

Arizona GOP Charging People \$1,000 to Attend Election Night Watch Party

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Length: 477 words

Byline: James Bickerton

Highlight: Guests can pay \$1,000 to attend the Republican Party with the "private experience package."

Body

Guests are being charged up to \$1,000 to attend the Arizona GOP's 'Election Night Watch Party,' on November 8.

The event, which is being held in Phoenix, is advertised as featuring a number of prominent local Republicans, including Senate candidate Blake Masters and Kari Lake, who is running for governor.

Those wishing to attend must pay between \$1,000, if they want the "private experience package" and \$10 if they are a student or a veteran.

VIP tickets are also available at \$500 each and general admission tickets for \$20.

According to its Eventbrite page, the occasion will be the "BIGGEST ELECTION NIGHT BASH in ARIZONA HISTORY!" with "MUSIC, DRINKS, FOOD, GAMES, PICS, MEDIA, + MORE!"

Also billed as attending are Republican politicians Mark Finchem, Kimberly Yee and Abraham Hamadeh.

Finchem, currently a member of the Arizona House of Representatives, is running to be the state's secretary of state. In 2014, Finchem identified as a member of right-wing paramilitary group the Oath Keepers, and he was interviewed by the QAnon-supporting podcast RedPill78 in May 2021.

Followers of QAnon, a far-right conspiracy theory, believe Donald Trump is fighting a battle against a satanic pedophile elite, including many prominent Democrats.

Finchem has admitted he was in Washington, D.C., on January 6, 2021, but said he did not take part in the storming of the Capitol, which he instead blamed on Antifa.

If elected secretary of state, he will play a role in certifying future Arizona elections.

Yee is seeking re-election as Arizona state treasurer, having assumed office in 2019 as the first Asian American woman to hold the post.

Hamadeh, an army reserve intelligence officer, is running to be Arizona's attorney general.

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On Sunday, Arizona GOP gubernatorial candidate Lake, who is opposed by Democrat Katie Hobbs, appeared on CNN during which she was challenged over her claim that the 2020 presidential election in Arizona was "stolen" from Trump.

She replied, "You want to have me on here and talk 2020 election, and you're the one who accuses me of constantly talking about it?"

"I would never bring this up, ever, had you not been bringing this up, consistently, on the campaign trail."

Asked if she'd accept the result of November's elections in Arizona, Lake said: "I'm going to win the election, and I'm going to accept that result."

Masters is polling at 33 percent, behind Democratic Senate incumbent Mark Kelly on 46 percent, according to the most recent OH Predictive Insights poll.

The survey, conducted between October 4 and 6, also found Libertarian Party candidate Marc Victor is in a strong third place with 15 percent of the vote.

According to Politico, Masters, a 36-year-old venture capitalist, has received \$15 million in support of his campaign from billionaire Peter Thiel.

Newsweek has reached out to the Arizona Republican Party for comment.

[Link to Image](#)

Graphic

Kari Lake speaking at an Arizona rally

Mario Tama/GETTY

Arizona Republican nominee for governor Kari Lake speaking at a campaign rally attended by former U.S. President Donald Trump at Legacy Sports USA on October 09, 2022 in Mesa, Arizona. Lake is one of those billed as attending the Arizona election night party.

Load-Date: October 20, 2022

Art's foes are our modern fascists

The Gold Coast Bulletin

October 19, 2022 Wednesday

GoldCoast Edition

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Section: LETTERS; Pg. 21

Length: 646 words

Byline: JOE HILDEBRAND

Body

WHEN I heard that political agitators had attacked Vincent van Gogh's priceless Sunflower painting at the UK National Gallery, my first response was the same as everybody else's: "Looks like those no-good fascists are at it again!" After all, who burns books and attacks art? Fascists.

Who has no qualms about destroying anything in the name of their deranged ideology? Fascists.

But then I remembered that I was living in the 21st Century, not the 20th Century, and in these enlightened times such people aren't called fascists anymore.

They're called "progressives". Indeed, the word "fascist" is now exclusively reserved for anyone who dares to disagree with them.

Welcome to the new Wild West.

As it happens, I have seen Sunflowers at the National Gallery. Working in London 20 years ago, I had ducked in to escape the rain and checked out some of the world's greatest masterpieces. Glancing around I felt a glowing presence over my shoulder, and this time it wasn't my halo. I turned around and had my breath literally taken away.

And given its unquantifiably precious status it appears that much of the world shares that view. To deliberately attack such a celestial object speaks to a level of pig ignorance or furious malice usually found in, say, a third-rate Austrian water colourist. But of course the hard left will reject any such comparisons with their acts of destruction. Yes, they might try to ban books but they're not actually burning them like the Nazis did.

Er, actually they are. Extreme trans activists have burnt copies of Harry Potter books not even because of their content but because they disagree with the views of author JK Rowling. Yet again the crazy right and the crazy left are doing the exact same thing and getting the exact same result, just like Greens senator Lidia Thorpe's now infamous plea to Pauline Hanson to block Indigenous constitutional recognition.

The facts are so brutally plain and farcical that they would be unbelievable in any work of fiction. But the lunar left might then argue: "Hey, OK, so we're banning and burning books like the Nazis did but we only target ones that cause harm." Okey dokey. This then raises the question of how many real-world deaths the Harry Potter series is responsible for compared to those caused by, say, The Communist Manifesto. Just tallying up the communist

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experiment of the USSR and you get to about 800,000 direct executions, 1.7 million in the gulags, another almost 800,000 due to deportation and forced resettlement and another six million due to starvation.

That's a pretty tough act for an imaginary boy wizard to follow. Even Hitler himself struggled to be as genocidal as his communist co-conspirator. But then the hard left might say: "OK, OK, so we're burning books like the Nazis but at least we're not hurting anybody â€" In fact, the left's revered New York Times wrote that members of the extreme-left **Antifa movement** "believe that using violence is justified".

Antifa proponent Mark Bray - a US university lecturer - told the masthead: "The argument is that militant anti-fascism is inherently self-defence because of the historically documented violence that fascists pose, especially to marginalised people." That's funny. You know what other movement rose up claiming self-defence against a perceived external threat - this time Jewish Bolshevism?

Here's a clue: It begins with an "N" and rhymes with "Yahtzee". Again and again, at every moment in history and in every corner of the globe, extremists beget extremists and all of them end up the same.

Fortunately for them, the liberal democratic institutions that they rail against protect them from the same immolation they wish upon others. But the God-fearing among them might find they are not so lucky in the afterlife and the godless will find their earthly legacies similarly torched. And no one will need so much as a match.

Load-Date: October 18, 2022

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Rioter gets 34 months for attacks on journalist, police

Chicago Daily Herald

October 22, 2022 Saturday

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Section: POLITICAL_; Pg. 7

Length: 482 words

Byline: Associated Press

Body

WASHINGTON — A Pennsylvania man was sentenced on Friday to nearly three years in prison for assaulting an Associated Press photographer and attacking police officers with a stun gun during the U.S. Capitol riot. Alan Byerly apologized to his victims before U.S. District Judge Randolph Moss sentenced him to two years and 10 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release. Byerly will get credit for the more than 15 months he already has served behind bars since his arrest, according to his lawyers.

"I didn't go to D.C. to harm anyone," Byerly told the judge. Byerly, 55, pleaded guilty in July to assaulting AP photographer John Minchillo and then activating a stun gun as he charged at police officers who were trying to hold off the mob that formed outside the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Byerly said he was an "antagonistic jerk" when he confronted the officers. He also said he assaulted Minchillo after hearing a voice say, "That's *antifa*. Get him out of here." Minchillo was wearing a lanyard with AP lettering when Byerly and other rioters attacked him on the Capitol's Lower West Terrace, according to a court filing. accompanying Byerly's guilty plea. Byerly grabbed Minchillo, pushed him backward and dragged him toward a crowd, the filing says. Another AP photographer captured the assault on video. "I should have never gotten involved, and I'm deeply sorry for my actions," Byerly said. Prosecutors sought a sentence of at least three years and 10 months of imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release. Defense lawyers requested a sentence below an estimated guidelines range of 37 to 46 months in prison. Moss said he believed Byerly is genuinely remorseful for his role in the mob's "assault on democracy." The judge said it was clear that Byerly couldn't have injured anybody with the inexpensive stun gun that he brought to the Capitol, but the officers couldn't have known that given the sound that it made. "They were clearly frightened by it," Moss said. "It undoubtedly added to the fear the officers felt that day." Minchillo "must have been extremely frightened, as well," the judge added. None of Byerly's victims attended his sentencing hearing. Byerly bought the stun gun before traveling from his home in Fleetwood, Pennsylvania, to Washington, D.C., for the "Stop the Steal" rally on Jan. 6. Leaving the rally before then-President Donald Trump finished speaking, Byerly went to the west side of the Capitol and joined other rioters in using a metal Trump billboard as a battering ram against police, prosecutors said. Later, Byerly approached police officers behind bike racks and deployed his stun gun. After officers grabbed the stun gun from Byerly's hands, he charged at them, struck and pushed them and grabbed an officer's baton, prosecutors said. One of the officers fell and landed on his hands while trying to restrain Byerly.

Rioter gets 34 months for attacks on journalist, police

Load-Date: October 24, 2022

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Capitol rioter gets prison for attacks on journalist, police

The Independent (United Kingdom)

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Length: 734 words

Byline: Michael Kunzelman

Highlight: A Pennsylvania man has been sentenced to nearly three years in prison for assaulting an Associated Press photographer and attacking police officers with a stun gun during the U.S. Capitol riot

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Defense attorneys said the model of stun gun that Byerly purchased for \$24.99 was considered to be “junk” by engineering experts.

“Furthermore, shortly after purchasing the device, Mr. Byerly had accidentally activated it on himself and thus knew that it could not cause injury or even pain,” the defense lawyers wrote in a court filing.

Other rioters helped him elude capture that day, but Byerly was arrested in July 2021. He told FBI agents that he did just “one stupid thing down there and that’s all it was,” according to prosecutors.

“This was a reference to how he handled the reporter and nothing more,” they wrote in a court filing.

Byerly, a carpenter by trade and father of four children, has remained in custody since his arrest more than 15 months ago.

Approximately 900 people have been charged with federal crimes for their conduct on Jan. 6. More than 420 of them have pleaded guilty, mostly to misdemeanor offenses. Nearly 300 have been sentenced, with roughly half of them getting terms of imprisonment ranging from seven days to 10 years, according to an AP review of court records.

More than 100 police officers were injured during the Jan. 6 riot. Over 270 defendants have been charged with assaulting, resisting or impeding officers or employees at the Capitol, according to the Justice Department. Byerly is one of several defendants charged with assaulting members of the news media or destroying their equipment at the Capitol.

For full coverage of the Capitol riot, go to <https://www.apnews.com/capitol-siege>

Load-Date: October 21, 2022