



## Arizona Democrats LD 8 Monthly Meeting

 May 13th, 2025

 Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m.

 Attendance: 53 members in-person, 1 members on Zoom, 3 guest speakers

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### Meeting Business

#### Action Item - Approval of April Meeting Minutes

First motion by Doug. Barb seconded the motion. Motion passes - no nays or abstentions.

#### Action Item - Nomination and Appointment of Treasurer

Deborah Nardoizzi nominates Tiffany Gray. Tiffany Gray accepts.

Motion to vote by acclamation accepted. Doug seconded the motion. Motion passes.

#### Chair's Report:

Steven Jackson was absent. VC Kendra Flory presided.

She reiterated that LD8 needs volunteers to run the following committees or functions:

- Fundraising
- Programming
- Social Media
- Events
- City-Specific Candidate Research and Monitoring

#### Precinct Committee (PC) Development:

This year, 30 PCs have been appointed - 6 appointments have been confirmed by Maricopa County. LD 8 still has 24 precincts with no PC. We are continuing to pull lists from miniVAN of strong Dems in those precincts to contact to come to events and recruit them as potential PCs or volunteers.

#### Treasurer's Report:

In March, LD8 received about \$1,800 in donations - \$1,000 of which came in anonymously (thank you to our anonymous benefactor). The LD incurred under \$300 in expenses. We have roughly \$9,500 in the bank.

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## **Guest - Patrick Brown, MCDP Black Engagement Committee (MCDP BEC)**

**Subject:** How Bold Solution-Oriented Communication Wins Elections

**Purpose:** Educate members on effective messaging, civic knowledge, and strategic communication.

### **Key Points**

- **Grounded Communication:** Focus on issues impacting daily lives (jobs, healthcare, housing). Avoid jargon and use relatable examples.
- **Maslow's Hierarchy:** Address basic needs (food, shelter, security) before higher-level concerns.
- **Solutions Over Criticism:** Offer actionable solutions instead of just attacking opponents.
- **Civics and Policy Knowledge:** Understand government functions to counter misinformation and educate voters.
- **Winning Elections:** Prioritize voter registration, engagement, and turnout.
- **Leadership:** Stand firm on values, be proactive, and reclaim the narrative.

### **Recommendations**

- Listen first, then communicate clear solutions.
- Use relatable examples to explain policies.
- Emphasize solutions and avoid negative messaging.
- Train members on civics and policy knowledge.
- Advocate confidently for Democratic values.

**Members who appreciated this presentation can subscribe to [Patrick on Substack](#)**

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## **Guest - Mark Robert Gordon, DNC Representative**

### **DNC Updates**

- **Leadership Changes:** Re-election of two DNC Vice Chairs due to procedural errors. Ken Martin, former Minnesota Party Chair, is now DNC Chair.

- **Strategic Shift:** DNC headquarters decentralizing from D.C. to regional offices for greater outreach, especially in rural and red states.
- **Funding:**
  - \$17,500/month per state/territory.
  - +\$10,000/month for swing states.
  - +\$8,000/month for key red states.

## Ukraine Support

- **Importance:** Urged continued U.S. support for Ukraine's fight for democracy.
  - **Humanitarian Efforts:** Through Ukraine Focus, providing ambulances, medical supplies, and 3D-printed prosthetics.
  - **Call to Action:** Donate to Ukraine Focus or similar groups, share information, and maintain public attention on Ukraine.
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## Senator Lauren Kuby

### Good News:

- **Legislative Recess:** Arizona Legislature adjourned until May 19.
- **May 1 Protest:** 4,000-5,000 attended, highlighting community activism.
- **DDD Funding Secured:** \$120M approved for Developmental Disabilities Services after bipartisan advocacy.
- **Governor Hobbs' Vetoes:** Consistently blocked harmful voting bills.

### Bad News:

- **HB 2679 Signed:** Allows utilities to refinance without retiring coal plants, undermines Arizona Corporation Commission authority.
  - **State Budget Shortfall:** Surplus reduced from \$780M to ~\$10M.
  - **Proposition 123 Concerns:** Changes may link school vouchers to funding, impacting public education.
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## Rep. Brian Garcia

### DDD Funding & Prop 123 Update

- Echoed similar statements from Sen. Kuby regarding DDD funding and Prop 123 extension being jeopardized by 'poison pill' element that would place vouchers into the state constitution.
- Democrats, with Gov. Hobbs, blocked harmful bills until Republicans agreed to maintain funding for developmental disabilities. Recognized bipartisan support from families.
- Mentioned recall efforts against Speaker Matt Gress.

### **Turquoise Alert (Emily's Law)**

- New Turquoise Alert for missing/endangered Indigenous people, amended to Emily's Law after the case of Emily Pike.
  - Passed both Senate and House; signed by Gov. Hobbs.
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### **Other Guest Speakers**

Johnathan Treble CD1 Candidate - Personal commentary on congressional actions and current events.

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### **Resignation of Secretary**

Secretary Kelsey Files announced that he would be resigning from his role at the end of June. He cited his passion for the LD, but stated personal challenges that prevent him from dedicating more time to the board in a moment where the party needs fully engaged leaders.

**Interested candidates should email [arizonald8dems@gmail.com](mailto:arizonald8dems@gmail.com) stating their intent to run** (or be appointed if no more than 1 candidate is interested). Kelsey is also willing to talk to those interested - reach out to him at [kelsey.stuart.files@gmail.com](mailto:kelsey.stuart.files@gmail.com)

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### **Upcoming Events**

- **May 21st:** CEBV Happy Hour (Legislative updates, engagement).
- **May 22nd:** Celebration for Attorney General Kris Mayes. (See Sen. Kuby for details)
- **May 28th:** Social at LD8 Social at Shop Beer Co., 1st St. (See LD8 Socials)
- **June 4th:** South Scottsdale Democrats Social at Fate Brewing, Scottsdale Rd.

- **July 13th:** 'What Pie and the Constitution?' Political Salon w/ Bunny Ruth Davis. Hosted by Allison Ewers at her home. RSVP at (602) 625-2652.
- **July 27th:** 'What is Happening to AZ Public Schools' - Political Salon w/ SOS Arizona. Hosted by Allison Ewers at her home. RSVP at (602) 625-2652.

**See more details for these events via AZ LD8 Democrats on social media or on [Mobilize](#).**

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**Adjournment** 7:22 PM - Next Meeting will be June 10th with a presentation from AZLDCC