



Yavapai County DEMOCRAT

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We're on the Web. Visit us at
www.yavdem.org

Find the Arizona Democratic Party at
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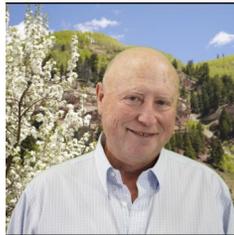
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Sowing and Growing

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



The recent historic snowfall has most all looking forward to spring in Central Arizona. While we wait for the weather around these parts to warm, our newly elect-

ed House of Representatives has turned the heat up on the Trump Family & Administration. Our successful efforts in turning the House Blue in 2018 are showing blossoming investigations that are likely to bear fruit by summer. The Liar and Chief and his lot are currently subjects of investigations by the House Judiciary Committee,

The Special Counsel, The US attorney for the Southern District of New York, The FBI, The House Committee on Oversight & Reform, The House Committee on Ways & Means, The House Intelligence Committee (we know they will find a deficit!), and The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. I am certain these inquiries will serve up one ripe misstep, transgression and criminal behavior after another by this administration and that these fruits will severely limit the effectiveness of the Trump government. At the same time, as we recently have seen, we must not take our eyes off the ball for one minute, because media coverage of these transgressions seems to further cement the Republican base and heels are dug in further and deeper. Trumps approval ratings

(cont'd next page)

(Lutes, continued from page 1) are up. We must work in 2019 to develop our Precincts, get to know our Democratic leaning neighbors and bring out another 10,000 additional voters in 2020.

With all the powerful women elected to the House in 2018, Jahana Hayes, Ilhan Omar, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, to name just a few, being lead by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, we are witnessing the more conservative flanks of the Democratic Party acknowledge the need for change to a more progressive narrative. We are now seeing Democrats finding more common ground on the most important issues facing our Nation. These strong women have made it clear that, as a party, we have compromised too much. They see special responsibility in their roles in shifting the conversation in areas where we cannot show a splintered front, such as the environment and the urgent need for change in US policy. Our newly elected Democratic leadership will not compromise on the right of every American to be covered by health & dental care. These women understand that it should not be a political statement to say we all should have equal rights. Democratic women of the House understand that racial justice, women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights, marriage equality & economic dignity are universal rights and should not be partisan issues.

Be proud of the work we did in 2018 & be excited that, by setting the stage in 2019, we can create the 2020 in which love for humanity triumphs.

I think it is important that we all work hard at the state level to make sure our voices are heard in legislation currently being proposed by our Republican held Statehouse. There are bills currently in the Statehouse to lower the minimum wage for younger employees, limit voter turnout & voting rights. Your voices must be heard. Calling and writing are tried and true means, so continue your best efforts. Please educate yourselves on the online tool that allows the public to voice their opinion on proposed bills directly in the Arizona State Legislature.

Request to Speak (RTS) allows your registered opinion to be seen by committee members as the bills move through the Statehouse. To sign up and get started visit, LD1Leg.action@gmail.com.

A great resource in expediting your sign up is Civic Engagement Beyond Voting, They will send a runner to the Statehouse to get your password!

Roughly 1500 bills are introduced in a legislative session. Great online resources in tracking and prioritizing bills are the **AZ Legislative Weekly Update** & the **Melinda Merkel Iyer Report**.

Here comes the sun, warm yourselves in the Democratic spring!

Democratically Yours,

John Lutes

Zoom! Zoom!

Verde and Sedona area Democrats who can't attend the Yavapai County Democratic Party monthly meetings in Prescott can now do so with Zoom video conferencing software. For information about attending the Cottonwood/Cornville meeting or setting up a meeting of your own, call Jan Graham at 928.634.7563. For information about attending. In Sedona, call Cathy Rutherford at 928.220.5301 for details.

Our Democratic Partners



On Facebook : @YoungDemocratsofthePrescottArea

Democrats of the Red Rocks

<http://sedonadorr.org/index.html>



<https://demwomenprescottaz.com/>

Events Calendar

Thumb Butte Roundup Spring Fundraiser

Thursday March 14

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Top of the Elks, Prescott

Featured Speakers: **Katie Hobbs**, AZ Secretary of State

SOLD OUT

YCDP Cottonwood Chapter

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 4:00 pm March 19

Red Rooster Café; 901 N Main. Cottonwood

DORR Monthly Breakfast

Thursday March 21

8:00 am

Olde Sedona Bar and Grille

1405 Hwy 89A Sedona

\$12.00 for buffet breakfast

Open to the public

Featured Speakers: **Terry Goddard** on ending dirty money

DWPA Monthly Luncheon

Wednesday March 27

11:30 am

Centennial Room, Antelope Hills

Featured Speaker: **Mirielle Manning**, Social Justice Coordinator at Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Reserve at <https://demwomenprescottaz.com/>

Harvesting Votes and North Carolina's Special Congressional Election

Karolyn Keller

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell took the Senate Floor on February 26, 2019 to comment on the several-month-long investigation taking place in North Carolina's 9th Congressional District for vote tampering and fraud. The Evangelical, Baptist preacher and candidate, Mark Harris, hired an independent political operative, Leslie McCrae Dowless, to "get out the vote" in two rural North Carolina counties: Bladen and Robeson. Both Harris and Dowless came under fire after a major percentage of each county's requested absentee ballots were not returned, yet Harris miraculously won 61% of the returned Bladen absentee ballots, only 19% of which were Republican ballots. While McConnell first correctly pointed out that the Dowless's use of the political tool "ballot harvesting" was against state law in North Carolina, he then went on to attack the Democratic Party claiming they not only failed to recognize the existence of voter fraud but thwarting his efforts, for decades, to enact Voter ID laws to protect the integrity of elections.

Many voters will likely deduce the weaknesses in McConnell's arguments both because the campaign which committed these offenses was, itself, Republican and because enacting Voter ID laws would do nothing to stop a nefarious scheme of collecting absentee ballots from voters, filling in incomplete ballots, forging signatures, destroying ballots, and tampering with witnesses after the fact. However, the concept of "ballot harvesting" should invoke a more nuanced discussion. Tom Emmer, chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee, has condemned the practice of ballot harvesting "in every congressional district in the country," but states are split. Most notably, our own state of Arizona enacted an anti-ballot harvesting law in 2016, with Arizona Republican Party chairman Robert Graham commenting, "People should be responsible for their own votes," while California passed a law to allow harvesting that same year.

So, what is ballot harvesting? In a nutshell, ballot harvesting consists of special-interest groups tracking and gathering absentee ballots which have been requested by individual voters, but not returned. These groups often travel door-to-door and offer to collect these ballots in larger groupings or place boxes in busy voting areas, such as college campuses, and collecting them when full. Opposers and states that have enacted laws against this behavior may have legitimate concerns about intimidation of voters who are approached individually, or fraud committed

by groups which may have ulterior motives or candidate loyalties. However, certain communities such as Native American tribes without federally recognized street addresses, elderly or poor voters who do not have easily accessible transportation, or even busy college students or parents looking for convenience often rely on these very groups to exercise their Constitutional right to cast a ballot. Restricting the return of these ballots to individual voters, family members, a household member, or a designated caregiver, the practice in Maricopa County, may block intended voter fraud, but it will also block access in rural areas to both local and federal elections.

The unintended, or perhaps intended, consequences of blocking ballot harvesting are where this concept and enacting Voter ID laws come together. Thus, the inevitable balancing test, popular in the legal world, is resurrected to determine whether voter fraud and intimidation is more prevalent, more in need of protection through the law, than access to the polls for these minority or impoverished voters. Yes, there is a high-profile election that was rigged in North Carolina which balloons the public's fear that more elections have and will be compromised, but should we punish collectors of ballots nationwide for the deeds of one desperate, mentally unstable and unhealthy candidate and his underling? Myrna Perez, deputy director of the Brennan Center for Justice's democracy program, says a resounding NO! "If you have an honest person who is trying to help voters, then who they are doesn't matter as long as they return (the ballot)." Frankly, we should explore other laws that protect the sanctity of the ballot without denying access to it.

As for the Harris campaign, specifically, Mr. Dowless has been indicted on 7 criminal charges including three counts of felonious obstruction of justice, two counts of conspiracy to commit obstruction of justice, and two counts of possession of an absentee ballot with more charges possible according to Wake County District Attorney, Lorrin Freeman. The State Elections Board also voted unanimously on February 21st to not certify the vote for Mr. Harris and called for a new election. North Carolina's 9th Congressional District will have a new May 14th primary and, if a second primary is not warranted, a September 10th general election. The sole Democratic candidate, Dan McCready, a Marine Corp veteran, will run for a second time with at least five republican candidates lining up against him. Mr. Harris, disgraced by the testimony of his own son and the board's decision, will not run again citing failing health.



Seeing RED? Help Turn Arizona Blue by investing in the work of the Yavapai Democrats

I will support the Yavapai County Democrats!

I Pledge: [] \$5 per month [] \$10 per month [] \$25 per month [] \$50 per month
[] \$ _____ per month [] One-time contribution of \$ _____

Payment Methods:

Contribute at www.yavdem.org or through your bank's Bill Pay program or [] Check Enclosed [] Bill my Credit Card

Use my credit card to bill ActBlue in the amount of \$ _____ [] one time [] per month

Card No. _____/Security Code _____ Ex. Date _____

Name (as it appears on card) _____*

Address _____

E-mail _____ (required for ActBlue. We will not share your email address.)

Occupation _____ Employer _____*

*Arizona law requires political organizations to report the name, address, occupation and name of employer for each individual whose aggregate contributions exceed \$25.00 in a calendar year

Return this form with your contribution to:

Yavapai County Democratic Party
P.O. Box 1644, Prescott, AZ 86302
ATTN: Sandy Deville, Treasurer

Our Partners:

Arizona Democratic Party
2910 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012-4200
(602) 298-4200

www.azdem.org

Democratic Women of the Prescott Area
c/o Sandy Baggenstos, Treasurer
520 N. Fitzmaurice Dr.
Prescott, AZ 86303-6235
https://www.demwomenprescottaz.com/

I want to invest in a better future for Arizona!

The Yavapai County Democratic Party coordinates activities and fundraising with our Democratic partners. We encourage you to support these organizations, and if you so designate, we will share up to 20% of your YCDP donation with one or more of the following Democratic groups.

Please designate 20% of my YCDP contribution to:

- [] Arizona Democratic Party [] Democratic Women of the Prescott Area
[] Democrats of the Red Rocks

Paid for by the Yavapai County Democratic Party. Telephone: (928) 541-0413

Contributions are not tax deductible for income tax purposes.

Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee

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