



Democrats of Oro Valley

Newsletter
June
2026

NIL CARBORUNDUM ILLEGITIMI

Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson
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Top political experts have officially shifted **18** seats in Democrat's favor. We only need to win **3** to flip the House blue and Democrats are leading in polls by **14** points. While House Democrats are committed to saving healthcare and lowering the cost of living, Republicans are determined to continue lining the pockets of their billionaire buddies and leaving everyday Americans in the dust. Keep the faith and donate. *Hakeem Jeffries, House Minority Leader*

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

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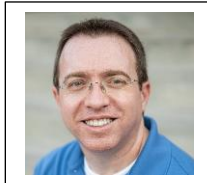
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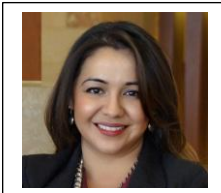
Guest Speakers: Jonathon Hill, Clara Pratte & Ken Minkoff



Jonathon Hill, Candidate for the Arizona Corporation Commission

Jonathon brings a unique perspective to the Commission, drawing from an unconventional yet highly relevant background. He is neither a politician nor a businessman—he is a scientist, an engineer, and a proud Arizonan.

Jonathon spent the past 18 years at Arizona State University working on several NASA space missions focused on Mars, Jupiter, and asteroids. He holds a Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering and a Ph.D. in Geological Sciences.



Clara Pratte, Candidate for the Arizona Corporation Commission

Clara built her career on public service and is now a successful small business owner and entrepreneur. She is running to lower costs for Arizonans, restore integrity to the Arizona Corporation Commission, strengthen consumer protections, and ensure Arizona harnesses its clean energy potential before it's too late.

A member of the Navajo Nation, Clara and I grew up without access to electricity and running water until her teens so this race to oversee Arizona's utilities is personal. Her career spans decades of advocating for tribal communities and small businesses, serving under three U.S. Presidents and four Navajo Nation Presidents.



Ken Minkoff, Chair of ITAA's UnSeat Ciscomani Team Leader

Ken is new to politics, having joined Indivisible Tucson Action Alliance last spring to fight the Trump regime and became team leader for the UnSeat Ciscomani Team. 50 of the team's 155 members are highly active in multiple areas of energy and action, all of them laser-focused on unseating Juan Ciscomani and electing Jo Mendoza for CD 6.

Ken looks forward to sharing information about his team's actions with Oro Valley Democrats and discovering ways for us all to collaborate to achieve their important goals.

Ken is a psychiatrist who moved to Tucson in 2017 and now resides in Vail. He and his wife, who is also a psychiatrist, have a BH system consulting company that consults with large systems all over the US.

Sign these petitions before the end of June!



This constitutional amendment secures your right to automatically receive a ballot for every election, cements our trusted voter ID laws that have worked since 2005, and ensures that only eligible U.S. citizens decide our state's future. Most importantly, it draws a clear line in the sand by explicitly forbidding politicians in the Legislature from ever killing mail-in voting or cutting down our early voting windows. Don't let them silence our communities. Join the fight, sign the petition, and let's secure our right to vote today!



The momentum behind the "Protect Education, Accountability Now!" campaign is officially making history, fueled by the incredible energy of organizers and volunteers all over Arizona. But the clock is ticking toward our July 1st deadline. We cannot afford to slow down now. We must keep pushing to get this structural reform on the ballot so Arizona voters can finally rein in a runaway ESA voucher program that has already drained over a billion taxpayer dollars from our public schools putting them in jeopardy.

TUCSON OPINION

The mission should come first when serve Arizonans

The following is the opinion and analysis of the writer:

The voters of Arizona elect our state legislators to go to work on our behalf. Among their most important responsibilities is passing a state budget — determining how billions of taxpayer dollars will be spent.

Yet the Republican leadership of the Arizona House recently decided to send all state representatives on recess for a month after working just one day in May — and without getting a bipartisan budget deal done.



EDGAR SOTO



HOLLY LYON

We both served in the military — Edgar served in the Marine Corps, and Holly served for 26 years in the Air Force, retiring as a colonel. In the military, mission comes first.

You identify the objective, bring people together, work through disagreements and challenges, and stay focused on the mission until the job is done.

The country depends on that kind of commitment. Arizona should expect no less from its elected officials.

Going on recess for a month when the work is unfinished is exactly what's wrong with politics today. It's nothing new — both chambers went on five

recesses last year.

Rep. Kevin Volk spoke out to stop the recess. His objection was not partisan; it was principled. He argued the Legislature should remain at work, continue negotiations, and fulfill its responsibilities to the people of Arizona. For a moment, it appeared there might be bipartisan support to do exactly that. But in the end, every single Republican representative voted to recess.

Even if a budget is passed before the June 30 deadline, Arizonans should ask why this critical work — the primary responsibility for which they are being paid — was left until the final weeks of the session.

Rather, the GOP-led committees have been wasting time discussing bills that have already failed, bills that only have party-line support, and partisan nonbinding resolutions. This while serious bills proposed by Democrats — aimed at lowering the costs of prescription drugs and preventing insurance providers from denying owed coverage — are not being moved forward by Republican leadership.

Neither of us believes public service should be about blind partisanship. Arizona once had leaders such as Sen. John McCain, a fellow veteran who was willing to challenge his own party when he believed it was the right thing to do. That independent spirit seems

increasingly rare in today's Legislature, where party loyalty too often takes precedence over independent judgment and problem-solving.

The state budget will determine how nearly \$18 billion of taxpayer money will be spent. That responsibility should not be rushed, delayed or treated as an afterthought. Every legislator represents roughly 250,000 Arizonans whose voices deserve to be heard in the process.

If lawmakers fail in that mission, hard-working Arizonans will bear the consequences.

We believe that government should be mission-driven — not operating crisis to crisis or recess to recess. That has been our focus inside and outside of our military service.

There is a lot of work to be done — tackling costs of living, improving education, securing our water, and protecting our communities. We're running for office to put the mission of solving problems and serving people first, with a deep sense of responsibility to the Arizonans we serve.

Edgar Soto is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Vice President at Pima Community College, and community leader. Now he is running to represent LD17 in the Arizona Senate. Holly Lyon is a former teacher, retired U.S. Air Force Colonel, and former IT management consultant who is running for the AZ House in LD17.

Voices From Across Our Community from chair Nancy Musgrave



The Dems 4 Picture Rocks club is having its first-ever **Living Desert Alliance Speaker Series** beginning next Wednesday, June 10, from 5:45–7:00 pm at the Oro Valley Library. Come meet your neighbors, spark new ideas, and hear from Nick Maya, Program Manager of **the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection** as he updates us on the work of the Coalition, the proposed Interstate 11 and how conservation and land-use planning shape wildlife across the Sonoran Desert. Please join us!



Our Founding Fathers Did Not Envision This by Dee Maitland

If you are like me the almost daily barrage of Trump's offences is too much. The slush fund threw me over the edge. My hope is that every day we are getting a civics lesson that can help us save democracy in this 250th year. We are seeing how norms, accommodations, gentlemen's agreements, shared beliefs, protocols, and decency can be overthrown. How many agencies are being destroyed because Trump and his minions do not understand why they exist or how they work? It is apparent that our Founding Fathers did not envision a President this corrupt or a cabal as motivated as the Project 2025 perpetrators.

We can outsmart these bastards. Each of us has interests or expertise we can craft as messages to voters. I like sharing commencement speeches. A great commencement speech clarifies what it means to be a good and successful person and instills hope for the future. One of my favorites is President Obama's 2014 address to West Point cadets in 2014. First, he treated them like adults by sharing his assessment of America's relationship with the world and his vision for the future. He closed with an invitation:

Class of 2014, we cannot do that without you... You leave this place to carry forward a legacy that no other military in human history can claim. You do so as part of a team that extends beyond your units or even our armed forces. For in the course of your service, you will work as a team with diplomats and development experts.

You'll get to know allies and train partners. And you will embody what it means for America to lead the world.

Don't you just want to be part of his team? Then we have Trump's 2025 commencement speech at West Point:

The job of the US Armed Forces is ... to spread democracy to everybody around the world at the point of a gun.

Do you need a prestige education for that?

And then there is the address this year by Secretary of "War" Hegseth who said:

"Our diversity is our strength" is the single dumbest phrase in military history. We had generals saying this with a straight face on national television. It was absolute nonsense.

After bragging about Venezuela and Iran Hegseth had this to say:

You are in the profession of arms. You feel comfortable inside the violence so that our fellow citizens can live peacefully. Lethality is your calling card and victory our only acceptable end state. Your soldiers must be ready for anything, because the world is only getting more complex.

Which approach to the world do you want our Commander and Chief to have? Diplomacy or lethality? Comparisons like these are important.

So many podcasts, television shows and movies can clarify our thoughts and positions on the idiocy coming at us and help define our push back messages with historical lessons, good ideas and motivational stories. Here are a few of my favorites:

- [Two of America's Thorniest Issues are dividing Marana](#) in the New York Times. The 200+ comments are particularly interesting on this local issue
- [Trump as Carnac the Magnificent](#). This episode of Justice Matters is a delightful comic sendup and a reminder of when we could laugh together
- [Chris Hayes and Ezra Klein on AI](#). So much food for thought in just 30 minutes
- [On the Media](#). 4 episodes demonstrate how FEMA was corrupted
- [Inside Trump's Head](#). A fun, gossipy podcast with Michael Wolff, a Trump biographer

- [The Master Plan](#). Season 1 is Legalizing Corruption starting with Watergate.
- [Master Plan Season 2](#). The Kingmakers talking about the creation of Project 2025 dating back to Reagan.
- TV: The West Wing is over 25 years old but relevant today in its depiction of the unchanging complexity of governing and the friendship bonds that transcend disagreements
- TV: The Man in the High Castle clearly shows the horrible results of authoritarian power. I could only stomach one season.
- Movie: A House of Dynamite. The film follows the U.S. government and military's real-time, high-stakes response after a single, unattributed missile is launched toward Chicago. The good intentions of our civil servants; the limits of our technology; and the importance of international relations are all on display in just 1/12 hours.

Together we can outsmart them!



BEEP! BEEP!



🔔📅 VOTER REGISTRATION VOLUNTEERS 📅🔔

We are looking for volunteer leaders across the state to work with their county and local legislative district parties to help lead voter registration efforts in their communities!

If you are interested in becoming a voter registration leader in your area, please let us know by signing up at: <https://www.mobilize.us/azdems/event/919311/>

DO YOU WANT TO HELP THE VOTER PROTECTION EFFORT?

Are you interested in Voter Protection? The Party needs dedicated Democrats, like you, to help us ensure elections go smoothly for Arizona voters.

Opportunities include:

- Poll Observation
- Ballot Processing Observation (Count and Cure)
- AZ Voter Assistance Hotline Volunteer
- Temp Paid County Positions

[Fill out our interest form](#) to let us know you'd like to be involved.

Arizona Democratic Party Jewish Caucus: Why We're Speaking Up in Solidarity with the Black Community by Maureen Salz

The Supreme Court's recent redistricting decisions weakened a key part of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that had supported race-based redistricting to protect minority voting power. This has left a lot of people in our community unsettled—and for many of us, it's not just "politics." But when redistricting is attacked Democracy is attacked. When protections against voter dilution are weakened, we hear an old, familiar message: some voices matter less. Our history makes it hard to shrug that off.

That's why we feel a responsibility to show up in solidarity with the Black community, especially when fair representation is on the line. In the Jewish Caucus, we often come back to a simple idea: our experience with prejudice and antisemitism shapes how we see threats to democracy, and it pushes us toward building real partnerships with other communities. We've learned (sometimes the hard way) that political power isn't abstract—it affects safety, dignity, and whether people get a say in decisions that shape their lives.

We think about Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel marching beside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. not because it makes for a good photo, but because it captures a decision many people had to make then—and we have to make now: do we step in, or do we stay on the sidelines? For a lot of Jewish Arizonans watching what's happening with redistricting, the frustration isn't performative. It feels like a line is being crossed.

Still, frustration by itself doesn't change maps, laws, or outcomes. What has made a difference—over and over—is steady work: listening, showing up consistently, and organizing with partners even when it's complicated. For us, standing with the Black community means backing efforts that protect fair representation and speaking out when those protections are chipped away, even if it's politically inconvenient.

Democracy is something we have to keep choosing—through turnout, advocacy, and attention to the rules that decide whose votes count. When any group's political voice is deliberately weakened, it doesn't stay contained. It makes it easier to do the same thing to others later, and it chips away at trust in the whole system.

Emotions come and go; what tends to last is what we do next. Many of us carry a memory—personal, family, communal—of what it looks like when prejudice is tolerated, and minority communities are treated as expendable. That memory is why we're choosing solidarity now. If you're looking for a place to plug in, join us: support fair-map efforts in Arizona, partner with Black-led organizations, and stay engaged through the next election cycle. We're stronger—and safer—when we protect democracy together!

Maureen Salz is a member of the Executive Committee of Arizona State Democratic Party Jewish Caucus



Democrats of Oro Valley will meet by **Zoom** this month on June 8th from 6:00 - 7:30 pm.

TACO, NACHO and more Trump Acronyms by Carlos Greaves

If you've kept up with the news this past year, you might be familiar with the acronym **TACO** (Trump Always Chickens Out). Perhaps you've even heard the more recent acronym **NACHO** (Not A Chance Hormuz Opens). But there are plenty more Trump acronyms where those came from. Here are a few you probably haven't heard yet that are equally relevant:

TAMALE — Trump Always Makes America Look Embarrassing

TORTA — Trump Only Rarely Thinks Ahead

FAJITA — Forget About Jurisprudence If Trump's Around

FIESTA — Finalizing Iran Entente Seems Totally Aspirational

DISCOTECA — Donald's Iran Strategy Consists Of Threatening Ending Civilization Arbitrarily

CINCO DE MAYO — Certainly Iran Not Ceasing Operations Despite Ego-Maniacal Asshole Yelling Obscenities

CORONA WITH LIME — Come On, Republicans! Obtain Nuts Already! Wallowing In Trump's Horrendous Leadership Is Manifestly Evil!

CORN ENCHILADA — Clearly Obama Realized Neutralizing Enemy Navigational Chokepoint Hormuz Impossible; Looked At Deal Alternatives

TORTILLA — Trump Obviously Russian Toady Intentionally Limiting Liberty Abroad

CEVICHE — Cowardly Enabler Vance Is Complicit Helper Elf

CHIMICHANGA — Criminal Hegseth Is Making It Clear He Approves Nuclear Genocidal Armageddon

TABLESIDE GUAC — Trump Authoritarian Bully Leading Economic Slowdown; It's Decidedly Expensive Gassing Up A Car

CHICKEN QUESADILLAS — Closing Hormuz Is Causing Kerfuffle; Every Negotiation Quickly Unravels; Economic Situation Awful; Donald Is Laughably Lousy American Sovereign

TEQUILA JELLO SHOTS — Trump Escalations Questionable Under International Law And Jail Evidently Looks Like Only Solution; Hague Or Tribunal Somewhere?



Good News for Democracy *compiled by Jacolyn Marshall*



From the Associated Press, Reuters, other national newspapers

- **5/7:** US Supreme Court rejected Apple's request to block a judicial order that found the iPhone maker in violation of sweeping court-mandated changes to its App Store as part of an antitrust lawsuit.
- **5/8:** Ukrainian drones are hitting targets deep inside Russia, reaching up to 1,500 miles into the Ural Mountains, hitting refineries, fertilizer plants and ports, and closing airports.
- **5/8:** International Revenue Service representative reminds those penalized for late tax returns during Covid have until July 10 to claim a tax refund due them from the IRS.
- **5/9:** Chief Justice Roberts laments the public perception of the Supreme Court as an institution being driven by political outcomes rather than constitutional law and questions the court's legitimacy.
- **5/9:** A new poll by a nonpartisan health research organization found 61% of all respondents said health costs will have a major impact on who they vote including at least half of MAHA supporters.
- **5/9:** ABC News-Ipsos poll found 87% of Americans disapprove of the AI generated image depicting Trump as Jesus that sparked widespread backlash and allegations of blasphemy even among the GOP.
- **5/10:** Global perceptions of the US deteriorated for a second consecutive year and are now worse than views of Russia as Trump's policies continue to severely strain the NATO alliance.
- **5/11:** As the war with Iran sent the price of virgin plastic skyward, the recycled plastics industry has gained a greater foothold among manufacturers.
- **5/12:** American farmers are ignoring USDA surveys in their latest sign of distrust in government data, fearing the data would work against them when harvests are abundant.
- **5/14:** Latest Reuters revealed 66% of poll responders said Trump hasn't explained the Iran war including 1 in 3 Republicans and almost all Democrats; 63% said their personal finances have taken a hit.
- **5/15:** Meta employees asked staffers to sign an online petition protesting the installation of mouse-tracking software on their computers, indicating a labor movement is growing inside the media giant.
- **5/17:** Nashville nonprofit Ella's House helps pregnant students with free campus housing, low-rent housing for mothers with small children, baby supplies, counseling, doula services and job coaching.
- **5/17:** Despite Republican redistricting, many analysts still believe Democrats have the upper hand in the election for the House where Republican's currently hold a slim majority.
- **5/18:** US Senate's parliamentarian removed security funding for Trump's ballroom from a massive spending package, imperiling the use of taxpayer money for the contentious project.
- **5/18:** USA Today reported 6 in 10 Americans oppose \$1.5 trillion for the Pentagon, the largest since WWII and slashing non-defense spending by 10%, cutting homelessness relief, HIV treatments programs, NASA research and other program funds.
- **5/20:** To date, 36 House Republicans and 20 Democrats are retiring, representing the largest number since 1992; in the Senate, 7 Republicans and 4 Democrats won't return next year.
- **5/20:** Prosecutors in Minnesota issued a nationwide arrest warrant for the ICE agent who shot a Venezuelan immigrant during Trump's Operation Metro Surge earlier this year.
- **5/21:** Across the US hospitals and patient advocates are asking state lawmakers and local officials to help financially distressed hospitals; bills have been proposed in California and Pennsylvania.

- **5/21:** Two police officers who defended the US Capitol from January 6th rioters sued to block Trump's \$1.8 billion payments to the insurrectionists and paramilitary groups committing violence in his name.
- **5/22:** Canada's reserve Rangers unit is maintaining a year-round presence in Greenland and other Nordic countries' communities, strengthening alliances where the US is a less reliable partner.
- **5/23:** Ukraine's long and mid-range drones are burning Russian oil refineries and stalling its ground offensive; Russia's rate of battlefield advances is at its slowest since 2023.
- **5/24:** NAACP called for Black athletes, alumni and fans to withhold athletic and financial support from public universities in Southern states that are redistricting election maps.
- **5/24:** CDC suspended entry of some travelers for 30 days to reduce the risk of Ebola spreading as international concerns rise over a new outbreak in the Republic of Congo.
- **5/26:** Ocean Science Lab at UC Santa Barbara reported an AI assisted thermal camera monitoring system tracks gray whale locations and alerts nearby ships to prevent whale strikes that kill them.
- **5/27:** Wind farm in New Mexico, the largest clean energy installation in the US will come online June 15 to power 1 million homes annually, including 550-mile electricity transmission line to Arizona.
- **5/27:** US Supreme Court rejected a lawsuit that attempted to sue California and Washington state over a crash blamed on an undocumented truck driver.
- **5/28:** Texas land slide vote that unseated US Senator Cornyn, a 4-term pillar of the GOP establishment was applauded by Democrats, noting his rival Paxton is more vulnerable to a Democratic upset.
- **5/29:** Hunted to near extinction in the 1900s, humpback whales have made a huge comeback due to the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act and international bans.
- **5/29:** CDC expanded airport Ebola screenings of passengers arriving from Congo and Uganda; seven Americans are being monitored; only one has tested positive so far.
- **5/29:** UC Irvine researchers have built the biggest Asian American health database to unravel some troubling new trends linking race and cancer among Asian American women.
- **5/30:** In a culture plagued by mass shootings, 1.2 million private security guards, twice the number of the nation's police officers are keeping others safe in banks, hospitals, schools, stores, apartments and municipal buildings; some states are passing laws to enhance their training, safety and legal protections.
- **5/30:** New quarter coins commemorating America's 250th anniversary will celebrate the Declaration of Independence, Mayflower Compact, US Constitution, and the Gettysburg Address.
- **5/31:** Federal judge ordered the removal of Trump's name from the Kennedy Center, its website and other official materials within 14 days, ruling the rebranding of the institution is illegal.
- **5/31:** Trump's push for Republican states to draw more favorable House of Representatives districts before the midterm elections suffered setbacks when South Carolina and Alabama's efforts failed.
- **5/31:** Michigan cash-aid program for moms and babies is operating in 60 communities throughout the state, reaching 23,000 infants a year; Rx Kids looks to expand to another 20 states this year.
- **6/2:** Despite recent controversies, Arizona's voting rules have not changed significantly. On June 24 early in-person voting begins, and mail-in ballots are sent to all voters who want them.
- **6/3:** An emerging field of Geriatric care managers are being hired to help coordinate doctors, living facilities and manage crises to help a growing number of older adults remain safe and independent.

From Capitol Media Services/ Arizona Daily Star/ Arizona Republic

- **5/7:** Tucson City officials shut off water access to the planned Project Blue data centers complex and are demanding reimbursement for their unauthorized use of city water at the construction site.

- **5/7:** Governor Hobbs vetoed the GOP's "unbalanced and reckless" budget that would cause Arizona to default on debt obligations, endanger children and adults' healthcare, slash public safety funding.
- **5/7:** On National Day of Awareness for missing and murdered indigenous girls and women, Pima County Attorney Conover noted Arizona ranks third in the nation for solving indigenous cold cases.
- **5/8:** AG Mayes announced a Pima county resolution directing employees to refuse cooperating with ICE agents does not violate state or federal laws, noting that "not helping is not the same as impeding."
- **5/8:** AG Mayes issued an order demanding the owner of Redwood Mobile Home Park be held in contempt, asking the court to compel the owner to complete repairs and pay \$25,000 per violation.
- **5/10:** Governor Hobbs stated her concern about border czar Homan's threats to flood our streets with ICE agents that could lead to the same problems that resulted in two deaths in Minneapolis.
- **5/10:** AG Mayes stated state and federal laws forbid communities from interfering with immigration enforcement, but the feds cannot require our cooperation without running afoul of the US Constitution.
- **5/10:** After visiting Florence Processing Center, US Reps. Grijalva, Stanton and Ansari introduced a bill to address its inhumane conditions, limit stays to 12 hours and require more transparency and oversight.
- **5/11:** Governor Hobbs urged the federal government to extend the US-Mexico-Canada free-trade agreement of agricultural exports as the deadline for review approaches.
- **5/11:** Nonprofit Vote Riders volunteers are helping US citizens in six states including Arizona obtain the legal documents they need to vote such as IDs, birth certificates and proof of residency.
- **5/11:** Outside experts are supportive of Arizona, California and Nevada's plan to reduce their take from the Colorado River for the next 30 months, calling it an important step toward conservation.
- **5/12:** Interest in encouraging the development of new housing has created an opportunity for owners of shopping centers; under new city and state rules vacant buildings could be redeveloped into housing.
- **5/12:** Tucson and Pima County Safe City program offers social services and virtual court for people arrested for misdemeanor homelessness as a result more people are accepting the services offered.
- **5/14:** AG Mayes and the ACLU have challenged state laws barring specially trained nurse practitioners from providing abortion services, asking a Maricopa County judge to declare them unconstitutional.
- **5/14:** Tucson city officials met to address affordable housing and homelessness with strategies that include zoning reforms, public investment and city-backed housing development.
- **5/15:** AG Mayes' lawsuits against Greystar one of the biggest landlords in the US resulted in \$1.6 million in settlement refunds due to Arizona renters; some tenant costs had skyrocketed 40%.
- **5/15:** Arizona Auditor General's Office reported the state lacked sufficient oversight of vouchers that allowed unlawful ESA purchases totaling \$100 million from July 2023 to October 2025 alone.
- **5/15:** Pima County Department of Environmental Quality cited Project Blue contractor for air quality violations of its dust permit for failing to employ proper mitigation practices.
- **5/16:** Arizona Democratic senators called for a full audit of the state's Joint Legislative Audit Committee for its lack of oversight of the ESA voucher program's fraud vulnerability and abuses.
- **5/15:** AG Mayes asks state lawmakers to once again allow prosecutors to seize the assets of those accused of criminal conduct when there's clear evidence it's tied to criminal activity by order of a judge.
- **5/17:** Southwest Folklife Alliance supports cultural and neighborhood projects rooted in advocacy for food justice, shade equity, green space development and cultural preservation.
- **5/17:** Opponents of the Copper World mining project in the Santa Rita Mountains placed a lien on 169 acres of state land that Hudbay purchased to keep the land from being developed for now.

- **5/18:** Federal judge who ordered the takeover of Arizona's prison healthcare system for unconstitutional inadequate care is ready to appoint a receiver to oversee 25,000 state inmate's care by month's end.
- **5/18:** 75 groups and other entities signed a letter asking Congress to allot \$2 billion to invest in water conservation programs to increase available supplies of the drought-striction Colorado River Basin.
- **5/19:** Tucson Police and Pima County Sheriff's Departments are addressing street-racing by creating a takeover task force, gathering 88-crime tips, working with business owners and monitoring social media.
- **5/19:** Maricopa County Superior Court judge voided Pinal County's ICE cooperation deal noting the attorney had no authority to enter into the agreement.
- **5/21:** New affordable 72-unit complex of apartments for low-income seniors including some who were formerly homeless opened in mid-town Tucson; it is the third project by developer Newport SW.
- **5/21:** University of Arizona officials told faculty and staff members to contact the UA's police department if non-university law enforcement officials show up on campus or enter classrooms.
- **5/22:** Immigration attorney Mo Goldman disputed claims by DHS that a DACA recipient reentered the US illegally and assaulted an ICE officer, citing documentation and video evidence proving otherwise.
- **5/23:** AG Mayes sued Vet Link Solutions for misrepresenting services it was not licensed to provide; it settled for \$1.2 million in restitution to customers, \$700 K in civil penalties and \$50 K in legal fees.
- **5/23:** Tucson Rapid Response members asked law enforcement agencies to investigate ICE agents' use of pepper spray against an observer last month; Pima County Attorney Conover supported the probe.
- **5/23:** 67 drivers were cited for using cellphones to capture a fatal commercial accident on I-10, noting their distracted driving caused a significant slowdown and the possibility of another collision.
- **5/24:** UA Sonoyta Mud Turtle Recovery Team is planning an emergency rescue operation for the endangered species that could be wiped out by Trump's second border wall across Southern Arizona.
- **5/24:** UA College of Engineering launched a training program for military and civilian leaders to defend the US from growing threats by creating low-cost, mass-produced drones and high-speed missiles.
- **5/24:** Governor Hobbs vetoed an anti-gun-tracking bill that would make it harder for law enforcement to catch violent criminals, noting merchant codes are vital to cracking down on illegal gun trafficking.
- **5/25:** Arizona Department of Environmental Quality will receive \$20 million to address PFAS forever chemical and other harmful contaminants in the drinking water in disadvantaged communities.
- **5/26:** Startup company Graphyte reached an agreement with Coconino County to squeeze forest debris into dense pellets and bury them underground to mitigate future wildfires in fire-prone areas.
- **5/28:** Governor Hobbs designated a map for renewable energy projects to ensure more ways to generate power, stating "if the highest and best value of the land is solar energy that will be the case."
- **5/29:** TUSD governing board approved raising teacher salaries by \$3,000 and higher pay for substitutes that stem from a 15% voter approved Operations Budget Override and the state Classroom Site Fund.
- **5/29:** Bryan Brown Foundation honors the legacy of Officer Brown who was killed in the line of duty by uplifting Native youth at a weeklong leadership and mentorship program for Tohono and other tribes.
- **5/29:** Arizona leads the southwest in training semiconductor workers; 47 partnerships including UA and Intel provide credentialing programs, community college training and graduate engineering pathways.
- **5/30:** Tucson-based Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit against US Fish and Wildlife Service asking a judge to set a date by which the agency must list the small snail species as endangered.
- **5/31:** After the Arizona Republic published the story of her ten-month detention, a 71-year-old woman was released; she and 10 other detainees from Eloy and Florence centers were left at a Phoenix church.

- **6/1:** Maricopa County Superior Court judge gave lawmakers and the governor until November to fund a system that will ensure public schools meet state standards for safe buildings and academic equipment.
- **6/1:** A team of researchers is testing a free online tool that tracks crops' water-use; when paired with irrigation data that could lead to big water savings for Arizona farmers.
- **6/1:** 30 bicyclists participated in Friday's La Rosa Ride across Tucson's southside to bring attention to ICE detentions and deportations in Arizona.
- **6/1:** UA is integrating its UA Global Campus online institution into the main university with the same courses taught by the same faculty to better meet the needs of UAGC general education requirements.
- **6/2:** Ukraine Brigadier General stated Russia's exhausted army is incapable of making major breakthroughs, which will allow Ukraine to seize the battlefield initiative in the next six months.
- **6/3:** Volunteers are digging ponds and restoring wetlands in the White Mountains to save Chiricahua leopard frogs, one of the 800 animals in Arizona on the Endangered Species list.
- **6/3:** UA's New Start summer program for low-income and first-generation students with courses in literacy, writing, math is now free of charge for selected students before they enter the fall semester.

From Run for Something by Amanda Litman

- **5/11:** Last week we endorsed our newest class of candidates - **51** amazing new leaders across **23** states.
- **5/18:** Louisiana and Mississippi state legislatures are on the ballot in 2027. We're actively recruiting candidates for those seats now.
- **6/1:** Last week saw four big wins in run-off elections in Texas. And we've got another 20 candidates in contested elections this week. June is going to be just as busy in the best way. The work we do now is what lays the foundation to win big in November. Thanks for making it possible.



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.***

**July 13
Zoom Meeting**

**Monday, July 13
Zoom Meeting**

**Speakers:
TBA**

**Topic:
TBA**