



District 8 Democrats

Your Neighborhood Activists

April 8, 2006

Volume 1, Number 2

ENTHUSIASM AND EXHORTATION FROM THE CHAIR:

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Lots of things are happening and I couldn't be happier. Our committees are functioning and will be reporting on their plans at the April 4th PC Planning meeting. Our Community Outreach Committee held its first, highly successful, public education program on Immigration Reform. The Election Strategy Committee plans to contact PCs about our goals for the year and their level of commitment to help attain them. Our weekly updates and monthly newsletters are up and growing.

Our public education program on "Immigration Reform: Policy, Proposals, and Possible Solutions" drew a large group of people representing diverse political parties and views on the subject. Senator Carolyn Allen said, "Immigration is not a partisan issue." She reviewed pending State and Federal legislation, stating she supports the McCain-Kennedy bill and fears the bill that came out of the House. State Rep. Ben Miranda offered the only three solutions he believes exist: 1) a guest worker program; 2) legalization of people already in the US; or 3) mass deportation of the some 12 million undocumented workers and families said to be residing here. However, some process toward legalization is the only appropriate approach to pursue. He added that we need a "Marshall Plan" for Mexico due to the serious economic problems driving its citizens across the border. Mr. Jose Robles, Director of Hispanic Affairs for the Phoenix Catholic Diocese stated that the Catholic Church does not condone illegal immigration, but does educate people about the process of legal immigration. He said that the Church also discourages people from crossing the desert and believes there has to be firmer border security. He strongly stressed the need for all citizens to be concerned about the human and social justice elements of migrant issues. A lively Q & A session followed the presentations, and attendees lingered afterward to continue the discussion.

District 8 plans equally provocative programs in the months ahead. The April 20th program, entitled "Healthcare: What You Need To Know Now" should draw as large and diverse a group as the March meeting and stimulate as much or more discussion. We are interested in expanding our monthly discussions and would like to know about your wishes. If you are interested in attending a follow-up meeting to continue the discussion on immigration and health care, please give us a call at 480-596-8350.

The weekend of March 24-26 was filled with exciting activity centered around Janet Napolitano's re-election campaign. District 8 made a great show of support for our Governor through house parties, and the gathering of signatures on petitions and \$5 Clean Election contributions. If you are like Jim and me, you also carried petitions and Clean Election forms for everyone. Our neighbors are beginning to sound hopeful due to the quality and quantity of Arizona Democratic candidates this year. They are also beginning to understand the need to protect Janet's veto power: maintaining our Democratic base in the legislature, plus electing at least three additional Democratic members to the House and Senate. This is a critical issue for the 2006 election.

As you might suspect, I believe we need to continue to build the organization in order to win in 2006. It must be a coalition of Democrats, and like-minded Independents and Republicans. But first, there has to be a solid base of Democrats at the core from which we attract other support. This means that all District 8 Dems need to recommit to active participation and financial contribution to keep us moving forward, strongly and steadfastly toward victory in 2006!!

You will want to join in because we are moving fast! We have intellectually stimulating and fun programs and activities planned. We have opportunities for volunteers to work and to achieve their goals. And we have highly qualified candidates to support. We have a place for you and a need for your talents!! Margaret Hogan, Chair

EDITOR'S VOICE:

Our Mustang Program of the 16th March, "Immigration Reform: Proposals, Policies and Possible Solutions," could not have been more timely. Not only is there a plethora of bills pouring out from the Arizona State House, but there is the contentious atmosphere circling the House and Senate bills in Washington.

The District 8 panel, composed of Sen. Carolyn Allen, Rep. Ben Miranda, and Jose Robles of the Greater Phoenix Catholic Diocese, was a model of moderation, humanism and fairness. There were excellent questions fraught with complexities: economic, social and political. If only our three guests had more clout in our State Legislature. More important, we wish that these strong voices had the means to truly make a difference in the cacophony emanating from Washington.

We all read the papers and digest the polls. I truly believe that most Americans want fairness and justice for undocumented immigrants now in the US. Here in Arizona, let's speak out against the following:

The AZ House passed a bill early this month, which provides that any illegal immigrant would be guilty of a felony. If caught as a first time violator, he would be turned over to the Federal authorities. If a repeat offender, he would be criminally prosecuted. The AZ Senate has approved a similar bill, and now the bill will go to conference. There are other punitive bills, which Mike Milillo discusses below. He will be one of our Legislator Watch Dogs.

The Immigration reform bill before the US Senate now has been cobbled together from the McCain-Kennedy bill and the Specter/Senate Judiciary version. This is a reasonable and thoughtful approach to the immigration issue. It provides for appropriate and increased border controls; some sanctions against employers; but most important, a process of LEGALIZATION for undocumented workers.

Let's be clear: the current legislation before the US Senate is not Amnesty nor is it a Guest-worker program. Mr. Bush and many others seem to be very confused about these three concepts. Amnesty means total forgiveness; Legalization refers to a legal method through back taxes and fines over a period of 11 years in which to qualify and become a full fledged citizen; Guest-worker does nothing to solve the undocumented alien issue, and would end in forced deportation which could never be sustained bureaucratically or economically.

I recommend your reading in depth the New York Times and AZ Republic for April 2nd for illuminating background and sensible discussions regarding the current social, economic and political repercussions of this issue. It is very complex. Be educated and informed. Write our State and Federal Legislators, even those who are not our direct representatives.

Let's cool Lou Dobbs. He does not represent any of us!

Laura Roskind, Editor

BE IN THE KNOW!!!!

From time to time, we will take the liberty to recommend books of current and/or vital interest. In turn, if there is some particular book or material that you would like to share, please advise, and we will print it in this column. This month, we would like to recommend the following:

- "Assassins' Gate", George Packer, contributor to the New Yorker;
- "America's Secret War", George Friedman, founder of Stratfor, a think tank in Texas;
- "The Rise of the Vulcans," James Mann;
- "American Theocracy: The Peril and Politics of Radical Religion, Oil, and Borrowed Money in the 21st Century", Kevin Phillips, author and political analyst.

ENJOY! LCR

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We Need Willing Democrats

The PC/Volunteer Recruitment Committee is looking for additional people to staff the many activities that are scheduled for the upcoming election. There are activities suited for almost every capacity you may wish to offer. This is a vital election for Democrats and we would be hard put to find a better climate for electing moderates to both state and national office. Among the activities we need help for are:

- Canvassing
- Phone contact
- Be part of a committee (list in left column)
- Hosting House Parties
- Make Donations
- Work in District 8 office
- Putting up signs
- Driving

Now is the time and your valuable effort is important in winning this election.

Contact Jim Hogan - (480) 661-4997 - jhoganaz@msn.com

LEGISLATIVE WATCH GUARD:

We hope to have a legislative update each month from Mike Milillo and others to keep tabs on the workings of our Republican-dominated State Legislature. The goal is to keep the district informed, and more important, to motivate you, the voter, to call, write, and email our legislators, whether they represent D8 or not. The following is an in-depth analysis of current bills before the State Legislature dealing with immigration issues. "Res Ipsa Loquitur!"

STATUS OF IMMIGRATION BILLS APRIL 2006

Seven bills dealing with immigration issues have been introduced in the 47th Legislature. Those bills seeing the most activity include HB2577 and HB2582, both sponsored by Sen. Russell Pearce, R-Mesa and SB1158, sponsored by Sen. Barbara Leff, R-Phx.

HB2577: immigration policy; forgery; employment; licensing

This bill stipulates that an employer who verifies the immigration status of their employees through the Basic Pilot Program and complies with all federal and state laws regarding lawful employment is not subject to any civil sanction or criminal penalty imposed for employing an illegal alien.

The Basic Pilot Program is a federal program that involves verification checks of the Social Security Administration (SSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) databases, using an automated system to verify the employment authorization of all newly hired employees. Participation in the Program is voluntary and free to employers.

The bill allows state agencies or political subdivisions of the state to investigate whether a business employs an unauthorized worker. It subjects employers who violate employment practice requirements to civil penalties. Requires the Arizona Department of Administration to verify the U.S. work authorization of every state employee through the Basic Pilot Program.

Status: Assigned to Commerce & Economic Development, Appropriations and Rules Committees.

HB2582: immigration enforcement mission; council; appropriations

This bill authorizes peace officers to investigate, apprehend, detain or remove aliens in the United States in the enforcement of immigration laws. The bill establishes the Border Security Council to provide grants to political subdivisions for costs associated with immigration enforcement, creates the Border Security Fund and makes appropriations to the Fund along with the Department of Public Safety for immigration enforcement. Appropriates a total of \$30 million from the state General Fund in FY 2006-2007 to the

Border Security Fund and a total of \$20 million from the state General Fund in FY 2006-2007 to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to expand the gang intelligence team enforcement mission (GITEM) and additional highway patrol officers.

Status: Assigned to Judiciary, Appropriations and Rules Committees.

SB1158: appropriation; illegal immigration; enforcement

This bill appropriates \$75 million from the state General Fund in FY 2006-2007 to the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) for the award of grants to apprehend persons who are in this state illegally, in possession of a dangerous drug, precursor chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine, a deadly weapon, a dangerous instrument or items used for terrorism. It allows grant monies to be used for employing additional officers, equipment, judges, prosecutors, public defenders and support personnel and it prohibits employment of grant monies for uses other than the deterrence of illegal immigration.

Status: Assigned to Judiciary, Appropriations and Rules Committees

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE BIG EVENT OF THE MONTH IS THAT AIR AMERICA IS BACK ON STREAM!
TUNE IN TO KPHO, 1480

PC Business Meeting

The First Tuesday of Every Month:

at the Via Linda Senior Citizens' Center; 6:30 PM.

D8 Monthly Community Meeting:

Thursday, April 20, 2006;

Mustang Library, 10101 N.90th Street, Scottsdale

Reception: 6:15 PM - Program: 6:45 PM-8:30 PM

This month's topic will be: HEALTHCARE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW NOW!

The panel will include:

- Jean Knoedler, Vice-President and Administrator, Scottsdale Healthcare Hospital, Thompson Peak Campus;
- Toni M. Thompson-Winningham, Program Director, Ambulatory Care Service , Veterans' Administration, Phoenix;
- Anne Marie Grande, Program Manager with the Area Agency on Aging.

The panelists will cover a wide variety of critical medical issues facing the public today, including access to care, hospital and emergency room overloads, hidden costs, advocacy, and prescription drug programs under Medicare Part D.

Please note that due to the great success of our Immigration Panel in March, and because we must leave the Mustang Library by 8:45, those who are interested in continuing a discussion of the Health Program are invited to move over to Applebees restaurant across the street, after the program.

Arizona State Committee Meeting

Saturday, May 6, 2006 - 9:00 AM

Wyndham Phoenix Hotel

Full Agenda for morning Committee meetings and for Plenary in the afternoon.
(All PCs please note!!!)

D8 Fundraising Event:

**We're Just Wild About Harry
All You Can Eat Pizza Party Fund Raiser**

Tuesday, May 16, 2006 - 6: PM

Streets of New York, (All the Pizza you can eat, plus two drinks for \$15, special rate \$10 for students)

6910 E. Shea Blvd. (One block west of Scottsdale Road in the Agua Caliente Shopping Plaza)

VERY SPECIAL GUEST: Harry Mitchell who will defeat J.D. Hayworth in November to be our new Us Congressman from Congressional District 5

Please RSVP to:

- Rhea Ritter 480.451.3484 or
- Barb Schachenman 480.502.8533.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!!

KEEP TUNED IN TO FUTURE INFO REGARDING CANDIDATES' HOUSE PARTIES AND COFFEES AND FUNDRAISERS!!!!!!!

Remember

**The way we win elections is that everyone who
cares about our community gets involved.
Pick your time, pick your spot.**