

**MINUTES FOR ITAA MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2023**

Jan Opened the meeting at 3:32 and asked for new members to introduce themselves. We had 4 new members.

New Members

Margaret Scott
Claudia Miller
Isabel Huff
Mary Ann Graffagnino

Remarks by Kirsten Engel

Ms. Engel recently announced her campaign against U.S. House Representative Juan Ciscomani in Congressional District 7. He is one of the 18 vulnerable House Republicans targeted by Indivisible in its Unrepresentatives Campaign. Ms. Engel is currently a law professor of the Certificate of Law Program at the University of Arizona. Ms. Engel lost to Ciscomani by 5,232 votes in 2022. She believes that voters are more motivated now to vote him out based on current events and the political climate in the district.

She mentioned that Letters to the Editor are important to her campaign to call out Ciscomani for his voting record. He consistently votes with MAGA Republicans and facilitates the MAGA agenda, especially on reproductive rights, school funding, and waging war on the LGBTQ community. He also favors massive budget cuts that have impacted farming and clean energy.

The top issue for Ms. Engel is abortion access. She believes that we need strong protections on reproductive rights at all levels to protect the liberties of our bodies. She has a background in climate and water issues and has devoted her professional career to these issues. She would like Arizona to be seen as a leader in this area. She mentioned that democracy is on the ballot in 2024 and received the endorsement of End Citizens United, Emily's List, Senator Mark Kelly, Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters. She mentioned that some business leaders are concerned about education and immigration issues in Arizona. She stated that it is still too early for some business groups to provide support for her campaign. She supports U.S funding for Ukraine. She supports housing affordability and would like to see more affordable housing built near public transportation in Arizona. She stated that uncontrolled sprawl is not a good thing. She believes that the transition to electric vehicles (EV) is good and inevitable but it's not the only method to decrease the impact of greenhouse gas emissions. She would like to see more equality between workers and management.

Congressional District 7 is a rural and diverse district. Citizens in this district suffer from misinformation about healthcare and worry about the survival of Social Security. To learn more about Kirsten Engel you can visit her website at <https://www.engelforarizona.com>.

Update from Julian Sena at Arizona Indivisible

Julian discussed the Arizona Indivisible Summit that will be held on Saturday, October 21 in Phoenix. The Summit will focus on Arizona Indivisible's 2024 work related to the "Unrepresentatives Campaign" (two of the 18 representatives are in Arizona) and the Indivisible Battleground: Arizona Program. There will be various breakout sessions on press training and the plan to turn Arizona blue in 2024 with special guests to be announced. The purpose of the Summit is to discuss Arizona Indivisible's role in how we can all work together. People who are interested in becoming more involved are welcome to attend. Register [here](#).

Arizona Abortion Access Amendment Efforts

Tina Kilcullen and Di Alexander provided an update on this effort. We have nine months to get at least 700,000 petition signatures (we need 384,000 verified signatures to get the amendment on the ballot but need a large "cushion" of signatures because some may be challenged) to get the Arizona Abortion Access Amendment on the ballot in 2024. All events, related to the Abortion Access Amendment mobilization, including training (in person and via Zoom), signing, volunteering to table, can be found on the <https://www.mobilize.us> website.

Healthcare Rising Arizona and Arizona List are holding weekly Zoom one-hour petition signature training. You must have training before you can be issued petition signature sheets.

Tina mentioned that some petition signers may have medical issues that do not allow them to make a signature. She has declaration forms for people to sign if they are signing a petition for another person. They are also ordering more "signature guides" (should have them in two weeks) to put on the petitions to make sure that people "stay within the lines." Tina also mentioned that she has more clipboards if they are needed.

Tricia Sauer is working on getting QR Code stickers made to hand out to petition signers if they want to register to vote after they sign Arizona Abortion Access Amendment petitions.

You have to be eligible to [register](#) to vote in Arizona to get signatures on the petitions but if you are a petition signer you have to be registered to vote in Arizona. If a petition signer has felony convictions he or she should check with the Pima County Recorder's Office to confirm that they are eligible to vote.

Tina mentioned that they need volunteers for two libraries, including the Tanque Verde Library, and that you can come watch her table and collect signatures to get some hands-on experience.

Please contact Di Alexander if you have comments/suggestions on where else we need to be tabling to get petition signatures.

The Tucson Pride Festival

Eileen reported that the Pride Festival was a great event to collect petition signatures but that it would have been better to get signatures in Armory Park due to the amount of people there for the event.

ITAA Community Building

- Karen Harris will be hosting a Happy Hour on October 6 at her home.
- New member orientation will be held on October 10, at 9:30 a.m. at Beyond Bread (Oracle and Ina Roads). You should have received an invitation via email. Please contact us if we are in error. Indivisibletucson@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

Jeanne Hardie, who has assumed the role of Treasurer of ITAA, reported that National Indivisible will match all donations to ITAA up to \$500 before the end of the year. ITAA currently has \$315 Non-Distributed Funds (cash), \$1,518 in Distributed Funds and disbursements of \$150 for Zoom, \$155 for the ITAA website, \$30 for the website domain name, \$20 for Mailchimp, and \$250 for the upcoming happy hour.

Postcard Campaigns

The current postcard campaign pick-up date is October 7th at Riverfront Park and Dusenberry Library. Post cards due to be mailed by October 21, involves postcards being sent to women in LD 17, 18 and 19 on reproductive rights.

States Team

Joe Alexander asked the group to contact him if they would like to participate on the States Team at Joseph.k.alexander@hotmail.com

Letters to the Editor Team

Jackie reported that so far this year, the LTE team has had 65 LTEs published in the Arizona Daily Star. The LTE Team needs more letter writers, editors, or letter submitters. The LTE Team holds bi-monthly meetings on Zoom. Even if you don't have an LTE in mind, feel free to join these calls to stay abreast of current issues, talk to the group about what's on your mind, or get ideas for a possible LTE. Jackie reminded the group that the Daily Star does not allow LTE writers to have more than three LTEs published in a month so as to encourage new LTE writers.

Social Media

Karen Harris posts our LTEs on social media, including Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter), Threads (Instagram), and TikTok and sends the LTEs to Tricia Sauer at Arizona Indivisible. Tricia,

in turn, sends our LTEs to a publicist at National Indivisible to further amplify them. Karen could use help on how to effectively use TikTok if anyone would like to share their expertise.

Membership

New member orientation will be held on October 10, at 9:30 a.m. at Beyond Bread (Oracle and Ina Roads).

Next ITAA Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, November 6 at 3:30 p.m. At that meeting we will hear a presentation from Voter Choice Arizona - AZ Ranked Choice Voting.