset by the latest school shooting. Below is a list of my thoughts and findings. My prayers are that all Republican legislators, especially Vince Leach and Rachel Jones Keshel, lose their seats or die by the guns they aggressively champion over the lives of children.

Just the Facts:

- ☠ Guns are the leading cause of death of children and teens in Arizona. Unlike adult statistics where suicides represent 56% of deaths, 61% of dead children were murdered.
- ☠ Arizona has a stand-your-ground law. The Rand Corporation found: "Stand your ground laws are associated with an *increase* in firearm homicides, and there is moderate evidence suggesting they also drive up total homicides after their passage."
- ☠ The argument that owning a gun is essential for protection is not born out by facts. Of the 18,691 gun deaths nationally in 2023, 471 (2.5%) were by police officers and 303 (1.6%) were by individuals defending themselves. 774 people defending themselves is hardly a record of successful protection when owning guns allowed 25,613 people to commit suicide.
- ☠ We could be protecting our children from guns. The Rand Corporation found a number of gun laws truly work: "child access prevention legislation, also known as CAP laws, or safe storage laws, boast some of the most potent evidence about effectiveness. Studies make clear that CAP laws decrease self-injuries and suicides among youths in states that adopt them, and also decrease unintentional injuries and deaths."
- ☠ 538 reports: "The Dickey Amendment, first attached to the 1996 omnibus spending bill famously prevented the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from funding gun violence studies for decades. A new interpretation of that amendment in 2018 changed that, but Dickey wasn't the only thing making it hard to study gun violence. Instead, the researchers stated the biggest impediment to demonstrating whether gun control policies work is the way politicians have intentionally blocked access to the data that would be necessary to do that research."
- ☠ Gun statistics are available only through 2023. Are Republicans suppressing the 2024 numbers?

LD17 Republicans are Accessories Before the Fact:

"An accessory before the fact aids, abets, counsels, or encourages the commission of a felony prior to the crime occurring. This individual is not present at the scene when the crime is actually committed. Actions might include planning the offense, providing necessary tools like weapons or burglary equipment, or offering

advice on how to carry out the crime.” The facts about gun deaths and gun laws are well documented. Our lawmakers know guns will kill children. Leach was active in the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and helped craft anti-gun control legislation now used nationwide. This makes him an Accessory Before the Fact to the murder of children killed at school. Just this year he and Keshel voted “yes” on SB1705 which forbid municipalities from passing any local laws to protect their constituents, or taxing gun sales. Fortunately, Governor Katie Hobbs vetoed it.

Senator Vince Leach, the Worst Legislator in Arizona

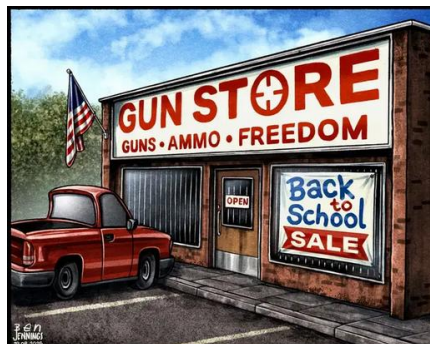
July 11, 2022 by [Michael Bryan](#)



**Rachel Jones Keshel
and
Justine Wadsack**

- Leach voted YES on a bill that eases the automatic restoration of firearm possession rights after people get out of prison.
- Leach voted YES on a bill that forces Arizona colleges and universities to allow permit holders to carry concealed guns on campuses.
- Leach voted YES on a bill that bans registration and buyback laws, bans taxes on firearms and gun equipment, and preemptively prohibits any bans of assault weapons, ammunition & bump stocks.
- Leach voted YES on a bill that allows a property owner to use physical or deadly force if they believe it is immediately necessary to prevent criminal damage to their property.
- Leach voted YES on a bill that allows parents to ignore gun-free zones at public schools, allowing them to keep loaded and unlocked weapons within reach in their cars while dropping off and picking up children.
- Leach voted YES on a bill that would require public schools to provide students with firearms training between grades 6 & 12.
- Leach voted YES on a bill allowing people with concealed permits to bring guns into libraries, community centers, public pools, state museums, the DMV, government offices, block parties, marches, and street fairs.
- Leach voted YES on a bill prohibiting banks from discriminating against firearm manufacturers and dealers.

Our lawmakers know their policies kill children and they don't care. They must be voted out!



Good News for Democracy *compiled by Jacolyn Marshall*



From the Associated Press:

- **8/6:** Texas Democrats again prevented their House of Representatives from moving forward with a redrawn congressional map sought by Trump by boycotting the vote.
- **8/6:** NATO countries began deliveries of weapons packages to Ukraine, including Netherlands \$578 million, Sweden's \$275 million, and a combined \$500 million from Denmark and Norway.
- **8/6:** Federal judge blocked Trump from removing \$4 billion meant to help communities protect themselves against natural disasters.
- **8/7:** Environmental groups and the Miccosukee Tribe sued to stop construction of Alligator Alcatraz that threatens wetlands that are home to protected plants and animals, the second lawsuit to do so.
- **8/7:** Civil rights groups sued to stop Alligator Alcatraz on grounds that detainee's constitutional rights are being violated since they are being held without charges and are barred from meeting with lawyers.
- **8/7:** Democrats are launching a nationwide summer blitz designed to force vulnerable Republicans to defend Trump's big tax breaks and spending cuts that will leave millions without healthcare coverage.
- **8/8:** Federal judge ordered an immediate halt to new infrastructure building at Alligator Alcatraz prior to issuing a written order within days.
- **8/9:** Democracy Forward sued the DOJ and the FBI seeking the release of records detailing the handling of the sex trafficking investigation into Epstein under the Freedom of Information Act.
- **8/9:** Texas House of Representatives failed to meet a quorum for the third time as Democratic lawmakers continued their walkout to block redistricting.
- **8/9:** A fourth federal judge ruled Trump cannot withhold citizenship from children born to people in the country illegally or temporarily.
- **8/10:** Senator Gallego along with two other Democrats met with 185 people in Iowa to remind them that Democrats are the party that has always been about protecting working-class and the middle-class Americans.
- **8/10:** Democratic activists see the party's 23 governors as winning examples of the path forward with their focus on tangible problems, such as rising costs, medical debt, taxes on groceries, and Medicaid coverage.
- **8/11:** EU nations rallied behind Ukraine, saying the war cannot be resolved without Kyiv's involvement and stating their commitment to the principle that international borders must not be changed by force.
- **8/12:** Federal judge blocked commercial fishing in a vast protected area of the Pacific Islands Heritage Marine National Monument in response to Trump's rollback of federal ocean protections.
- **8/15:** Federal judge struck down Trump's actions aimed at eliminating DEI programs at the nation's schools and universities which have been on hold since April by similar rulings by three other judges.
- **8/17:** Governor Newsom announced California will hold a special election in November on redrawn districts that would give Democrats 5 more US House seats.
- **8/17:** Federal judge blocked Trump's attempt to end protections of immigrant children in custody.

- **8/17:** US lawmakers from both parties urged Trump to maintain a security partnership designed to supply Australia with nuclear-powered submarines as an essential to deterrent in the Indo-Pacific to ensure peace and stability in the area.
- **8/17:** GE Appliances announced plans to shift production from China and Mexico to the US, a \$3 billion investment that would create more than 1,000 jobs.
- **8/18:** European leaders from France, Britain and Germany announced their plan to join Zelenskyy in DC for talks with Trump to bolster hopes of gaining a security guarantee like NATO's Article 5.
- **8/18:** California faith leaders have registered a moral presence and a show of support in immigration courts, handed out leaflets, and mobilized to deliver food and medicine to those sheltering at home.
- **8/19:** Joining California, other Democratic governors promised new districts to neutralize GOP redistricting efforts in their states, including the governors of Indiana, Illinois, and New York.
- **8/20:** Federal appeals court blocked the transfer of federal forest land in Arizona to a pair of international companies that plan to mine one of the largest copper deposits in North America.
- **8/20:** Federal judge blocked portions of Mississippi's ban on DEI practices in public schools, arguing such a ban violates teachers, parents and students First and Fourteenth Amendment rights.
- **8/22:** Tesla is facing a new probe by the National Highway Safety Administration for repeatedly failing to report numerous incidents involving its driver assistance and self-driving features.
- **8/22:** Federal judge ruled that Trump's former lawyer has unlawfully served as the top federal prosecutor in New Jersey.
- **8/23:** Wrongly deported despite court protections, Abrego Garcia was released from jail in Tennessee and rejoined his family in Maryland while he awaits trial on human smuggling charges.
- **8/24:** New York appeals court upheld a finding that Trump engaged in fraud by exaggerating his wealth for decades and bans him and his two eldest sons from serving in corporate leadership.
- **8/26:** More than 180 current and former FEMA employees published a letter to Congress and the American people warning Trump's cuts pose catastrophic risks for those seeking disaster assistance.
- **8/28:** Federal judge upbraided the federal government for DC arrests as the most illegal search, seizure and detentions he has ever seen.
- **8/28:** Federal judge's order to shutter Alligator Alcatraz is likely to take effect by late October.
- **8/28:** Trump's federal prosecutors failed to obtain a felony indictment against a man who hurled a ham sandwich at a Border Patrol agent.
- **8/28:** Democratic candidate for an Iowa Senate seat won a special election, breaking the GOP supermajority and adding to Democratic hopes of flipping more seats in 2026 midterm elections.
- **8/28:** Ukraine's new deep-strike drones can fly 620 miles behind enemy lines, allowing them to attack weapons depots, oil refineries and other targets vital to Russia's war machine and economy.
- **8/29:** Federal Reserve Governor sued for an emergency injunction to block Trump from firing her and to reconfirm her status as a member of the Fed's independent governing board.

- **8/29:** France, Germany and the UK reimposed UN sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program.
- **8/29:** Illinois Governor Pritzker informed Trump Chicago doesn't need nor want military intervention to fight crime, vowed to sue, and proactively held news conferences and posted on social media.
- **8/29:** Federal judge blocked Kari Lake and the Trump administration from removing the director of Voice of America. VOA and affiliates Radio Free Europe and Asia, and Radio Marti reach 427 million listeners.
- **8/30:** Federal appeals court blocked Trump from ending protections for 600,000 Venezuelans who had permission to live and work in the US, stating such actions were unlawful.
- **8/30:** Tesla sales in Europe have continued to plunge for the 7th month in a row with a 40% drop in July in 27 EU countries compared to a year earlier.
- **8/30:** Pro-DEI group announced that their boycott resulted in a sharp decline in foot traffic in nearly 2,000 Target stores and noted Amazon and Walmart have also opted to forgo DEI and could be next.
- **8/31:** Federal judge blocked Trump's efforts to expand expedited removal of detained undocumented migrants without appearing before a judge first, stating they trampled on their rights to due process.
- **8/31:** Trump's firing of CDC chief sparked several top agency leaders to resign, citing political interference as the cause.
- **9/1:** Federal judge blocked flights out of Texas that would have sent unaccompanied children back to their native Guatemala, stating they were violating of US laws and putting vulnerable children in peril.
- **9/1:** A flotilla of 70 humanitarian aid ships with delegations from 44 countries were headed to Gaza to break Israeli's blockade and deliver food, water, and medicine to starving Palestinians.
- **9/1:** German Chancellor declared any ceasefire that comes at Ukraine's expense is unacceptable and the EU is poised to seize frozen Russian assets and give them to Ukraine.
- **9/2:** Environmental groups petitioned the Bureau of Reclamation to use its authority to curb waste water in the Lower Basin to address severe water shortages, noting the river supports 40 million people across seven states.

From Capitol Media Services/ Arizona Daily Star/ Arizona Republic

- **8/6:** Tucson City Councilman Kevin Dahl introduced a motion to kill the proposed Project Blue data-center complex, and an overwhelming majority of more than 1,000 attendees blasted the project.
- **8/6:** Governor Hobbs allocated \$5 million from the state's federal relief funds to expand down-payment assistance to first-time homebuyers in Pima and Maricopa counties.
- **8/7:** The all-Democratic Tucson City Council voted unanimously to kill its role in the controversial effort to open massive data centers here.
- **8/7:** Governor Hobbs signed an executive order to issue discount cards for prescription drugs with an average 18% savings for named drugs and 80% for generics through the non-profit Array Rx program.
- **8/10:** Senator Kelly's visit to Eloy immigration detention center underscored Trump's flawed campaign to arrest as many immigrants as possible; 83% of the detainees are classified as "no ICE threat level."
- **8/12:** AG Mayes renewed her case against Amazon for misleading consumers into thinking the Box Buy is the best offer when it's not and for making it almost impossible to cancel its Prime membership.

- **8/13:** Senator Gallego met with Republican-friendly voters at veterans-themed town halls in Globe and Apache Junction, and Cobre Valley Medical staff, doing what the GOP isn't - listening to the public.
- **8/13:** Senator Gallego helped press Congress to limit the staffing losses at the VA from 83,000 to 30,000.
- **8/14:** Superior Court Judge ruled Arizona lawmakers are violating their constitutional requirements to adequately fund public schools for legally required improvements and issued a permanent injunction requiring lawmakers to submit a plan to meet their obligations.
- **8/15:** AG Mayes announced in-state tuition for Dreamers is legal since it's based on attending an Arizona high school for at least two years and obtaining a diploma regardless of their resident status.
- **8/16:** Judge ruled ranchers and cities have no right to intervene in AG Mayes' lawsuit against Saudi-owned groundwater pumping for committing a public nuisance by using enough water to serve 93,000 single-family homes and drying up nearby wells.
- **8/17:** Tucson City Council passed an ordinance to impose conservation rules on large water users by requiring all new businesses using 7.48 million gallons of water a month to submit a plan to reduce its water use and water losses and improve efficiency as a matter of public record.
- **8/19:** AG Mayes declared tens of thousands of Arizona voters affected by a glitch in how the MVD recorded information regarding proof of citizenship does not cancel their registration to vote.
- **8/20:** Arizona's First Amendment attorneys stated the public has a right to report on publicly observable events including the whereabouts and actions of immigration officers that are a public concern.
- **8/21:** Governor Hobbs vowed to protect voting by mail to ensure that every eligible Arizonan can make their voices heard.
- **8/22:** AG Mayes filed a criminal lawsuit against mobile home park owners who failed to tell residents their electrical system was dangerous, unreliable and overloaded, and created potentially deadly conditions.
- **8/23:** Tucson City Council approved a pilot program that will offer a safe place to sleep for up to 25 women and non-binary people living on the street by October 1st.
- **8/26:** Supporters of Aviva Children's Services "Bags for Kids" Sew-a-thon provided 2,800 duffel bags for children in foster care, a message that others care about them and their belongings are not trash.
- **8/27:** AG Mayes called on Trump to return 60 DEA agents from DC where they're doing routine traffic stops instead of helping her combat Mexican drug cartels that are endangering Arizona and the nation.
- **8/27:** US District judge ordered Kari Lake and two others to face depositions dealing with the shuttering of the Voice of America network that she has overseen for the Trump administration.
- **8/29:** Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing in Phoenix is building a water reclamation plant to recycle nearly all the water it uses, boosting its rate from 65% to 85%, with a goal of reaching 90%.
- **8/29:** State Court of Appeals tossed out GOP lawsuit against mail-in voting, leaving in place the authority of county election officials to use multiple sources to verify signatures on ballot envelopes.
- **8/29:** US District judge gave former state lawmaker Justine Wadsack until September 23 to explain why she should not be held in contempt or sanctioned for failing to appear in court.
- **8/30:** Volunteers at Casa Maria Soup Kitch in South Tucson provided free haircuts, cell phones, ID services, food pet supplies, access to a health clinic as part of the National Unsheltered Veteran Surge.

- **8/30:** Recount confirmed Democrat Kevin Dahl as the winner in the Ward 3 primary election by 19 votes.
- **8/31:** AG Mayes announced one couple pleaded guilty to felony fraud and forgery for receiving over \$110,000 in ESA voucher funds for more than 40 fake children for two years while living in Colorado.
- **8/31:** AG Mayes announced more than \$622,000 in improper purchases by ESA voucher recipients due to Superintendent Horne's lack of oversight have been collected or referred for collection.
- **9/1:** AG Mayes sent a letter to Horne demanding he stop automatically approving voucher expenses under \$2,000 and notifying him he had 10 days to confirm steps taken to stop prohibited purchases.
- **9/1:** Pima Community College announced its enrollment has increased for the 10th consecutive semester.

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

- **8/11:** Election Day: We had 15 candidates in competitive elections; more than half won their races either outright or advanced to the general election; Selina Barajas won for Tucson City Council, Ward 5 (AZ).
- **8/11:** For over eight years of Run for Something & our partners have worked hard across the country to build a deep and diverse talented bench of local leaders ready to rise when the opportunity hit.
- **8/11:** Our new [Candidate Community](#) is officially live! This is a vibrant, interactive space built for young, diverse progressives like you who are thinking about running for office.
- **8/18:** We are building the bench by meeting people where they are in all kinds of ways.
- **8/18:** Earlier this month, our team [joined Outside Lands outside San Francisco](#) to recruit people to get involved in local leadership.
- **8/18:** We love being present in non-political spaces, running through Run for Something Civics, asking people to run for office and become our future leaders. It's just the best.
- **8/25:** As we begin endorsing 2026 candidates, we'll consider applications from values-aligned leaders running as independents. [Our full endorsement criteria and process is laid out here.](#)
- **8/25:** We have endorsed 54 amazing new candidates! These folks are running for offices across 21 states, a quarter of them are gen Z.
- **9/2:** We hit a huge milestone! More people have signed up in the 10 months since Trump won in 2024 than in the entirety of Trump's first term — all four years, 2017 through 2020.
- **9/2:** Our overall pipeline now exceeds 230,000+ people who've raised their hands to run for office — nearly 30% of whom signed up in the last year alone.
- **9/2:** As far as we know, Run for Something is cultivating the biggest pro-democracy candidate pipeline around. Click here and help us [Keep it up](#)





Please join us at in-person monthly meeting in the large meeting room of the Oro Valley Library September 8th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you!

October 13th will be on Zoom.

**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.*

**October ZOOM
Meeting**

**Monday, October 13
6:00 -7:30 pm**

**Speaker:
Secretary of State Adrian
Fontes**

**Topic:
Candidacy**