

# DEMOCRATS IN ACTION

A publication of the Coconino County Democrats

July 2020



PHOTOS, from left: Arizona State Rep. Arlando Teller delivers hay donated by his campaign. Middle: A few of the thousands of face masks donated by members of the Democratic Party. Right: Arizona State Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai and State Rep. Myron Tsosie's mother delivered supplies near Cameron, Arizona. (Submitted photos)

## Democrats Give Back

Three months ago when the global pandemic hit our communities, the Democrats stepped up to help in every corner of the Navajo Nation.

The Democratic Parties in northern Arizona built a mutual aid network that donated more than \$10,000 to the Navajo Nation and White Mountain Apache Tribe. We distributed more than 8,000 cloth masks, hospital gowns, face

shields and surgical caps to Indian Health Service (IHS) sites, veterans' organizations, senior centers and schools. We have provided thousands of gallons of water, truckloads of hay, pet food and food boxes for families in quarantine, and other supplies.

At the state level, the Arizona Democratic Party asked all of their members to pitch in with supplies and monetary donations to ease the burden of COVID-19. We dedicated the fundraising portion of our May 2020 meeting

to relief efforts on the Navajo Nation.

The Arizona Democratic Leadership has also demanded an investigation into the poor distribution of PPE to the Navajo Nation. Our Democratic Leadership at the federal level were the ones who included relief for Tribal Nations in the CARES Act and it is Democratic Leadership that demanded an investigation into faulty tests that were delivered to the Navajo Nation. 🇺🇸

## Protect our elders

This election, let's make sure our elders – nihímásáni dóó nihícheii – are safe. Help them sign up for mail-in ballots so they can vote from the safety of their own home. They have received a form in the mail and it just needs to be filled in with a few things, sign it and return it in the postage-paid envelope. If you need the form sent to you, text (201) 230-3457 or you can help them sign up online at [www.iwillvote.com](http://www.iwillvote.com)

Protect nihímásáni dóó nihícheii. They are our Wisdom Keepers and we need them now more than ever. 🇺🇸



Photo: Hannah Howard



## Congressional Candidate - District 1

### Tom O'Halleran, Arizona's Representative for the 1st Congressional District

Congressman Tom O'Halleran is an independent leader representing Arizona's First Congressional District, which includes most of northern Arizona, eastern Arizona and 12 federally-recognized tribes, including the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Reservation. During these uncertain times, Tom has secured billions in federal funding to help hospitals and health systems address the coronavirus pandemic and to deliver masks, PPE, test kits and critical emergency equipment to doctors, nurses and frontline workers. He also worked to ensure small businesses and workers hurt by the pandemic were able to secure loans and acquire benefits during this crisis.

In addition, Tom has worked tirelessly to make sure the federal government lives up to its commitment to clean up toxic uranium mines on tribal lands and has championed bills

like the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act, as well as the Respect for Sovereignty Act to protect sacred sites and preserve tribal sovereignty.

Tom has a dedicated tribal engagement staff that works across the Navajo Nation and in other tribal communities to address the issues that impact families, veterans and elders. Over the course of his three and a half years in Washington, Tom has fought to protect health care and Arizonans with pre-existing conditions, lower the costs of prescription drugs, secure funding for Arizona schools, and improve ethics and transparency at all levels of government. Tom is willing to work with anyone and has a proven track record of working across the aisle and getting things done for Arizona families.

Tom is grateful to serve as our representative in Congress and he would



appreciate your vote so that he can continue to fight for us in Washington. 🇺🇸

## A note from Felecia Rotellini Chair of the Arizona Democratic Party

Over the past few months, the Navajo Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe and other Arizona tribal nations have been severely impacted by high COVID-19 infection rates.

While Arizona Democratic members of Congress continue to advocate for greater funding for tribal governments, Republican leaders continue to fight against life-saving relief.

The Arizona Democratic Party shares your anguish and is doing everything we can to provide relief in this trying time. We have been asking Democrats across Arizona to donate to causes that are supporting the Navajo Nation.

Meanwhile, the fight for our ideals goes on.

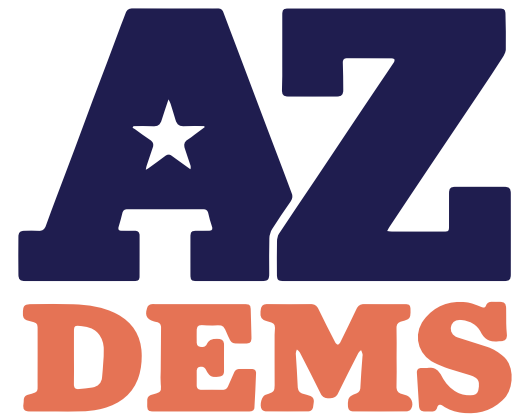
We must address the lack of access to quality health care; demand we stop the underfunding of schools that lack educational opportunities for students; rebuild the crumbling infrastructure in need of lasting investment; and create the projects and jobs that pay a living wage.

There is hope. For generations, we've advocated to increase funding for the Indian Health Service. Recently, Vice President Joe Biden has pledged to do just that.

As the pandemic wreaks havoc on our communities and economies across the country, we need leaders working on economic relief and economic revitalization. Democrats have been doing that. In the House, they recently passed the HEROES Act, which would provide continued relief to front line workers and struggling communities. The bottom line, we need to build an economy with good-paying jobs and strong workplace protections.

To address all of these issues, we must vote for candidates who will stand up for our communities. We encourage every person to sign up for the Permanent Early Voting List that allows all voters to vote by mail. Voting by mail is even more crucial this year—you can do this at [iwillvote.com](http://iwillvote.com).

As the Arizona Tribal Nations and the state



of Arizona continue to fight COVID-19, our resilience is leading us through these times. In November, we have a chance to elect Joe Biden who will lead us through whatever our nation faces.

The Arizona Democratic Party will press on with our fight for you and with you.

Together in the Fight,  
Felecia Rotellini  
Chair, Arizona Democratic Party



## Congressional Candidate - District 1

### Eva Putzova, Democratic Party candidate for the U.S. House

Eva Putzova is running for Congress because of decades of broken promises, leaving too many people without the basics: water, electricity and paved roads. Children are bused long distances to schools or sent away because the education infrastructure is insufficient. Childcare is almost completely inaccessible. Healthcare in the Navajo Nation lacks specialists and adequate funding, forcing many out of their communities into the border towns. While people struggle to access the basic necessities of life, our Congress keeps bailing out large corporations and spends trillions on wars for oil abroad.

Instead of investing in destruction, war and the corporate elites, we must invest trillions in the Navajo Nation and other underserved communities through the Green New Deal, a policy which would transition us to a green economy while creating thousands of well-paying jobs. We need to invest in local projects, including those by the Navajo Renewables to electrify households by installing solar systems in a way that would make the Navajo communities energy independent from large profit-driven utilities.

Eva understands that deep structural racism

against Indigenous people in this country can't be ignored and is dedicated to address racial profiling that people experience in the border towns by transforming policing. In Flagstaff, for example, 52% of all arrests are Native Americans, while the city's population is only 12% and in-district population 25% Native American. Too many Native Americans are criminalized for just simply wanting to survive. Eva will also advocate for reparations, in consultation with Indigenous leaders, to correct the wrongs of the past.

Eva recognizes that real allyship of Indigenous people is vital in building a just society. For more than a decade, she has spoken publicly against snowmaking on the sacred San Francisco Peaks. She advocated against the U.S. Forest Service permit and the city's reclaimed water contract that enabled the continuation of cultural genocide of 13 tribes for whom the peaks hold cultural significance. As a councilmember, Eva opposed all uranium mining operations and worked with the Native communities in Flagstaff, leading the efforts that resulted in declaration of Indigenous People's Day. She is dedicated to fairness, equality and will



always speak up against racial, economic and environmental injustice. It's time to put First People first. Learn more about Eva's background at [evaforcongress.com/about](http://evaforcongress.com/about) and reach her directly at [eva@evaforcongress.com](mailto:eva@evaforcongress.com) or by calling her at 928-225-0170. 🇺🇸

PRIMARY  
ELECTION  
2020

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
AUGUST 4, 2020

Coconino County Recorder | (928) 679-7860  
Navajo County Recorder | (928) 524-4194  
Apache County Recorder | (928) 337-7515

The Primary Election is how voters narrow down each party's candidates. In Arizona's Primary Election, there is a different ballot for the Democratic Party, the Republican Party and the Libertarian Party. People who are registered as Democrats will be sent the Democratic Ballot automatically.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR INDEPENDENTS who are on the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL). If you are not registered in an official party, you need to REQUEST which party's ballot you want from your County Recorder or else you will not be automatically mailed a ballot! This is for the Primary Election Only.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THOSE TEMPORARILY LIVING AT A DIFFERENT ADDRESS: YOU CAN STILL VOTE if you are temporarily living at an address which is not your permanent address. You can request a ballot mailed to your temporary address by contacting your County Recorder's Office.

## CONTESTED RACES

Democratic “Contested Races” means that there are at least two Democratic candidates for one position.

### Coconino County Contested Races on the Democratic Ballot in Navajo and Hopi Precincts

- Congressional District 1—U.S. House of Representative race, you will choose between Congressman Tom O’Halloran (D) and challenger Eva Putzova (D).
- Coconino County Supervisor District 4 is between Judy Begay (D) and Bryan Bates (D). District 4 contains the following Navajo and Hopi precincts: Cameron, Coalmine, Leupp, Moenkopi, Tolani Lake and Tonalea.
- Coconino County Supervisor District 5 is between Incumbent Lena Fowler (D) and Marie B. Acothley (D). District 5 contains the following precincts: Bodaway, Coppermine, Inscription House, Kaibeto, LeChee, Navajo Mountain and all Tuba City Precincts.

### Navajo County Contested Races on the Democratic Ballot in Navajo and Hopi Precincts

- Congressional District 1—U.S. House of Representative race, you will choose between Congressman Tom O’Halloran (D) and challenger Eva Putzova (D).

### Apache County Contested Races on the Democratic Ballot in Navajo Nation Precincts

- Congressional District 1—U.S. House of Representative race, you will choose between Congressman Tom O’Halloran (D) and challenger Eva Putzova (D).
- Apache County Assessor: Murray Lee (D) of Ganado and Larry Noble (D) from Window Rock
- Apache County Superintendent of Schools: Joy Whiting (D) of St. Johns or write-in candidate Sharon Toadecheenie (D) of Ganado. In order to vote for Sharon Toadecheenie, you need to write her name in on the ballot.

## Statement from the Biden Campaign | March 3, 2020

For decades, Joe Biden has worked to foster tribal sovereignty and prosperity and to ensure the United States follows through on the commitments it has made to Indian Country. He knows that Tribal Nations should be empowered to govern Native communities and that the United States must work harder to meet its solemn trust and treaty obligations. As president, Joe will build on the progress made under the Obama-Biden Administration to strengthen the nation-to-nation relationship and to support the sovereignty and prosperity of tribal nations.

### Key Points:

- Make tribal self-governance, sovereignty and upholding the federal trust responsibility to tribal nations cornerstones of federal policy.
- Ensure tribal nations will have a strong voice and role in the federal government.
- Tackle the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.
- Restore Tribal lands and safeguard natural and cultural resources.
- Tackle climate change and pollution
- Invest in Native students
- Provide reliable, affordable healthcare.
- Expand economic and community development in Indian Country
- Fight for Native voting rights

### Read the whole article here

<https://nativenewsonline.net/currents/joe-bidens-commitment-to-indian-country/>



## Get Involved!

We Need YOU! Help us turn Arizona blue! Volunteer with the Diné Democrats and with your local Democratic County Party. Send the text, "VOTE Democrat!" to (928) 369-6735 and we'll get you connected to people working in your area.

We have Democratic organizers that meet throughout the Navajo Nation:

-  Tuba City Democrats Organizer:  
Loretta Chino, (928) 401-8048
-  Leupp/Tolani Lake Organizer:  
Jonathan Yazzie, (928) 613-8877
-  Hopi Organizer:  
Lorraine Coin, (928) 369-6616
-  St. Michaels Organizer:  
Joanne Peshlakai, (928) 551-7214
-  Chinle/Many Farms Organizer:  
Beatrice Begay, (928) 864-7593



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**Facebook!**

@neaznatedemocrats  
@apachecountydemocrats  
@navajocountydemocrats  
@coconinodems  
@tubacitydems



## Timeline of the 2020 Primary Election

**July  
6**

Deadline to register to participate in the Primary Election.

**July  
8**

Early voting begins. Ballots are mailed to voters on the Permanent Early Voting List.

**July  
24**

Last day for voters not on the Permanent Early Voting List to request a ballot by mail.

**July  
29\***


Last recommended day to mail ballots back.

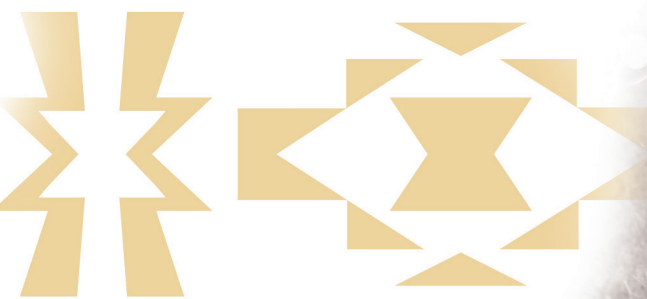
**August  
4**

Election Day

**\* Voters who do not mail their ballots back by July 29, 2020, may drop their ballot off before 7 p.m. on Election Day.**

## Trump and the COVID-19 Pandemic

ESSENTIAL READING: For a sobering reminder of the many ways this current Administration has failed its citizens, take time to read this article in Vox: "A detailed timeline of all the ways Trump failed to respond to the coronavirus: The federal coronavirus response shows a president dead set on avoiding responsibility for the pandemic." 



## Voting safely in the time of COVID-19

By Patty Hansen, Coconino County Recorder

[For Navajo and Apache County Voters, see your county-specific information at the end of this article.]

The Coconino County Elections Office is committed to conducting the August 4th Primary and November 3rd General Elections in the safest manner possible for voters, poll workers and staff members. To do this we are working on ways to make voting convenient and safe.

COVID-19 has hit Native communities in our county very hard and many people are concerned about going to a polling place to vote on Election Day. It is very important that we do not let this terrible disease prevent Native voices from being heard. Tribal Nations have fought too hard to secure voting rights. The safest and easiest way for people to vote is to "Vote from Home" using an early ballot.

To receive an early ballot you must request it from your county recorder's office. In Coconino County you can request an early ballot in the following ways:

- Mail in an early ballot request form. The Coconino County Recorder's Office mailed all registered voters in the county a request form at the beginning of May 2020. The mailing included a self-addressed postage paid envelope so you can mail the form back to the office. Many other organizations are also mailing early ballot request forms that can be used.
- Call the Recorders Office at (928) 679-7860 or (800) 793-6181.
- Go online at [www.coconino.az.gov/elections](http://www.coconino.az.gov/elections) select Early Ballot Request.
- Vote early in person starting 27 days prior to the election at:
  - Tuba City Elections Office, basement of the library, Main Street, Tuba City, Arizona
  - Page City Hall, 697 Vista Dr, Page, Arizona
  - Eastside Elections Office, Flagstaff Mall, Flagstaff, Arizona

### Return voted early ballots in the follow ways:

- Mail - the return early ballot envelope is self-addressed and postage paid
- Drop it off - It can be dropped off at an early voting location (Primary Election <https://bit.ly/ccearlyvotingsites>); or
- Drop it off at a polling place or a designated ballot drop box in Coconino County on Election Day. At most locations, you won't have to go inside the polling place, there will be someone outside to take your ballot when you drive up.

The most important thing to remember about voting early is the voter must sign the early ballot return envelope and the ballot must be returned by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

It's very important for younger family members to assist their older family members to vote. We need our elders' voices to be heard. 🇺🇸



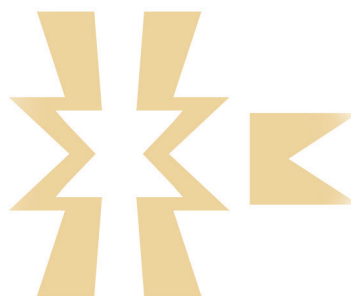
#### VOTE BY MAIL

Request a mail-in ballot

Fill out the paper ballot and sign it

Return it to your County Election Office

[iwillvote.com](http://www.iwillvote.com)



## Apache County Recorder's Office

To receive an early ballot:

- Call (928) 337-7515
- Go online to [iwillvote.com](http://iwillvote.com) and select "Request a Mail-In Ballot"
- The last day to request by mail is July 24, 2020

Return voted early ballots in the follow ways:

- Mail - the return early ballot envelope is self-addressed and postage paid;
- Drop it off - It can be dropped off at an early voting location; or
- Drop it off at a polling place or a designated ballot drop box on Election Day. At most locations you won't have to go inside the polling place, there will be someone outside to take your ballot when you drive up.

The most important thing to remember about voting early is the voter must sign the early ballot return envelope and the ballot must be returned by 7 p.m. on Election Day.. 🇺🇸

## Navajo County Recorder's Office

To receive an early ballot:

- Call (928) 524-4192
- Go online to [iwillvote.com](http://iwillvote.com) and select "Request a Mail-In Ballot"
- The last day to request an early ballot is 11 days prior to the election (July 20)

Return voted early ballots in the follow ways: Place your voted early ballot in the postage paid envelope provided to you, seal and sign the envelope, then return to us by doing one of the following:

- Mail to the address on the envelope.
  - Deliver in person to the Holbrook office. Drop off at any NAVAJO COUNTY polling place or a designated ballot drop box. For the Primary Election, you may also visit an early voting site: <https://bit.ly/navajo-coearlyvotingsites>
- You must sign the ballot envelope in order for your ballot to be processed. Ballots must be returned by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

## Republican bill seeks voter disenfranchisement of Native People

This year, Republicans were pushing for an Arizona constitutional amendment that would eliminate Native people in the Arizona State Legislature by forcing the creation of huge districts with a majority of white voters. The Republicans forced the legislation through the state senate but the coronavirus closed the legislature for the year before this awful bill could be passed by the state house.

It is important now, more than ever, to flip the Arizona House and Senate to prevent Native voter disenfranchisement bills! If you have family or friends in Legislative District 6, which includes Flagstaff and Holbrook, please share this important message and ask them to vote for Felicia French (D) who is running for the State Senate for LD-6 and to vote for Coral Evans (D), current Flagstaff mayor, who is running for the State House for LD-6.

To learn more about this bill, Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai wrote this article published in the Arizona Daily Sun on May 31, 2020.

“Voter disenfranchisement of Native people has a long and bitter history in America and Arizona. That is why I’m disappointed to see Republicans forcing a bill through the Arizona Legislature that would further rip away the voices of Native/Indigenous voters by drastically changing the rules for Arizona redistricting, thereby further diminishing the voting power of communities of color. The bill, SCR1018, would break up districts like District 7 where all three representatives are Navajo and the majority of residents are Native American.

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission has opposed the measure and a committee of the Navajo Nation Council passed a resolution against it, saying it would violate the Voting Rights Act that prohibits states from creating district lines that whittle away the electoral power of minorities.

To watch Republicans do this to the Navajo



Nation and tribal communities as they suffer from a pandemic is unconscionable. The Navajo Nation recently became the worst outbreak of COVID-19 in America.

I have seen firsthand how this virus has ravaged our people. I have lost family members to this virus and mourned with my community. Yet, rather than work with Democrats to bring COVID-19 relief to Navajo and other tribes, Republicans are attacking them by pushing for this bill. I urge my colleagues in the legislature to instead focus on calling for a special session to focus our efforts on helping all Arizonans and small businesses get through this pandemic.

In the meantime, I will fight against SCR1018 and ensure that the voices of our tribal citizens will not be oppressed or extinguished.”

JAMESCITA PESHAKAI  
Arizona Senator  
Cameron

*(This op-ed was published in the Arizona Daily Sun on May 31, 2020.)*

## Former EMILY’s List Manager hired to lead Navajo-Hopi campaign

Jaynie Parrish, a citizen of the Navajo Nation with outstanding professional experience on national campaigns, has been appointed to lead the Democratic Campaign for the Navajo and Hopi people.

“I’ve always wanted to go back home and make a difference,” said Parrish, who was in charge of social media for EMILY’s List until 2020. “When I got the call from community leaders and elders, I had to jump at this chance. I’m so excited and can’t wait to mobilize the Navajo and Hopi votes. This is our time.”

“The coronavirus is making campaigning much more difficult but it makes digital media so much more important as we reach out to younger voters, get people to switch to mail voting and help the Navajo and Hopi people develop the organization they need to get to success on their issues,” she said. “The Native vote is so very critical in delivering Arizona’s 11 Electoral Votes to defeat Donald Trump and elect Mark Kelly to the U.S. Senate.”

Parrish grew up in Kayenta and Window Rock, Arizona. At EMILY’s List, she was responsible for the social media messaging to elect pro-choice Democratic women to public office. She taught American Indian Studies and Women and Gender studies at the University of North Dakota. Most recently she was the director of communications and storytelling for IllumiNative. Since 2016, Jaynie has run her own consulting business, Parrish Digital, a social media and digital organizing enterprise that specializes in creating, maintaining and expanding social media networks.

Welcome aboard, Jaynie! 🇺🇸

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This issue is brought to you by the Northeast Arizona Native Democrats, a coalition of the Apache County, Navajo County, Coconino County, Tuba City and Gila County Democrats.

Our mission is to elect Democrats, amplify Native voices and issues in politics and encourage Native Democrats to run for office as well as participate and take on leadership roles in the Democratic Party.

