

ITAA
May 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Jake Martin, Di Alexander, Joseph Alexander, JoBeth Anderson, Lea Anderton, Nancy Atherton, Misty Atkins, Linda Block, Cindy Bordelon, Charles Bradford, Jan Counts, Wendy Farwell, Ron Feinsod, Eloise Gore, Amy Gosla, Jeanne Hardie, Karen Harris, Eileen Hollowell, Teresa Jenkins, Deidre Johnson, Sandy Kaye, Kathleen Mayer, Sally Mayersohn, Dana Offerman, Mike Perdue, Jim Perry, Kenneth Proper, Judith Randall, Rachel Rulmyr, Debra Schaeffer, Devon Sloan, Cheryl Whited, William Yohey, and Bobbi Zimmer.

Featured Guest Speaker: Jake Martin

Jake Martin is a Democratic Party candidate for the Pima County Board of Supervisors (District 1) and a student at the University of Arizona. Jake is challenging incumbent Rex Scott. At the age of 18, Jake founded the Survivor Shield Foundation, one of the first nonprofits in the State of Arizona to provide emergency relief financial aid to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. Survivor Shield offers social services for low-income survivors of sexual assault in Arizona. Jake supports the Homing Project, which is a Tucson nonprofit dedicated to **housing** the homeless with dignity and respect. He explained that our neighbors in need can “fall through the cracks” and his work is to eliminate these cracks.

Jake does not accept donations from developers or PACs. He is supportive of education and affordable housing projects and protecting our land and groundwater. Jake is currently working on the framework for a Family Advocacy Center with the early support of the Tucson Police Department.

Jake wants to create a Pima County Access Center where homeless people in need of services can go to one central location to get those services. This would eliminate the geographical distance between agencies that can help them so they can get all the resources they need. Data shows that this approach works and Jake says that Pima County government needs to buy in to this approach. He noted that only one County Supervisor supports this approach. His goals as a County Supervisor are to be fast, decisive, transparent, and accountable. Jack also advocates for a rapid rehousing approach.

He believes that if we invest a fraction of the Pima County annual budget of \$300 million in his approach, then we can do it for a fraction of the price to help the homeless, which would then allow the County to do job training. He noted that poverty is very expensive for governments to support so it's in the best interest of the County to fix this problem.

Jake works with people who are addicted to fentanyl and supports expanding access to drug testing strips, as many times, fentanyl is in drugs unknown to drug users.

With respect to public transportation, Jake explained that many people struggle getting access to public transit and if they had better access, they would have better economic opportunities. He is also focused on small business and green energy.

You can contact Jake at www.jakemartinforpima.com or at (520) 276-4852.

Abortion Access Amendment

Misty reported that it continues to be necessary to collect signatures for the AAA even though the 15-week ban is now law. ITAA recently had a successful petition training event at Brother John's. Due to the fact that's the weather is getting hotter we have about two weeks left to collect signatures outside. We can still collect signatures at libraries and we have been collecting signatures at Pima County Community College as well as sending text to their students. Here are links to register for some upcoming signing events at Pima Community College: Downtown: <https://mobilize.us/s/iq8O8c> and Northwest: <https://mobilize.us/s/zGVe31>.

If you use N2N you might be able to find ten people in your neighborhood that are likely to sign the petition. As we will continue to gather signatures at multiple locations, we need more volunteers and ideas about where to gather signatures. Think of who you know, like your hairdresser, landscaper, etc. who might want to sign the petition. We are currently looking for small businesses that would like to host AAA signing events.

All petitions should be finalized and turned in by the end of June. Continue to collect signatures and we still need to get them validated. We expect that two or three abortion bills will show up in 2024 or 2025 so make sure to have your petition signers agree that they will only vote "yes" on the AAA.

Treasurer's Report

ITAA had a record number of donations in April. We raised \$630 in April. With Act Blue matching by National Indivisible, ITAA raised more than \$500 for our distributed funds account and we now have more than \$4,000 in this account. ITAA had \$682 in donations in for the unrestricted funds account we now have over \$1,000 in this account. To donate to the unrestricted account, you can send a check payable to Indivisible Tucson Action Alliance to Jeanne Hardie, 14456 North Travertine Place, Oro Valley, AZ 85755.

State Legislation Update

The House is in a two-week break and will return on May 15. There is no news on Arizona State budget and all is being done behind the scenes and out of public view. Governor

Hobbs is saying that they are close to a negotiated solution. The problem is an approximate \$1.8 billion shortfall in the 2024-2025 budget due to the growing cost of ESAs and the impact of Ducey-era tax cuts.

Governor Hobbs has vetoed 55 bills this year and has signed 179 as of April 26.

Two statutory Concurrent Resolutions have passed the full Arizona Legislature and have been sent to Secretary of State to be placed on ballot:

- HCR2023 (passed and sent to the Secretary of State):
Allows a property owner to apply for a primary property tax refund if the owner documents expenses caused by a city, town or county adopting a policy, pattern or practice which declines to enforce existing laws or the maintaining of a public nuisance (illegal camping, loitering, panhandling, public urination or defecation, public consumption of alcoholic beverages or possession or use of illegal substance).
- SCR1021 (passed and sent to the Secretary of State):
Statutorily requires an adult who is convicted of a class 2 felony for any child sex trafficking offense to be sentenced to natural life imprisonment.

Eleven (11) House Concurrent Resolutions have been transmitted to the Senate and awaiting Senate committee action. Ten (10) Senate Concurrent Resolutions have been transmitted to the House and awaiting House Committee action. Topics include voting access, anti-regulation (i.e., authority of legislature vs. cities or state agencies), groundwater, and judicial retention. Maybe only a few will get Republican leadership support and get voted out.

At the present time, there is no evidence of an effort to introduce competing Concurrent Resolutions to confuse the AAA issue.

Indivisible Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) - Regional Canvassing

Jeannie Hardie recently used N2N to get AAA petition signatures for the Abortion Access Amendment. She got 30 new signatures and found that N2N made these folks enthusiastic that we could come to their homes, especially if they were disabled or couldn't get out regularly. She found that N2N is great if you want to cover your immediate neighborhood. You can sign up for N2N at:
https://indivisibleproject.formstack.com/forms/neighbor_to_neighbor_az_signatures.

Indivisible Unrepresentative 18 Campaign Update

Juan Ciscomani holds private meetings with select groups but has yet to hold any Town Hall meetings with his constituents. Kathleen Mayer asked his Tucson office for a Town Hall meeting and it will be held on Saturday, May 25 at 1:30 p.m. in the Community Room

at St. Francis in the Foothills at the corner of Swan and River Roads. There will a link on Mobilize for you to sign up. If you plan on attending, please come with questions. If Ciscomani doesn't show up, a cardboard cutout of him will be present in the room. Judith Randall is doing research on questions to ask him at the Town Hall. We hope to have members of the press at the Town Hall.

Campaigns to Block the Retention of Two Arizona Supreme Court Justices

Kathleen Mayer provided extensive background on the judicial review and retention process, which was created by a citizen initiative in the 1970's. A campaign to "Vote No" on the Clint Bolick and Kathryn King Retention Election is being run by Progress Arizona to hold them accountable for their vote to uphold the 1864 abortion law.

Their campaign website is azjudgeguide.com allows you to pledge that you will vote "no" on Election Day.

To provide voters with information to use in these elections, the Judicial Performance Review Commission was established. Its job is to determine if judges meet the standards it sets. Performance standards measure "judicial demeanor", integrity, legal knowledge, & administrative ability.

The Commission provides surveys to other judges, litigants, lawyers, jurors and court staff which asks questions to gauge the judge's performance. The surveys are reviewed by the Commission which determines whether the individual judge "meets the JPR standards" or "does not meet the JPR standards."

The JPR website is www.azcourts.gov/jpr. Its April 29th press release lists all the judges up for retention this year and whether each one meets or does not meet the performance standard. Only 1 trial judge was deemed not to meet the standards. Actual survey findings are not released until late July. At that time the Commission will release the same list but which includes how many survey responses were submitted for each judge and how many responses were "meets" vs. "doesn't meet". You can see the 2022 survey results at azjudges.info.

Please note that there is a Republican effort to take away these rights. Senate Concurrent Resolution 1044 will be on the ballot this November along with all these judges. It will do away with retention elections and only allow for removal of judges if they commit crimes. It also has a retroactivity clause which would nullify the votes we cast in 2024. Hence, it not only takes away our ability to vote on judges in the future it would nullify our votes to not retain the anti-abortion Justices, Bolick and King, but also Pima County Judge Kellie Johnson, whose pro-1864 law got this case to the Supreme Court. to begin with.


ITAA Postcard Campaigns

Thank you to all the postcard volunteers who wrote postcards for our April campaign focusing on climate change. Upcoming Field Team 6 postcard campaigns focusing on Voter Registration will be held as follows:

- Middle to the end of May on the Abortion Access Amendment
- Middle to the end of June on the Abortion Access Amendment
- July on Democracy / Voting Rights

We anticipate that National Indivisible will have a Get Out The Vote postcard campaign in August for Ruben Gallego.

Here's information on other opportunities to write postcards, especially if you won't be in

Tucson this summer. 

Miscellaneous Announcement

Braver Angels is hosting an event on Saturday, May 11 in the Sam Hughes neighborhood from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Contact Martin Hunke at mhunke@braverangels.org if you would like to attend and he'll send you information about the address. The event will involve a conversation about free speech. Braver Angels is leading the nation's largest cross-partisan, volunteer-led movement to bridge the partisan divide.

Final Thoughts

Dana mentioned that voter education will be key this year after voter registration is closed. The November ballot will be a complicated ballot for voters to process.

Next Meeting

We will hold our next monthly meeting on Monday, June 3 at 3:30 p.m. Our guest speakers will be John McClan, a candidate for the Arizona State Senate in Legislative District 17 and Nancy Gutierrez, Minority Whip in the Arizona State House, running for re-election in Legislative District 18.