

# crimsongoesblue news

May 8th, 2024

Dear {{FirstName or "Friend"}},

## In This Issue

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Got Data Experience?

How Old is Too Old?

MAGA Mess/Dem Success

## Upcoming Events



### PHONE BANK Saturdays with CGB

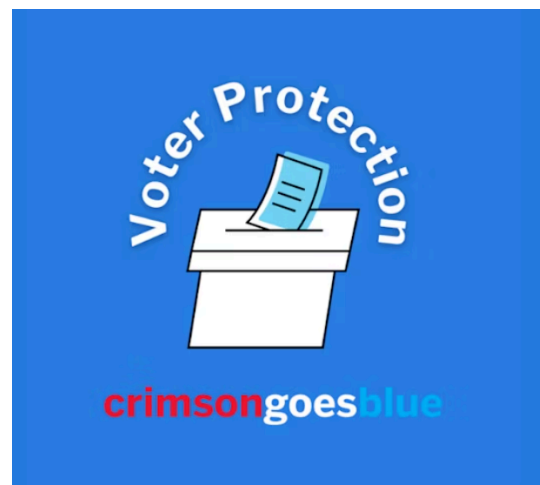
Saturday, May 11 and Saturday, May  
18 at 1pm ET/10am PT

[Register Here](#) to call voters in the  
critical state of Arizona

**CGB Voter Protection  
Team Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 8 at 4pm  
ET/1pm PT**

[Register Here](#)



**But What About the Polls?  
with Tom Bonier and Simon  
Rosenberg**

**Tuesday, May 14 at 3pm ET/12pm  
PT**

[Register Here](#)

## Prescribing Participation

*By Dana Jamison MD, HR '84*



I am an orthopedic surgeon in the Wild, Wild West, a.k.a. Arizona, and I want to make our state as BLUE as possible. For starters, I want to help potential voters understand their stake in our elections so that they will register and vote. **Thanks to the nonpartisan national organization [Vot-ER](#), I am able to provide practical guidance to unregistered or low-information voters I encounter in the course of my working day.** I encourage all healthcare providers out there to sign up with Vot-ER, which provides hospital ID badges featuring QR codes that patients can scan to obtain voter information for any county and state in the country:

1. How to register, or whether you are registered
2. How to obtain mail-in/ early voting ballots
3. How to find out what propositions and which candidates are on your ballot
4. How to find your in-person voting locations
5. How and where to return your ballot
6. How to find out if your ballot has been received (in time)
7. Post-election, what the results are up and down the ballot

Currently, Arizona is a very PURPLE state with many important offices determined by very close races. I ask every one of my patients whether they are registered to vote and whether (not for whom) they plan to vote in the upcoming election. I realize that I may not always be speaking to Democrats, but I see this as a way to educate everyone on the importance of voting as well as perhaps enlisting some new Blue voters.

In the beginning, I felt awkward talking about voting with my patients. As physicians, we are taught to be apolitical and to focus on our patients' better health. But then I realized that if we can talk about March Madness (men's and WOMEN's) and what we saw on Instagram, we can talk about voting. In fact, **we must talk about politics when politics are affecting patients' health** and well-being—not to mention their access to healthcare and medication. I am always nonpartisan as I encourage people to be civically engaged.

I remember when I brought up Vot-ER with one of my many Medicare patients. Once they realized it was Congress that decided how much their Medicare would cost and that might try to privatize Social Security, their interest perked up. After I showed them how to use a QR code, they jumped on board.

Studies have shown that civic engagement improves mental and physical health. I call it the "give a damn" factor. If you give a damn about other people's issues, you're going to give a damn about your own too. It's not just milk that does a body good. **Enabling our patients to vote is a meaningful way to make our patients' voices heard.**

Physicians have a special relationship with our patients, one built on trust and understanding. By using that special bond, we can increase

participation in our democracy. Anyone in healthcare— doctors, nurses, even students—**can obtain a free badge through <https://vot-er.org>**. I challenge all members of Crimson Goes Blue who work in healthcare to use your position to make a difference in our nation’s future. Our democracy truly depends on it!



## **Got Data Experience? Don't Want to Talk to Voters? We Need Your Help!**

*By Mike Frank, CGB  
Communications and  
Operations Manager*

**Our partners at the Swing Blue Alliance are [mobilizing data volunteers](#) to help get future Democratic voters registered, and they need your help.** Until now, finding a centralized list of unregistered likely Democrats has been nearly impossible, which is why SBA has started this revolutionary initiative. By cross-referencing voter lists and census data with other public sources of information, the data team will build a list of potential Democrats whom we can target for voter registration. Getting this group of new voters into the voting booth could change the landscape in the coming election. **Now is the time to start building a Blue Wave for 2024.**

**We need...**

**1. Data Cleaners.** *Don't want to talk to voters? Love doing internet research? We have a role for you.* Field workers need the most accurate data to ensure that their efforts make an impact. SBA needs a team to search state websites for up-to-date voter data to keep the databases current. Even a few hours a week will go a long way.

**2. Tech Specialists.** If you have experience in **database management** or **ArcGIS**, your skills could be a huge asset to this project. Please consider bringing your abilities to the SBA team in 2024; you will be hard-pressed to find a more impactful setting for them.

The work completed by the data team will help create maps of unregistered, likely Democratic voters.

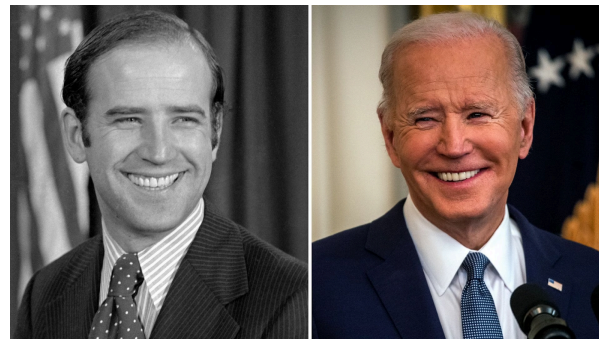
For those of you who do like talking to voters, these new lists of unregistered voters are going to be game-changing. Stay tuned.

### Sign Up

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## How Old Is Too Old: Ageism in the Headlines

by Rani Kronick, '84



Ok, let's say it. Joe Biden is 81 years old. This mundane fact has led to headlines, commentary, and jokes about how old is "too old" to be President of the United States. (Biden's presumptive opponent in the 2024 election is relatively close in age at 77, yet these attacks are less often leveled at him—but that is a topic for another piece.)

It sometimes seems as if every slip of the tongue or stumble Biden makes is ascribed to some version of geriatric fragility or senility, despite the fact that he frequently speaks publicly and at length, often impromptu. It's past time for those of us who oppose age-based bias to call this shallow, ignorant, and stereotypical obsession what it is: ageism.

**Ageism is an under-recognized form of bias**, although, if we're lucky, we will all experience it. Like other forms of structural bias, it is embedded in our institutions, including our laws, healthcare systems, commerce, and employment. President Biden's experience is sadly common. According to the AARP, 64% of Americans over the age of 50 have experienced or witnessed age discrimination at work, and 56% are fired or coerced to resign upon reaching a certain age.

The images of elders as inept, out of touch, incapable, and often unpleasant are reinforced in advertising, such as an ad for a smartphone targeted to elders with "one big button" to push to initiate a call (despite the fact that elders use smartphones in numbers equal to younger adults) and the popular ad played during the last Superbowl in which the humor was predicated on the presumably ridiculous idea of two elder women using scooters displaying courage and agency. The fact is that **there are strengths and weaknesses associated with every stage of life**. This is no less true of our elder years. We are more likely to experience disability, and immediate short-term recall may be slower. But at the same time, we have significant

experience on which to draw. We also are better at assimilating and retrieving information, including contradictory facts, and at drawing solid conclusions and forming viable plans of action. Research has shown that we are less prone to snap judgments and (with some notable exceptions) better at controlling our reactions.

Back to the President. Joe Biden has been open about having a speech impediment that typically involves word substitution or phrase revision. But his off-the-cuff comments are often insightful and nuanced and the occasional misplaced word is easily understood.

President Biden has many years of experience in political leadership. **His age is often an advantage**, as he has gained skills, forged domestic and international relationships, and faced many of our current challenges before. He knows how to resolve conflicts and find compromises and solutions. He also recognizes the key issues that must be addressed and defended.

But the “too old” chorus is not really talking about age. Biden’s detractors want to accuse him of being incompetent as president but have no evidence to support that claim, so instead **they refer to age as a proxy**. The fact is that Biden has been a successful president, who has made significant accomplishments in improving the economy, strengthening relations with our allies, and making life better for many of us, even while struggling with a dysfunctional Congress. Since there is no substantive way to attack his record of accomplishments, his detractors resort to attacking a personal characteristic, his age.

In sum, **“Biden Is Too Old” is a biased statement**. The important issues are Biden’s strengths, his accomplishments, and his commitment to leading us



in the right direction. All of those are only enhanced by the wisdom he has garnered in the course of a long life of public service.

*Rani Kronick is a writer, researcher, and editor who writes frequently about aging and ageism. She is the invited guest editor of a special issue of the American Society on Aging's journal Generations on ageism, ableism, and intersectionality.*



The Treasury Department announced that the IRS's pilot program, which enables taxpayers to file for free, saved users an estimated \$5.6 million in fees for tax preparation. As the Former Deputy Director of the National Economic Council wrote, "You shouldn't have to pay money to pay your taxes." The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office recently determined that MAGA Republicans' ongoing demands to cut \$20 billion from the IRS would ultimately add \$24 billion to the deficit.

Joe Biden continues to fight to strengthen Social Security, extend protections for Medicare insurance, and protect the retirement savings of older Americans. Trump-backed Wisconsin Senate candidate, Eric Hovde, suggested that residents of nursing homes should not be eligible to vote, as

they are too close to death. As he put it, "Almost nobody in a nursing home is in a [position] to vote."

For a full list of events, see our [Calendar](#)

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