

ITAA General Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 5, 2025

Margrit McIntosh: Co-chair and Host

- Welcomed everyone and encouraged them to post their thoughts in the Chat.
- Introduced our guest speakers and provided background information on them.

Guest Speaker Nancy Gutierrez, LD 18 State Representative

- I was one of the Democrats who helped negotiate and pass a good budget that won \$3.8 million for free the school lunches, \$60 million public school programs, funds Vet's treatment and homeless shelters and \$20 million to protect our river water.
- Our Democratic coalition honed our message that prioritizes working people and are fighting for Arizonans.
- Our main focuses are on 1) Affordability by addressing housing costs and grocery prices, capping rent prices, and limiting Airbnbs in neighborhoods; 2) Healthcare by pushing back on insurance and pharmaceutical companies, to keep hospitals like TMC and rural hospitals like those in the Navaho Nation viable; 3) Public education by addressing the out of control \$1billion spending on vouchers that is bankrupting our state and robbing children of the quality education they deserve.
 - We are suing the state treasurer and Tom Horne for access to their voucher records
 - We are pressing for an audit of the entire program and proof that at least 20% of what is being taught by voucher recipients is focused core subjects.
- Bill 123 proposes a task force to look into requiring perimenopause and menopause care providers to learn more about the conditions and teach others about them.
- Other concerns include utilities overcharging us and data centers that consume incredible amounts of water; Chandler was successful in rejecting one in their city.
- What can you do to help? Support the Arizona Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee (ADLCC) with your contributions to flip the state legislature.

Guest Speaker Priya Sundareshan, LD 18 State Senator

- I serve as the Democratic leader of the Senate and Nancy Gutierrez serves as co-leader in the House.
- Together we try to join as many meetings and meet with as many groups as possible.
- Climate change, energy policies, water issues are passions of mine.
 - Data shows the Phoenix area does not have enough ground water for the next 100 years; a moratorium on expansion and development is required
- Other major concerns are protecting our voting rights, having responsible housing programs, and eliminating the sales tax exemption that has cost the state \$200 million.
- We are the Affordability Champions; support the ADLCC and put us in charge to make sure corporate greed is not running our state.
- What else can we do? Use Request to Speak (RTS) to support Democrats good bills and reject Republicans bad ones; make phone calls and send emails to Republicans about their bad bills and help us flip both the senate and the house.

Margrit McIntosh: ITAA Major Accomplishments in 2025

- You, our members, stepped up and engaged in many different activities, raised money, persisted and made a difference.
- We held four in-person meetings and trained members to register voters; our membership has grown to 2400; our Un-seat Ciscomani group has expanded its membership; 200 Letters to the Editor were published and 8 dynamic speakers addressed our meetings; our Act Blue donations increased and ITAA donated to charities and food banks.
- Top Ten Accomplishments;
 - Added two new teams: Un-seat Ciscomani and Boycott and Build
 - Letters to Editor included a call to action
 - Boycott and Build's web pages and Don't Buy It helped promote Boycotting
 - Un-seat Ciscomani group has expanded its activities beyond protesting outside his office.
 - Post Card team helped elect Adelita Grijalva to CD6
 - 6 information newsletters were published
 - Tabling events and voter registration drives were held
 - Weekly newsletters were sent out
 - We collaborated with Democracy Unites Us and other groups
 - We participated in local actions and protests, including No Kings 1 and 2.
- Thank you for all you do and for putting your trust in our Steering Committee.

Marlene Gibbons, State Team

- At our December meeting we agreed to focus on three issues:
 - Affordability regarding utilities, housing, and health care
 - Education regarding funding for vouchers
 - Rights regarding voting rights and human rights
- We are holding in-person, small group meetings.
- We are tracking bills sponsored by our state legislators
- We are looking at voter registrations and how we might target and educate voters.
- Join us to help flip the legislature at joseph.k.alexander@hotmail.com and marlenegibbons93@gmail.com

Jeanne Hardie: Treasurer's Report for December

- Distributed Funds Account - beginning balance: \$5,827.19; ending balance: \$6,071.21
 - Income: Donations: \$305.00
 - Expenses:
 - Mail Chimp \$60.98 Monthly Fee
- Act Blue Fund-Raising Donations \$440.00
- Unrestricted Funds Account - beginning balance: \$428.43; ending balance: \$648.43
 - Income: Donations: \$220.00
- 20 people are making a regular donation each month; we appreciate their support.

Lisa Vanghn, Boycott and Build Team

- The Boycott and Build Team is on a break until February.

Ken Minkoff, Un-seat Ciscomani

- 2026 will be our big push to elect democrats; we must take advantage of CD6 as the most flappable district in the state by ousting Ciscomani and electing Jo Mendoza to take his place.
- As the only viable candidate to replace Ciscomani we should endorse Mendoza's candidacy.
- Since the primaries are late this year, we must turn voters against Ciscomani now.
 - We are going door to door distributing voter cards explaining why Ciscomani is not for us.
 - Our website has a lot more information about our activities
 - We are putting our "MAGA" sequenced signs along roadsides; we hope to cover the entire CD6 district.
- You can help us by liking our Facebook posts which will increase our impact.
- You can join our group by emailing me at Kminkov@aol.com

Jacolyn Marshall, Letters to the Editor and Guest Speakers

- This year over 200 Letters to the Editor were published and amplified across our social media accounts aimed at informing, persuading and inspiring readers to take positive action.
- 43 writers, 6 submitters, and two dedicated social media amplifiers contributed to our success.

Amy Gosla, Events Team

- January 8th protest on the corner of La Cholla and Ina from 4-6pm,
- January 15th protest at Cisco's office from 4:30-6pm hosted by Climate Action Campaign,
- February 28th Peace Fair at Reid Park from 11am-4pm
- Protests every Saturday at Cisco's office at 9am.

Melody, Membership team

- We are in the process of planning activities for the coming months.
- On a side note, you may want to consider nonviolence training to save our Democracy; I will post a flyer on our Facebook page.

Margrit McIntosh: Closing Remarks

- Thank you for showing up and asking great questions.
- Our next general meeting will be Monday, February 2 at 4:00 pm.

THE CHAT

2026-01-05 16:01:41 From Melody Luepke to Everyone:

I'm mad as hell and not gonna take it anymore!

Sue Heck, PAMELA MALOUF: ❤️

Mike Lippman: 🍌

2026-01-05 16:01:51 From Analeise Volpe to Everyone:

Overturn this regime and empower the people

Sue Heck, PAMELA MALOUF, Lisa McCarthy: ❤️

2026-01-05 16:02:09 From jennie bennett to Everyone:

WE NEED TO TELL PEOPLE TO MAIL THE BALLOTS IN IMMEDIATELY ;.....AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE BECAUSE OF THE PROCESSING CHANGES

[NOTE FROM MARGRIT: The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) implemented new procedures for dating mail on Dec. 24, postmarking letters and packages with the date they are processed at a postal facility rather than when they are dropped off in a mailbox — a shift that could affect whether time-sensitive mail is considered on time. I reached out to the Pima County Recorder's office and they replied:

*The USPS procedural changes will ***not*** affect mail-in ballots in Pima County. Unlike some states, **Arizona election law does not rely on the postmark date.** Ballots are counted based on the date they are ***received into our custody,*** not the date they are postmarked.*

The speed or method of mail processing by USPS has not changed in a way that would impact ballot delivery. As long as voters mail their ballot by the recommended mail-by date or return it to an authorized drop-off location by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, their ballot should be received without issue.

Regarding mail processing, ballots mailed in Tucson may be routed through regional USPS processing facilities, which can include Phoenix, before being returned to Pima County. This is part of standard USPS operations and does not affect ballot security or validity.

Keep in mind that you can drop your mail-in ballot at a drop box, or at a early voting location, or at the Recorder's office. If you drop off your mail-in ballot at a voting location on election day, it may be several weeks before your vote is counted, because of the signature verification process. So if you are using a mail-in ballot, try to get it in as soon as possible, so they can verify your signature before election day.]

<https://www.tucsonaz.gov/Departments/Clerks/Elections/Election-Dates>

2026-01-05 16:02:11 From Renate Kloppinger to Everyone:

Agree with Melody...

2026-01-05 16:02:52 From Diane Luber to Everyone:

50501 emailed today, saying there is going to be a Free America walkout on Tuesday, January 20, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

2026-01-05 16:03:12 From Rachel Rulmyr to Everyone:

I'm super pissed about attacks on Mark Kelley by Hegseth and his demotion and pension. This is unconscionable.

Amy Gosla, Sue Heck: 👍

PAMELA MALOUF, Sue Heck: 👍

2026-01-05 16:03:13 From Kate Wilczek to Everyone:

looking forward to make more constituents in AZ CD 06 angry at Representative Ciscomani

Melody Luepke, PAMELA MALOUF: 👍

2026-01-05 16:03:28 From Sue Heck to Everyone:

Rfk changed the vaccine schedule 🤔! Why try to kill the children!

Rachel Rulmyr: 🤔

2026-01-05 16:04:16 From Joseph Spitale to Everyone:

Safer to drop off mail-in ballot

2026-01-05 16:04:27 From Jennifer Dawson to Everyone:

Sad that the UN considers the U.S. a rogue nation

Lisa McCarthy: 👍

Sue Heck: 😞

PAMELA MALOUF: 😞

Melody Luepke: 😞

2026-01-05 16:05:08 From Diane Luber to Everyone:

I have not received a mail-in ballot yet.

2026-01-05 16:07:07 From Kate Wilczek to Everyone:

Replying to "Rfk changed the vaccine schedule 🤔! Why try to kil...":

they want to ensure that more people are worried about survival instead being worried about demoracy

2026-01-05 16:07:48 From Rachel Rulmyr to Everyone:

Yes Jackie. I heard that also from our County Recorders Office

Amy Gosla: 👍

2026-01-05 16:18:54 From Katherine Hess to Everyone:

Replying to "I'm super pissed about attacks on Mark Kelley by H...":

You should also be pissed that Kelly went on national t.v and gave his approval for kidnapping Maduro etc. What a hypocrite! Telling people in the military to stand up against an illegal order and then endorsing an illegal act.

[Note from Margrit: Mark Kelly's official statement:

<https://www.kelly.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/kelly-statement-on-venezuela-strikes-and-arrest-of-nicolas-maduro/>

]

2026-01-05 16:19:49 From Ken Minkoff to Everyone:

The current law exempts Congresspersons (like Ciscomani with 6 kids in pvt school) from disclosure about who is receiving the voucher funds.

Amy Gosla: 🤔

2026-01-05 16:22:35 From Jeanne Hardie to Everyone:

Thanks for all of that

2026-01-05 16:23:24 From Melody Luepke to Everyone:

Where are we with providing food for schoolchildren?

2026-01-05 16:24:04 From Sue Heck to Everyone:

They are following trumps lead of not following the law.

2026-01-05 16:24:33 From Melody Luepke to Everyone:

My question got answered! Thanks for school lunches!

Amy Gosla:👍

2026-01-05 16:26:55 From Laura Silva to Everyone:

We have tried to reach out to some other Tucson area AZ state Dem reps, but they haven't responded to us. Do you have any advice on how we can interact with them?

2026-01-05 16:27:21 From Olivia Frison to Everyone:

My concern is the high cost of rent in Arizona. Are we addressing rent control?

Francesca Pardes:👍

2026-01-05 16:28:00 From Judy Shivack to Everyone:

Can we invite Betty Villegas to speak to us- her expertise is in housing.

Priya Sundareshan, Olivia Frison:❤️

Francesca Pardes:👍

2026-01-05 16:28:36 From Priya Sundareshan to Everyone:

and the SNAP error rate penalty!

2026-01-05 16:30:09 From Katherine Hess to Everyone:

Replying to "The current law exempts Congresspersons (like Cisc...":

Ken: Yes that exemption is outrageous but we already have a current ball park figure of about \$7K per child. Katherine

2026-01-05 16:35:22 From Sue Heck to Everyone:

We are below Mississippi in funding!

2026-01-05 16:36:15 From Amy Gosla to Everyone:

class size should be smaller, and the only way to do that is to fund public school

Kate Wilczek:👍

Mike Lippman:👍

2026-01-05 16:36:53 From Amy Gosla to Everyone:

THank you, Nancy

Rachel Rulmyr:👍

2026-01-05 16:37:10 From Priya Sundareshan to Everyone:

i do need to leave right at 5

2026-01-05 16:37:39 From Margrit of ITAA to Everyone:

Replying to "i do need to leave right at 5":

Understood!

2026-01-05 16:37:40 From Patricia Wiedhopf to Everyone:

Thank you, Nancy!❤️

Rachel Rulmyr:❤️

2026-01-05 16:38:21 From Rachel Rulmyr to Everyone:

Replying to "I'm super pissed about attacks on Mark Kelley by H...":

That has absolutely nothing to do with his service, rank or pension. This was about retaliation and vengeance

2026-01-05 16:40:30 From Priya Sundareshan to Everyone:

<https://go.azsos.gov/2ypt>

Amy Gosla:👍

2026-01-05 16:44:49 From Lynden Kidd to Everyone:

Could someone share the link for the Secretary of State's site where we can sign the petitions for candidates that was mentioned by Nancy? I kinda missed that. Thanks.

2026-01-05 16:45:14 From Margrit of ITAA to Everyone:

Replying to "Could someone share the link for the Secretary of ...":

Here it is again: <https://go.azsos.gov/2ypt>

2026-01-05 16:45:25 From Lynden Kidd to Everyone:

Replying to "Could someone share the link for the Secretary of ...":

Thanks so much.

2026-01-05 16:45:44 From Amy Gosla to Everyone:

Replying to "Could someone share the link for the Secretary of ...":

@Lynden Kidd just need your VoterID or DL

2026-01-05 16:46:13 From Lynden Kidd to Everyone:

Replying to "Could someone share the link for the Secretary of ...":

Gotcha. Got both.

Amy Gosla: 👍

2026-01-05 16:49:43 From Priya Sundareshan to Everyone:

OUR VISION | Arizona Senate Democrats

Amy Gosla: 💙

2026-01-05 16:55:44 From Mike Lippman to Everyone:

Also definitely support down ballot! ACC could have stopped this- and perhaps, can going forward.
(Disclaimer, I'm for Tucson's own Derrick Espadas)

Francesca Pardes: 👍

2026-01-05 16:58:07 From Amy Gosla to Everyone:

We can Get involved by volunteering for all the different election rolls. being poll observers, parking lot observers, observe at the Records/Elections office. Get info out to voters ahead of elections.

Margrit of ITAA, Steven Linder: ❤️

Francesca Pardes, Sue Heck: 👍

2026-01-05 16:58:57 From Amy Gosla to Everyone:

voter awareness will be so important! thinking outside the box to educate voters

Francesca Pardes: 👍

2026-01-05 17:02:06 From Amy Gosla to Everyone:

I'm taking notes for myself: RTS, phone calls, emails-especially in Repub districts, flip legislature, solid dems, Thanks, Priya!

2026-01-05 17:02:11 From Priya Sundareshan to Everyone:

priya4arizona@gmail.com

2026-01-05 17:03:36 From Patricia Wiedhopf to Everyone:

Thanks, Priya! ❤️

2026-01-05 17:03:48 From Charles Grantham to Everyone:

Wonderful meeting. Very informative. Thank you. I have to jump.

2026-01-05 17:04:47 From PAMELA MALOUF to Everyone:

This Thursday - if you are free. 4-6pm

Resist_8 Jan 25-6C_1-4_Final_FB.jpg

Amy Gosla, Margrit of ITAA: 💙

2026-01-05 17:06:28 From A Condon to Everyone:

Impressive accomplishments 😊!

PAMELA MALOUF: 👍

2026-01-05 17:09:21 From Amy Gosla to Everyone:

THank you, Everyone! And thank you, Margrit, for your dedication to our weekly newsletters and keeping us organized.

PAMELA MALOUF: 👍

2026-01-05 17:11:17 From Melody Luepke to Everyone:

Please consider these trainings if you are available!

Nonviolence Training to Save our Democracy.docx

Amy Gosla, Margrit of ITAA: 👍

2026-01-05 17:12:35 From Amy Gosla to Everyone:

Replying to "Please consider these trainings if you are availab...":

are these the trainings JIm Driscoll is promoting?

2026-01-05 17:12:38 From Ken Minkoff to Everyone:

Ken Minkoff UnSeat Ciscomani Team kminkov@aol.com. Let me know if you want to help us flip AZ CD 06

2026-01-05 17:12:39 From Margrit of ITAA to Everyone:

Marlene Gibbons marlenegibbons93@gmail.com

2026-01-05 17:12:48 From Margrit of ITAA to Everyone:

Joe Alexander joseph.k.alexander@hotmail.com

2026-01-05 17:13:10 From Margrit of ITAA to Everyone:

Contact Marlene or Joe if you would like to contribute to the State Action Team.

2026-01-05 17:13:13 From Melody Luepke to Everyone:

Replying to "Please consider these trainings if you are availab...":

Yes, and my apologies if the info isn't complete. The entire flyer is in ITAA's weekly newsletter.

Amy Gosla: 💙

2026-01-05 17:13:34 From Amy Gosla to Everyone:

Replying to "Please consider these trainings if you are availab...":

@Melody Luepke I will post to FB page.

2026-01-05 17:14:41 From Melody Luepke to Everyone:

Replying to "Please consider these trainings if you are availab...":

Thank you!!

2026-01-05 17:16:14 From Margrit of ITAA to Everyone:

Contact Ken to help with the Unseat Ciscomani team: kminkov@aol.com

2026-01-05 17:18:23 From PAMELA MALOUF to Everyone:

Climate Action Campaign is also holding a protest at Ciscomani's on Thursday January 15. (This is also on Mobilize.us to RSVP if desired.)

January 15 Ciscomani's.JPG

Amy Gosla: 

2026-01-05 17:20:28 From Patricia Wiedhopf to Everyone:

Thanks for your work!

2026-01-05 17:20:28 From Margrit of ITAA to Everyone:

To join the Letters to the Editor team, contact Jackie Marshall jacolyn@comcast.net

2026-01-05 17:21:38 From Amy Gosla to Everyone:

Events: Jan 8th protest on the corner of LaCholla and Ina from 4-6pm, January 15th-Cisco's office from 4:30-6pm hosted by Climate Action Campaign, February 28th Peace Fair at Rein Park 11am-4pm, and every Saturday at Cisco's office at 9am.

2026-01-05 17:24:27 From Shelley McMahon to Everyone:

Thanks!!

