

DONKEY TRACKS

OCTOBER, 2023

#bluetothe core

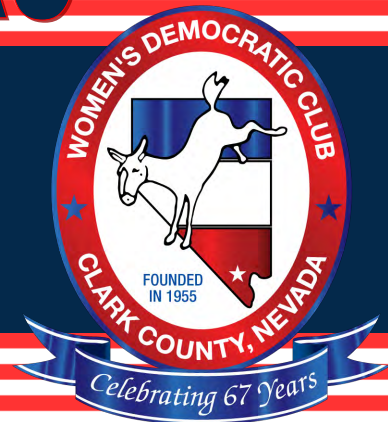
Visit our web site at:

www.womensdemo.com

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



@womensdemocc



Marla Turner
President



Rhonda Nolen
1st Vice President



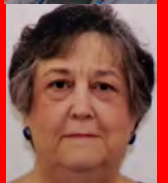
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2nd Vice President



Dawn Dudas,
Treasurer



ShaRhonda Ramos
Corresponding Secretary



Mary Ella Holloway
Recording Secretary



Ida Gaines
Inspirationalist

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County's

2023 Spotlight Dinner

Honoring
Lifetime Achievement Award
Rachakonda Prabhu, M.D.

Bonnie Bryan Award
Barbara and Mike Aupperle

Spotlight Award

Justice Linda Bell, Justice Elissa Cadish, Judge Nancy Allf,
Judge Karen Bennet-Haron, Judge Carolyn Ellsworth,
Judge Tierra Jones, Judge Joanna Kishner, Judge Gloria
Sturman, Judge Valorie Vega, and Judge Ann Zimmerman

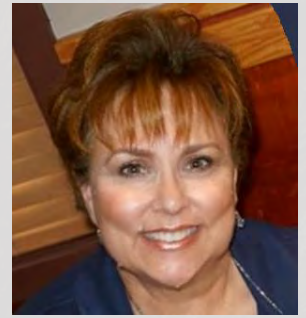
Rachakonda Prabhu, M.D. **CLAGGETT & SYKES**
LAW FIRM

EGLET ADAMS **IBEW LOCAL 357 LAS VEGAS** **BIGHORN LAW**

NVEnergy

SATURDAY | 6 PM
October 14, 2023
www.womensdemo.com
Tickets Now on Sale

A Message from the President



Happy Autumn! Yes, the Fall Equinox took place on September 23rd at 11:50 p.m. Here in the northern hemisphere, the Fall Equinox marks the end of summer and beginning of autumn. During the equinox, the Sun is exactly above the Equator, and day and night are of equal length¹. This only happens two times a year.

For most of the year, the Earth's axis is tilted either toward or away from the sun.² That means the sun's warmth and light fall unequally on the northern and southern halves of the planet. During the equinox, the Earth's axis and its orbit line up so that both hemispheres get an equal amount of sunlight and an even amount of darkness – about twelve hours each.³

I got to thinking about this and marveled over the precise conditions that must take place for this to occur. It's almost like it's telling the world to wake up so we can pay attention to what comes next.

In preparing for winter, we store up, clean out, and make way. We lay in supplies and clear the cupboards of outdated and no longer useful items. We prepare for what comes next.

That is what we are doing here at Women's Demo. We cleared our financial cupboards by donating to candidates and awarding not one but two Renee Diamond scholarships. We are storing up for next year by holding events like our upcoming Spotlight Dinner to raise money for our candidates. And we are actively recruiting the next generation of leaders – not just for the club – but to help our candidates, serve on boards and commissions, and run for office.

As we prepare for 2024, we are mapping who plans to run in 2024 and which seats will be open. We know that our pool of volunteers will be leveraged to the max helping not just local candidates but the presidential ticket as well. You will have your choice(s) about where to extend your energy, money, and talents. I'm asking you to keep a place for Women's Demo so that you can be at the ready to help when we call.

You can start now by purchasing your [tickets to the Spotlight Dinner](#) on October 14th. Club members get \$50 off the ticket price and 100% of the proceeds is donated to our candidates. This is our signature event, and it has enabled us to donate more than half a million dollars to our candidates. With a presidential election our local candidates will have to compete with that and other big races for money. When you donate to Women's Demo, you can be assured it goes toward our candidates and nothing else – no admin fees, no staff – just 100% to the candidates for them to win their election.

Happy Autumn one and all and, I hope you can join us at the dinner. Until then, be well.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marla".

Marla Turner, President
Women's Democratic Club of Clark County

¹ <https://www.britannica.com/science/autumnal-equinox>

² <https://www.voanews.com/a/the-fall-equinox-is-here-what-does-that-mean-/7279751.html>

³ https://www.weather.gov/dvii/Climate_Astronomical_Seasons

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County's

2023 spotlight Dinner



Honoring
Lifetime Achievement Award
Rachakonda Prabhu, M.D.

Bonnie Bryan Award
Barbara and Mike Aupperle

Spotlight Award

Justice Linda Bell, Justice Elissa Cadish, Judge Nancy Allf,
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SATURDAY | 6 PM
October 14, 2023
www.womensdemo.com
Tickets Now on Sale



Spotlight Dinner

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

- Current Members - \$125
- Current Members Plus One - \$250
- General Admission - \$175

SPONSORSHIP & TABLES

HOST SPONSORSHIP = \$5,000

- Tickets for table of 10
- Online link to your website from the Women's Demo website
- Full page, 4-color ad in souvenir book
- Individual poster at event recognizing your sponsorship
- Recognition from dais

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP = \$3,500

- Tickets for table of 10
- Full page, 4-color ad in souvenir book
- Listed on group poster of sponsors
- Recognition from dais

TABLE FOR 10 = \$2,000

- Tickets for table of 10
- Half page, 4-color ad

TABLE FOR 5 = 1,000

- Tickets for 5 people at same table
- Quarter page, 4-color ad



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ADVERTISING

OUTSIDE BACK PAGE OF SOUVENIR BOOKLET = \$1,500.00

- 8.5" x 11" 4-page color ad

INSIDE FRONT PAGE OF SOUVENIR BOOKLET = \$1,000

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FULL PAGE AD = \$850

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HALF PAGE AD = \$500

- 11" x 4.25" or 5.5" x 8.5" 4-color ad

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BUSINESS CARD AD = \$200

- 2" x 3.5" 4-color ad



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Carol's Corner

By Carol Chesnut



Lamentation for the Death of Shame, the Corruption of Honor, And the Crippling of the Concept of the Common Good

©Carol Chesnut

We are poor little lambs who have lost our way. We need Good Shepherds such as Joe Biden and John McCain as leaders to help us find our paths once again, or we will perish as a civilization and as a democracy.

We have permitted so-called leaders to corrupt their offices and, yet we continue to vote them into office and to support their depredations without heaping them with the shame they so richly deserve, without casting them out of our midst and making them pay for their thefts and the damage they impose on other people. Some of us even appear to glory in the damage they do, so long as we are convinced they do it to the “other” and not to us. We seem blind to the knowledge that such damage damages us all because we are so tightly knit together for survival. Let us resurrect the shaming of the corrupt chaos makers and oust them from positions from which they maximize the damage they do. We send shame for the wrong reasons, scorning anyone for differences we consider abnormal or out of the fad-of-the-moment. We are blind to the understanding that those differences add to societal resilience and longevity.

We honor people for token gifts when their fortunes derive from graft and grift, and we do not withdraw those honors even when they are indicted and convicted for their crimes. Look at the treatment of Michael Milken. Or we honor them for mere celebrity and trivial pursuits when we do not honor the heroes of work for the good of all of us, all of which require great courage in the face of threats from MAGA fascist criminals and idiots.

We have allowed the idea of holding the Common Good as an ideal to be crippled, and we have been so in love with money that we have cheered for those who downgraded it in order to benefit their own greed over and above the good of the majority. We have not demanded ethical behavior as a prerequisite to supporting the actions of other people. I was shocked to find that Raffensberger, who refused to commit unethical acts himself, would still vote for those who did commit them. But he is not alone in that and that is a sad commentary on our ethical standards.

So, as Pogo famously observed, “We have met the enemy, and he is us.” Not all of us to be sure, and I know I preach mostly to the choir, but enough of us to drag the rest of us off course. Call them out on it. Give Honor where it is really due, to those who work hard to make lives better for their communities, and heap heavy shame on those who damage the good of the

majority, even when they give what is for them pocket change to good causes to try to rehab their public images.

And do it now! We are in crisis!

NEW MEMBERS - 2023

January Nicole Bhat Jennifer Brown Forrest Darby Francine Green Stephanie Alendia	February Cecia Alvarado	March Marbella Alfonso Blanca Ortiz Sabrina Torres	April Honey Boria Anthony Doyle Estifania Esparza Sharifa Wahab Kevin Wong	May Joel Enriquez Olivia Enriquez Kai Huffman Chloe Moore Emilia "Amy" Nicolas Harriet Reitman-Goldstein
June Edith Cardiff John Delibos	July Teresa Crawford Mary Hickey Iris Revels Brenda Smith-Braam	August Leaha Crawford	September Ashlee Cooper Joan Israel Donna Miller Teneshia Spencer	



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

 September Marlene Drake MaryAnn Hebinck MaryElla Holloway Kai Huffman Elaine Hurd Ginni Kruger E. Lavonne Lewis Deecie Zimmerman	October  Marlyn Buckley George Dunckhurst Donna Miller Regent Laura Perkins Rita Ransom Kim Sedway Bonnie Swadling Judith Whitmer
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**WOMEN'S
DEMOCRATIC
CLUB OF CLARK
COUNTY**

Talking Gun Sense in the Silver State

GUEST SPEAKERS: MOMS DEMAND ACTION

**NOVEMBER 9, 2023
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Bahama Breeze
375 Hughes Center Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89169

Members - \$30
Non-Members - \$40

**RESERVE YOUR
SEAT TODAY**

bit.ly/3RyjWLI



Hear from Jamie Bunnell and the Nevada Chapter of Moms Demand Action about legislation that has taken place, legislation that failed, and what's next for gun safety in Nevada.



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB
OF CLARK COUNTY'S ANNUAL

*Holiday Party
& Potluck*

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 9, 2023

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Location and address information
provided one week before event

RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/3Pys6RJ>

Highlights of Our Members



Mary Hickey Receiving 30 Year's of Service from YMCA



Marla Turner & Ida Gaines at Hats & Heels Event



Ida Gaines in Hat Contest



E. Lavonne Lewis was in Fascinator Contest



Sharing Our Legacy

By Judy Klein



We are fast approaching our Saturday evening, October 14, 2023 “Balance of Justice” Spotlight Dinner !

I would like to take this time to thank the members of the Spotlight Committee for their hard work on behalf of Women’s Democratic Club of Clark County (“WDC”)! Without them there is no Spotlight! So, thank you, Barbara Aupperle, Dawn Dudas, Tom Edwards, Ida Gaines, Karen Kretchmar, Senator Roberta Lange, Rita Ransom, and our President, Marla Turner. It has been an honor, for me, to serve as Chair of this Committee .

WDC has a long and proud legacy of the women that have come before us and the tradition of our Spotlight is to highlight individuals that make outstanding contributions to our Community, State and, Nation! This year is without exception as we honor Dr. Rachakonda Prabhu for his lifetime commitment to our Club, the State Party and the National Democratic Party. He is without equal! Dr. Prabhu is a kind and gentle soul who is a trauma doctor, a pulmonary specialist, and has saved countless lives through his knowledge and practice of medicine. He is a friend and just all-around good man. He respects life, loves his wife and children, who are both doctors, and has been a staunch supporter of all Democratic candidates throughout the decades! He epitomizes what good is and practices it every day!

Barbara and Michael Aupperle are recipients of the Bonnie Bryan award, and there is no one more active, kind, giving, hard working, and honorable than them! Barbara and Mike are friends to all and do not speak unkindly against anyone. That’s a practice unique in humankind! As a couple, they have contributed, worked for, and been friends with almost every Democratic candidates over the decades. They are what Democrats should be and are held in high respect by every one that knows them.

Our ten (10) judges and justices are senior members of the bench. They are respected by their peers, are fair and follow the law. We celebrate two (2) Justices from the Nevada Supreme Court, Elissa Cadish and Linda Bell; six (6) judges: Nancy Allf, Joanna Kishner, Tierra Jones, Carolyn Ellsworth and Valorie Vega from the Eighth Judicial Court; and, two (2) judges, Karen Bennett Haron and Ann Zimmerman from Las Vegas Justice Court. All of these women are phenomenal in their own lives and have been on the bench for several years. All of these judges have been members of WDC over the years and have always supported our mission to elect Democrats throughout the State and Country!

We look forward to seeing our membership at our Spotlight event and have given our members a discounted price of One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$125.00) for themselves and a guest to attend. All other individual purchases are One Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$175.00) each! Please, if you can, take advantage of the discount and attend!

If you would like to pay online, please go to our website, womensdemoclarkcounty@gmail.com. If you prefer to pay by check, mail it to WDC, PO Box 759, Las Vegas, NV, 89125. If you decide the day or evening of the event, please go to the Westgate Resort and Hotel, Ballroom C, and Will Call will be available to sell you a ticket!

It takes a village to put on an event such as this and we, at WDC, are proud to boast that we have the best Democrats as members! You make us the Club that we are and you enrich our legacy. Throughout our 68 years of existence, we have sent members to the United States Senate, United States Congress, Governor’s Mansion, Legislature, Judiciary, and, Commissions and Councils . WDC is a strong Club, the oldest in Nevada, and we continue to be the starship of Clubs for the Democratic Party. Be proud you are a member and share your activism with political campaigns that are starting up for the next election cycle. Thank you, one and all, for all you do to enhance the esteem in which we are held in our Community.

Nevada's Exodus of Election Officials Took

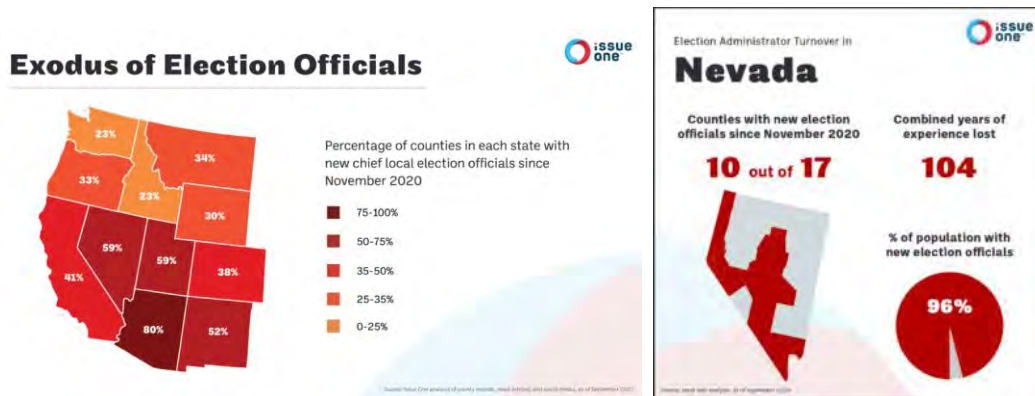
With Them 104 Years of Experience, Says Report

By April Corbin Girus

Ten of Nevada's 17 counties have lost their top election official since the last presidential election, a higher turnover rate than in almost all other western states, according to a new report out Tuesday.

Among the 11 western states analyzed by the cross-partisan political reform group Issue One, only Arizona — a fellow battleground state — saw a larger exodus of top election officials since November 2020. In Arizona, 80% of counties have a new person leading election operations at the county level. In Nevada, 59% of counties do.

Across all 11 western states, 40% of counties — and more than 50% of the population — have a new top official overseeing elections.



In Nevada, the 10 counties with new elections officials at the helm represent 96% of the total state population.

That stark figure is driven by the fact that both Clark and Washoe counties saw their registrars of voters depart. The two urban counties combined represent 90% of the statewide population.

Clark County Registrar of Votes Joe Gloria in December 2022 [retired after 28 years](#) with the county and nearly a decade as its top election official. He told the *Las Vegas Review Journal* that at the height of the harassment in 2020 police came by his house on an hourly basis to make sure his family was safe. (Gloria is now executive officer for operations at The Election Center, a national association for election officials.)

Washoe County Registrar of Voters Deanna Spikula in July 2022 stepped down from the position, which she'd held since 2017. She [cited overall burnout and threats](#), including death threats, as motivating factors.

Such experiences weren't confined to election officials like Gloria and Spikula in Democratic or swing counties.

In Lyon County, which remains deeply Republican, clerk-recorder Nikki Bryan retired [after more than two decades](#) of leading elections there. “I love this county and I want to see elections done right,” the lifelong Republican told the *Christian Science Monitor* before her departure in November 2022. “But I can’t fix the anger. I’ve tried.”

Aubrey Rowlett, clerk-recorder for Carson City, left her post after just one term, citing the unsustainable workload, which for her and most other rural county officials includes more than just overseeing elections.

“You’re just working so many long hours, and then you’re being called idiots,” she told *CSM*.

Secretary of State Cisco Aguilar told Issue One that in addition to losing the top election officials, there have also been losses of “many more staff within election offices across the state.”

He continued, “This has led to a critical loss of institutional knowledge and staffing shortages ahead of the 2024 presidential election.”

Issue One is calling on Congress to provide more funding and protections to curb additional losses, recommendations Aguilar concurs with.

“Elections don’t work without people and resources, and consistent federal funding for election infrastructure would greatly strengthen our democracy,” he told the group.

Issue One found that Nevada’s exodus of election officials took with them 104 years of experience and dropped the median level of experience among top election officials in those counties “from about 8 years to about 1 year.”

But in Clark County — which has the largest population and most extensive operations — the new top election official is a familiar face in the department. Lorena Portillo, who Clark County Commissioners appointed as registrar of voters in the spring, had worked for the department for 25 years.

Washoe County Commissioners appointed Jamie Rodriguez as registrar of voters. Rodriguez had served as government liaison for the county from 2017 until August 2022 when she was named interim registrar of voters following Spikula’s departure. Rodriguez oversaw the 2022 elections.

Last year, the Brennan Center for Justice released a report finding that a fifth of all election officials were likely to quit before the 2024 election. Issue One’s new analysis suggests the true turnover has been higher than that prediction.

April Corbin Girus is an award-winning journalist with a decade of media experience. A stickler about municipal boundary lines, April enjoys teaching people about unincorporated Clark County. She grew up in Sunrise Manor and currently resides in Paradise with her husband, three children and one mutt.

Letters From An American

By Heather Cox Richardson

Two major stories today seem to bring together both the past and the future of the country to chart a way forward.

The first involves a historic workers' strike. A week ago, on Friday, September 15, after workers' four-year contracts expired, the United Auto Workers union declared a limited and targeted work stoppage in which about 13,000 workers walked off the job at three Midwestern auto plants. For the first time in history, those walkouts included all three major automakers: workers left a General Motors plant in Missouri, a Stellantis (which includes Chrysler) plant in Ohio, and a Ford plant in Michigan.

Workers accepted major concessions in 2007, when it appeared that auto manufacturers would go under. They agreed to accept a two-tier pay system in which workers hired after 2007 would have lower pay and worse benefits than those hired before 2007. But then the industry recovered, and automakers' profits skyrocketed: Ford, for example, made more than \$10 billion in profits in 2022.

Automakers' chief executive officers' pay has soared—GM CEO Mary Barra made almost \$29 million in 2022—but workers' wages and benefits have not. Barra, for example, makes 362 times the median GM employee's paycheck, while autoworkers' pay has fallen behind inflation by 19%.

The new UAW president, Shawn Fain, ran on a promise to demand a rollback of the 2007 concessions in this summer's contract negotiations. He wants a cap on temporary workers, pay increases of more than 40% to match the salary increases of the CEOs, a 32-hour workweek, cost of living adjustments, and an elimination of the tier system.

But his position is not just about autoworkers; it is about all U.S. workers. "Our fight is not just for ourselves but for every worker who is being undervalued, for every retiree who's given their all and feels forgotten, and for every future worker who deserves a fair chance at a prosperous life," Fain said. "[W]e are all fed up of living in a world that values profits over people. We're all

fed up with seeing the rich get richer while the rest of us continue to just scrape by. We're all fed up with corporate greed. And together, we're going to fight to change it."

Fain has withheld an endorsement for President Biden out of concern that the transition to electric vehicles, which are easier to build than gas-powered vehicles, will hurt union jobs, and out of anger that the administration has offered incentives to non-union plants. That criticism created an opening for Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump to announce he would visit Detroit next week to show autoworkers that he has "always had their back," in hopes of winning back the support of Rust Belt states.

But for all his talk of being pro-worker, Trump recently attacked Fain, saying "The autoworkers are being sold down the river by their leadership, and their leadership should endorse Trump." Autoworkers note that Trump and the justices he put on the Supreme Court have been anti-union, and that he packed the National Labor Relations Board, which oversees labor laws and union elections, with officials who reduced the power of workers to organize. Before he left office, Trump tried to burrow ten anti-labor activists into the Federal Service Impasses Panel, the panel in charge of resolving disputes between unions and federal agencies when they cannot resolve issues in negotiations.

Fain recently said: "Every fiber of our union is being poured into fighting the billionaire class and an economy that enriches people like Donald Trump at the expense of workers."

President Biden prides himself on his pro-union credentials, and as soon as he took office, he fired Trump's burrowed employees, prompting the head of the union representing 700,000 federal employees to thank Biden for his attempt to "restore basic fairness for federal workers." He said, "The outgoing panel, appointed by the previous administration and stacked with transparently biased union-busters, was notorious for ignoring the law to gut workplace rights and further an extreme political agenda."

Today, in the absence of a deal, the UAW expanded the strike to dozens more plants, and in a Facebook live stream, Fain invited "everyone who supports our cause to join us on the picket line from our friends and families all the way up to the president of the United States." Biden has generally expressed support for the UAW, saying that the automakers should share their

record profits with their workers, but Fain rebuffed the president's offer to send Labor Secretary Julie Su and White House senior advisor Gene Sperling to help with negotiations.

Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and John Fetterman (D-PA) have both visited Michigan to meet with UAW workers, but it was nonetheless a surprise when the White House announced that the president will travel on Tuesday to Michigan, where he will, as he posted on X, "join the picket line and stand in solidarity with the men and women of UAW as they fight for a fair share of the value they helped create. It's time for a win-win agreement that keeps American auto manufacturing thriving with well-paid UAW jobs."

If President Biden is showing his support for the strong unions of the past, Vice President Kamala Harris is in charge of the future. The White House today announced the establishment of a National Office of Gun Violence Prevention, to be overseen by the vice president.

Lately, Harris has been taking the lead in embracing change and appealing to younger voters. On September 9 she hosted a celebration honoring the 50th anniversary of hip hop, and she is currently in the midst of a tour of college campuses to urge young people to vote. She has been the administration's leading voice on issues of reproductive rights and equality before the law, issues at the top of concerns of young Americans. Now adding gun safety to that list, she is picking up yet another issue crucially important to young people.

When 26-year-old Representative Maxwell Frost (D-FL) introduced the president today, he said that he got involved in politics because he "didn't want to get shot in school."

If the president and the vice president today seemed to represent the past and the future to carry the country forward, the present was also in the news today, and that story was about corruption and the parties' different approaches to it.

ProPublica has published yet another piece about Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas's connections to wealthy donors. Joshua Kaplan, Justin Elliott, and Alex Mierjeski reported that Thomas attended at least two donor summits hosted by the Koch family, acting as a fundraising draw for the Koch network, but did not disclose the flights he accepted, which should have been considered gifts, or the hospitality associated with the trips. His appearances were

coordinated with the help of Leonard Leo of the Federalist Society, who has been behind the court's rightward swing.

The Koch family network funds a wide range of right-wing political causes. It has had interests in a number of cases before the Supreme Court during Thomas's term, including an upcoming challenge to the government's ability to regulate businesses—a principle the Koch enterprises oppose.

Republicans have been defending Thomas's behavior since these stories began to surface.

Also in the corruption file today is Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), who, along with his wife, has been indicted by a federal grand jury in New York on three counts of conspiracy to commit bribery, conspiracy to commit honest services fraud, and conspiracy to commit extortion in connection with using his influence to advance the interests of Egypt.

This is Menendez's second legal go-round: in 2015 he was indicted on unrelated charges of bribery, trading political help for expensive plane flights and luxury vacations. Ten of the twelve members of the jury did not agree with the other two that he was guilty and after the hung jury meant a mistrial, the Department of Justice declined to retry the case.

That the DOJ has indicted Menendez again on new charges undercuts Republicans' insistence that the department has been weaponized to operate against them alone. And while Menendez insists he will fight the charges, he has lost his position at the head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee under the rules of the Democratic Conference, and New Jersey Democratic leaders have already called on him to resign.

"So a Democratic Senator is indicted on serious charges, and no Democrats attacking the Justice Department, no Democrats attacking the prosecutors, no Democrats calling for an investigation of the prosecution, and no Democrats calling to defund the Justice Department," wrote former Republican representative from Illinois and now anti-Trump activist Joe Walsh.

"Weird, huh?" —



2023



MEETING SCHEDULE

OCT

NOV

DEC

October 14

Annual
Spotlight
Dinner -

**NO
MEETING**

Nov 9

LUNCH
Meeting and
Officer
Elections

Dec 9

Annual
Holiday
Party and
Potluck -

**NO
MEETING**



Lombardo Campaign Pivots Legal Defense

Fund to Ethics Case

By Jacob Solis

A year after creating a legal defense fund to pay legal fees related to a challenge to his primary victory by another candidate, Gov. Joe Lombardo's campaign is using the fund to ward off a case from the Nevada Ethics Commission, which earlier this year levied a censure and \$20,000 fine for Lombardo for using his sheriff's badge and uniform in his campaign for governor.

The change comes as Lombardo's campaign filed new campaign finance documents Sept. 1, outlining exactly how much money the legal defense fund raised — \$85,000 — and who funded it.

That fundraising information was bundled in Lombardo's [other campaign finance reports](#) last year, and only recently separated after being flagged by the secretary of state's office earlier this year.

Legal defense funds operate under a [Nevada law](#) that allows political campaigns to raise donations explicitly for the use of mounting a legal defense “arising from a campaign, the electoral process or the performance of official duties.” These defense funds are subject to the same contribution limits (\$10,000) as candidates for state office.

In Lombardo's case, the legal defense fund was [established in late July last year](#) to pay for the defense of a legal challenge to Lombardo's primary victory filed by fellow Republican gubernatorial hopeful Joey Gilbert.

After finishing second to Lombardo by roughly 26,000 votes, Gilbert alleged in [a court filing](#) that “algorithms” used by electronic voting machines had switched votes, creating inflated vote tallies for Lombardo and denying Gilbert victory. Gilbert's suit also proposed an equally sweeping remedy — applying a “mathematical” correction to the vote tallies and awarding the primary win to Gilbert, instead.

A state district court judge tossed the case, and later ordered Gilbert to [pay \\$161,000 of Lombardo's attorneys fees](#) as part of the state's “frivolous lawsuit” statute. That penalty was [upheld last month](#) by the state Supreme Court, after Gilbert's lawyer challenged the payment.

At the time — and according to the documents filed earlier this month — the legal fund raised \$85,000, of which more than \$82,500 was paid out to the law firm of Campbell & Williams, which represented Lombardo in the case.

Editor's note: Campbell & Williams has provided The Nevada Independent with pro bono legal services and advice.

More recent fundraising totals are not available, as the last reporting period included was the final three months of 2022. Legal defense funds are tied to the same reporting requirements as other state campaign finance reports, which won't be required again until after the first quarter of 2024.

All of that money came from just nine donors, of which eight gave the maximum \$10,000 — including the state Republican Party, as well as two PACs linked to the campaign: Better Nevada and Stronger Nevada.

The rest came from individual donors. That includes David Chesnoff (a Las Vegas-based criminal defense attorney and one-time law partner to Oscar Goodman), Nickolas Mamula (the owner of a Las Vegas-area tiling business), Marnell Gaming and R&S Leasing (a company linked to Snap Towing CEO Robert Ellis and that frequently gives to Democrats and Republicans).

Finally, a \$5,000 contribution came from LAJG Inc., a company whose [only officer](#) is Donna Lombardo, the state's first lady.

A source close to Lombardo's campaign confirmed that the defense fund has now pivoted to funding the governor's legal fight with the Nevada Ethics Commission.

The commission's [ruling](#) found that the governor improperly used the "accoutrements of office" in campaign materials, including using his uniform and badge, and fined the now-governor \$20,000 and issued a censure.

That fine came well below [an initial recommendation of \\$1.6 million](#), which sought to fine each individual violation of the ethics law in question.

In August, attorneys for Lombardo (who also represented the governor during the Gilbert suit) vowed to [fight the censure in court](#).

Editor's Note: This story appears in Indy Elections, The Nevada Independent's newsletter dedicated to comprehensive coverage of the 2024 elections. Sign up for the newsletter [here](#).

The Nevada Independent is a 501(c)3 nonprofit news organization. We are committed to transparency and disclose all our donors. The following people or entities mentioned in this article are financial supporters of our work:

- Joe Lombardo - \$1,800
- Donna Lombardo - \$500



WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print
2024

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Facebook _____ Twitter _____

Instagram _____ Date of Birth _____

I affirm that I am registered to vote with the Democratic Party in the State of Nevada: Yes []
(Only a registered Democrat can be a member)

General Membership: \$35 Annual Dues Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash []

Past WDC Presidents and Current Students: \$15 Annual Dues Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash []

Renee Diamond Scholarship Fund Donation: Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash [] Online []

I am interested in participating on the following Committees:
(you will be notified if there are vacancies available)

Ambassador Committee [] Candidate Donation Distribution Committee [] Communications/Media []

Thank You For Joining
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY
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