

YELLOW SHEET REPORT

·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

IT'S CAMPAIGN FINANCE DAY!

In nearly every case, Democrats in tight (or at least interesting) legislative races are walloping their Republican opponents in fundraising, according to Q3 campaign finance reports. In the three key House districts of LD6, LD20 and LD21, Democrats pulled in significant six-figure sums in the last quarter, far surpassing the fundraising of their Republican opponents. Outside of the LD6 Senate race, Democratic challengers outraised Republicans by wide margins in swing districts. In general, Democrats are benefitting a lot from out-of-state individual donors, as a handful of state legislative races have gained a



national profile – at least on the left – and led hundreds of Californians, New Yorkers, Floridians and Illinoisans to open their pocketbooks. Additionally, Democrats are benefitting more from the seemingly limitless outside spending that national groups have flooded into local legislative districts, often eyeing more challenging targets than state parties are willing to go after. Below is a look at some of the districts that matter most.

THREE TO WIN, TWO TO TIE

Democrats need to pick up three Senate seats to flip the Senate, and have set their sights on districts in central Phoenix, Chandler and Northern Arizona as their best shots. Candidate fundraising alone made LD6 and LD28 million-dollar races, while surrogate special interest groups are largely fighting the LD17 battle.

LD6 Senate

Republican Wendy Rogers has raised a whopping \$900,000 for her campaign, crushing the prior election fundraising record of \$554,000 set by Brophy McGee in 2018. (That record was already set to be broken by several candidates this cycle). More than a third of that sum came in in Q3, and Rogers put her massive fundraising list that she has built up over several unsuccessful congressional runs to work as she picked up contributions from every state except Rhode Island and Vermont. She has just \$187,000 on hand, compared to \$233,000 for Democrat Felicia French. Still, French was no slouch in the fundraising department: She collected almost \$300,000 last quarter and spent most of it.

LD17 Senate

While Mesnard leads the pack for IE spending, both for and against him, both he and challenger AJ Kurdoglu have smaller war chests compared to other swing district candidates. Neither candidate really started fundraising until after the primary, and Mesnard picked up \$150,000 to Kurdoglu's \$275,000 in Q3. Kurdoglu is also getting significant support from out-of-state donors: about 375 of the people who contributed to his campaign in Q3 live in California and another 110 hail from New York, compared to about 260 Arizonans. He and Mesnard had similar Q3 burn rates, and Kurdoglu now has \$125,000 in cash

compared to \$74,000 for Mesnard. The real battle in LD17 is between outside groups. Democratic leaning groups have spent more than \$1.1 million, while Republican-aligned groups have spent \$728,000.

LD28 Senate

The rematch of 2018's closest race hasn't drawn nearly as much outside money as other, competitive districts, but Brophy McGee and Democrat Christine Marsh remain strong fundraisers. Brophy McGee's \$154,000 Q3 haul makes her the only vulnerable Republican – other than Rogers – to raise six figures in the past quarter. While she spent more than she raised, her formidable war chest still left her with \$280,000 in the bank. Marsh, meanwhile, brought in \$259,000 and spent \$192,000 of it. She has \$276,000 in cash on hand.

THE TOP-TIER HOUSE RACES

Democrats need only two victories – provided they hold their gains from 2018 – to flip the state House. If campaign finance returns are an indicator, this could be their year.

LD6 House

The rumors are true: Democratic Flagstaff Mayor Coral Evans has raised a boatload of money. Evans brought in more than \$330,000 in the last quarter, bringing her total receipts for the cycle up to almost \$556,000, a number that would break records in just about any other year. Evans finished Q3 with more money raised over the quarter and the cycle than any other House candidate, including her two Republican opponents, Blackman and former lawmaker Brenda Barton, along with independent Coconino County Supervisor Art Babbott. While much of Evans' money came from Arizona, many of her individual donors were from Colorado, California or New York, which have proven to be reliable sources of income for Democratic state legislative campaigns in the increasingly national political environment here. Blackman raised only \$41,000 over the quarter and \$109,000 over the cycle. Barton trailed with \$30,000 in the third quarter and \$49,000 through the cycle. Babbott, a former registered Democrat now running as a pragmatic problem solver (who railbirds say we should expect to over perform) raised \$25,000 in Q3, bringing his total to \$79,000. Evans spent the majority of her haul this quarter, but she finishes the cycle still with \$266,000 on hand. She has also benefited from \$323,000 in positive IE spending. Meanwhile, many of those same groups have spent \$641,000 against Blackman.

LD20 House

Democratic high school teacher Judy Schwiebert – who along with Evans likely represents the best shot at flipping a GOP-held House seat – is outraising and outspending both of her Republican opponents, Bolick and Kern. She brought in nearly \$272,000 in Q3, and spent \$148,000. Her total receipts now amount to \$463,000 over the cycle. Kern and Bolick, meanwhile, raised \$50,000 and \$57,000 this quarter, respectively, both spending more than they took in. Both candidates, especially Kern, have been major targets of IE groups, which have spent almost \$400,000 against him. Bolick is one of few Republicans in tight races this year that have seen more support from IEs than not: \$158,000 in favor, \$111,000 against.

LD21 House

Similarly, Democratic Peoria school board member Kathy Knecht is outraising both Payne and her school-board rival Beverly Pingerelli, though not to the eye-popping degree of some of her Democratic colleagues. She has brought in \$244,000 over the cycle, about half of which came in the third quarter. She still has \$132,000 on hand. Democrats aren't quite as bullish on their chance to flip LD21 as they are in neighboring LD20 – but nonetheless, neither of the Republicans came close to Knecht's numbers. Payne raised only \$23,000 in the quarter, bringing his total to \$71,000. Pingerelli, meanwhile, raised \$27,000 in Q3. While she raised more than Payne, she has less cash on hand than any of the other candidates in the LD21 field: less than \$19,000.

BUT MAYBE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THESE AS WELL

With a bevy of outside spending, Democrats this year have expanded the map into unlikely pickup opportunities. IEs have opened doors in red districts like LD11 and LD23 – but not every candidate’s fundraising reflects enthusiasm on the ground.

LD20 Senate

While the consensus is that the LD20 Senate seat is safer than the House, Q3 receipts show Democratic challenger Doug Ervin raised more than twice as much as Boyer. Both candidates are underperforming their House counterparts in fundraising, though. Ervin brought in \$126,000 and spent \$84,000, ending the quarter with \$137,000 left to spend. Boyer brought in \$47,000, spent \$15,000, and has \$82,000 on hand.

LD4 HOUSE

The wind appears to be at Dems’ backs these days, but that doesn’t mean Republicans have lost their taste for offense. Some sources have mused that Republicans have a decent chance of taking out Peten in LD4 with the relatively moderate Buckeye Republican Joel John. Fernandez is perhaps too lofty a target, but her seatmate has never performed as well – plus, the district has a mix of rural and exurban voters that are trending rightward, especially in Buckeye, where Peten also lives. John raised \$41,000 this quarter, edging out Peten’s \$38,000 Q3 haul. Their totals for the cycle are now \$80,000 and \$54,000, respectively. Fernandez, if anyone is curious, only donated \$50 to Peten’s campaign in Q3. Some of Fernandez’s Democratic detractors have fretted that she’s not doing enough to protect her seatmate in a chamber with tight margins. Another inauspicious sign for Peten is that IE groups are lining up against her. They’ve spent \$62,000 to defeat her (and \$38,000 to support John), while outside groups have spent less than \$24,000 in her support.

LD11

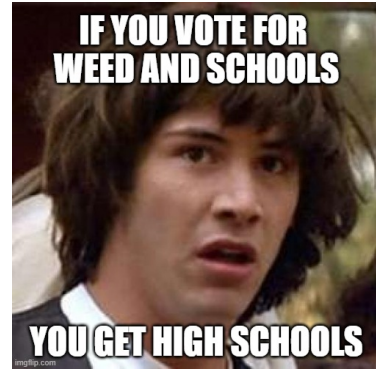
The Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee threw a curveball when it bumped up deep-red LD11 to a “tier one” flippable district mid-way through the cycle. However, that increased attention from national Dems does not appear to have translated into bountiful fundraising. In the House, Democrat Felipe Perez has raised more than either Finchem or Roberts, both in Q3 and over the cycle. Perez brought in \$41,000 to their \$12,000 each this quarter. While none of the candidates appears to be particularly prodigious palm-pressers, outside groups have been doing a fair amount of lifting on Perez’s behalf. They (primarily a national PAC called Forward Majority) have spent \$239,000 against Finchem and \$197,000 to support Perez. Leach assumed he’d be running a token re-election to the Senate in a safe district, and it shows in Q3 numbers. He raised about \$30,000 and spent just \$9,500, while challenger Joanna Mendoza both collected and spent roughly three times as much. Unlike some of the other Democratic challengers with national support, Mendoza’s donors are primarily local: she has nearly 500 contributions from individual Arizonans compared to fewer than 70 from California, and voters in Tucson, Marana and Oro Valley are responsible for most of her contributions. Dem groups didn’t name LD11 as a top target until mid-September, just two weeks before the Q3 deadline.

LD23 House

Democrat House candidate Eric Kurland, bolstered by a series of positive polls showing him with a slim lead over Republican Joseph Chaplik in LD23, raised \$101,000 in the quarter, bringing his total for the cycle to \$247,000. That’s not shabby for a steadily Republican district that most strategists agree is a reach for Democrats. In fundraising, he dwarfs the incumbent Kavanaugh, who only raised \$9,000 in the quarter. Kavanaugh also has surpassed Chaplik, who Kurland is angling his campaign against. The controversial (and litigious) conservative raised \$72,000 this quarter, bringing his total to \$183,000. The catch: \$80,000 of that sum came from personal loans Chaplik made to his committee. Kurland, who ran a surprisingly close (though ultimately failing) campaign in 2018, has no debt.

PEOPLE ARE INVESTING IN INVEST IN ED AND LEGAL WEED

Invest in Education is out-raising and out-spending both anti efforts (Arizonans for Great Schools and a Strong Economy and No on 208) by more than \$10 million. Invest in Ed's PAC – spearheaded by the Arizona Education Assn and Stand for Children – brought in more than \$13 million in the latest quarter and spent nearly all of it, with \$10 million going to TV advertising. To date, the pro campaign has brought in more than \$17 million and spent about \$12.5 million. The anti campaign reports only spending \$4 million (though Stacy Pearson, Prop 208's campaign spokeswoman, claimed she has seen media buy reports showing the pro campaign is being outspent and those numbers are not reflected in the campaign finance reports). Invest in Ed has about \$1.2 million left to spend heading into election crunch time. The combined anti groups have roughly \$500,000 on hand. Spending for the marijuana initiative has been measly on both sides, but the pro-weed group still is crushing the anti. The pro-weed committee's report wasn't available on the Secretary of State's website today (the campaign said there was a problem uploading it) but Smart and Safe Arizona provided our reporter with raw figures from Q3 that show it raised \$1.5 million and spent about a third of that. It still had about \$1 million in its war chest as of the end of the quarter. Arizonans for Health and Public Safety, the effort to defeat legalizing weed, brought in a modest \$300,000 over the past three months. The campaign spent about \$200,000 of that and to date hasn't even crossed the \$1 million mark in fundraising, which is far less than the \$6.2 million anti-weed forces spent to kill the 2016 legalization effort.



NOW REGISTRATION IS LEGIT OVER

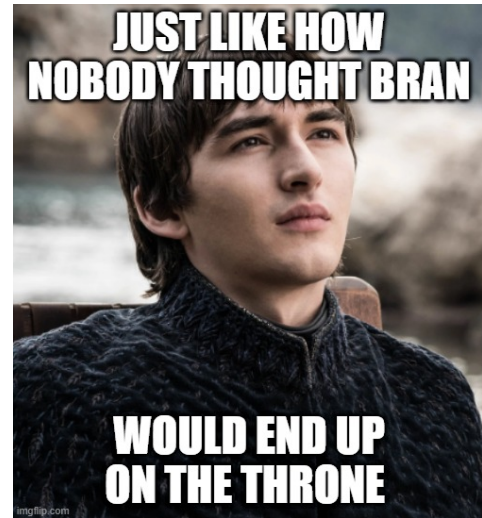
The voter registration period in Arizona has come to a final close after a pressurized ten days in which the deadline was challenged, extended and then cut short. The Arizona Secretary of State's Office said more than 35,000 people registered to vote after the original cutoff date of Oct 5, based on a preliminary count Friday morning. Although the numbers aren't final, the Republican Party can now welcome nearly 11,000 new voters in their ranks – several thousand more than the 8,300 the Democratic Party gained. About 15,000 newly registered voters didn't identify a party label. Despite the shifting deadline, the new registrations barely shifted the parties' percentages of voters statewide. Democrats still made up 32 percent, Republicans are at 34 percent (down slightly from 35 percent) while independents and third parties make up another 34 percent (up slightly from 33 percent before the extended deadline) of the 4.7 million Arizonans registered to vote in this election.

AND VOTING IS JUST GETTING STARTED

Arizonans cast more than 500,000 ballots in the first week of voting, according to numbers from the Secretary of State and Dem strategist Sam Almy. The Secretary of State told our reporter that 57,000 ballots had already been returned as of last night in 13 counties excluding Maricopa and Pima counties, which use their own system for tabulation. According to Almy, who has been doing some fascinating analysis on Saguaro Strategies website, Maricopa County received 429,000 ballots and Pima County has pulled in 76,000 – that puts the state at roughly 562,000 ballots ([LINK](#)). The trends show what many have predicted – Dem ballot returns are beating Republicans so far, something that will likely continue until it gets closer to Nov 3, as many Republicans have indicated in surveys that they plan to vote in-person on election day. Dems have a roughly 77,000-ballot advantage so far. If the trend holds, it could lead to a reversal of the trends from 2018, when Democrats were lagging until late-arriving early ballots were counted on Wednesday and beyond. Counties start counting early ballots that arrive early first, then in-person votes, then finally, the dreaded late-early ballots and provisional ballots.

LELA IS THE DARK HORSE

They may not be running public leadership campaigns like the House’s Unity Slate, but Bowie and Rios are both quietly laying the groundwork for runs for the next Senate minority leader or president, a railbird told our reporter. Alston, too, is considering a leadership run but isn’t a frontrunner, another railbird added. Leadership races are, perhaps predictably, less heated on the Senate side, where the 13-member Dem caucus has put up a united front over the past two years. “It’s really not acrimonious at all. The House is just totally different from the Senate,” one Democratic railbird said. Uncertainty over the partisan makeup of the next Senate also plays into the reticence of senators to publicly pitch themselves as leaders before the election: While House Dems expect to win a majority, Senate watchers expect a tie. Outgoing leader Bradley told our reporter he asked Senate Dems to avoid battling for leadership positions until after the election. “I asked members a few months ago to keep your focus on winning the election, and then we’ll figure out what happens next. So I’m thankful that it appears that everybody has kind of agreed to that approach,” he said. Caucus leadership elections are typically held the day after the election, with every candidate currently winning their race eligible to vote in closed-caucus meetings, but lawmakers really have until a formal vote at the start of session to figure out who’s in charge. One wannabe Dem senator, LD17’s AJ Kurdoglu, told our reporter no one has yet broached the subject of leadership with him, joking that they probably know he’d put them to work for his campaign. “Maybe they know that if they did that I’d be like ‘hey, come and join. Volunteer for me, please,’” he said.



SORRY MENDEZ, THE REAL PROGRESSIVES ARE IN THE HOUSE



Like Fernandez and Espinoza, Rios and Bowie hail from different ends of a rather narrow political spectrum that Senate Democrats occupy. Rios is one of the more progressive Democrats in the Senate, and Quezada and Mendez came out strongly in favor of her possible run for Senate President this summer ([YS, 7/2](#)). She also has leadership experience: she was the House Minority Leader from 2017-18 and has been the Democratic whip in both chambers and a Senate assistant minority leader during previous terms. But she also ran for all four Dem leadership positions two years ago and lost each one. Bowie, meanwhile, has been the legislative Democrat most effective at passing bills: where many Democrats can’t get a single hearing on even one of their bills, he had three signed by Ducey in the past two years. He’s also the only Senate Democrat to hail from a swing district, something that could give

him special insight into challenges faced by potential new Dem Senators Felicia French, AJ Kurdoglu, Doug Ervin or Christine Marsh. Overall, a Bowie pitch for leadership would be based on a perceived edge in legislating in a state with a Republican governor and more Republican voters than Democrats.

·PRESS RELEASES AND NEWS CLIPS·

Secretary of State's Office reminding voters to verify election information with trusted sources

PHOENIX – With the early voting period for the General Election already underway, the Secretary of State's Office is reminding voters to verify election-related information with Arizona election officials, their trusted sources of information.

The office has received numerous inquiries regarding voters receiving communications from third party groups related to their voter registration or voting history.

"As we get closer to Election Day, voters may receive information from organizations via mailers, postcards and text messages," Secretary Katie Hobbs said. "These groups are often well meaning and are trying to be helpful but are working with outdated information."

Hobbs added that many of these third parties have an option to opt out of receiving further communication. Voters should check the received materials closely to find organization information and opt out options.

Voters who are concerned about third party mailings can verify their information by visiting [Arizona.Vote](https://arizona.vote) or by calling 1-877-THE-VOTE. They may also reach out to their county election officials. A full list of contact information is available at <https://azsos.gov/county-election-info>.

The Arizona Secretary of State's Office is participating in the National Association of Secretaries of State for its #TrustedInfo2020 campaign, which encourages voters to go directly to election officials' websites and verified social media pages to ensure they are getting accurate information throughout the election cycle. Election Day is Nov. 3.

Arizona Leads Nation In Homeownership Growth

Strong Economic Activity Generates Increase In Homeownership

PHOENIX — Arizona is adding homeowners faster than any state in the nation, a sign of continued growing economic momentum in the state. The state's quarter-over-quarter homeowner rate change increased by 7.7 percentage points in Q2 2020, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the best in the nation.

"The American dream of owning a home is alive and well in Arizona," said Governor Ducey. "People continue to flock to Arizona for our growing jobs market, unbeatable quality of living, and affordable housing. While many states pursue an opposite approach—higher taxes, more regulations and more burdens on regular people—we will continue to pursue policies that keep Arizona an affordable and attractive place to live."

The state's homeowner rate increased from 64% to 71.7% from Q1 2020 to Q2 2020 — the fastest growth in the nation. Arizona is followed by:

Missouri with an increase of 7 percentage points;

Kentucky with an increase of 6.6 percentage points;

North Carolina with an increase of 5.8 percentage points;

And Virginia with an increase of 5.6 percentage points.

The next closest state in the Western Region is New Mexico with an increase of 3.7 percentage points, ranking #13 in the nation.

Julie Gunnigle to Hold Press Availability After PBS Candidate Debate

PHOENIX – Local press is invited to attend an in-person candidate debate jointly hosted by PBS, ASU Cronkite, and AZ Family featuring the two party nominees for Maricopa County Attorney Julie Gunnigle and Allister Adel.

Following the debate, Julie Gunnigle will be made available for comment, in-person, live for television and publication coverage.

WHAT In-person debate attendance and post-debate media availability. All media must pre-register to attend the debate with Karen Bordeleau, Director of Communications, Arizona PBS / Cronkite School at kbordell@asu.edu

WHEN The debate will be filmed from 3:30 – 4:30pm MT on Friday, October 16, 2020

All credentialed, pre-registered media will be able to watch the debate from a separate media room. After the debate, Julie Gunnigle will be available for one-on-one interviews in the studio. Media must remain 6 feet apart from each other and the candidate at all times.

WHERE Arizona PBS studios, 6th floor, at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication
Address: 555 N. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85004. Building entrance on East Taylor Street.

WHO Julie Gunnigle, Democratic nominee for Maricopa County Attorney
Tom Williams, Gunnigle campaign manager

Courtney Zientek, Gunnigle campaign day-of-event press contact (630-885-0423)

WHY Julie Gunnigle, the Democratic nominee for Maricopa County Attorney, is running to ensure crimes against families, women, children, and seniors are prosecuted and Maricopa County communities are kept safe. Gunnigle will have just wrapped up the only in-person, televised debate that her opponent, appointed County Attorney Allister Adel, has agreed to. Gunnigle will be holding Adel accountable for her questionable track record of failure to deliver justice for Valley families. The campaign invites local press to solicit comment and ask questions of the candidate immediately following the debate.

NOTES Maricopa County [health order](#)-compliant face coverings and social distancing required both indoors at all times and outside when near the candidate. To arrange press credentialing for in-studio attendance, pre-register with Karen Bordeleau (contact information above).

WATCH: Mark Kelly Joins Arizona Latino Community Leaders for Roundtable Discussions

This week, following the launch of "[Latinos for Mark](#)," a group of over 75 Latino leaders in Arizona who have endorsed Mark Kelly for Senate, the U.S. Navy veteran and former astronaut joined Latino community leaders for two roundtable discussions to talk about the challenges they have faced during this pandemic.

In the [first discussion](#), a virtual roundtable, the group discussed how Washington has failed Latino communities during this pandemic by providing inadequate relief and about the resources their communities need to improve access to health care and increase economic opportunities.

Watch full video of the virtual roundtable [HERE](#).

The second discussion was an in-person, socially distanced roundtable with Latino small business owners in Tucson. The participants talked about the needs of small business owners and employees to get through this economic crisis.

MEDIA ADVISORY: Senator McSally to Campaign in Maricopa County

PHOENIX – Senator Martha McSally will make campaign stops in Maricopa County on Friday, October 16.

1:00 p.m. – Sun City, AZ

Senator McSally attends Meet & Greet

5:00 p.m. – Glendale, AZ

Senator McSally meets with Phoenix Log Cabin Republicans

7:00 p.m. – Goodyear, AZ

Senator McSally attends Meet & Greet

For additional details, RSVP to press@mcsallyforsenate.com.

McSally for Senate recommends all participants wear a face mask, social distance, and frequently wash hands or use hand sanitizer to comply with State, Local and CDC guidelines.

Biden for President to Join Arizonans “Rolling to the Polls” Across Maricopa County

On Saturday, October 17, *Biden for President* will participate in two car parades happening in West Phoenix and the East Valley, during which groups of supporters will drive together to drop off their mail-in ballots.

These events are part of a series of “rolls to the polls” taking place all across the state on Saturday. Car parades will take place in West Phoenix, the East Valley, and Yuma County, and a bike parade will take place in downtown Tucson.

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

Details are subject to change.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

West Phoenix Roll to the Polls

Start Time: 8:30 AM AZ Time.

Press RSVP: Media interested in attending should [RSVP HERE](#). Address and logistical details available upon RSVP.

East Valley Roll to the Poll

Start Time: 10:30 AM AZ Time.

Press RSVP: Media interested in attending should [RSVP HERE](#). Address and logistical details available upon RSVP.

Media interested in covering these events **must RSVP** and will be required to adhere to COVID-19 safety precautions, including wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

ADLF Files Ethics Complaint Against Martha McSally for Breaking Ethics Rules and Abusing Tax Dollars

The American Democracy Legal Fund (ADLF) filed a formal complaint with the Senate Ethics Committee today against Senator Martha McSally for breaking Senate ethics rules and abusing taxpayer dollars. Yesterday, the Daily Beast [reported](#) that McSally violated Senate Ethics rules prohibiting the use of taxpayer funded mass communications by Senators less than 60 days before an election.

McSally launched robocalls this week paid for by taxpayers that used campaign style messaging and promoted McSally’s unsuccessful legislative efforts in the Senate. While McSally’s office tried to hide behind a loophole for Senators to communicate with constituents about the federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic, McSally’s message violates the provisions allowing for that waiver in numerous instances.

“Unfortunately, this is yet another example of Senator McSally breaking the law and abusing tax dollars to further her re-election campaign,” **said the ADLF’s Brad Woodhouse.** “Beyond her blatant abuse of taxpayer dollars, Senator McSally attempted to take advantage of a loophole designed to help her constituents struggling with a deadly pandemic to promote herself. This is swampy, unethical, and just plain wrong. The Senate Ethics Committee must begin an immediate investigation into this wasteful misuse of government resources.”

A copy of the complaint can be viewed [here](#).

“QUOTE
OF THE DAY”

“It’s really not acrimonious at all. The House is just totally different from the Senate.”

- *A Democratic railbird, on the race for leadership there*