

May 2018

# Dear Friends of Tom Collins



*Pictured here, Tom shortly after his third surgery in April 2018 to prepare for dialysis. This was emergency heart catheter surgery. He already had two surgeries on his left arm earlier in the month.*



*Thomas Collins, executive director of Arizona's Clean Elections Commission, discusses the importance of clean elections on NBC-12 weekend's "Sunday Square Off." June 2014 ([azcentral.com](http://azcentral.com))*

We have an update on Tom's kidney condition and it is not ideal. Tom remains in need of a kidney. He recently started dialysis on an emergency basis, but before explaining this troublesome development, we want to share a little about the difficult and absolutely critical work Tom does every day, especially in our current political climate. We hope that by spreading the word about Tom, we are more likely to find a willing and compatible kidney donor for Tom sooner rather than later, and that is what is needed right now.

Tom has been serving as executive director of the Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission for nearly five years. In that time, he has taken a moribund election program and turned it into Arizona's only defense against the onslaught of outside special interest money eroding the confidence of Arizona voters. Under his leadership, and at the direction of the five-member commission, Clean Elections has developed a full-scale voter education program, while fighting to ensure accountability of in campaign finance. Clean Elections is the only enforcement program in Arizona holding dark money spenders and candidates to the rules that protect the public.

Special interests have fought Clean Elections at every turn. It is not too much to say Tom is often the only defense for Arizona voters. Just last week, while he started dialysis, Tom worked late into the night to help lawmakers fight a last minute move to thwart candidates from using Clean Elections funding and the independence of the Clean Elections Commission through a referendum. Despite the effort of many lawmakers, the measure reached the ballot in a last minute vote. But Tom was there, despite his health, to the very end.

Today, with teacher strikes and other evidence of progressive success in the Arizona it is easy to forget that without the personal and professional sacrifices Tom has made in the past, getting a fair hearing in Arizona would be even harder. Recently, the Arizona Capitol Times nominated him among Arizona's top political lawyers.

**The only way off dialysis is a new kidney. The best way for him to get off of dialysis is a donated kidney. A person needs to have type-0 blood (positive or negative is irrelevant).** While many people can live full lives on dialysis, the fact remains that dialysis is a risky and problem-plagued medical procedure, as detailed in this 2010 Atlantic article, "[God Help You. You're on Dialysis.](#)"

We know that we're asking a lot. None of us is a match and everyone in Tom's immediate family has been screened out.

The Mayo Clinic in Arizona allows both direct donation and matched pair donations—a way in which your healthy kidney can give a person life, while allowing Tom to be matched with another's.

**Please call Tom's mom Pat Collins at 520-338-8384 or email [tomcollinskidney@gmail.com](mailto:tomcollinskidney@gmail.com). Pat will explain how to participate in the screening process to find out whether you are a match.**

Also, as a fellow friend of Tom, we ask you to send this letter to all of your email contacts. We are hoping that together we can find Tom a kidney so he can continue to live a productive, healthy and happy life fighting in defense of our democracy. Please share this widely and help us find Tom's kidney donor.

Best,

Abdi Nazemian  
*High School Friend*

Jennifer Elia  
*High School Friend*

Byrd Schas  
*High School Friend*

Houston Gilbert  
*High School Friend*

Charlie Holmes  
*High School Teacher & Friend*

Carl Marcum  
*College Friend*

Mary O'Grady  
*Colleague & Friend*

Caroline O'Connor  
*Friend*

Jonathon Aubry  
*Friend*

Jim Johnson  
*College Professor & Friend*