

# Coconino County Democratic Party / Action Meeting

## Research & Messaging Committee

### Briefing - October 12, 2024

It starts at the top. Donald J. Trump sets the tone unfortunately. For example, Trump, as the foremost election denier, resonates with Kari Lake who is running against Reuben Gallego for US Senate. Citing *States Untied Action*, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit with a mission to protect our elections and democracy, about a 3rd of sitting members of Congress - 170 of them - are Election Deniers. It doesn't stop there, Trump uses words that also set a tone: retribution, savior, carnage, protector. Trump is vindictive and cruel which divides us and is corrosive. Trump is NOT a normal candidate. Trump is unfit to hold the highest office in our land and needs to be defeated and rejected by the American electorate. This is the election of our lifetime and, importantly, to those who come after us.

### Reproductive Rights

Two of seven justices on the [Arizona Supreme Court](#) are up for retention election— [Clint Bolick](#) and [Kathryn Hackett King](#).

If retained, they will serve six year terms. These two justices voted to uphold Arizona's 160-year old abortion ban. EJ Montini, Arizona Supreme Court Justice Clint Bolick make a paltry appeal to keep his job, Arizona Republic, Published 1:26 p.m., May 21, 2024.

See: <https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/ej-montini/2024/05/21/arizona-abortion-ban-clint-bolick-retention/73790071007/>

### Arizona Supreme Court Justice Retention:

Remember to **VOTE NO** on retaining

- Justice Clint Bolick
- Justice Katheryn King

These justices supported the imposition of the 1864 Anti Abortion law – taking us back 150 years!!

However, if Proposition 137 passes taking away retention elections it would **retroactively** nullify the “NO” votes for Block and King. So, a NO vote is suggested for Prop 137.



# ARIZONA VOTING SUGGESTIONS

There will be a comprehensive voting guide that will be arriving via mail soon. Please look for that and pass along the information to friends and family. Here are just some suggestions that may not be covered in the voting guide itself.

## **Arizona House Races:**

Remember that we can vote for **TWO** candidates for each Arizona Legislative District house races.

## **We need to flip the Arizona Legislature:**

This is what's on the line:

- Protect women's reproductive rights
- Protect and enhance funding for public education
- Repeal of the disastrous universal voucher program
- Work for fair taxation and repeal the Arizona Flat Tax
- Support democracy including access to voting for all legal citizens and acceptance of the results of legitimate elections
- Work for sustainable environmental protections

So **VOTE THE ENTIRE BALLOT!!**

## **Arizona State-Wide Propositions (Props 100's and 300's)**

There are many state-wide propositions on the ballot. Most of which were referred by the Legislature to avoid the Governor's veto and/or to confuse us voters.

In summary, **VOTE NO on ALL state-wide propositions EXCEPT Prop 139** – VOTE YES ON THIS ONE – It adds to our constitution a woman's right to manage her own reproductive care.

## **Court of Appeals (Division I) – If appears on your ballot**

- Justice Angela Paton – **VOTE NO**
- Vote Yes for All Others



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## THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change or the environment are becoming more important in the last few surveys, but not in the way we think.

Among young men and in Arizona young Latino men, if you ask about the impact of climate change, there is limited support. But if you relate climate to the economy, “Do you support clean energy jobs?” or “Who do you think would be best to lead us to a clean energy economy?” there is a more positive response.

In Northern Arizona, young voters and first-time voters list the environment or climate change in the top three or four most important issues. More recently, the record-breaking heat in the valley and the Florida storm disasters have elevated the problems. Some of the comments include “where will it be a safe place to live?”

Recently the League of Conservation Voters announced their **2024 Dirty Dozen, list of the worst anti-environment candidates** running for federal office. It’s no surprise that Donald Trump is at the top of that list, of all the candidates running for federal office, two are in Arizona. Kari Lake, is on that list, is a climate change denier, backed by Arizona’s utility companies and the oil and gas industry. She dismissed the devastating record heat deaths as “mass hysteria”.

The connection with the environment is undeniable. It might be job security, the cost of change and the economy (is it insurmountable or necessary in order to have an economy) or just a safe place to live and quality of life concerns. We have to connect climate to our everyday lives.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) consists of 6 main offices and has become “one of the main drivers of the **climate change alarm industry**”.

Project 2025, p. 675.

# ARIZONA CORPORATON COMMISSION

Remember to vote for **THREE** candidates for the Corporation Commission not just vote for one or two!

## BACKGROUND

- Intended in the 1912 Arizona Constitution as an agency independent of the legislature, the executive branch or the judiciary
- The Commissioners function in an Executive capacity, they adopt rules and regulations thereby functioning in a legislative capacity, and they act in a Judicial capacity making decisions in contested matters.
- Made up of five (5) Commissioners elected for 4-year terms – only one of 14 states with elected Corporation Commissioners

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- Governs the offer and sale of securities and investment advice in or from Arizona
- Licenses investment advisers and their representatives
- Registers securities dealers and salesmen
- Regulates several hundred public utilities serving the state, including setting the rates and charges for services and ensuring adequate, reliable service
- Registers corporations and limited liability companies
- Enforces regulations to ensure railroad and pipeline safety

## UTILITIES SCOPE

- There are 17 Electrical providers in Arizona
- There are 350 Water providers in Arizona
- There are 6 Natural Gas providers in Arizona

## ELECTION 2024

- Currently there are 4 Republicans and 1 Democrat on the Commission
- The Democrat and 2 Republicans are to be replaced in the November election
- **Democratic candidates are:**
  - **Ylenia Aguilar**
  - **Jonathan Hill**
  - **Joshua Polacheck**



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# PUBLIC EDUCATION

When we are evaluating state and local candidates for office, we need to pay attention to their approach to public education. Our democracy is based on the premise that citizens all have some foundational common ground, starting in our universal education system. There have been changes in the education world that we need to weigh.

1. Public education has gone from neighborhood schools, segregated along economic and racial lines, in the past fifty plus years to integrated schools with diverse populations. *Brown v Board of Education* established that schools must reflect the whole community. There has not been uniform acceptance of that decision, so there are various methods to avoid integration.
2. One alternative system is charter schools. There has been considerable conflict over funding for charter schools which are publicly funded but serve specific kinds of educational purposes.
3. The charter schools compete with the public schools for funding from the legislature.
4. Because education and schools are now somewhat controversial because of differences over funding, public schools are currently struggling to keep teachers and facilities at desirable levels.
5. There are racial and economic issues as well as religious divisions within the educational policy area.
6. We need to consider what we want to support in the schools and how funding reflects that preference.



## **SCHOOL BOARD RACES:**

These races are typically non-partisan so party designations are usually not present on the ballot. You **MUST** do research. Remember, school boards are the ones who may ban books, implement clear violations of church and state divisions, etc. They are **IMPORTANT**.

**SAVE OUR SCHOOLS** has made recommendations on most school boards. Go to:

<https://www.Sosarizona.org/vote4publiced.schoolboard/>

**ARIZONA LIST** has also made some recommendations on school board races:

<https://www.arizonalist.org/endorsed-candidates/>

For Flagstaff Unified School District, **Save Our Schools** recommendations are:

- Kortney Zesiger
- Melissa Kirk
- Carolyn Kidd



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