



GRAND
Democrats

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES August 28, 2024

Call to Order:

President Bob Walling opened the meeting at 6:30 with the singing of the National Anthem.

Welcome and Introductions:

Bob introduced our guest speakers and the participants in this “Candidate Open House.”

Secretary’s Report:

The Minutes of the June 26, 2024 General Meeting were approved as published on the website.

Treasurer’s Report:

The Treasurer’s Report of June 23, 2024 was accepted as emailed to members.

President’s Remarks:

- The Arizona Democratic Party needs volunteers to make calls, write postcards and canvass neighborhoods to get out the vote. Our West side organizer is Audrey Van Valkenburg at vanvalkenburg@2024victory.com
- Register on the Grand Dems website to attend the West Side Democratic Rally on September 21st in the Sagebrush Ballroom of The Grand or to view it at home on Zoom.
- Sign up in the back to volunteer for the Golden Ticket Team that will distribute voter guides to Democrats and others who didn’t vote in the primary.
- President Walling was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago from August 19-24. They adopted the party platform and ceremonially presented their vote to nominate Kamala Harris and Tim Walz as the Democratic candidates for President and Vice President. [The actual vote was done virtually the first week in August due to ballot deadlines in some states.] In addition to the televised general sessions of the convention, there were morning panels and breakfasts that gave delegates access to notable speakers. The Wallings brought back Convention paraphernalia to raffle off after the meeting.

Candidate Presentations:

- Heather Macre is a lawyer running for her third term on the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board that oversees the Central Arizona Project water from the Colorado River. Due to the 27-year drought, water levels are low and the distributions

have been cut back, mostly affecting agriculture. She and Terry Goddard are both running for re-election.

- Dr. Laura Metcalfe, candidate for Maricopa Superintendent of Schools, has worked at all levels of education and wants to use this office to reach more of the under-served students of the county as well as to increase transparency about the use of funds.
- Eric Stafford is running for the LD29 seat in the Arizona Senate to find solutions for the challenges faced by essential workers and young people to afford the cost of living and the cost of education.
- Tom Tzitzura is the LD29 candidate for the Arizona House. He is strongly in favor of “open non-partisan primaries” and “rank choice voting” that will give Independents an equal chance against party nominees. He supports women’s right to choose and innovative engineering solutions for our water shortages.
- Ylenia Aguilar is running for the Arizona Corporation Commission that oversees our utility companies and their rate increases. She is concerned about recent increases voted by the Republican majority and wants to keep rates affordable, expand solar energy and insure access to clean water.
- Joshua Polacheck is also running for the Corporation Commission along with Jonathan Hill who was not in attendance. If the three Democratic candidates win, they will become the Democratic majority on this all-important commission. As a commissioned officer with the Department of State, he saw the benefits of modern clean energy construction in several foreign countries and wants to promote independence from fossil fuels here in Arizona.
- Greg Whitten has 15 years of experience in biosecurity at the Pentagon and is running for Arizona’s District 8 seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. He supports our freedom to make reproductive choices, a path to citizenship for legal immigrants, making technical education affordable and protecting Medicare and Social Security.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned after the drawings for the 50/50 and DNC Raffles. Our next General Meeting will be October