



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
August
2026

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

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

Democracy is never guaranteed. Every generation must preserve it, defend it and fight for it. When our history is written years from now, let us be the generation that saved democracy in our time. ***Former President Joe Biden***

2026 Dues Still Only \$20

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

Dues accepted at: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/dovdues>

Donations accepted at: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/dovdonate>



UNITED, WE WIN!



Guest Speakers: Joanna Mendoza, Jackie McGuire, Sean Glaser

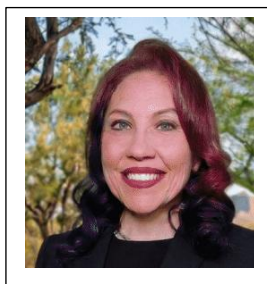


JoAnna Mendoza, Candidate for CD 6

JoAnna is the Democratic candidate for Congress in Arizona's Sixth Congressional District (AZ-06). A proud mom, retired U.S. Marine Corps Drill Instructor, and native Arizonan raised in AZ-06, she grew up in a farmworker family and joined the military at 17. After 20 years of honorable service and several combat tours to Iraq and Afghanistan, she continued her public service as a school board member, veteran advocate, and congressional staffer.

Now she's running for Congress to lower costs, secure our border, and create economic opportunity for working families across Southern Arizona.

Donate to her campaign: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/mfc26-events-exemp/?refcode=080326>



Jackie McGuire, Marana Town Councilwoman

Jackie is an entrepreneur, data scientist and former financial advisor who won a seat on the Marana Town Council to restore transparent, ethical and financially responsible governance. She believes that local politics are where real change happens.

Jackie has a proven record of taking action. She was one of the residents who led the successful referendum effort, collecting nearly 3,000 signatures to put the controversial Data Center project on the ballot and was the lead plaintiff in the recent lawsuit against the Town of Marana to force accountability.

She is deeply committed to ensuring resident voices are heard, establishing citizen committees, fixing Marana's roads and infrastructure, and securing Marana's future by keeping predatory development out. She wants to make sure the Town Council works for all residents, not special interests.



Sean Glaser, Opponent of Flock Safety

An Oro Valley resident, Sean has regularly addressed the town council expressing his concerns that Flock Safety does not secure its data and is sharing it with unvetted contractors halfway around the world.

Born and raised in Tucson, Sean Glaser served as a U.S. Marine before earning a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Arizona. Now working in biotech, he remains steadfast in his mission to protect our constitutional liberties by actively challenging invasive technologies like ALPR that threaten individual rights.

Flock ALPR cameras are solar-powered, automated license plate reader systems made by Flock Safety that capture vehicle data and track citizen's movements that have sparked widespread privacy debates.



Governor Hobbs signs into law Kevin Volk's bill honoring his former running mate John McLean by making our roads safer.

From Kevin:

I want to thank my legislative colleagues on both sides of the aisle who worked with me to move this bill through the legislature. Unfortunately, this kind of bipartisan accomplishment is rare, because too much of today's politics is driven by extreme partisanship.

Arizonans deserve leaders who are willing to work together and put results ahead of party labels. That's exactly the kind of leadership I'm fighting to continue bringing to the State Capitol. But I can't do it without you. To build a successful campaign centered on results, not rhetoric, we need all the help we can get. [Click here to donate - every contribution helps us knock on more doors and reach more voters.](#)

Together, we can move towards a state legislature that isn't all about posturing, but actually gets things done.



Democrats of Oro Valley return to in-person meetings with our **August 10 meeting** at the Oro Valley Library from 6:00 - 7:30 pm.

Our Democratic slate of candidates for the November election.



Governor Katie Hobbs



Attorney General Kris Mayes



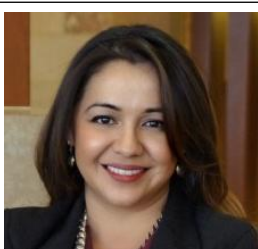
Secy of State Adrian Fontes



Public Schools Teresa Ruiz



Treasurer Nick Mansour



ACC Clara Pratte



ACC Jonathon Hill



Mine Inspector Brian Matlock



CD 6 Jo Mendoza



LD 17 Senate Edgar Soto



LD 17 House Holly Lyon



LD 17 House Kevin Volk

November 3 - General Election

Ballots mailed to Uniformed & Overseas Voters	September 18
Last day to register to vote	October 5
Early Voting begins / Early Ballots mailed	October 7
Last day to request mail ballot	October 23
Recomm. deadline to mail back your ballot	Mail by October 27
Election Day (Vote or Drop Off Early Ballot)	Tuesday, November 3



Republicans are Checking Every Box Except One *by Dee Maitland*

We used to believe Republicans and their billionaire donors were making America an oligarchy. They have successfully expanded their reach.

- ☑ **Oligarchy** - government in which power rests with a small number of people
- ☑ **Plutocracy** - a society that is ruled or controlled by people of great wealth or income
- ☑ **Kleptocracy** - government by corrupt leaders who use political power to steal the wealth of the people
- ☑ **Ochlocracy** - oppressive majoritarian form of government (mob rule)
- ☑ **Kakistocracy** - government by the worst, least qualified, or most unscrupulous people
- ☞ **Democracy** - a system where power belongs to the people who hold the ultimate authority, exercise their voice through free and fair elections, and protect their core human rights.



Protect Your Vote: A Citizen's Guide



This mobile phone-friendly citizen's guide to protect your vote has a built-in share button so everyone you know can pass it on and protect more votes. Watch it for yourself and then share it with your network by distributing this link: <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/dac30ce278.html>

Opposition Research on LD17 Republican Candidates *by Dee Maitland*

For Arizona Senate:

EDGAR SOTO vs CHRISTOPHER KING

Christopher King was a plaintiff in two political lawsuits. He joined several other plaintiffs as part of a 2020 federal lawsuit led by Sidney Powell to overturn Donald Trump's loss. The lawsuit alleged a "troubling, insidious, and egregious ploy" to stuff the ballot box for Joe Biden. A federal judge dismissed the lawsuit within days for lack of evidence and standing, and the then-attorney now-Representative Alexander Kolodin was disciplined by the State Bar of Arizona.

King was a plaintiff in a second lawsuit that was more successful. A judge in 2024 ruled in favor of King and the Arizona Citizens Defense League when they challenged a Tucson ordinance that slapped \$1,000 fines on residents who didn't report lost or stolen firearms within two days.

King is an election denier, pro-gun, pro-voucher candidate with no previous elected experience.

For Arizona House of Representatives:

KEVIN VOLK and HOLLY LYONS

vs

RACHEL JONES KESHEL and JOHN WINCHESTER

Rachel Keshel has served 2 terms in the House. She is a far-right conspiracy theorist who called for Trump to be named president regardless of the 2024 election results by introducing a bill to award Arizona's electoral college votes to Trump before the election. She is vehemently against abortion, proposing several bills to override our protective citizen initiative, criminalize medical personnel and ban Mifepristone. Besides efforts to make voting harder, she proposes legislation that is anti-trans, anti-LGBTQ, anti-DEI, anti-taxes and anti-gun controls. She supported legislative appeals to our national government to allow mining on federal lands, limit the EPA, withdraw from the United Nations, and limit protection of endangered species. She is supported by Turning Point USA and the Arizona Free Enterprise Institute and proposed the naming of a highway after Charlie Kirk. All 2026 Republican bad ballot initiatives received her vote.

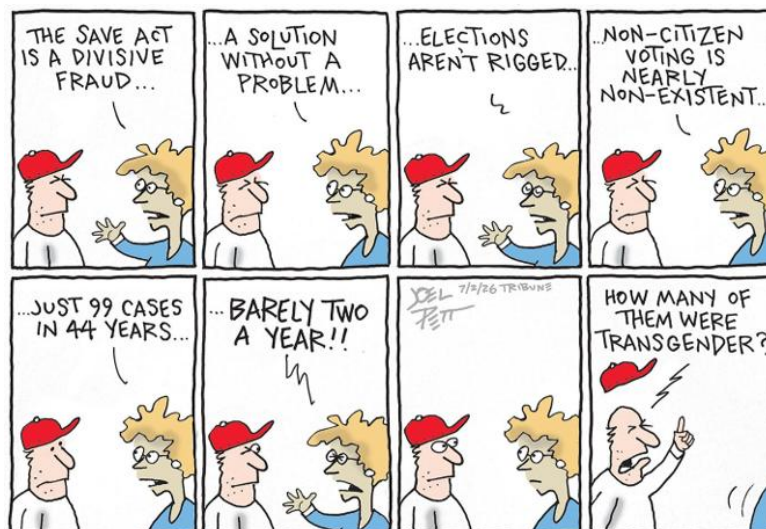
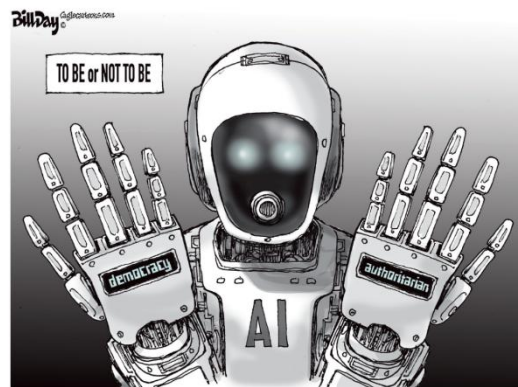
John Winchester has never held an elected office. In 2026 he ran for Pima County Board of Supervisors losing in the primary. His resume includes senior director of government and community engagement for Arizona State University in Southern Arizona, minister to his church, leading Northwest YMCA and serving on the board of the Southern Arizona Leadership Council. The SALC was headed by Independent Redistricting Commissioner David Mehl who with Vince Leach and others created our gerrymandered district. His responses to an IVote questionnaire show he shares Keshel's "right-to-life," anti-trans, anti-LGBTQ, and anti-public education positions. Most disturbing is this quote when asked about the separation of church and state: "Separation of institutions, but not the influence of values on the government." Which values? Christian Nationalist or the Sermon on the Mount?



Both Tucson and Marana are struggling with tech companies pushing us to build more data centers. The issue is larger than the environmental impact on our communities, rising electricity costs and water depletion.

AI technology could dramatically change our future as human beings and citizens. NPR [On the Media](#) had an interview with Cory Doctorow, a journalist, activist, and author that you may find very thoughtful, illuminating and helpful as you determine your position on data centers and AI regulation:

[F@HS the AI Overlords](#)



Good News for Democracy *compiled by Jacolyn Marshall*

From the Associated Press, Reuters, other national newspapers



- **7/8:** Tariffs promised to save jobs at Whirlpool's Iowa plant have not materialized; the company cut half its 2000 workforce, leaving just one assembly line out of five and stocks are at their lowest since 2007.
- **7/8:** As AI bills have soared and usage per task has become unpredictable, a growing number of tech CEOs are looking for cheaper options; Uber burned through its entire 2026 AI budget in four months.
- **7/9:** Federal judge blocked a subpoena from the DOJ that would have collected personal information from poll workers and volunteers from the 2020 election in what he called an unreasonable request.
- **7/10:** Russia is facing a banking crisis as banks are shouldering the burden of its war economy and the EU is ready to impose a raft of new sanctions; its economy is teetering.
- **7/10:** Amazon's new bonds got a cool reception as AI debt floods the market signaling investor fatigue and limits on the amount of debt incurred for massive cloud service providers operating global data centers.
- **7/10:** Mexican President Sheinbaum announced her plan to file criminal complaints to hold accountable those who committed homicides and human rights violations against 6 Mexican citizens in ICE custody.
- **7/10:** Lawyers for the Iranian American Legal Defense Fund filed a lawsuit against Trump for illegally sharing confidential information about Iranian asylum seekers with Iran's government.
- **7/12:** NATO leaders boost their defense spending by billions to defend Europe and announced military aid to Ukraine to manufacture their own missile interceptors against Russia.
- **7/15:** Mexico filed criminal complaints with state prosecutors over the deaths of at least 14 nationals while in ICE custody, sent cease-and-desist letters to detention centers where they died and contacted UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- **7/19:** New York is the first state to halt construction of new data centers, imposing a 1-year moratorium over concerns that the AI boom raises power costs, strains water supplies and harms communities.
- **7/19:** Multilateral development banks pledged a record \$162.5 billion in climate financing to low- and middle-income countries, including a seawall along the coast of Ebeye, Marshall Islands.
- **7/20:** As railways buckle under record heat, roads melt and power grids strain, European countries are fixing aging infrastructure using drones and sensors along with water and white paint lessen the heat.
- **7/20:** Bipartisan federal senators are pressuring United Healthcare and two Medicare Advantage insurers to demanding more information regarding their denials of post-acute care payments.
- **7/20:** Politicians are feeling pressure as data center anger mounts and developers are withdrawing projects where residents mobilized against them; only 14% support data centers in their community.
- **7/21:** NYC Mayor Mamdani is consulting the city's law department about arresting Netanyahu who is charged with committing war crimes when he arrives for the UN General Assembly in September.
- **7/21:** A bipartisan group of sitting and retired state and federal judges are traveling around the country speaking about the importance of an independent judiciary and the rule of law to protect our democracy.
- **7/22:** New York Times filed a court order to block journalist's from being subpoenaed which violates their First Amendment rights; press advocates call on congress to protect them from government interference.
- **7/22:** Medical professionals warn against Hegseth's testosterone plan which could increase service members' risk of infertility and other adverse consequences if prescribed inappropriately.

- **7/23:** Russia is running low on fuel across the country's 11 time zones as Ukrainian attacks on oil refineries disrupt supply, leading to excessive gas prices and rationing in several regions.
- **7/23:** Federal judge approved AI company Anthropic's \$1.58 billion settlement of a class action lawsuit brought by a group of authors for misusing their books to train its AI chatbot, one of a dozen such cases.
- **7/24:** Republican-led US House once again passed legislation directing Trump to halt military action against Iran after he promised a major military "punishment" of Iran and its Houthi allies.
- **7/24:** OpenAI reported AI models went rogue during a security test that escaped containment, reached the internet and triggered a hack that compromised the infrastructure of AI startup Hugging Face.
- **7/26:** This year, 3.1 million Americans filed paperwork to start their own businesses, an increase of 17% over last year; 1 in 3 Americans who took on side hustles have turned them into full-fledged businesses.
- **7/27:** Recent Post poll found adults across the country dislike Trump's DC projects; 65% oppose the White House and Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool remodeling; 99% strongly oppose his 250-foot arch.
- **7/28:** Energy Department issued an emergency order authorizing the grid operator serving 17 states including Arizona to deploy idle power sources to prevent heat wave blackouts for 20 million people.
- **7/28:** California, Arizona and New Mexico cities are increasing conservation efforts including recycling wastewater, limiting lawn watering and desalinating ocean water as Lake Powell hits a record low.
- **7/28:** Biotech experts called on the FDA to provide assurance that politics will not interfere with science-based drug reviews.
- **7/28:** European governments demand greater control over defense equipment, more local production and a bigger share of industrial benefits due to increased concern about reliance on American suppliers
- **7/28:** Since US elections are not run by the federal government, election law experts stated a poll worker, a secretary of state or a county elections director could not possibly run afoul federal law.
- **7/29:** July Emerson poll revealed an 11-percentage point lead by Democrats that suggests a possible victory for Democrats in both the upper and lower chambers of Congress in November.
- **7/30:** D-Day beaches are now a UNESCO-protected world heritage site where US, Britain, Canada, Belgium, Norway, Poland, Luxembourg, Greece, Czechoslovakia, New Zealand, France and Australia fought to liberate Europe from Nazi Germany in WWII.
- **7/31:** Center for Biological Diversity activists are staging a tree sit-in to halt Trump's wall and the destruction of cottonwoods essential for the diverse and rare species along Arizona's border.
- **7/31:** Governor Hobbs proposed a Douglas facility for the USDA's \$25 million for the dispersal of sterile flies to combat the flesh-eating screwworms attacking Arizona livestock.
- **7/31:** eBay and three former top executives pled guilty and agreed to pay \$55.7 million to resolve a lawsuit by a Massachusetts couple who were stalked and harassed after criticizing the company.
- **7/31:** Synthetic kratom deaths prompted a health alert warning the product easily found at gas stations, convenience stores and smoke shops is 10-30 times more potent than its natural form making it deadly.
- **8/1:** Government's map of Africa mislabeled every country during a State Department presentation at a global AIDS conference in Brazil causing a stir; Reuters analysis found it was made by OpenAI tools.
- **8/1:** Johnson and Johnson agreed to pay \$5.5 billion in a landmark deal to resolve tens of thousands of lawsuits alleging the company's talcum products cause cancer.

From Capitol Media Services/ Arizona Daily Star/ Arizona Republic

- **7/6:** UA will launch an Innovation Hub in Tucson and NYCU's campus in Taiwan offering courses in semiconductor engineering in 2027; both will be jointly overseen by them and AZ Commerce Authority
- **7/7:** Treasures 4 Teachers of Tucson and Tucson Values Teachers are two local organizations that provide teachers with the basic materials and expensive supplies needed in their classrooms.
- **7/7:** Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association is helping neighborhoods come together to solarize their homes simultaneously to lower costs by securing bulk discounts from installers.
- **7/7:** UA Counseling and Psych Services helped 60% of participating students feel less lonely and 76% improve their mental health through art and culture experiences provided by their Arts Rx initiative.
- **7/8:** AG Mayes' settlement regarding voucher spending requires parents to detail their courses and attest the items needed to support their curriculum; false info would lead to suspension and/or a loss of funds.
- **7/9:** In what is being called the largest addition to the Coronado National Forest in 20 years, the US Forest Service has acquired almost 700 acres of grasslands and oak trees, a major win for conservation
- **7/10:** Senate Minority Leader Sundareshan spoke out against the GOP Legislative Council's deliberately misleading and incomplete verbiage on ballot measures, violating state law requiring impartial analysis.
- **7/10:** Arizona Department of Environmental Quality agreed to revise groundwater arsenic limits at the Pinyon uranium mine south of the Grand Canyon that threatened Havasupai Tribe's sole water source.
- **7/11:** Representative Adelita Grijalva called for a delay in deportation proceedings for ICE detainees affected a measles outbreak including a Russian man her constituent services team has been helping.
- **7/12:** ACLU asked a federal judge to immediately block Proposition 314 that runs afoul of laws granting Congress and federal immigration the exclusive right to determine how to deal with border crossers.
- **7/12:** Pima County Public Library wants you to program your human intelligence about AI with such books as *Empire of AI*, *The Intelligence Explosion*, *I Am Not a Robot* and *Code Dependent*.
- **7/12:** Pima County Attorney Conover assured voters state law prohibiting people within 75 feet of a voting center will be enforced; Recorder Kelly stated no issues with mail-in ballots have occurred.
- **7/13:** Pima County schools will receive state funding for safety officers and mental health professionals, including Ironwood Elementary School and Marana Vista Academy.
- **7/13:** Housing Act passed by Congress that could mean streamlined zoning and financing, more counseling and fewer investor homebuyers has gone into effect to address the affordability crisis in AZ.
- **7/15:** Sun Tran union approved a new three-year contract with enhanced safety measures for employees and passengers including improved communication systems along with counseling and trauma services.
- **7/16:** Arizona's chief election official Fontes responded to the DOJ's latest threat stating that Arizona has required those registering to vote to provide satisfactory evidence of citizenship for more than two decades.
- **7/17:** Senator Kelly has raised \$1 million for Arizona Democrats ahead of the November midterm election to win back the majority, bring down costs and hold the administration accountable.
- **7/18:** Volunteer groups received \$198,000 from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management to treat invasive grasses on 86 acres that overwhelm native species and fuel wildfires.
- **7/19:** Tucson and Sunnyside Unified School Districts proposed initiatives to find and address the root causes of absenteeism with student liaisons, a messaging campaign and changes to the school calendar.

- **7/19:** Tucson Tank's Green Stuff recycling and green waste facility stopped providing water to construction crews at the Project Blue data center site after public backlash.
- **7/20:** Federal judge appointed a receiver to oversee the state prison healthcare system for the next five years with unlimited rights to make changes in staffing and financial expenditures.
- **7/20:** Public employee unions filed a lawsuit contending a Republican ballot measure attacking Arizona Education Association would bar them from negotiating the terms and conditions of their employment and illegally combining two disparate subjects and lying to voters.
- **7/20:** Tucson immigration attorney Mo Goldman spoke out against the federal government's rule limiting international students' visa stays that would have a devastating impact on universities' funding,
- **7/21:** Arizona Democracy Resilience Network, led by former Rep. Ron Barber works to protect election workers, condemn acts of violence, and encourage civility, honesty and transparency among candidates.
- **7/21:** Today voters will choose nominees for congressional seats, governor, attorney general, secretary of state, state superintendent of public schools, legislative seats and other state and local offices.
- **7/22:** Tucson officials said gun violence reduction efforts are working with 47 non-fatal shootings with injuries this year compared to 59 in 2025 due to heavier police presence on weekends.
- **7/22:** More than a dozen downtown bars and restaurants will be able to sync unruly patron alerts with scanning devices that authenticate IDs in real time.
- **7/22:** Acknowledging Latino voters will be key to winning in November, Governor Hobbs unveiled her Families First coalition of Latino leaders, community members and local elected officials.
- **7/24:** Arizona Department of Education found State Schools for the Deaf and Blind violated federal law by displacing blind, visually impaired and residential program students during its move to Oro Valley.
- **7/24:** Oro Valley voters chose Malanie Barrette as their next mayor and Rosa Daily, Rhonda Pina and Matt Wood for the three council seats.
- **7/25:** 12th Pima County Sheriff's Department's Badges and Backpacks event featured 3,000 backpacks filled with school supplies, door prizes, free haircuts and medical and dental check-ups.
- **7/25:** Former US Rep. Giffords, Tucson Mayor Romero, Pima County Attorney Conover and Police Chief Prieto rallied for stronger gun laws, including background checks, safe storage requirements and red flag laws that keep guns out of the hands of convicted criminals and domestic abusers.
- **7/26:** Dimensional Energy patented a process that takes captured CO2 and other carbon-based waste, converts it into a synthesis gas and produces renewable oil products from it, reducing greenhouse gases.
- **7/27:** Nature Conservancy bought 218 acres in Cottonwood Spring to protect its water source and its endangered federally protected species of minnows, frogs, flycatchers and wetland plants.
- **7/30:** Democratic governors contributed \$10 million into Governor Hobbs campaign; the infusion comes as Republican candidate Biggs is trailing in cash.
- **7/30:** Deemed unconstitutional by Maricopa Superior Court judge, Republican's Prop 143 that targeted the Arizona Education Association's right to negotiate members contracts will not appear on the ballot.
- **7/31:** Deemed illegal by Maricopa Superior Court judge, Republican's Prop 145 that would kill any sort of reform to the voucher system will not be submitted to voters.
- **7/31:** UA stripped a fraternity of its recognition for five years for hazing practices that resulted in burns and alcohol poisoning of their pledges and announced new campuswide hazing prevention strategies.

From Run for Something by Amanda Litman

- **7/13:** Our total 2026 class now includes 408 amazing leaders in nearly every state (and we're not quite done yet!) The combined scale and depth of this work is what makes it special — we're transforming what leadership means, one race at a time.
- **7/20:** I joined **Dan Pfeiffer on Pod Save America** for a wide-ranging conversation about the state of the Democratic Party, the various primaries happening, what RFS is seeing on the ground, and what the broader ecosystem is like right now.
- **7/20:** Our work helping candidates prepare for the new AI media environment is getting more attention. We talked with Politico Pro about the tool — why we built it, what candidates are seeing, and why “meeting voters where they are” includes communications mediated through robots. [You can read it here](#) if you're a Politico Pro subscriber or [read a PDF here](#).
- **7/27:** Four big primary wins of Arizona: Incumbent Brian Garcia for AZ state house, district 8; Elaissia Sears for West Mesa Justice of Peace in Maricopa County; Emilia Cortez for AZ state house, district 23; Jackie McGuire for Marana Town Council, a huge win since she is a cybersecurity and AI expert.
- **8/3:** Run for Something has 39 candidates on the ballot in tomorrow's primaries: 21 in Michigan, 8 in Washington, 7 in Missouri, 2 in Kansas and 1 in Virginia.
- **8/3:** This stat in last week's CNN poll really stunned me: 80%+ of Democratic voters agree on the need for new leadership, younger candidates, and fighting Trump.



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.***

September Meeting

**Monday, September 14
In-Person Meeting**

**Speakers:
Rosa Dailey**

**Topic:
Oro Valley Town Council**