

**Statement from the Arizona Democratic Party Veteran and Military Families Caucus
Regarding the Leadership of Chair Robert Branscomb**

Issued July 15, 2025

As veterans and military family members, we know that leadership is not about rank or title—it's about earning and maintaining the trust of your team, accountability to self and others, and selfless service to a mission greater than any individual.

On July 14th, the ADP Veteran and Military Families Caucus convened an emergency meeting to consider whether to take a position ahead of the July 16th Special Meeting of the Arizona Democratic Party State Committee. Following robust debate and reflection, **our caucus voted overwhelmingly to support the removal of Chair Robert Branscomb, with over 80% of the vote.**

This decision was not made lightly.

We weighed the concerns raised by Democratic Party leaders across Arizona, including allegations of mismanagement, disregard for staff, and failure to deliver on promises to build a more inclusive, strategic, and functional party. We also took seriously our responsibility to model the kind of integrity, accountability, and collective decision-making we hope to see in all leaders.

We affirm our respect for the gravity of this moment. We believe the Arizona Democratic Party must be led with transparency, collaboration, and the capacity to earn and maintain the confidence of its diverse coalitions. That belief guided our vote. Our discussion was wide-ranging, but it repeatedly returned to some hard truths:

1. **Chair Branscomb has lost the trust and confidence of key stakeholders** needed to lead the ADP effectively, including elected officials, officers at every level of the party, members of his own executive committee, ADP staff, grassroots donors, and—by all indications—at least a plurality of the same State Committee that elected him.
2. **Chair Branscomb has failed to present or pass a functional budget**, undermining the party's ability to operate as an agile, strategic, and winning organization in 2026 and beyond.
3. **Under his leadership, the ADP's finances have deteriorated rapidly**—from a debt-free, million-dollar war chest to a party now on track for insolvency before year's end.

In our community, leadership means that regardless of the circumstances or actions of others, a leader takes responsibility for outcomes. If any military leader lost the confidence of even a plurality of their seniors, peers, and subordinates, they would put the mission first—and support a successor better positioned to accomplish it.

The VMF Caucus remains committed to fighting for a party that centers working people, protects democracy, and honors the values we fought for in uniform and continue to uphold as civilian leaders.

We thank Chair Branscomb for stepping up to lead during a time of challenge and transition.

Now we ask something even harder: **recognize that your continued service is impeding—not advancing—our shared mission.**

We call on the State Committee and Democratic leaders at every level to embrace a transparent, democratic process to correct course and refocus our efforts on defeating our Republican opponents in 2026.

We stand ready to help rebuild—no matter what direction our party takes in the days ahead.

In solidarity,

Derek Duba & Manny Hernandez

Co-Chairs, ADP Veteran and Military Families Caucus