

Minutes of ITAA Meeting
September 9, 2024

Attendees: Sally Mayershohn, Jeanne Hardie, Sandra Kaye, Eloise Gore, Eileen Hollowell, Lea Anderton, Kathleen Mayer, Marlene Gibbons, Jim Perry, Lynn Bultman, Kenneth Proper, Karen MacDonald, Cindy Bordelon, Margaret Scott, Amy Gosla, Rachel Rulmyr, Devon Sloan, Patricia Wiedhopf, Debra Schaeffer, Conni Holderman, Holly Thompson, Cathy Sigmon, Mike Perdue, Gabriella Cazares-Kelly, Robbin Miller, Bets Craig, Cheryl Whited, Ann Brehm-Moline, Susan Waites, Elaine Omar, Linda Block, LP Epsenstein, Holly Thompson, Judith Randall, Joe Smith, Beth Smith, Sally Simmons, Michele Harbour, William Yohey, Diane Luber, Roberta Latham, Melvina Strijkonk, Sundrop Carter, Ann Bradford, Ray Smith, Thea Chalow, Les Clark, Stephen Schear, Nancy Atherton, Dana Offerman, Misty Atkins, Karen Harris, Jackie Marshall

Dana Offerman welcomed everyone. She announced that ITAA now has a record 500 members! There were 55 people in attendance. She welcomed the many members who have joined us recently.

Before the first guest speaker, Jackie Marshall announced that she had Democracy Matters bumper stickers available. Email her at jacolyn@comcast.net if you want one.

Guest Speakers

Gabriella Cázares-Kelly

Jan Counts introduced the first guest speaker, Pima County Recorder Gabriella Cázares-Kelly (<https://www.recorder.pima.gov/recorderhome>). Ms.

Gabriella Cázares-Kelly was a founding member of Indivisible Tohono O’Odham, which is the only Native American Indivisible group still active. She is running for re-election, after being elected in 2020 as the first Native American to win a county-wide election in Pima County.

Ms. Cázares-Kelly presented an excellent program on Voter Accessibility. Among the highlights were a listing of important dates.

September 21 – send out military and overseas ballots

October 7- last day to register to vote

October 9 – mail-in ballots go out

October 25- last day to request a mail-in ballot

October 29 – recommended last day to mail in ballot

November 5 – Election Day – vote in person or drop off ballot at a voting center.

She then explained all the options for voting. You may 1) vote by mail for just this election; 2) be on the active Early Ballot list; 3) Braille ballots are available; 4) Large Print ballots are available; 5) Military and overseas ballots may be requested; 6) vote early in person; 7) vote early on an Accessibility Voting Device; 8) Team voting, an option where a team goes to collect the ballot from a person who cannot get their ballot to the Elections Division any other way; 9) emergency voting (even if there’s not an emergency); 10) drop off your ballot early; 11) drop off your early ballot at a voting center on the day of the election; 12) vote in person at a voting center on election day; 13) vote on election Day using an Accessibility Device or 14) vote in your car on election day if that is necessary. She encourages voting by mail especially this year since the ballot will be so long.

She explained that voting is verified in accordance with the rules of a Voter Verification Guide. The Elections Department employees, who work under her supervision, are trained extensively in verifying signatures. Even if someone needs to have help voting, the person

needs to sign the verification. If they are unable to do so, they should call the County Recorder for assistance.

Other methods to assist voters and to assure all can vote include Braille and Large-Print ballots, wheelchair accessible voting booths, tables accessible for wheelchairs at voting centers (for use by anyone), express voting machines with several language options and Team Voting options for nursing homes, jails, and rehabilitation centers where bipartisan teams will visit the voter to assist them with their vote. In addition, she encouraged all to sign up for emails or text alerts that will let you know when your ballot has been received and when your signature has been verified.

In response to questions, Ms. Cázares-Kelly said that 1) 27 people used the Braille ballot in the last general election; 2) the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on verifying voters' citizenship has been very confusing for county recorders and they are seeking legal advice 3) in replying to challenges about non-citizens voting, even using data doesn't satisfy the questioner but she assures the challengers that Arizona requires proof of citizenship. The requirement of proof of citizenship adversely affects students and elderly citizens more than those attempting to vote who are not citizens. The non-citizens risk deportation if they attempt to vote illegally so they will not attempt it often. Students who don't have drivers' license with them or elderly citizens who no longer drive are more likely to be affected by the need to provide a driver's license to vote.

Ms. Cázares-Kelly also was asked about how to engage people to get them to register. She said the first area to check is your own family and your friends as well as groups you may belong to. In response to another question about a recent lawsuit, Ms. Cázares-Kelly noted that there have been several lawsuits against the Recorder's office. One involved an attempt to get the 75-foot barrier for election observers removed. The Recorder's office will enforce that barrier. Another

involved citizenship challenges to which Ms. Cázares-Kelly sent a very detailed response setting out all the safety and verification methods used by her office. A final question was about getting students out to vote. Ms. Cázares-Kelly noted that even if you don't have a permanent address, you can vote.

Cathy Sigmon

Jan then introduced our second speaker, Cathy Sigmon from Civic Engagement Beyond Voting (CEVB) and Save our Schools.

Ms. Sigmon encouraged all to finish the entire ballot. She noted that recent events have underscored the importance of county races for Board of Supervisors, treasurer, recorder, county attorney, assessor and other county offices. Some of those running for sheriff in other counties are so-called "constitutional sheriffs" who think they are free to enforce or not enforce laws. CEVB's voting guide will include a notation on what candidates are constitutionalists.

CEVB will also have a forum every day from October through Election Day to help people who may have questions. In addition, they are running a program with high school students in which peers help to get high school students registered to vote. Let her know if you know a high school student who would like to help.

Gavel Watch, CEVB's report on judicial recommendations, will soon be published. They are recommending that a "do not retain" vote be cast for Justices Clint Bolick and Katherine King, for Kellie Johnson in Pima County and for Judge Angela Payton in Division 1 of the Court of Appeals.

Ms. Sigmon then reviewed all the propositions which will be on the ballot. If a proposition starts with a "1", it is a proposition to change the constitution. Her slides are attached to indicate what all the

propositions are. The general advice is to vote “NO” on all propositions except Proposition 139. Proposition 139 is the Arizona Abortion Access Act, and she is encouraging everyone to vote “YES” on this proposition. CEBV has submitted several comments regarding propositions to be included in the voter guide.

A synopsis of the propositions is as follows:

Proposition 133: Affects primary elections – NO

Proposition 134: Restricts the initiative and referendum process – NO

Proposition 135: Restricts the governor’s emergency power – NO

Proposition 136: Lets any citizen sue to invalidate an initiative on the grounds that it is not constitutional – NO

Proposition 137: Eliminates the judicial retention vote and would be retroactive so that a vote of “no retention” on any judicial officer in this election would not count – NO

Proposition 138 – Tipped workers – NO

Proposition 139 – Arizona Abortion Access Act – YES

Proposition 140- Also affects primary elections – NO

Proposition 311- NO

Proposition 312- NO

Proposition 313 – NO

Proposition 314 – would revive SB 1070 from years ago; opposed by law enforcement and businesses as well as progressive voters – NO

Proposition 315 – Would require legislature to adopt all regulations for agencies in the state – NO

Propositions with 400 numbers are all county propositions.

In addition, the CEBV voter guide will include information on candidates for all school boards. They encourage “yes” votes on all budget overrides and bond elections in school districts.

Dana thanked CEBV for all they do and encouraged everyone to read the guide, understand the reasons behind CEBV recommendations and share the guide with friends and family. Ballot initiatives: <https://cebv.substack.com/p/cebv-2024-propositions-guide>

Links to other CEBV information and activities:

Ballot Fest: <https://bit.ly/CEBVBallotFest>

NEW HS Voter Signup form: <https://bit.ly/2024HSVote>

Mailing List: <https://bit.ly/CEBVSubscribe>

<https://CEBV.substack.com>

Text Banking

Joe Smith, head of ITAA's text bank team, encourages all members to get involved in text banking. You can get in touch with him at Jocko3484@gmail.com.

Sundrop Carter, from Arizona Indivisible, discussed the text bank programs that will be going on at a state level. For the next 2 weeks, they will be sending out texts to remind people to check on their voter registration status and to encourage folks to vote by mail since the ballot is so long this year. Then, in October, texts will be sent out every week to encourage people to participate in a ballot education class to explain what is on the ballot and to answer questions on the propositions. Training on how to text bank is held every Thursday from 2-4 and you can sign up for training by going to <https://indivisible.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEscOmgrDwtGdEZ-8q7pxaQDb08X3k-XnX3#/registration>

Both Joe and Sundrop affirmed that texting is not from your personal phone; rather you do texting on the computer with protocols in place, so personal information is not revealed. You should use a laptop or a desktop to text.

You can email Sundrop with any questions: coordinator.indivisibleaz@gmail.com.

Postcards: Cindy Bordelon cleebordelon2012@gmail.com

Cindy reported that we are at capacity for postcards. Those doing postcards which will be distributed on September 28 to get out the vote will only get 25 each. She noted that National Indivisible is doing a letter writing campaign to get out the vote.

Since we're at capacity with what we can do with postcards, members are encouraged to explore other projects. There are other ways to help with Get Out The Vote efforts! National Indivisible is having virtual letter writing parties with their partner Vote Forward at 3 p.m. ET/12 p.m. ET on **September 19** and **October 3** as part of an effort to write efforts to voters in key House districts as part of the "Big Send" – a collective effort to send 10 million letters to voters this year.

Here's the link to sign up for the **September 19** event: https://www.mobilize.us/indivisible/event/676793/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=_20240903.

Ad here's the link to sign up for the **October 3** event: https://www.mobilize.us/indivisible/event/676799/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=_20240903.

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Treasurer:

Jeanne reported that we have \$4500 in our restricted funds which cannot be used for partisan efforts. (Postcards are partisan since we get our names and address from Field Team 6). We only have \$450 in our unrestricted fund, which is the fund through which we buy postcards. That fund will be depleted as we fund the next postcard campaign. If you want to contribute to that fund, please write a check payable to **Indivisible Tucson Action Alliance** (using the whole name) and mail to Jeanne at 14456 N Travertine, Oro Valley, AZ 85755.

Canvassing and Phone Banking:

Beth Smith encouraged all to participate in door-to-door canvassing and in phone banking. On September 29, LD 17 will have a canvassing lunch and training. You do not need to live in that LD to participate. You also can sign up to drive canvassers around rather than doing canvassing yourself. In addition, LD 17 will have a Town Hall at the Oro Valley Library to discuss candidates and issues. All are encouraged to attend and to bring friends or family who are still undecided voters. You can contact Beth at begsm84@gmail.com or at (407) 760-0199 for more information.

In the chat, Rachel Rulmyr noted that Oro valley North is having a canvass on September 15. Contact Rachel with any questions: rulmyr2@yahoo.com.

Final thoughts

As Beth said, we don't want to wake up the day after election and ask ourselves did we do everything we could possibly do to impact the results? So let's get working.

The next meeting will be on October 7 at 3:30 p.m. by Zoom.