

Indivisible Tucson Action Alliance  
November 1, 2021

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

Dana asked those who are attending the meeting for the first time to identify themselves. There were no first timers attending.

- **Announcements**

Karen Harris is hosting the Strictly Social Happy Hour at her home on November 5, 2021 from 4:30 to 6:30. If you would like to attend, please register on the ITAA website [www.indivisibletucson.org](http://www.indivisibletucson.org) Click on the Happy Hour button to register. Karen's telephone number in case you get lost is 919/349-0195. There will be snacks provided. Live music is also scheduled. Please bring your own alcoholic beverages.

- **Margo Nichols – Treasurer's Report**

ITAA collected \$1,000 from the membership into the restricted distributed funds account. National will soon match that by donating \$500 into this account. Those additional monies will put the account over \$2000. The current balance is \$1,617.85. There is currently \$67.65 in the unrestricted funds account. Margo requested that members hold off on donating to that account until the need arises. The steering committee will meet in January to discuss what our future needs might be.

- **Dana Offerman/Sally Simmons – New Member Orientation**

A new member orientation was held on October 30, 2021 at Beyond Bread. Rick Bramhall volunteered to lead outreach efforts at events in an effort to recruit new members throughout Tucson and into areas that may be more diverse than the current northwest Tucson area.

- **Misty Atkins – Redistricting**

On Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, the commission unanimously voted on both the congressional and legislative maps. Most were unhappy with the maps voted on, agreeing that much work needed to be done. There will be a 30-day public opinion period (dates TBD) later this month. Four of Arizona's congressional districts would be competitive, with two as legitimate toss-up seats, under [a new draft map](#) adopted Thursday by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission. Republicans would have three safe seats and Democrats would have two. And the commission's [official draft legislative map](#) would give Republicans more safe districts.

Pima county is at a pivotal point. Most of LD 11 will become LD 17, which goes from Marana to Oro Valley and continues up to near Casa Grande and over the Catalina mountains and continues down to Vail. More information can be found on our website at [indivisibletucson.org](http://indivisibletucson.org)

and the [IRC website](#). The link provided will allow you to register for training regarding how to comment on the maps as presented.

[https://www.mobilize.us/az\\_dems/event/424435/?emci=474006bb-933a-ec11-9820-c896653b26c8&emdi=ca66c545-453b-ec11-9820-c896653b26c8&ceid=498642](https://www.mobilize.us/az_dems/event/424435/?emci=474006bb-933a-ec11-9820-c896653b26c8&emdi=ca66c545-453b-ec11-9820-c896653b26c8&ceid=498642)

Someone from the Southern Arizona Leadership Council submitted the map to Mehl (a Republican commissioner) and it was railroaded through.

**Karen Harris** asked how the commission factors in Independents? Misty was not sure but the commission looked at the last nine election cycles and used that data to predict what might come up next. Sally Simmons commented that she did not think the commission paid much attention to Latino or Native American comments. Dana commented that the chair is supposed to be independent, but she has consistently aligned herself with Republicans. There are links to all the information on the ITAA Newsletter page.

**Dana** announced that Prescott Indivisible is hosting Zoom meetings on 11/4 with Ruben Gallego and 11/17 with Tom O'Halleran. Misty has posted information in the newsletter. Dana forwarded to the membership information about a program CEBV (Civic Engagement Beyond Voting) is sponsoring, a research project called "Contest Every Race". If you are averse to phone banking and/or door knocking you can spend a couple of hours doing research as a contribution to supporting candidates.

**Rick Bramhall** discussed his outreach to other groups in anticipation of forming working relationships with groups such as Black Lives Matter and Sunrise. He is also looking into setting up table events at Festival of Books and art events to connect with others in the community.

**Thea Chalow** wrote a letter to Gabriella Cazares-Kelly, Pima County Recorder, asking for recommendations for groups that ITAA might work with where we could support outreach to the Hispanic and Indigenous communities. No response thus far. As a public official, she may not be able to give that advice. Thea suggested that she may want to pass the letter on to someone else who could guide ITAA. The Festival of Books is March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Dana has sent a letter to that organization to determine if ITAA would be allowed to have a table at their event.

**Dana** informed the group that ITAA will want to put together goals and actions for the upcoming election cycle. The steering committee would like input from the members and is proposing that on November 17<sup>th</sup> ITAA will have a face-to-face meeting (location to be determined) and is asking the membership if they would like to participate in the process. If interested, send an email to Dana at the ITAA Gmail address ([IndivisibleTucson@gmail.com](mailto:IndivisibleTucson@gmail.com)). This will be a brainstorming session on what concrete goals and actions ITAA would enact leading up to the 2022 election. The steering committee anticipates these actions would center around getting to know the candidates, voter registration and get out the vote activities. The ideas presented at these brainstorming sessions will help the steering committee formulate a plan. Indivisible National has a template to assist in this process.

## **Eileen Hollowell**

The State Legislature will convene in January 2022. Eileen would like additional members to join the state team and ask those who were on the team to consider coming back as all bodies will be needed. There will be a Request to Speak Training (RTS) in January. The Republicans will have a major push going forward to pass laws (voter suppression, flat tax, and critical race theory) all of which will greatly impact the state and its citizens. You should note that the Republicans are using RTS as well. Republicans are very organized and very well-funded. They are good at registering voters, getting out the vote and mobilizing people. They are very effective.

**Cindy Doklan** commented on the RTS newsletter and how helpful its explanation of the bills being discussed is for her. Cindy also expressed her appreciation of Eileen's efforts.

**Karen Harris** commented that every day the ultra conservatives are putting negative verbiage and insults on Twitter. Karen is working with other social media teams in different parts of the state to disseminate facts. The LTE (Letters to the Editor) team is an integral part of that effort.

- **Reginald Bolding – Guest Speaker**

Reginald currently represents District 27 which includes south Phoenix and Tempe. He is also the State House Minority Democratic leader. Reginald is one of two Democratic candidates running for Arizona Secretary of State.

Reginald graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and international security. After graduation, he became a Special Education teacher in South Phoenix. Reginald also received a master's degree from Arizona State University. He is also the founder of one of the largest black-led voting rights and community engagement organizations in Arizona and Arizona Coalition for Change. They were able to register 50,000 eligible voters through their voter registration drives.

Reginald was born and raised in Ohio by a strong single mother who raised him and his two brothers. His mother encouraged the boys to dream, and he spent his youth watching legal dramas and pretending to cross examine witnesses. His background was with working class people who had no professional role models. He interned in a law firm as a high school teenager and imagined he might become an attorney. After taking the LSAT and scoring high, he was offered a full scholarship to law school. He opted not to attend but became interested in educational inequity. He decided to join Teach for American instead. He returned to Arizona to teach special education.

This experience sparked his interest in funding for education and the impact state legislators funding had on educational resources. This prompted him to run for the state legislature. Has won four times and has been serving his district for 7 years.

He decided to run for Secretary of State because he feels the need to lead and stand up for democracy and educational equity. Reginald cited the misinformation going on now and the attacks on democracy. He is proud to work across the aisle and has had more bills passed than any other Democratic lawmaker in the last 7 years. The Secretary of State should be someone who understands how the legislature works. The Secretary of State also serves as the lieutenant governor. The individual must understand state budgets and have negotiation skills. Reginald has been successful at these tasks over the last 7 years. Reginald leads the Arizona Coalition for Change, a voter registration organization and has had success registering thousands of voters.

Reginald successfully sued the State of Arizona in Federal court in 2020 to extend the voter registration deadline. As a result, a 10-day voter registration extension was granted. In those 10 days, 35,000 people registered to vote. This effort helped Biden win and turned Arizona blue. Reginald is asking you to support his candidacy.

- **Question and Answer**

**Dana Offerman - What will your priorities be if you are elected Secretary of State?**

Answer:

1. Address voter restrictions and restoring PEVL
2. Galvanizing to register voters on National Voter Registration Day; visiting high schools to register those eligible
3. Address voter accessibility
4. Lobbyist reform

**Dana Offerman – As Secretary of State, how will you combat misinformation around election fraud?**

Answer:

1. Speak truth to power and provide accurate information
2. Institute reforms to make things better

**Eileen Hollowell – What will the state legislature resignations mean? Will things become even worse? Will there be more voter suppression bills?**

Answer:

1. Yes, things will get worse. There is a one vote difference in the house and a one vote difference in the senate. The winds, however, favor the Democrats because of vote by mail (in 2010 60% of people voted by mail). Now, 80% of people vote by mail. This resulted in the last election Democrats controlling three of the top state seats. Superintendent of Public Instruction and two seats on the Corporate Commission.
2. The Republican strategy is to pack the courts and pass legislation to suppress democratic votes. ITAA must continue to use RTS. Written or oral comments are the most effective.
3. ITAA is welcomed and encouraged to work with Coalition for Change to help register voters.

To support Reginald Bolding for Secretary of State you can donate at: <https://secure.actble.com/donate/111it>. You can also contact Reginald's Chief of Staff Vasthy Lamadrid at [sena@azc4c.org](mailto:sena@azc4c.org)

**Cindy Doklan – Why should we vote for you versus Finchem?**

Answer:

1. I have leadership skills and have a track record of passing legislation that has made a direct impact on the lives of Arizonans.
2. I lead one of the largest civic organizations in Arizona.
3. I have hired hundreds of people to get involved in civic engagement.
4. As a teacher I have first-hand knowledge of what's happening in the community.
5. As a father, I am invested in democracy and making sure my daughters grow up in a place where their voices are heard.
6. Mr. Finchem was seen on the steps of the Capital on January 6<sup>th</sup> and has a history of not putting our state or country first. He has put in writing that if he was Secretary of State, he would have certified the election for Donald Trump.

**Rick Bramhall – Will you be able to do something about foreign entities coming into Arizona to copper mine?**

Answer:

That would be an area outside of the Secretary of State office, but the solution would be lobbyist reform. Follow the money to see where the influence is coming from.

The other Democrat running for Secretary of State is Adrian Fontes who will speak to our group next month.

The Republicans running for Secretary of State are: Shawwna Bolick, Mark Finchem, Michelle Ugenti-Rita and Beau Lane.

The most current Facebook page for ITAA is: [www.facebook.com/groups/179770817226870](https://www.facebook.com/groups/179770817226870)

**The next meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2021 at 3:30**