



NOVEMBER 19, 2005

**Tucson Progressives win BIG - November 8**

**TIME: "Napolitano One of 5 Best US Governors"**

Volume I, Issue 1  
Gerry Straatemeier, Editor



11/13/05  
A Mountaineer on the Political Rise:



AZDPC Flagstaff – July 2005  
**New Progressive Caucus**

[www.progressiveazdems.org](http://www.progressiveazdems.org)

Our new Caucus goes LIVE today, November 19, 2005.

*Come check us out.*

This is where you will find the VISTA, as well as ongoing leadership discussions in the Caucus Room, our best ideas on the Liberty Tree, and grassroots tools.



**SIGN UP TODAY!**

**SECRET TO TUCSON WIN? ON THE PHONE-BANK LINE**  
11/13/05

By Steve McClure, Precinct Committeeman, LD 28

We called it the Barney Bus, a grundgy semi trailer parked out in the lot behind Democratic HQ.

Inside were a dozen laptops "on the line," along the wall, each with headsets and networked into a computer that dialed telephone numbers for us. The Barney Bus, made available to the party by the SEIU, was at the strategic center of the efforts to elect two progressive Democrats to the Tucson City Council.

In the past, Democrats had won the votes cast on election day, but had lost so badly in the early ballots that Republicans controlled the City Council.

The Democratic strategy was simple – this time we were going to beat the Republicans on the early mail-in ballots!

This strategy put us on the phone bank line squarely at the center. We first had to get Democrats to request early ballots, meaning call after call, encouraging mail-in requests, sending request (p2)

"Governing a hard-core republican state like Arizona is a steep proposition for a Democrat. Janet Napolitano likes the steeps. A former mountain climber who has hiked the Himalayas and summited Mount Kilimanjaro, Napolitano, 47, has pulled herself to the top job in Arizona—and many think she hasn't stopped climbing yet. Positioning herself as a no-nonsense, pro-business centrist, she has worked outside party lines since coming to office in January 2003 to re-energize a state that, was previously marked by recession and scandal.

In her first week on the job, Napolitano took on the state's budget-deficit crisis. She presented a proposal that eliminated the \$1 billion deficit without any tax increases. She persuaded moderate Republicans to vote the bill through with the minority Democrats. Now Arizona's economy is booming, with a (p2)

*Phone bank cont'd*

cards, following up to make sure "our voters" sent in their request cards, and then call again to make sure the early ballots were received, filled out and sent in.

From our vantage point, the strategy was clear: call, call, call. *Endless calling.*

We sat there, headphones on, waiting for the computer to feed us calls. The computer beeped into our ears and we started into our spiels. We talked. We listened. People hung up on us.

People questioned us. Listened to us politely. People laughed at us, and sometimes with us.

People told us not to call them again. And some even thanked us for our volunteering to make those calls. Over and over, call after call.

Sometimes the computer took a minute to hand us a live call, and so we listened to each other and learned from each other. We stole ideas from each other. On how to say things. On how to respond to this or that question.

On how to pack lots of information in a few words.

Most of all, on how to sound enthusiastic and interested and fresh with each call, call after call, over and over again. After two hours "on the line" enthusiasm is hard, but we kept each other alive.

We did this because we were at the center of the election.

Sometimes we looked down the line and found top campaign people on the line with us.

Sometimes the candidates themselves were there with us, on the line, making call after call.

Almost always you saw new volunteers on the line. But usually there was a solid core of those who came, day after day, night after night, for call (p3)

*Napolitano cont'd*

projected budget surplus of more than \$300 million and 4% job growth, the second highest in the nation after Nevada.

*By Terry McCarthy. Reported by David Schwartz/Phoenix*

More... <http://www.time.com>



[www.smokefreearizona.org](http://www.smokefreearizona.org)

"Every year thousands of people die from secondhand smoke. Every day the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, and Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association see the terrible effects secondhand smoke has on children and adults. Our organizations have long been proponents of reasonable measures that protect the health of friends and family who otherwise would unnecessarily be in harms way.

That is why we launched Smoke-Free Arizona, a common sense initiative that protects the health of every Arizonan, by prohibiting smoking in enclosed public places and workplaces. Exposure to secondhand smoke can lead to serious health conditions including heart disease, lung cancer, asthma, and retarded fetal growth. Contrary to tobacco industry claims, there are no safe levels of exposure to secondhand smoke.

Smoke-Free Arizona is committed to protecting the health of all citizens, especially those who are vulnerable to secondhand smoke, including children, seniors and those with existing health problems. Until now, Arizona has had no plan to address the serious health risks associated with secondhand smoke. It is time for Arizona to ensure the health of every Arizonan." ---

## Opinion

Democrats vs Republicans

Last month John Semmens wrote a commentary in the AZ Capitol Times about the voting differences between Arizona Democrats and Republicans on issues of "taxes and spending." The more often a legislator votes for lower taxes and spending the higher his or her percentage on the scales of the Arizona Federation of Taxpayers and the Goldwater Institute.

*He found that the average score for a Republican legislator is 69 percent. This is more than twice as high as the average score (27 percent) for a Democrat. The highest rated Republican was Rep. Russell Pearce, R-18, with 89 percent.*

The "highest scoring" Democrats were Sen. Ken Chevront, D-15, with 54 percent and Sen. Robert Cannell, D-24, with 46 percent. Chevront was "especially good on business issues," according to ultra-conservative anti-gay Republican Rep. Karen Johnson, in Phoenix New Times last January, who said she didn't mind sitting next to him, although he is openly gay, because "he doesn't push it." Shucks, ma'm!

The "lowest" score for any Democrat (*highest in my book!*) was 17 percent for David Lujan, LD-15. (Go David!) Must be an interesting district...

Mr. Semmens concludes, *"Regardless of whether one shares the political philosophy of either the Goldwater Institute or the Arizona Federation of Taxpayers, this type of data is useful. It can serve as a guide for voters of varying political philosophies and objectives."* I couldn't agree more. Let's keep our eyes open as the legislative session begins in January.

Rev. Gerry Straatemeier  
Democratic State Committeewoman  
CO-Chair, Progressive Caucus

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## PHONE-BANK cont'd

after call. Because we hoped, and then believed, that we were making a difference this time, a big difference.

Phone-banking is a 21st century way of connecting with real live voters, asking them for their votes asking them to vote, even in a not-so-sexy off year election, asking them to vote early (but not often!), asking them, and honoring them, because we wanted voters to decide this election, not advertising dollars.

Then the early ballot totals came in on election night. Both our progressive Democrats won that early vote big. We from the phone bank line looked at each other and knew we had made a difference, by gawd, **we on the line had won!**

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All-mail balloting proposed for Ariz.

The Arizona Republic reports on Nov. 15 that wealthy Bullhead businessman Rick Murphy is sponsoring and an initiative for Arizonans to vote almost entirely by mail. Jahna Berry, author of the article, said he was funding the initiative because he was disappointed with election turnout when he unsuccessfully ran for Rep. Trent Franks' congressional seat in the 2004 Republican primary. Oregon, which helped pioneered statewide voting by mail, and other communities that have tried it, have reported a spike in voter turnout after the switch.

Arizona Secretary of State Jan Brewer, whom the AUDITAZ group in Tucson is suing around issues of possible vote manipulation, "vehemently opposes the measure." SOS Brewer, who has purchased (p4)

## HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTORAS FAN OUT, advise other Latinas

By Ernesto Portillo

Arizona Daily Star,  
Tucson, AZ 11.15.2005

About 10 women are gathered around a kitchen table Monday morning. They're stuffing envelopes while talking loudly and laughing.

Several conversations are going on simultaneously, mainly in Spanish, in a small, cluttered kitchen in a converted office on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Armory Park.

But when the subject of human rights comes up, the women become focused and talk seriously. This is nothing to joke about.

The women are human rights promoters, or as they call themselves in Spanish, "*promotoras de los derechos humanos.*"

They're immigrant women who meet once a week to share ideas on how best to inform their immigrant Latino neighbors and friends about human and civil rights. Armed with information most immigrants - and even native-born residents - don't have, the *promotoras* fan out to their neighborhoods, churches, children's schools, parks and grocery stores to share their knowledge.

The group organizes some meetings. Mostly the women strike up conversations one on one.

"Human rights is not talked about anymore. People don't recognize they have basic human rights that cannot be taken away," says Guadalupe

(*promotoras*)

Morán, one of the more experienced *promotoras*.

The group is sponsored by Derechos Humanos, a non-profit human rights organization. A sister group is in Nogales, Sonora, and a third group may begin in Willcox, east of Tucson.

Whether in the city, in rural Arizona or across the border, abuses of human rights persist, members of the group say. And in today's anti-immigrant climate, where simply speaking Spanish can create problems and generate discrimination, human rights abuses are increasing, says group member Maria Carrasco.

"There are days we laugh a lot, but there are days we cry," Carrasco says.

The women's work is not limited to educating their friends and neighbors about human rights abuses. They also provide information to women who are victims of sexual abuse and help people find help or seek redress for violations of their rights.

But don't ask the immigrant women their legal status. They will not say. Legal status - theirs or anyone else's - is unrelated to the discussion of human rights.

Too much attention is paid to whether immigrants are legal, they say. What is overlooked are the immigrants' contributions to the economy and their communities.

The women sometimes sound angry. They have reason to be.

They feel the resentment hurled at them. They hear breathless television news reports, in English and Spanish, of the (p4)

*Balloting cont'd*

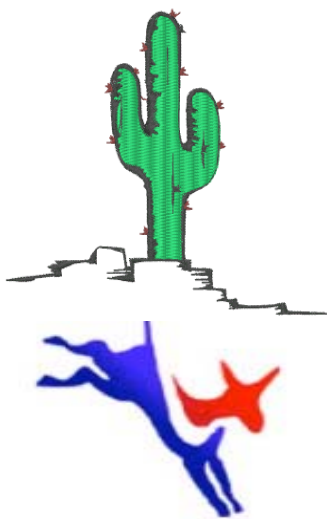
any number of Diebold voting machines, says, "I feel very strongly that we have elections on Election Day and that people cast ballots at precincts." Supporters say voting by mail is more secure because each ballot is checked against the signature in the voter file, unlike typical votes cast in person, and if proper chain of custody procedures are strictly implemented, there is an auditable paper trail. Some believe it would also make the at-the-poll voter identification rules of Proposition 200 less of a challenge for legal voters.

CAUCUS CONT'D

Introduce Resolution that Arizona Democrats support Nancy Pelosi's resolution of inquiry into Iraq pre-war intelligence and the use of torture and other illegal activities that shame us.

Introduce the new AZDPC Caucus web-site (that's us!)

**Someone, or some group,** will receive the new Caucus **KIKAS** award.



**ARIZONA DEMOCRATIC PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS Progressive Caucus Meets 11/19**

Today marks the second meeting of the Progressive Caucus of the Arizona Democratic Party's State Committee, which saw its initial effort in Flagstaff's July meeting, and successfully promoted the adoption by the SC of the resolution to ask the President to withdraw troops from Iraq as quickly and expeditiously as possible, and the form a election security commission.

AGENDA:

Rep Ted Downing will speak on the progressive legislative agenda for the upcoming legislative session

Rep. Ben Miranda will speak to the issues of major import to him in the upcoming session.

Introduction Jeff Latas, who is running against Kolbe in CD 8.

AUDITAZ presentation on progress with voting security.

Introduce Resolution for the floor on voting security.

Salette Latas - Report on poor conditions at Walter Reed Hospital

*(promotoras cont'd)*

growing public anger over legal and undocumented immigrants. They understand that state and national laws being enacted are grounded in the belief that immigrants are to blame for our troubles.

They are defiant of individuals or groups who insist immigrants have no place in Arizona.

"Even my husband doesn't believe I should be in these classes. But I will continue to attend these meetings," says Sonia Coronado, who attends the weekly Monday planning sessions.

The women talk about the difficulty of educating others about human rights. Even among other Latino immigrants, the women sometimes are met with indifference and hostility, says Victoria Navarro.

The work of a *promotora* is time-consuming and can be difficult, but it is important, say group members Ana Belia Gonzalez, a mother of four, and Rosalinda Gallardo.

It takes patience and courage to talk up human rights.

"If we didn't have these values," Coronado says, "we would not be here."

By permission, author



AZDPC, Flagstaff, July 2005