



# District 8 Democrats

*Your Neighborhood Activists*

May 15, 2006

Volume 1, Number 3

## Contents:

**National Canvass**  
**Community Outreach**  
**Need Block Captains**  
**Candidates List**

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## APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT 8'S RALLY/CANVASS A SUCCESS

On Saturday, April 29, the DNC sponsored a national event, "The Neighbor to Neighbor Organizing Rally and Canvass." In over 1,000 communities across the country, Democrats carried the 2006 election year message of the National Party and collected signatures for local candidates.



District 8's rally in Agua Linda Park drew both Congressional and State candidates, their families and friends, District 8 PCs and volunteers. Our local District 8 candidates, Dan Oseran and Stu Turnansky, candidates for State Senate, spoke first about their backgrounds and why they were running for office. Stephanie Rimmer, candidate for State House and her family attended as well,

including newcomer Molly. A committee spearheaded by Laura Copple did an excellent job of planning the event. The park site was festive due to banners, balloons, campaign signs and flags. The candidates did a great job of inspiring the participants to walk and knock on doors to gain signatures for them and encourage their neighbors to volunteer.

Jim Pederson, candidate for U.S. Senate spoke. Jim said he always likes to attend District 8 functions because "D8 always draws a crowd." Jim reviewed elements of his immigration plan, including sensible ways to protect Arizona's borders. He described his opponent as a "rubber stamp" of President Bush's policies and that we can depend on his taking a leadership role in the support of Arizona's interests.



Harry Mitchell, as our Congressional District 5 candidate, was the Guest of Honor. In raising some of his concerns, Harry spoke of special interests and high-paid lobbyists having too much influence in Washington. Suggesting J.D. Hayworth's association with these interests, Harry said "I believe we can do better." Citing his background as teacher, mayor and state senator, Harry pledged his considerable experience to bring a degree of professionalism and integrity back

## District 8 Committees

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to the CD5 seat in Congress.

At 65, our attendance was one of the highest in Maricopa County. Forty-two people walked in pairs (21 pairs) and although many people were not at home, we gathered over 150 signatures and learned that next time, we'll try calling ahead. When everyone returned, we talked about the experience and enjoyed pizza. In all, it was a fun and productive event.

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## Healthcare Issues the Focus of Community Outreach Programs

Health care for all citizens at a reasonable and fair price is a core Democratic tenet and has continued to grow as a burning issue for Americans and Arizonans alike. Last month, D8 Democrats provided a view to several health care concerns; Medicare Part D, Veteran's Healthcare benefits and the challenges faced by hospitals in the light of the lowest patient/physician ratios in the country. In essence, the program identified elements of the health care crisis in Arizona.

At our May 18 Community Outreach Event, "Can Arizona Solve Its Healthcare Crisis," District 8 Democrats will host Representative Phil Lopes who will present a complete review of his proposed legislation for a "Statewide Health Plan" (HB2752). With the help of panelists including Dr. Mike Newcomb, a practicing physician and Air America commentator, and a representative of small employer purchasers, we will help Rep. Lopes drill down to the challenges presented by his proposal to the current employer/insurance market-driven healthcare delivery model.

Susan Ackley will moderate. Questions and comments will be solicited from the audience. We will also provide questions and copies of the proposed bill for the audience.

This program is open to the public. All Democratic candidates are welcome to attend. Reception begins at 6:15 pm and the program starts at 6:45 pm.

Contributed by Pete Cerchiera

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## Looking for Volunteers and Block Captains

It's a great year to be supporting Democratic candidates. Voters hear the endless tales of Republican corruption coming out of Washington, and they grow increasingly disgusted. Here in Arizona, Governor Napolitano's popularity is reaching historic highs and our Attorney General, Terry Goddard is doing valuable work. Our state legislative Republican leadership is showing that it is totally out of touch with the people of Arizona. We have excellent Democratic candidates running for state and national office and need grassroots support to get them elected.

District 8 Democrats are looking for enthusiastic Democrats that want to make a difference in this election. We are especially looking for Block Captains to work with their neighbors to elect our candidates. The Block Captain is the most basic component in our party structure. They contact a small group of Democratic neighbors and help get them to vote: early, by mail, and at the polls. We have house parties planned that will help these Block Captains learn the basics about the election process. It is fun working with neighbors that have like values; it is also a great way to meet new friends. For more information contact: Jim Hogan or Barbara Gordon listed in the column on the left.

## Democratic Candidates for 2006 Election

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