

Indivisible Tucson Action Alliance
Zoom Meeting 3:30 p.m.
May 2, 2022

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Attendees: Neill Hollenshead, Lynn Bultman, Doug Bultman, Cindy Doklan, Bill Yohey, Eloise Gore, Arnold Bacigalupo, Patricia Wiedhopf, Gil Wier, Margo Nichols, Judi Davis, Marcos Descalzi, Miriam Black, , Linda Begega, Karen Harris, Joe Alexander, Di Alexander, Jackie Marshall, Joe Smith, Beth Smith, Dar Sumners, Rachel Rulmyr, Jan Counts, Fred Markussen, Mary Ann Graffagnino, Sue Anderson, Misty Atkins, Mike Nickerson, Dana Offerman, Linda Block, Nancy Stewart, Tricia Sauer, Thea Chalow, Amy Gosla, Chris Hawkins

- **Sign on and welcome to participants by Dana Offerman.**

Dana asked those who are attending the meeting for the first time to identify themselves. The new attendees are Arnold Bucigalupo and his wife Jan, Judi Davis, Amy Gosla and our speaker Mike Nickerson. Misty announced that Liz Packard is inviting ITAA members to a house party on Saturday, May 7th at 10:00 am. If you are interested in attending, please contact Liz at 520/303-8315.

- **Speaker – Mike Nickerson Arizona State Senate Candidate from LD17**

- Mike is running to defend voting rights and democracy.
- Plans to work on problems and find solutions that the State of Arizona faces.
- Mike feels state Republicans are wasting state money an example of which is the phony audit.
- Mike wants to ensure the voting system works.
- Another priority is public education and school funding. Arizona is 48th in the country in funding public education. The funds for public education are being siphoned off to charter and private schools.
- Water issues in Arizona are another priority for Mike. He does not see any accountability by the legislature. He will have a plan to address this issue if elected.
- Solar energy is another area in Mike will address with legislation and encouraging net metering.
- Mike intends to solve problems and not create them. Will work with everyone and focus on the issues in Arizona.
- Mike is running as a clean candidate. Mike needs 200 signatures and donations of \$5.00 to qualify and get on the ballot. You can go to www.mikenickerson.com to donate. On the website, you can also sign up to volunteer. If you use Twitter, Mike's handle is @MikeNickersonAZ. Please follow him.

Q&A

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Dana Offerman – How will you reach out to those across the aisle?

Answer – Mike is a former pastor and has worked with Republicans and many others with differing views. As a young person, he worked with the Republican party to elect Mitt Romney in Michigan because of Romney's record on civil rights. He is a fiscal conservative who happens to be a democrat. Arizona needs to get more Democrats to the polls and reach out to independents.

Judi Davis – How feasible is water desalinization and sharing with Mexico?

Answer – It's a possibility. A company is now working on a portable product that does not use filters but uses ionization which would be less costly and more energy efficient. The problem with desalinization is that the environmental damage will end up in Mexico, but it will probably have to happen. **Margo Nichols** stated that her son who is a hydrologist in Arizona points to the billions of acre feet of brackish groundwater which would be far less difficult and expensive to treat than desalinization. Mike stated that a statewide ground water policy is needed and is something he will work on if elected.

Amy Gosla – Do you have any personal experience with Arizona businesses leaving or corporations not coming to Arizona because of the educational system?

Answer – I have not had any personal experience. I was on the Governor's task force to look at values in education back in 1989/90 but the report went nowhere. The election audit has garnered National attention and as a result businesses are not locating in Arizona. The high-tech workforce will not come to Arizona with a poorly educated population.

Sue Anderson – View on Down Ballot Voting

Answer – Registered Democrats must be informed about the importance of all the races. State government affects people lives more than the federal government. Communication to voters by volunteers like ITAA, who will be working to get out the vote is what will have an impact.

Chris Hawkins – Have you spoken with any Independent or moderate Republican leaning groups, and if so, what questions rise to the top?

Answer – Has not spoken to those groups, but in general education is a statewide issue.

- **Speaker – Gil Wier Field Team 6 (Register Democrats. Save the World.)**

-The goal of Field Team 6 is to register as many Democrats as possible. The Field Team 6 "method" is boldly partisan with volunteers being easily recognized as Democrats by the buttons and pins they wear.

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- The first Arizona voter registration occurred in Phoenix in April 2019. 187 new Democrats were registered in two days.
- When registering voters FT6 chooses areas or events with high foot traffic and favorable demographics for Democrats.
- FT6 voter registration events registered 6,000 new progressive voters before the November election.
- FT6 is a national Democratic voter registration organization focusing on CA, AZ, NV, TX, GA, FL, NC, PA, WI, and VA.
- In addition to in person voter registration FT6 does texting, post carding and social media to register voters.
- FT6 has many resources groups can use to register voters. The website is www.fieldteam6.org to access those resources. There is also information about texting and post cards on the site.
- FT6 has partnered with ITAA to send post cards and text to a “curated” list of likely new Democratic voters. Once the post card team has completed the post cards, the texting team sends a text to those potential voters. The Voterizer voter registration QR code is included which allows registering to vote in your state online. (www.Voterizer.org)
- In person voter registration will happen soon. Gil’s email address is gweir0001@gmail.com.

Q&A

Cindy Doklan – What percentage of people from FT6 post card list have used Voterizer? Is a driver’s license still valid as an identifying document in AZ elections?

Answer – We cannot track Voterizer data at this time. A driver’s license is still an acceptable form of identification per the Secretary of State website.

• **Speaker – Marcos Descalzi Youth Vote Director, TurnUp Activism**

- TurnUp Activism focus is on registering high schoolers in Nevada and Arizona. There is a voter registration drive occurring at Desert View High School on Thursday, May 5 at 1:30 to 2:30. If you would like to participate, contact Marcos at 720-325-0005. The website is www.turnup.us
- There is a training on Deep Canvassing on May 10th. Information is accessible on the website.
- Deep canvassing is a form of canvassing that uses long empathetic conversations to help shift someone’s beliefs.
- There is an opportunity for an unpaid internship. It will be 5 hours per week for a month. If you know of someone who is interested, put them in touch with Marcos.

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Amy Gosla – Is there an age limit for the internship? Where does deep canvassing happen?

Answer – The organization wants volunteers involved who live in the state. There is no age limit. **DANA, I don't have the answer to the second part of the question**

Chris Hawkins – Is there follow-up to the deep canvassing with those participating to see if the same issues come up?

Answer – Yes there is which helps shape the messages going forward.

Bill Yohey – Do you see specific trends in the issues you voters care about?

Answer – Yes, they are climate change, abortion, student loan debt.

Chris Hawkins – Stop Dark Money

- SDM has collected 300,000 signatures which was the original goal.
- This is the third time the initiative has gone out and Chris thinks it can now get on the ballot. They need more people to continue to gather signatures. If you would like to get a petition, contact Chris at chrisazorganizer@gmail.com or 650-766-4257.

TEAM REPORTS

Jan Counts – Postcards

- In coordination with Field Team 6, we have written and mailed 1,500 post cards since March. We have received over 28,00 new names and will continue this initiative.
- Additional post cards will be distributed on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at Riverfront Park at 11 am and at Dusenberry Library at noon on the same day.
- We will schedule a new round of post carding at the end of May. If you would like to participate, contact me at nevcou@aol.com or text me at 248-921-5181.
- Joe Alexander shared with Dana and Jan an article that discussed the effectiveness of sending post cards. The statistics indicated that voter registration went up 2.6 to 3.2% when a potential voter received a post card. What we are doing really works!

Joe Smith – Textbanking

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- Data base from FT6 is available to ITAA to begin texting.
- Will be using the same script as the post carders. The text link also gives them access to the Voterizer voter registration site. Texting also allows for some feedback and responses from the potential voter.
- The team needs more volunteers and once you learn the system, it is very easy. Joe can send the training video to anyone who wants to participate. You can also sign up for the training which takes place on Thursdays.
- Joe can also arrange to train anyone interested. Contact Joe at jocko3484@gmail.com or 407-928-5722.
- Indivisible also has a texting program called Indivisertext. They are currently textbanking to Texas. If you want to get your feet wet, you may want to try their program as it is very user friendly. They have asked if anyone in ITAA wants to text for Jessica Cisneros in Texas later this month.

Joe Alexander (For Eileen Hollowell) – State Team

- The State Team is monitoring the State budget process. At some point, a visit to the Governor's office will be scheduled.
- Dana and Eileen met with Vince Leach to discuss education and water issues in the state. Although he will not listen to ITAA, we can at least tie up some of his office time.
- Joe informed the LTE team that Karen Harris is collecting statistics and information on Leach that she would be happy to share. You can reach Karen at 919-349-0195.

Margo Nichols – Treasurer's Report

- ITAA has obtained matching funds from National Indivisible with most of the contributions coming from the Board of Directors. It would be great if more members would contribute as we are purchasing items and will need funds going forward for voter registration and get out the vote efforts.
- Monies spent thus far have been on post cards, business cards and recently ordered new tote bags with the ITAA logo.
- In Unrestricted funds the balance is \$238.25 and in Restricted funds \$\$2,137.70. Another \$500. will be added from the matching funds initiative.

Dana Offerman

If you would like to get some business cards, contact Dana Indivisibletucson@gmail.com
Dana would be happy to meet you and get them to you.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2022, at 3:30 via Zoom. The speakers will be two Democrats who will be on the ballot for the Arizona Corporation Commission which regulates utility rates.