

CAPTAIN ACTIVATE!

AND THE FUTURE VOTERS



OPERATION ACTIVATE

OPERATION ACTIVATE

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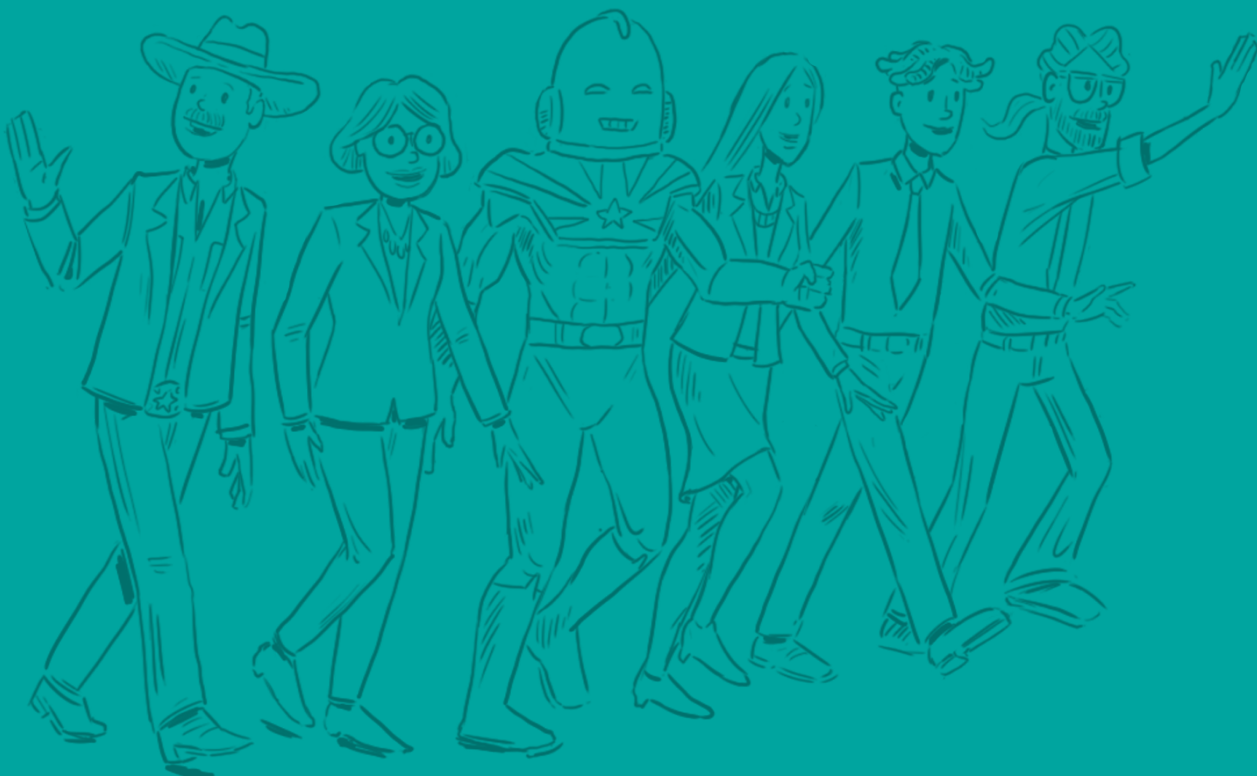
COLORS
DEFNE AYDEMIR

ILLUSTRATIONS
JON BROWN

LETTERING
MICAH MYERS

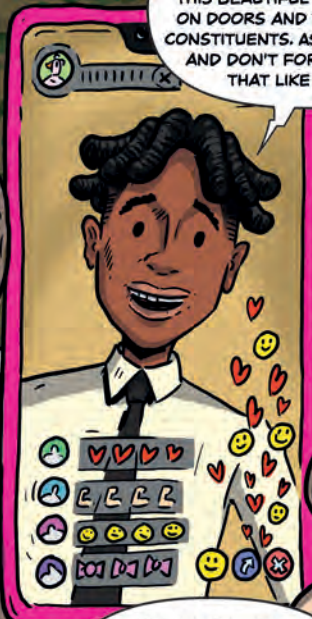
COVER ILLUSTRATIONS
DIETRICH SMITH

ART DIRECTION
AZALIA FELIPE



IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE...
EARLY VOTING BEGINS 29 DAYS UNTIL THE PRIMARY ELECTION.

I'M RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION FOR COUNTY RECORDER. I'M OUT HERE ON THIS BEAUTIFUL DAY KNOCKING ON DOORS AND TALKING TO MY CONSTITUENTS. ASK ME ANYTHING AND DON'T FORGET TO SLICE THAT LIKE BUTTON!



THIS IS STRANGE? THERE WASN'T A DUST STORM IN THE FORECAST THIS MORNING. MAYBE THAT'S WHY ENGAGEMENT IS SO LOW.

NO, A RECORDER DOESN'T MAKE BEATS BUT THAT'S A FAIR QUESTION. A COUNTY RECORDER IS BASICALLY THE KEEPER OF THE COMMUNITY'S PAPERWORK AND VOTING RECORDS. AND I WASN'T YELLING I'M USING MY OUTSIDE VOICE.

UH, ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?



DANG, NO MORE COMMENTS? Y'ALL ARE COLD AS ICE.

NO CONNECTION

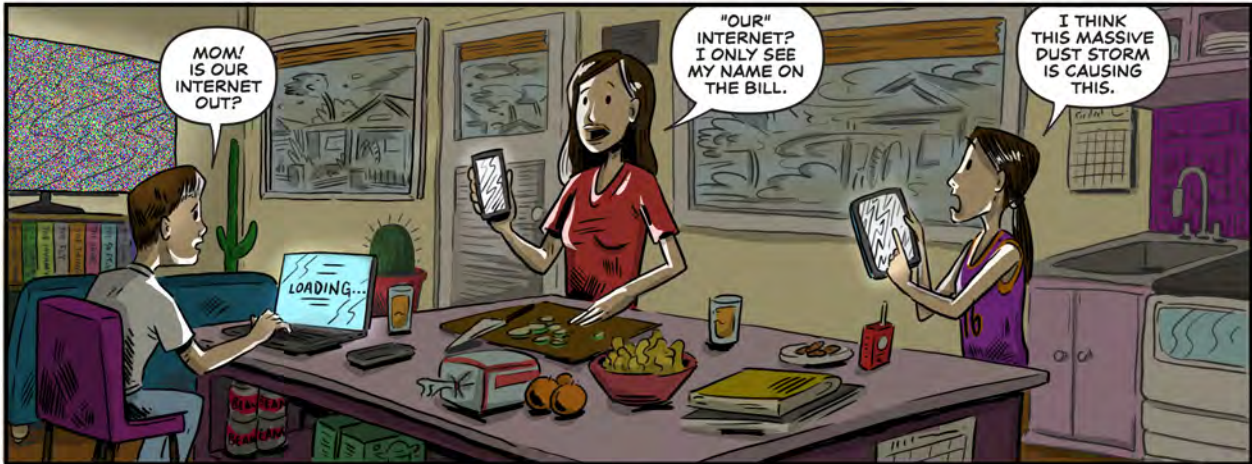




OH, NO!
I LEFT MY
CAR WINDOW
ROLLED
DOWN!

IT LOOKS
LIKE *DUNE*
OUT HERE!

I'M ADDING
THAT TO MY
WATCHLIST.



MOM!
IS OUR
INTERNET
OUT?

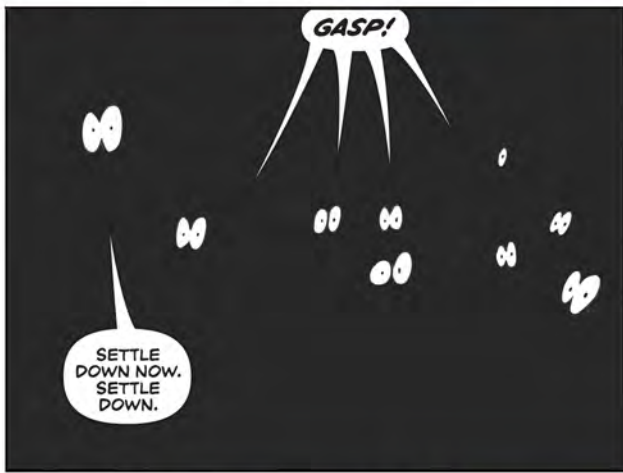
"OUR"
INTERNET?
I ONLY SEE
MY NAME ON
THE BILL.

I THINK
THIS MASSIVE
DUST STORM
IS CAUSING
THIS.



LOCAL LEADERS
AFFECT YOUR
DAILY LIFE

**KRA-
KOOOM!**



GASP!

SETTLE
DOWN NOW.
SETTLE
DOWN.

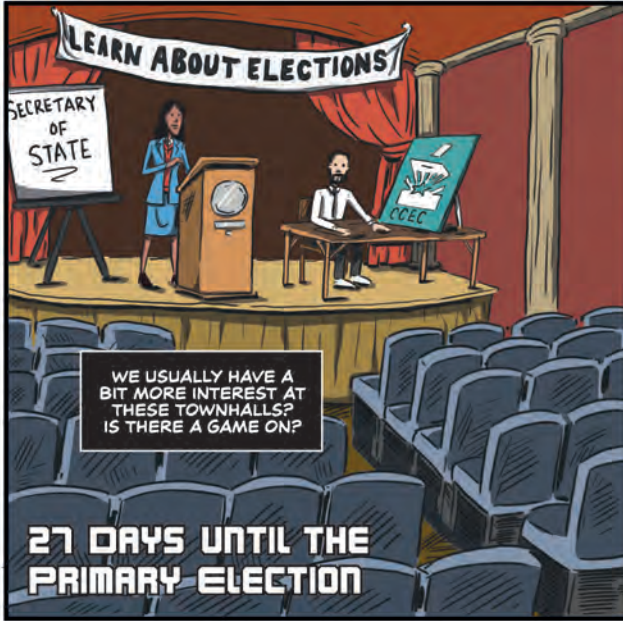


EXCUSE ME,
EARLY VOTING
HAS BEGUN AND
WE JUST WANT
TO ASK IF
YOU'VE VOTED
ALREADY.



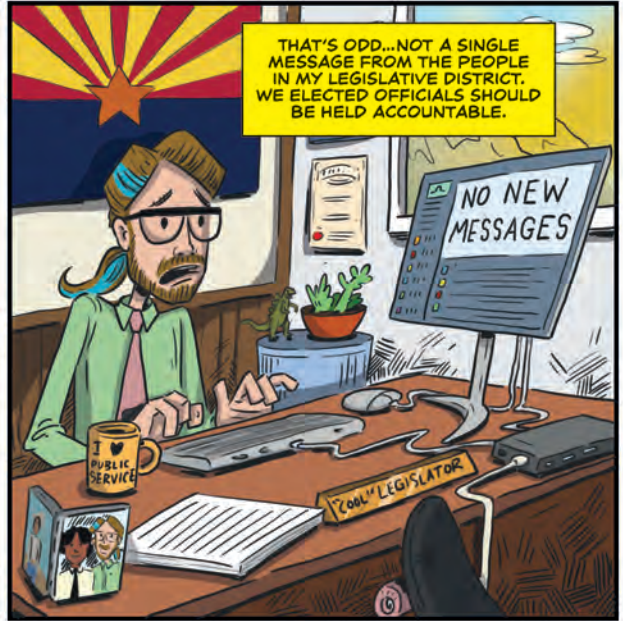
I DON'T
THINK MY VOTE
MATTERS.

YOUR VOTE
MATTERS BECAUSE
ELECTIONS ARE
DECIDED BY PEOPLE
WHO SHOW UP. WHEN
YOU DON'T VOTE,
YOU'RE LETTING
OTHERS DECIDE
FOR YOU.

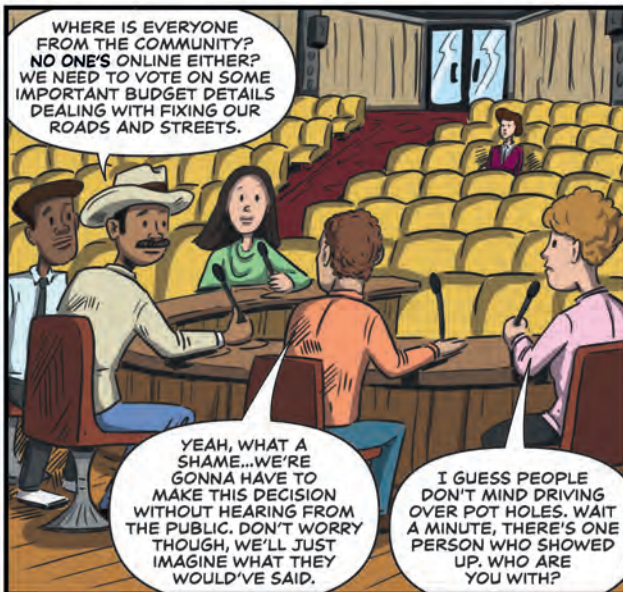


WE USUALLY HAVE A BIT MORE INTEREST AT THESE TOWNHALLS? IS THERE A GAME ON?

27 DAYS UNTIL THE PRIMARY ELECTION



THAT'S ODD...NOT A SINGLE MESSAGE FROM THE PEOPLE IN MY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT. WE ELECTED OFFICIALS SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.



WHERE IS EVERYONE FROM THE COMMUNITY? NO ONE'S ONLINE EITHER? WE NEED TO VOTE ON SOME IMPORTANT BUDGET DETAILS DEALING WITH FIXING OUR ROADS AND STREETS.

YEAH, WHAT A SHAME...WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO MAKE THIS DECISION WITHOUT HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC. DON'T WORRY THOUGH, WE'LL JUST IMAGINE WHAT THEY WOULD'VE SAID.

I GUESS PEOPLE DON'T MIND DRIVING OVER POT HOLES. WAIT A MINUTE, THERE'S ONE PERSON WHO SHOWED UP. WHO ARE YOU WITH?



I'M A LOBBYIST.



FOR PEOPLE WATCHING WHO MAY NOT KNOW, WHAT DOES THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ACTUALLY DO?

AS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA, MY JOB IS TO BE A STRONG BACK UP TO OUR GOVERNOR AND I WILL CONTINUE TO DO THAT IF WE'RE ELECTED AGAIN THIS MIDTERM ELECTION.

22 DAYS UNTIL THE PRIMARY ELECTION

THANK YOU ALL FOR JUMPING ON AT SUCH SHORT NOTICE. BEFORE WE DIVE IN, HOW'S EVERYONE HOLDING UP? CANVASSING DURING A PRIMARY IS TOUGH AS IT IS, AND NOW WE'RE OUT HERE DEALING WITH A FULL-ON HABOOB ON TOP OF IT.



SKYLAR

CHALLENGING IS AN UNDER-STATEMENT.



ZOXY

LT. GOVERNOR, ALL I KNOW IS THAT THIS DUST STORM OR HABOOB OR WHATEVER... IS TEARING THROUGH THE VALLEY AND SHUTTING DOWN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ALL OVER. THIS NEEDS TO BE RESOLVED, A.S.A.P!



AVA

YEAH, TORMENTA EXTRAÑA. SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT. THIS STORM'S BEEN GOING FOR DAYS. WORST MONSOON SEASON EVER.



MATEO

WE'VE GOT 20 DAYS UNTIL ELECTION DAY, AND I THINK MOST OF US ON THIS CALL ARE ON THE BALLOT AGAIN. WE'RE NOT ONLY ELECTED LEADERS BUT VOTERS, TOO! SO I GUESS MY QUESTION IS...WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?



CALEB

THE STORM



WHAT'S THIS GUY EVEN ON ABOUT?



CAPTAIN ACTIVATE MISSING!!!
SINCE THE
LAST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Y VOTE



I NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY DISTRICT. ITS BEEN RADIO SILENT.

SKYLAR

...

CAPTAIN ACTIVATE! SEEMS TO NOT WANT TO BE BOTHERED UNLESS IT'S A BIG FANCY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION...

IF WE MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF THIS, IT COULD CONFUSE VOTERS.

AVA

BUT IF WE DON'T, WE RISK MAKING THINGS WORSE. WE NEED EVERY AGENCY AT THE TABLE, WORKING TOGETHER AND SHOWING REAL SOLIDARITY.

MATEO

YEAH, MAYOR MATEO. WE NEED TO GET IN FRONT OF THIS THING BEFORE THIS AFFECTS VOTER TURNOUT. BUT I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION. WHERE'S CAPTAIN ACTIVATE!?

CALEB

Control bar: mute, video, chat, call, end call, share screen, help, settings, etc.

WHILE THE GOVERNOR IS AWAY, I'M THE HIGHEST-RANKING STATE OFFICIAL. I'LL CONFIRM EVERYTHING WITH HER, BUT IN THE MEAN-TIME, EACH OF US SHOULD LEAD COORDINATION EFFORTS TO ENGAGE THE PUBLIC. FIRST PRIORITY... WE FIND CAPTAIN ACTIVATE!!

I VOTE

WHE BE?

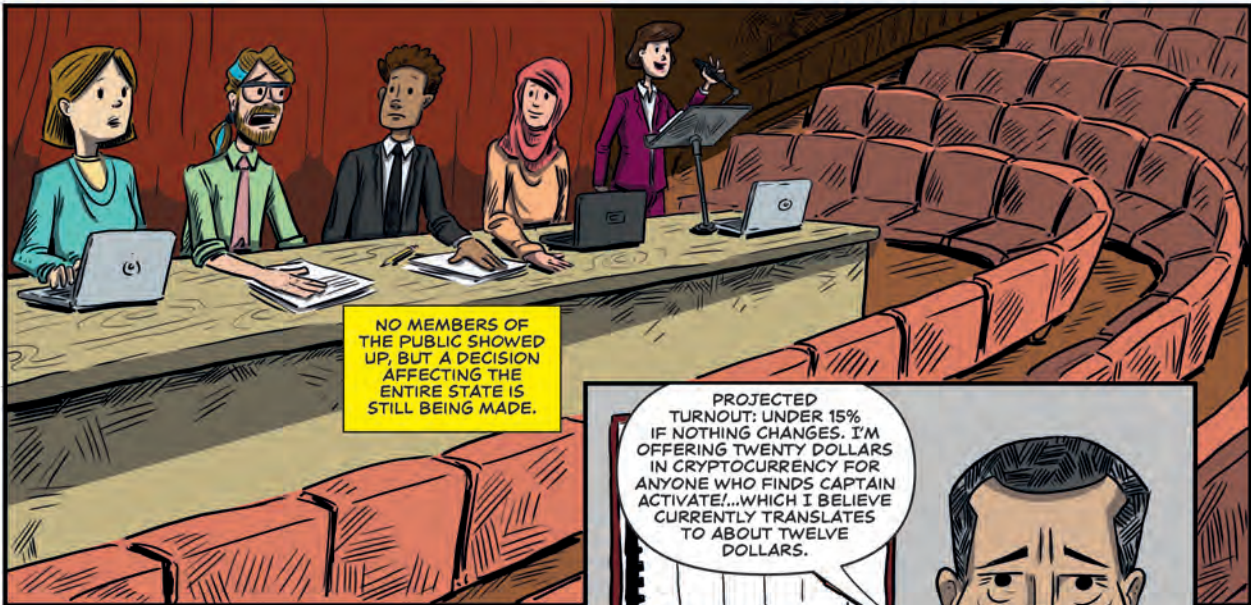
19 DAYS UNTIL THE PRIMARY ELECTION



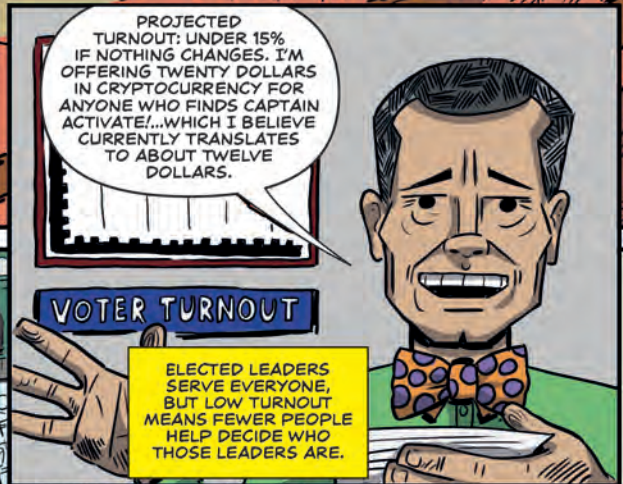
HELLO, CAPTAIN? HELLO?

HEY, I'M NOT HOME RIGHT NOW BUT PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR THE CAPTAIN AT THE TONE. GET ACTIVATED...

THIS IS LIKE THE SIXTH OR SEVENTH TIME I'VE CALLED AND IT KEEPS GOING TO VOICEMAIL. HE ALWAYS PICKS UP. I MEAN, CAPTAIN ACTIVATE! IS USUALLY INCREDIBLY RESPONSIVE, SO...I'M NOT SAYING I'M SPIRALING, BUT I'M DEFINITELY SPIRALING A LITTLE.



NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOWED UP, BUT A DECISION AFFECTING THE ENTIRE STATE IS STILL BEING MADE.



PROJECTED TURNOUT: UNDER 15% IF NOTHING CHANGES. I'M OFFERING TWENTY DOLLARS IN CRYPTOCURRENCY FOR ANYONE WHO FINDS CAPTAIN ACTIVATE!...WHICH I BELIEVE CURRENTLY TRANSLATES TO ABOUT TWELVE DOLLARS.

ELECTED LEADERS SERVE EVERYONE, BUT LOW TURNOUT MEANS FEWER PEOPLE HELP DECIDE WHO THOSE LEADERS ARE.

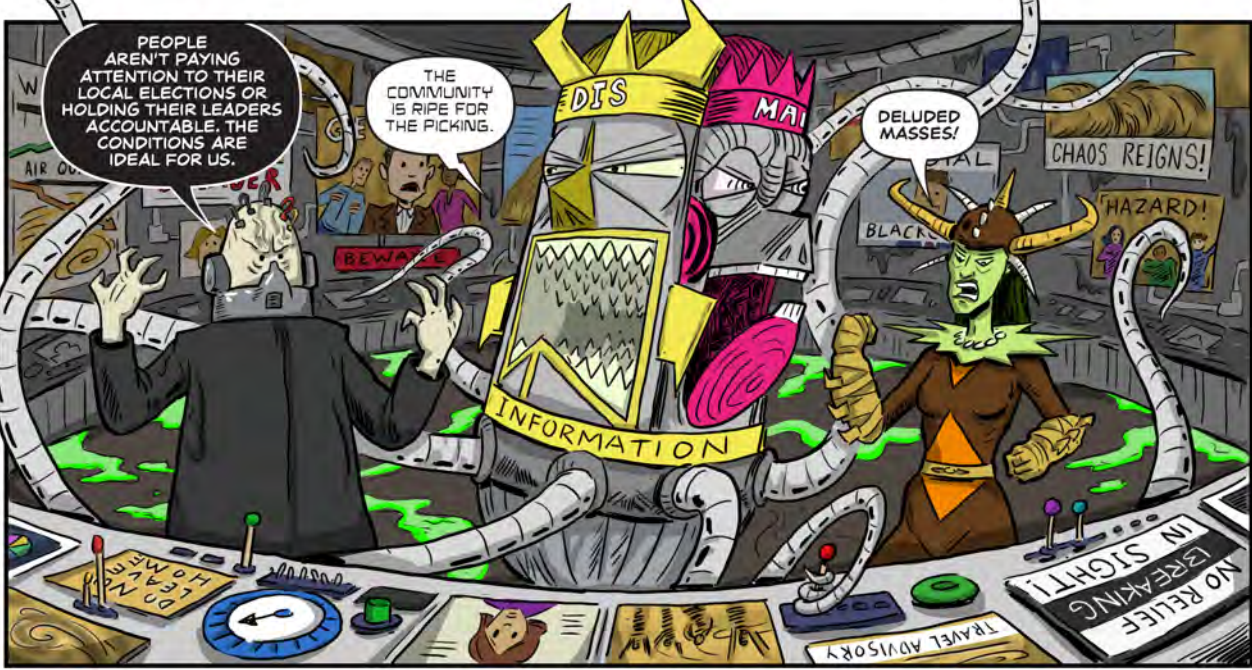


I PREFER AMERICANOS BECAUSE THEY'RE LESS MILKY AND LET THE COFFEE FLAVOR COME THROUGH.

OH, SO YOU'RE SAYING LATTES AREN'T REAL COFFEE AND ANYONE WHO DRINKS THEM IS A WEIRDO? GOTCHA.



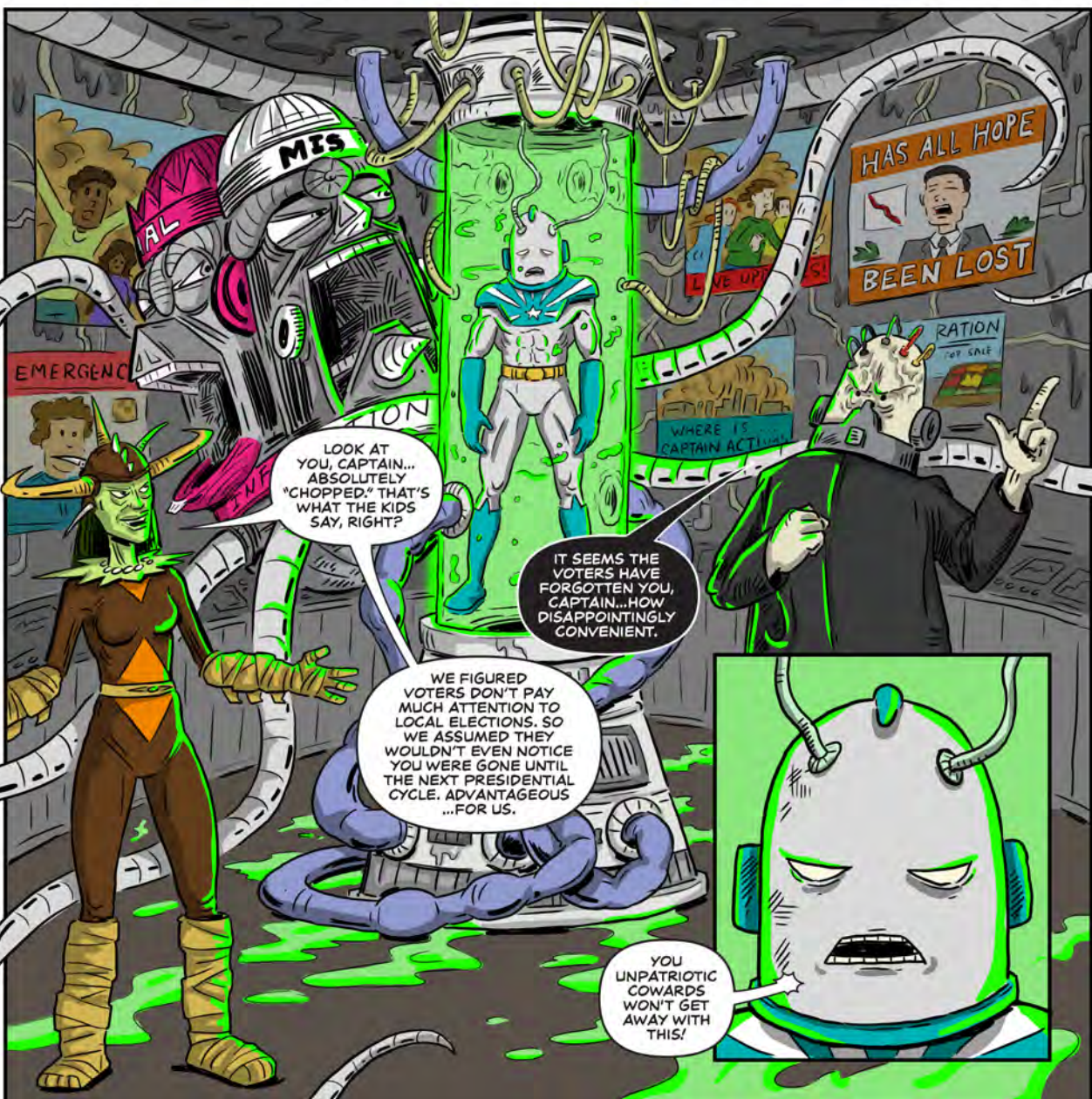
WHEN PEOPLE STOP LISTENING TO EACH OTHER, PROBLEMS NEVER GET SOLVED AND IN MOST CASES THEY GET WORSE. AND I FEEL LIKE WE ALL KNOW THAT, WHICH SOMEHOW MAKES IT MORE CONCERNING.



PEOPLE AREN'T PAYING ATTENTION TO THEIR LOCAL ELECTIONS OR HOLDING THEIR LEADERS ACCOUNTABLE. THE CONDITIONS ARE IDEAL FOR US.

THE COMMUNITY IS RIFE FOR THE PICKING.

DELUDED MASSES!



LOOK AT YOU, CAPTAIN... ABSOLUTELY "CHOPPED." THAT'S WHAT THE KIDS SAY, RIGHT?

IT SEEMS THE VOTERS HAVE FORGOTTEN YOU, CAPTAIN...HOW DISAPPOINTINGLY CONVENIENT.

WE FIGURED VOTERS DON'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO LOCAL ELECTIONS. SO WE ASSUMED THEY WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE YOU WERE GONE UNTIL THE NEXT PRESIDENTIAL CYCLE. ADVANTAGEOUS ...FOR US.

YOU UNPATRIOTIC COWARDS WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!

17 DAYS UNTIL THE PRIMARY ELECTION



C'MON EVERYONE LET'S SETTLE DOWN.

HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO SETTLE DOWN? WE'RE TRYING TO DO OUTREACH AND THE SKY OUT HERE COSPLAYING AS THE APOCALYPSE.

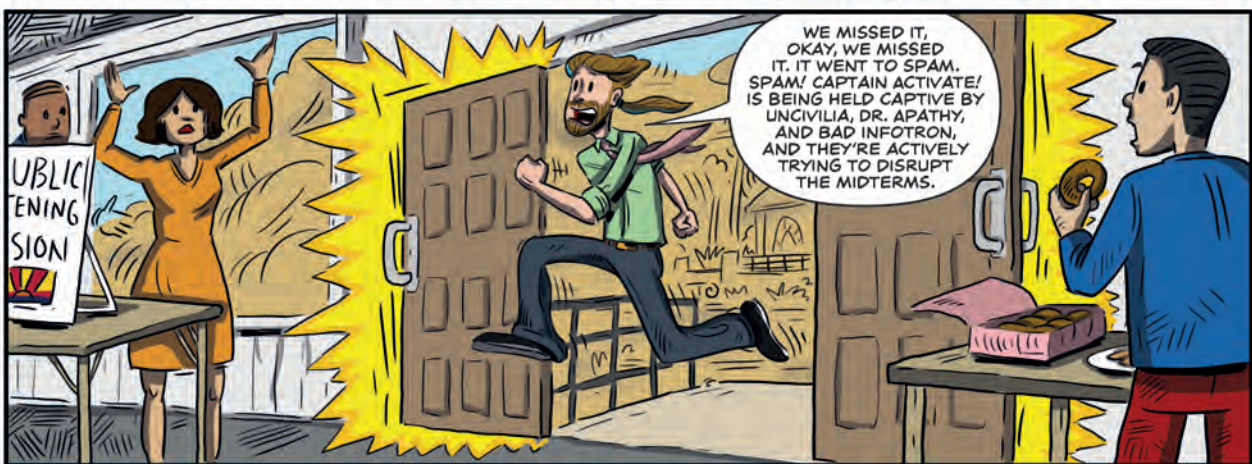


I'M NOT BLAMING YOU FOR THE HABOOB, BUT IT'S STRAIGHT UP MOGGING OUR TURNOUT. HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO CAMPAIGN IF NOBODY'S ENGAGING? DOORS, PHONES, EMAILS...NOTHING.

NAH, I'M BLAMING THEM FOR THE HABOOB TOO! AND THE GRIT IN MY TEETH.



I HEAR YOU. THIS IS A REAL CHALLENGE. WE ADJUST, PRIORITIZE SAFETY, AND MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE.



WE MISSED IT, OKAY, WE MISSED IT. IT WENT TO SPAM. SPAM! CAPTAIN ACTIVATE! IS BEING HELD CAPTIVE BY UNCIVILIA, DR. APATHY, AND BAD INFOTRON, AND THEY'RE ACTIVELY TRYING TO DISRUPT THE MIDTERMS.



WHAAA?!?



UNCIVILIA...THIS PLAN IS OPTIMAL. WHIRRRR... CLICK...THE HABOOB IS INDUCING COGNITIVE OVERLOAD, REDUCING THE TRANSMISSION OF ACCURATE VOTER INFORMATION. BEEP...BEEP...SYSTEMS ALIGNED.

I AM BRILLIANT, AREN'T I? THE FREQUENCIES POURING OUT OF THE HABOOB ARE SOWING CONFUSION AND ANXIETY THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY, UNRAVELING TRUST IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS PEOPLE FEEL UNHEARD, DISCONNECTED, AND AS IF THEY NO LONGER BELONG. EXACTLY THE OUTCOME I WAS HOPING FOR.

THE VOTERS WILL BE FATIGUED, AND THAT BREEDS APATHY, WHICH LEADS TO LOW TURNOUT. REMARKABLE, ABSOLUTELY REMARKABLE.

HABOOB
CITYWIDE PANIC!

DISASTER

YOUR VOICE
DOESNT COUNT

NG NEWS

BAD

HELP
SOS

DATA

CODE

FUNCTION

ENTERS

INTERFACE
ACTIVE

MISSING

INGS TO STAY

ACCEPT
YOUR
FATE

SHE
DANGER
AT HOME

STAY
INDOORS

GIVE UP!

DO NOT
QUESTION

GIVE IN

NO USE!!

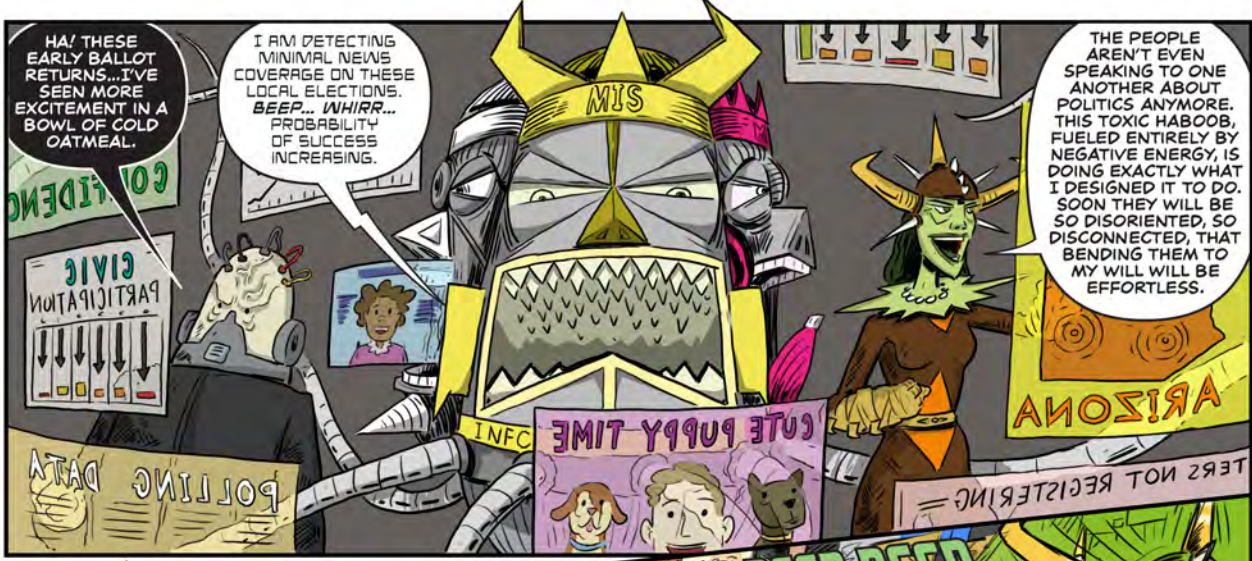
YOU CAN
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

STOP

M

DIS

INFORMATION



HA! THESE EARLY BALLOT RETURNS... I'VE SEEN MORE EXCITEMENT IN A BOWL OF COLD OATMEAL.

I AM DETECTING MINIMAL NEWS COVERAGE ON THESE LOCAL ELECTIONS. BEEP... WHIRR... PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS INCREASING.

THE PEOPLE AREN'T EVEN SPEAKING TO ONE ANOTHER ABOUT POLITICS ANYMORE. THIS TOXIC HABOOB, FUELED ENTIRELY BY NEGATIVE ENERGY, IS DOING EXACTLY WHAT I DESIGNED IT TO DO. SOON THEY WILL BE SO DISORIENTED, SO DISCONNECTED, THAT BENDING THEM TO MY WILL WILL BE EFFORTLESS.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

CUTE PUPPY TIME

ARIZONA

POLLING DATA

TERS NOT REGISTERING



NOW, CAPTAIN... I'M GOING TO ABSORB THE REST OF YOUR POWER TO FINISH DESTROYING COMMUNITIES IN ARIZONA.



NEEDDDO NEEDDDO BEEP BEEP

PANIC!

CIVIC POWER IS SO SWEET AND DELICIOUS...

AAARRRGH!



KRA-THOOOM!

MUHAHAHAHAHA



LET THEM WADE THROUGH MY OOZE/ WITH ALL THIS TOXICITY EVERYWHERE, TALKING ABOUT ELECTIONS WILL BE THE LAST THING ON THEIR MINDS!

FSSSSHHHHH

THAT OOZE BETTER BE GLUTEN FREE!

IN ELECTIONS, IF YOU DON'T SHOW UP, THINGS CAN GET MESSY!

THE DIVE
ALL DAY TONIGHT ONLY
\$1.00 ALL MONSTERS ATTACK!
1963

BROWN
2009
STUDIO



ONCE A LIVELY NEIGHBORHOOD PARK WITH KIDS AND FAMILIES IS NOW JUST A WASTELAND BECAUSE OF UNPRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE AND NO COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.



A LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTER IS HAVING TROUBLE GETTING PEOPLE TO COME JOIN ACTIVITIES, BECAUSE NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE SIGNED UP, NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT HAS BEEN CANCELED.



STUDENTS ARE NOT JOINING SCHOOL CLUBS BECAUSE MANY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT HELPING THEIR COMMUNITY.

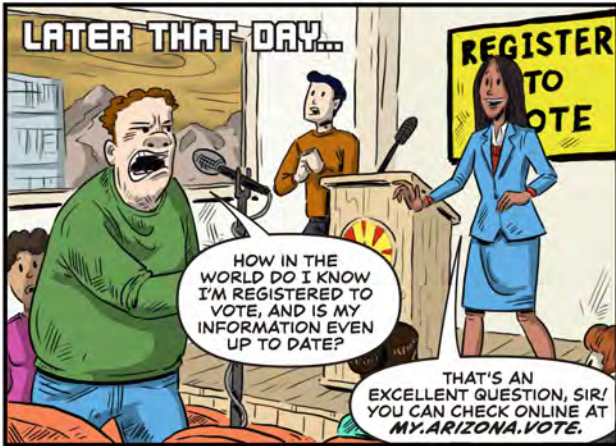


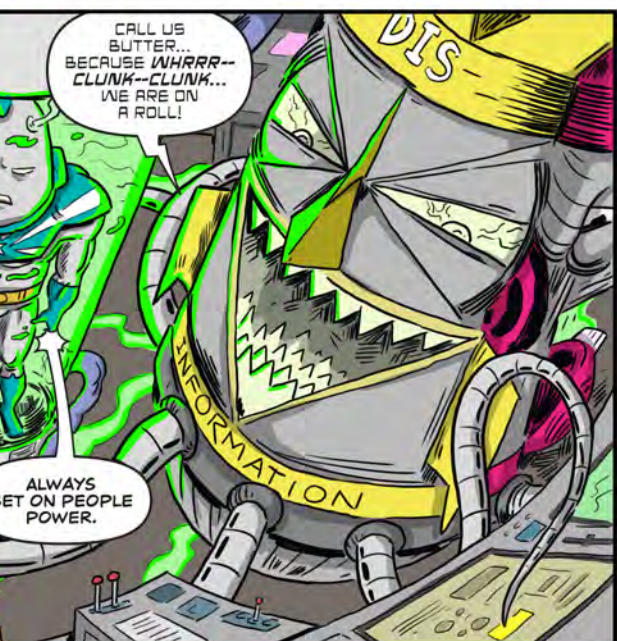
MANY COMMUNITY MEMBERS AVOID TALKING ABOUT CIVICS, GOVERNMENT, OR ELECTIONS BECAUSE THEY WORRY OTHERS MAY HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS.

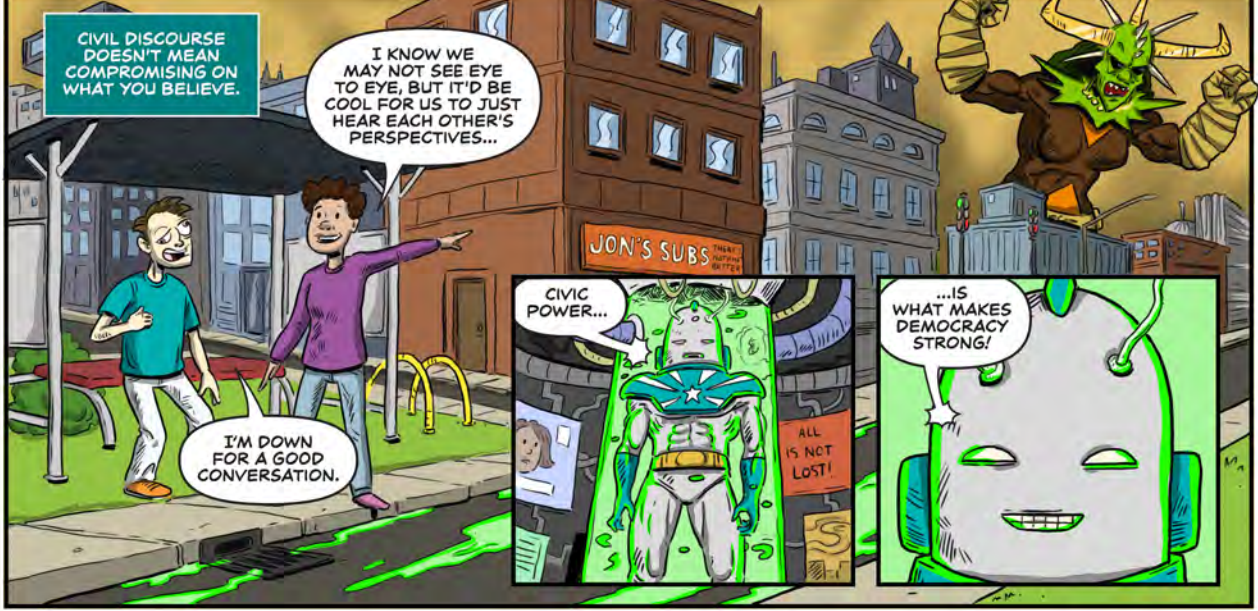
DON'T MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH STRANGERS.

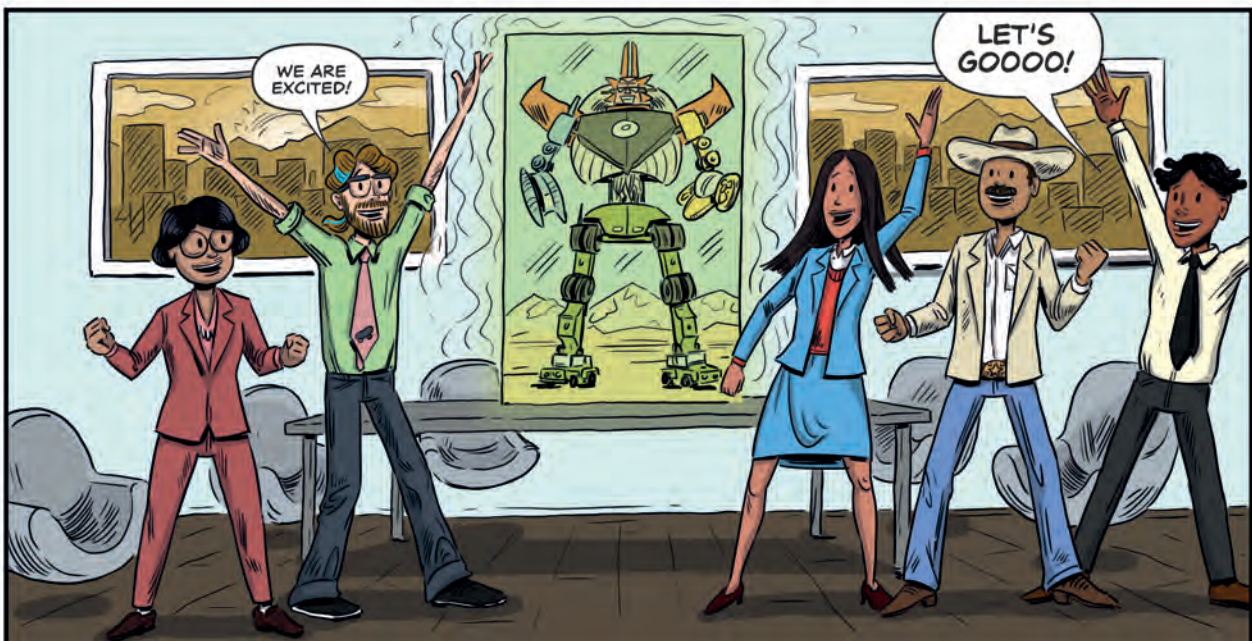
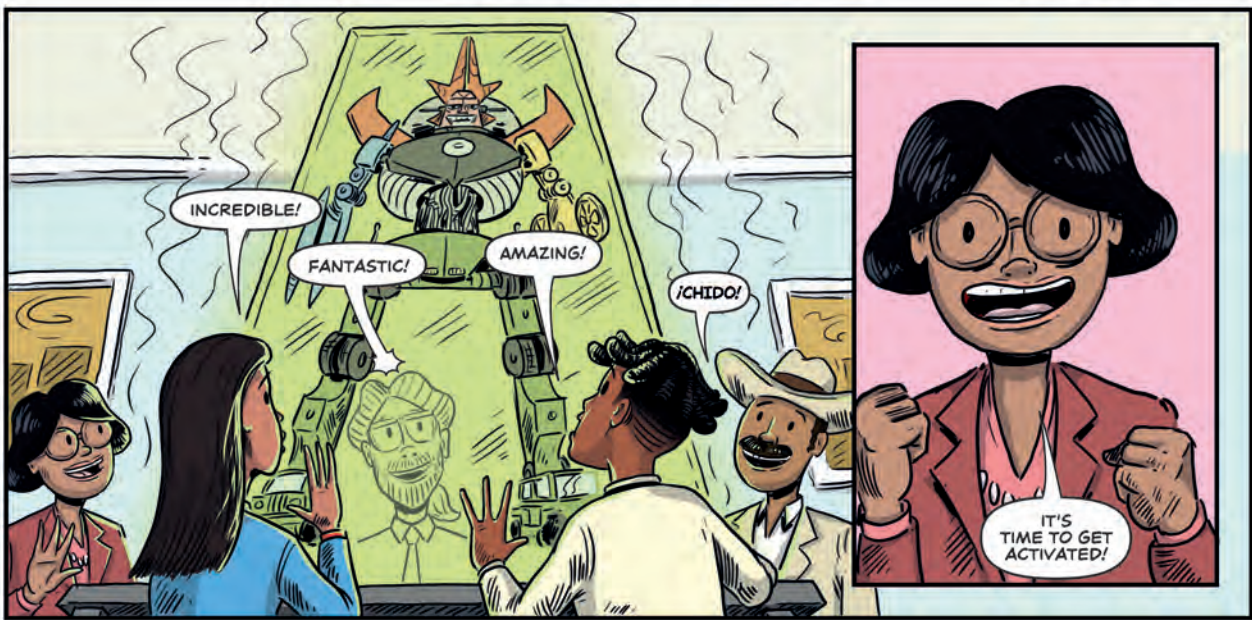
TODAY'S GOAL: AVOID CONVERSATIONS.

15 DAYS UNTIL THE PRIMARY ELECTION

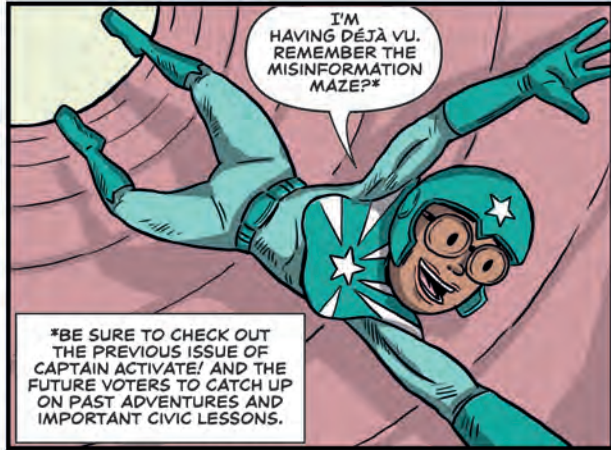


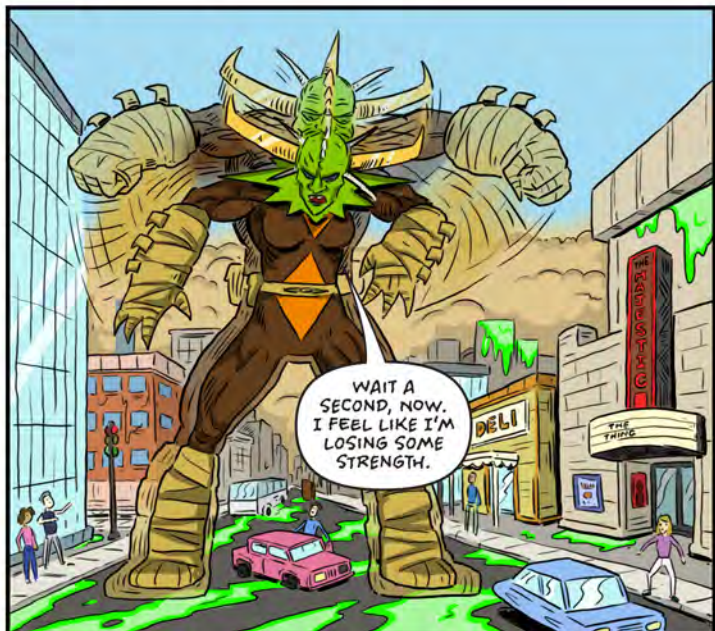
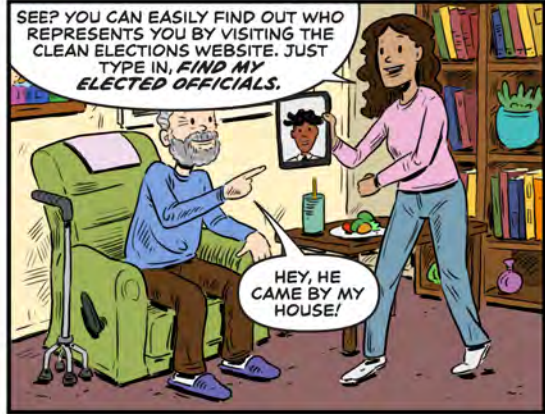
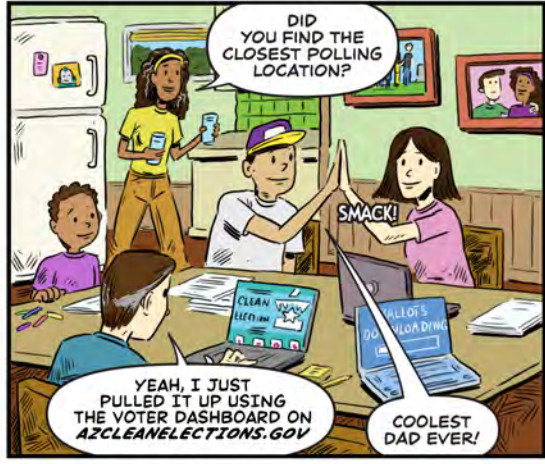
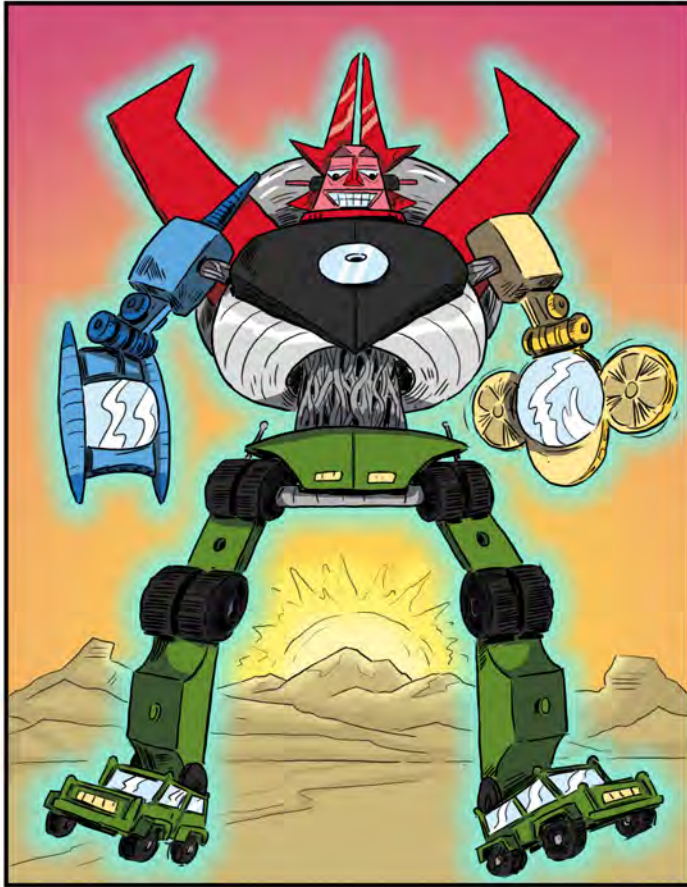


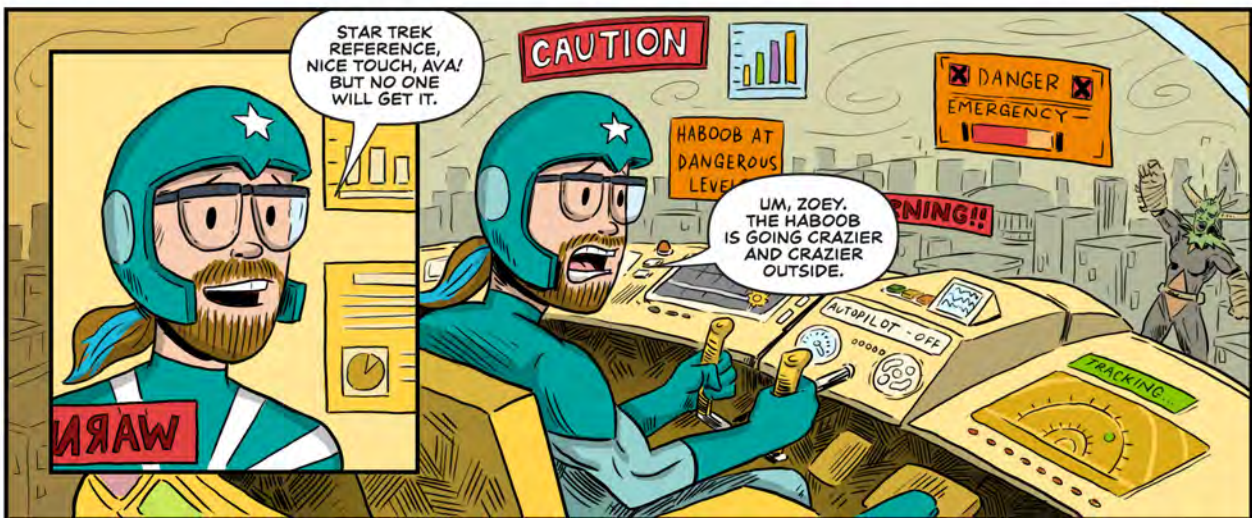
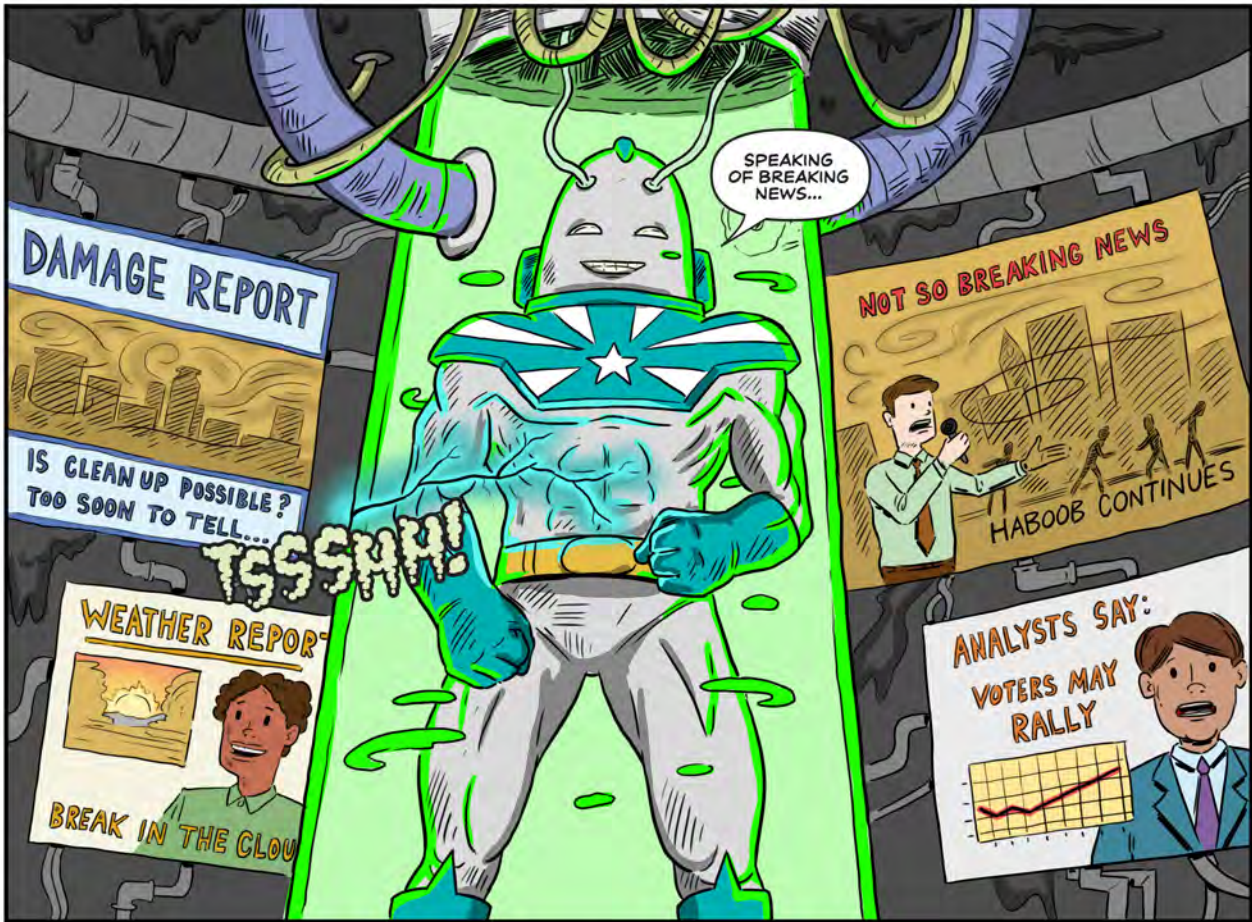


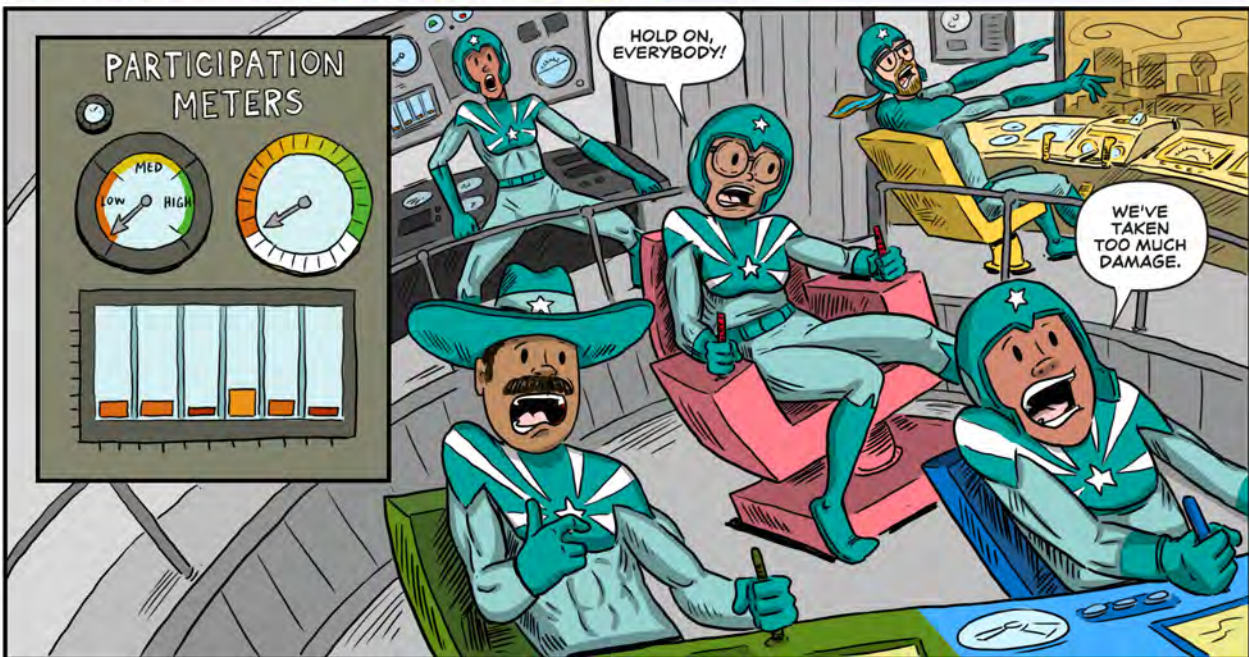


7 DAYS UNTIL THE PRIMARY ELECTION











IS EVERYONE ALRIGHT?

PHYSICALLY YES, BUT EMOTIONALLY NO.

LOCK IN, GANG. WE'VE GOT TO PROTECT THE VOTERS!



OOF...

MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE JUST LET THE HAOBOB PASS AND JUST FOCUSED ON THE NEXT ELECTION.

AVA, LET'S REROUTE OUR RESERVES TO THE MAIN BATTERY UNIT UNTIL OUR POWER BOX IS BACK ON LINE.

NAH, EVERY ELECTION IS IMPORTANT. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE WHO'S ELIGIBLE CAN CAST THEIR VOTE ON WHO LEADS THEIR COMMUNITIES.

WHEN YOU BOYS ARE DONE TRAUMA BONDING, I HAVE A PLAN.



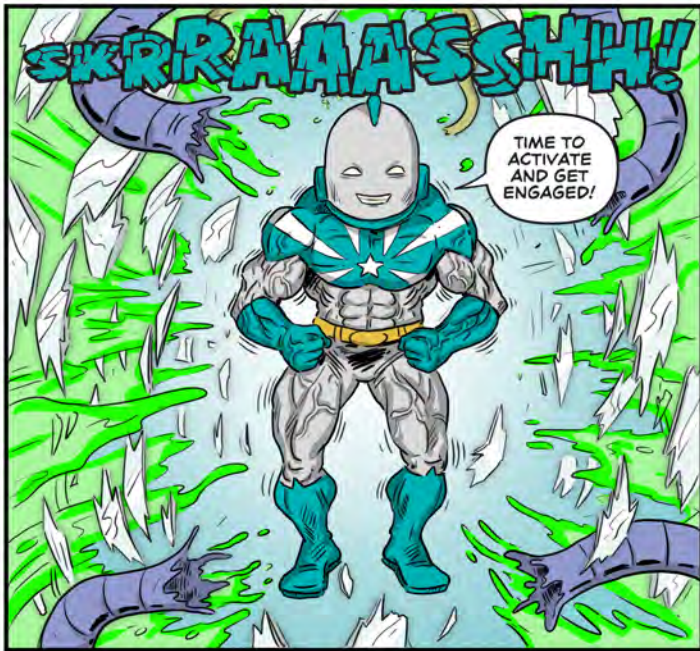
AYE AYE, SKIPPER!



I'M JUST FRUSTRATED AND I DON'T WANT MY CONSTITUENTS TO THINK WE CAN'T HANDLE THIS.

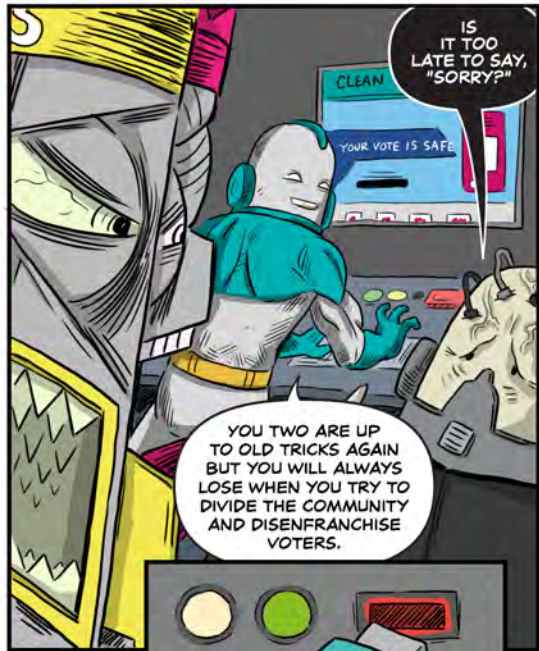






SKRRRAAASHH!

TIME TO ACTIVATE AND GET ENGAGED!

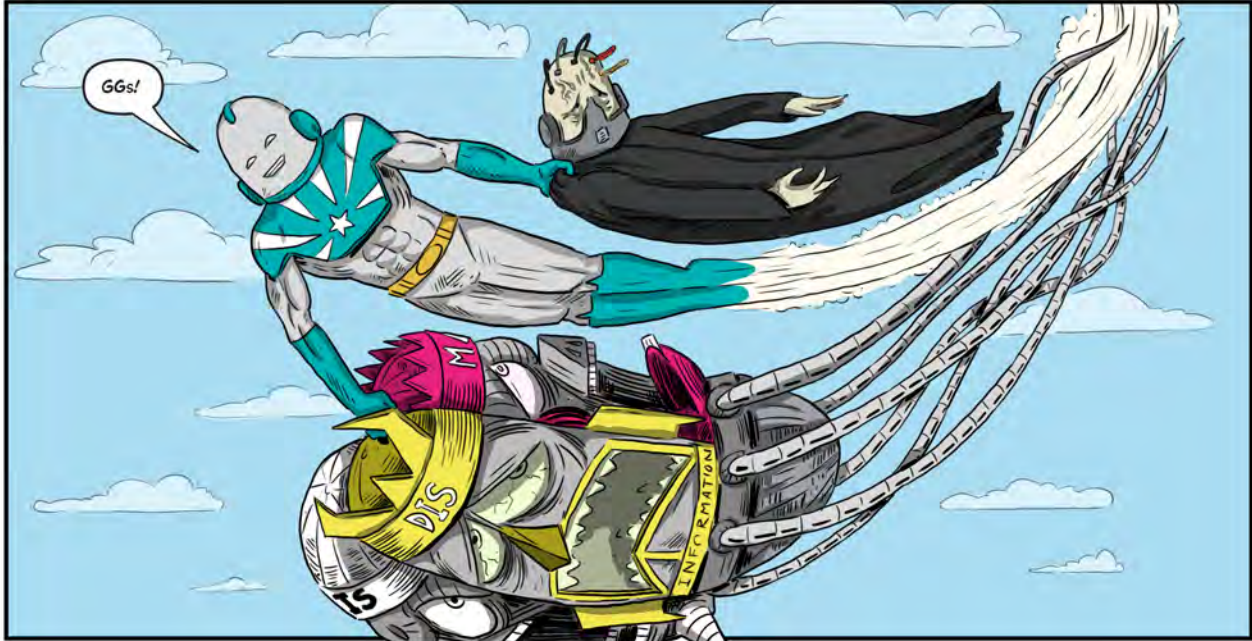


IS IT TOO LATE TO SAY, "SORRY?"

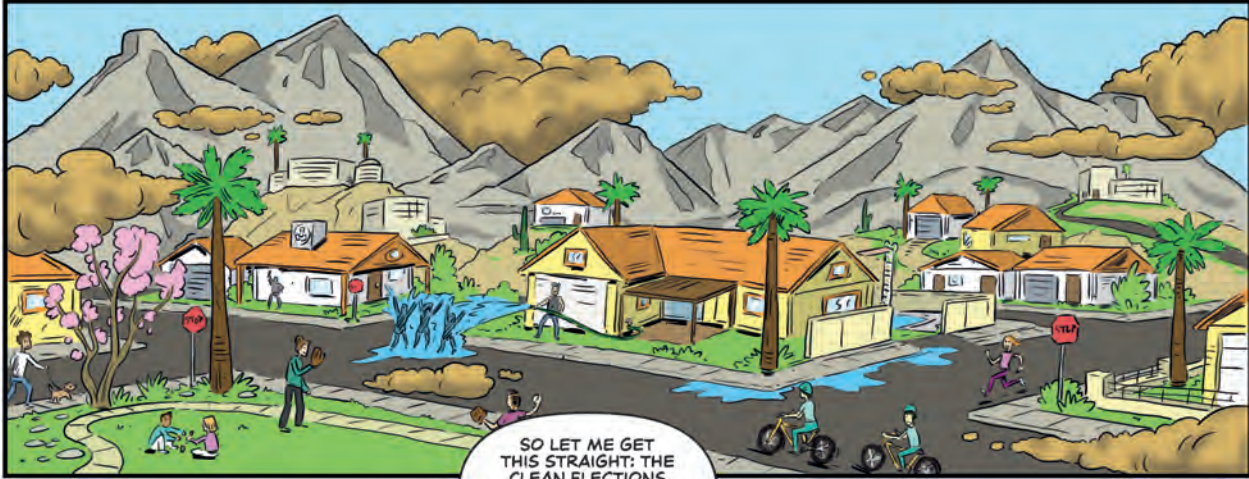
YOU TWO ARE UP TO OLD TRICKS AGAIN BUT YOU WILL ALWAYS LOSE WHEN YOU TRY TO DIVIDE THE COMMUNITY AND DISENFRANCHISE VOTERS.



WHA-BOOM!



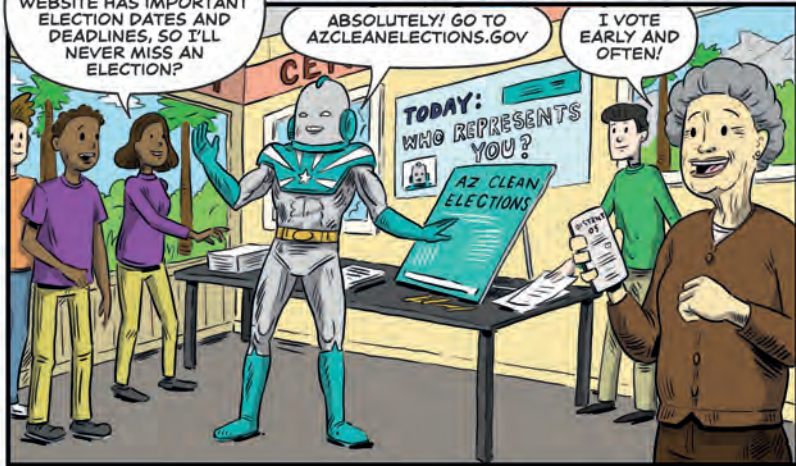
GGs!



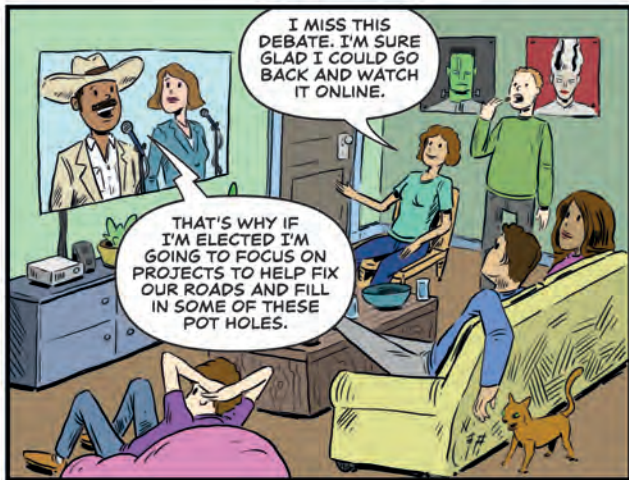
SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT: THE CLEAN ELECTIONS WEBSITE HAS IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES AND DEADLINES, SO I'LL NEVER MISS AN ELECTION?

ABSOLUTELY! GO TO AZCLEANELECTIONS.GOV

I VOTE EARLY AND OFTEN!

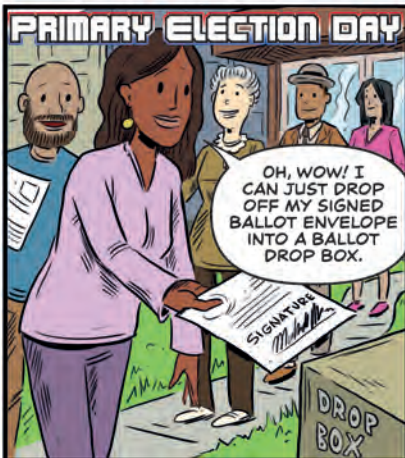


COOL, COOL THE CLEAN ELECTIONS VOTER GUIDE HAS BIOGRAPHIES AND PERSONAL STATEMENTS FROM THE CANDIDATES ON MY BALLOT SO I CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM.

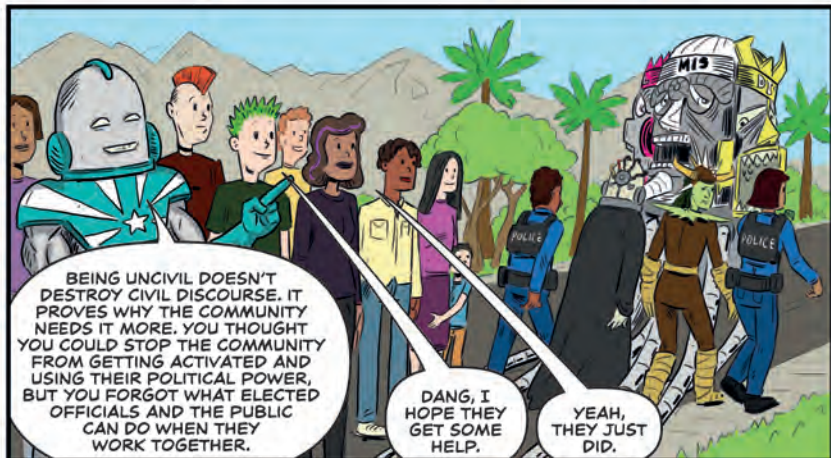


I MISS THIS DEBATE. I'M SURE GLAD I COULD GO BACK AND WATCH IT ONLINE.

THAT'S WHY IF I'M ELECTED I'M GOING TO FOCUS ON PROJECTS TO HELP FIX OUR ROADS AND FILL IN SOME OF THESE POT HOLES.



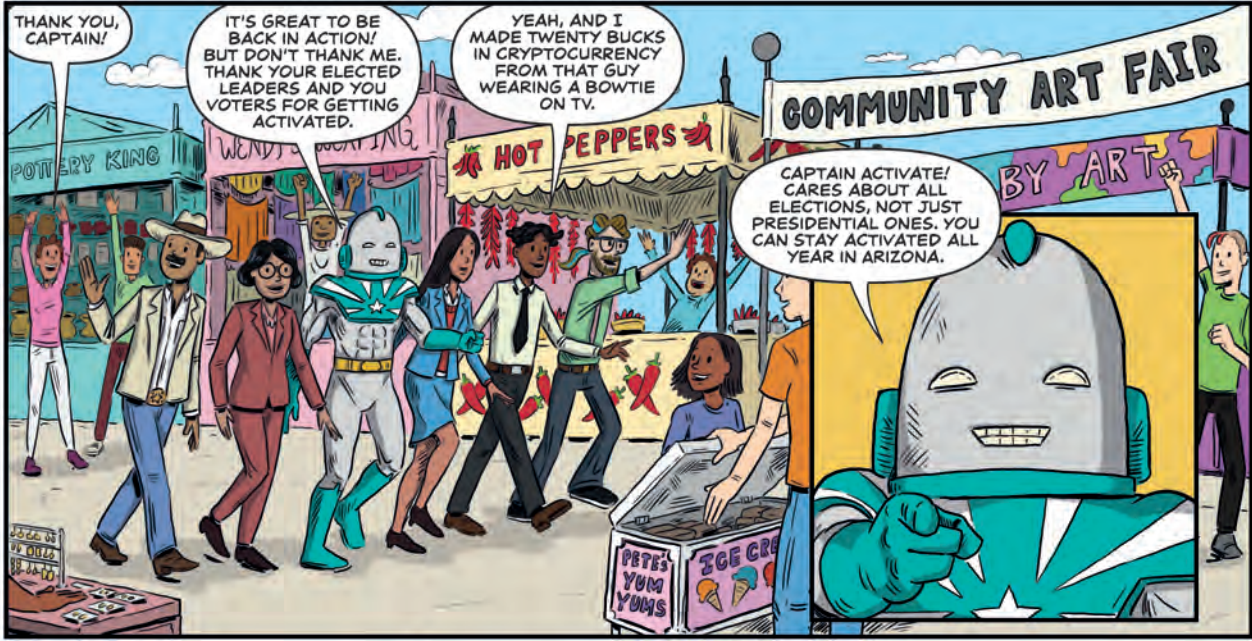
OH, WOW! I CAN JUST DROP OFF MY SIGNED BALLOT ENVELOPE INTO A BALLOT DROP BOX.



BEING UNCIVIL DOESN'T DESTROY CIVIL DISCOURSE. IT PROVES WHY THE COMMUNITY NEEDS IT MORE. YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD STOP THE COMMUNITY FROM GETTING ACTIVATED AND USING THEIR POLITICAL POWER, BUT YOU FORGOT WHAT ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC CAN DO WHEN THEY WORK TOGETHER.

DANG, I HOPE THEY GET SOME HELP.

YEAH, THEY JUST DID.



THANK YOU, CAPTAIN!

IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK IN ACTION! BUT DON'T THANK ME. THANK YOUR ELECTED LEADERS AND YOU VOTERS FOR GETTING ACTIVATED.

YEAH, AND I MADE TWENTY BUCKS IN CRYPTOCURRENCY FROM THAT GUY WEARING A BOWTIE ON TV.

CAPTAIN ACTIVATE! CARES ABOUT ALL ELECTIONS, NOT JUST PRESIDENTIAL ONES. YOU CAN STAY ACTIVATED ALL YEAR IN ARIZONA.



YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW CLOSE LOCAL ELECTIONS REALLY ARE. SOMETIMES IT'S JUST A HANDFUL OF VOTES, SOMETIMES LITERALLY ONE. SCHOOL BOARDS, CITY COUNCILS, AND BIG COMMUNITY CHOICES CAN ALL COME DOWN TO ONE OR TWO DIGIT NUMBERS.

WHICH MEANS ONE PERSON SHOWING UP CAN ACTUALLY CHANGE EVERYTHING. KIND OF HARD TO BELIEVE, RIGHT?



YOU'RE PROBABLY THIRSTY FROM ALL THAT THWARTING EVIL AND SERVING THE PUBLIC

THANK YOU FOR THE WATER BUT YOU VOTERS DID ALL THE WORK BY GETTING INFORMED AND TURNING OUT TO VOTE.



HOW DID YOU BECOME A MAYOR?

WELL, FOR STARTERS, I SHOWED UP FOR MY COMMUNITY WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, BECAUSE COMUNIDAD STARTS WITH US.



CAPTAIN ACTIVATE! WILL RETURN... STAY ACTIVATED!

CAPTAIN ACTIVATE AND THE FUTURE VOTERS #3: OPERATION ACTIVATE! KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

1. PRIMARY ELECTION

An election where voters from political parties choose which candidates will move on to the General Election.

2. BALLOT

A form used to cast a vote.

3. ELECTION DAY

The date when the election occurs and the final day to vote.

4. VOTER TURNOUT

The number or percentage of people who actually vote.

5. POLLING LOCATION

The place where people go to vote in person, often based on their home address or voting precinct.

6. VOTER ROLLS

The official list of registered voters.

7. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Getting involved in your community by voting, volunteering, or speaking up about issues.

8. CIVIC POWER

The ability people have to participate in government and help shape their communities through voting and public involvement.

9. DEMOCRACY

A system of government where people have the power to choose their leaders, make their voices heard, and help shape the future through voting and civic participation.

10. CIVIL DISCOURSE

Respectful conversations about important issues, even when people disagree.

11. LEGISLATION

Laws created by legislators in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

12. LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

A specific area where voters elect legislators to represent them in state government.

13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Government that manages cities, towns, and counties.

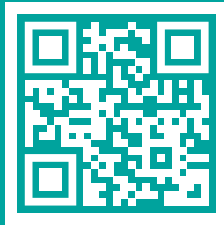
14. LOCAL ELECTIONS

Elections for community leaders like mayors, school board members, and city councils.

15. ELECTED LEADERS

People chosen by voters to make decisions and represent their community, city, county, and state.





Activate your civic power!



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