

# Arizona



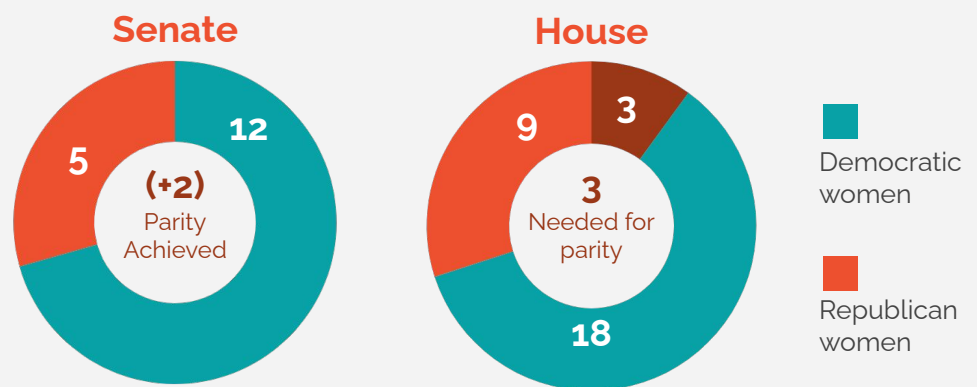
Electing more women, and especially women of color, to state legislatures will create a more representative government and accelerate social progress.

State legislatures create **real change** for communities and serve as a **training ground** for higher office.

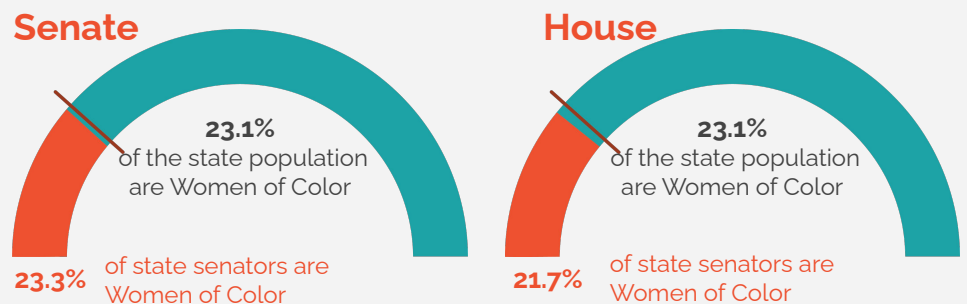


## How representative is Arizona's state legislature today?

**1** **One more woman** is needed to reach a majority of women state legislators.



Arizona is close to equal representation of women of color.



Source: Vote Run Lead's [State of My Democracy](#) state report cards, from the [Center for American Women and Politics](#)

# 2024 Electoral dynamics

Extensive recruitment efforts by in-state leaders resulted in **women running in 69% of the targeted, competitive state legislative races**. This includes four of five competitive Senate races and seven out of 11 House races. **Three of the 11 recruited candidates are women of color.**

Arizona is a Presidential target state and there is a highly contested U.S. Senate race in 2024, which are driving up the cost of communicating with voters.

Districts are fully nested with each state legislative district having one senator and two representatives.

Legislators cannot serve more than eight years combined in either chamber, but term limits restart after a one-term break.

The primary election is on **July 30, 2024.**

**WomenCount** is an online giving platform that raises funds for women candidates and simplifies the giving process. WomenCount and Electing Women Alliance, a national network of giving groups, work together to close the political gender giving gap as a pathway to electing more women.

# Campaign finance considerations

Donation limit:

**\$5,400** per combined state primary or general election

The average cost of a state legislative race is roughly

**\$30,000** For the House | **\$50,000** For the Senate

- LLCs can not contribute to candidates.
- The top three donors to a campaign are disclosed in disclaimers.
- Arizona has complex reporting for independent spenders that require donors to opt-in to certain electoral activities.

**All donors are advised to consult an accountant and/or legal counsel to determine the limits and reporting requirements that apply.**

# **Urgent: Candidates in need of primary support before July 30.**



## **HD2 Stephanie Simacek**

*House District 2 (Maricopa County)*

Simacek is an elementary school educator who serves on the Deer Valley Unified School District Governing Board. A mom and community activist, her campaign is focused on improving education, affordable housing, environmental sustainability, and women's healthcare.



## **HD4 Kelli Butler**

*House District 4 (Maricopa County)*

A former three-term state representative and a small business owner, Butler serves on Maricopa Community College District Governing Board. Butler is a vocal advocate for women's rights, access to healthcare, gun control, and issues impacting families.



## **HD4 Karen Gresham**

*House District 4 (Maricopa County)*

Gresham is a Phoenix native. She attended public schools and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Arizona State University, earning a BS in Accountancy and minors in Spanish and Communication. After working as a CPA auditing all types of companies, she "retired" from accounting to raise her three sons. Ever since then Gresham has volunteered her time in the classroom, on PTO boards, for public education candidates, and many charitable organizations. She is currently on the board of the Madison School District.

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<https://womenscount.org/teams/womens-political-parity-arizona/>



### **HD6 Rep. Mae Peshlakai\***

*(Apache County and sections of Coconino, Gila, Graham, Mohave, Navajo, and Pinal counties)*

Rep. Peshlakai is a Navajo elder, jewelry maker, and weaver who won her seat during the 2022. She speaks both English and Navajo. While in office, she has been a vocal champion and supporter of bills related to education, childcare, women's access to healthcare, affordable healthcare, and Native American issues. She is also the mother of a former Arizona State Senator who was one of the few Native American elected officials in the state during the 2010s.



### **HD8 Janeen Connolly**

*House District 8 (Maricopa County)*

Connolly is a 40-year resident of the new Arizona Legislative District 8 and a resident of Tempe. As a single mom, she raised four accomplished and contributing daughters, she is now a dedicated grandmother. A proud graduate of MCC, she went on to earn two degrees (MA; Advocacy Communication) from Arizona State University. Well known for bringing people to the table and moving sensitive issues forward, Connolly forged a stellar career in grassroots community engagement and has established exemplary government relations throughout the state. She is running for the open House seat in AZ Legislative District 8 because she believes that our state representation must be stronger.

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## HD9 Rep. Lorena Austin\*

*House District 9 (Maricopa County)*

Incumbent Rep. Austin is running for reelection in House District 9, where she has been a vocal champion for affordable housing, education, environmental issues, child care affordability, and public infrastructure improvements. Austin is also an advocate for protecting water resources, access to affordable healthcare, and women's healthcare issues.



## HD13 Brandy Reese

*House District 13 (Maricopa County)*

Reese is mother, forensic scientist, and lifelong education advocate. After receiving her degree in Chemistry from the University of Oklahoma, she worked as a criminologist, identifying, collecting, and analyzing physical evidence from crime scenes in the laboratory, working to take violent criminals off the street. Her campaign focus is on education and the economy, water and climate, and access to women's healthcare.



## HD22 Betsy Munoz

Betsy Muñoz is a first-generation college graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Public Service and Public Policy from Arizona State University. Betsy is focused on creating a more equitable K-12 public education system. She currently works for a nonprofit focused on improving outcomes for historically underserved student populations.

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## HD23 Rep. Mariana Sandoval\*

*(Maricopa County)*

In her previous career, Rep. Sandoval worked as a paralegal in various legal aid offices and for 12 years at the Arizona Attorney General's office. From 2017 to 2020, she served on the governing board of the Agua Fria Union High School District. She is a working class wife of a union-member plumber, a mother, and community member. Her focus is on building good schools, access to affordable healthcare/prescription medications/housing, good paying jobs and clean water/air.



## HD26 Rep. Quantá Crews\*

*House District 26 (Maricopa County)*

Incumbent Rep. Quantá Crews is running for reelection in House District 26, where she was appointed mid-session last year. Crews is a minister, real estate appraiser, and former property tax appraiser for county and state government. Her campaign is focused on healthcare equity, affordable housing, gun violence prevention, voting rights, and environmental justice.



## SD22 Sen. Eva Diaz\*

*(Maricopa County)*

Sen. Diaz, who is a former teacher and small business owner, was elected in 2022 after mounting a write-in campaign as a result of the only candidate on the ballot withdrawing from the race. Since taking office, she has been a vocal champion and supporter of bills related to education, access to healthcare and environmental protections. Diaz got her PhD from Arizona State in Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Leadership. Eva has been part of the Red for Ed movement of the Arizona Education Association which began an aggressive fight for public education in the state in 2018. She has also been active as a volunteer and in paid positions with Chicanos Por La Causa Community Center.

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## SD24 Rep. Analise Ortiz

Rep. Ortiz is a former broadcast journalist and native of Arizona. She also previously worked for the ACLU of Arizona as a communications and campaign strategist. Since 2021, she has worked as a communication strategist at Rural Arizona Engagement. Rep. Ortiz was elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in November 2022, and in her time in office, she has been a vocal champion for affordable housing and homeless services, economic development, civil rights, and education.

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# Candidates without a primary, but where early investment matters



## **SD2 Judy Schwiebert**

*Senate District 2 (Maricopa County)*

Rep. Judy Schwiebert is running to join the Arizona Senate after serving one term in the House. A former educator and school librarian, Judy has also founded and supported a community theater in her district. Her campaign is focused on education, access to women's healthcare, the environment, water, voting rights, and affordable housing.



## **SD4 Sen. Christine Marsh\***

*Senate District 4 (Maricopa County)*

Incumbent Senator Christine Marsh is running for reelection in a seat she has held since 2020. Sen. Marsh has been a vocal advocate for women's rights in her time in office, including sponsoring or voting for bills related to protecting pregnant women, education, childcare, women's healthcare, and foster care. She is a former foster mother and a mother to two sons. She currently sits on the Senate Education Committee and on the Transportation and Technology Committee. She continues to teach while serving in the State Senate--and she runs in the Mountain Preserve every day!

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### **SD9 Eva Burch**

*Senate District 9 (Maricopa County)*

Eva was born and raised in Arizona and attended Valley public schools from kindergarten through high school. She studied nursing at Pima Medical Institute in Mesa and began a career in emergency nursing in 2012. In her many years working in high volume, high acuity emergency departments in Phoenix and Mesa, she saw firsthand the impact that insurance status, food insecurity, access to education, homelessness, and multiple other disparities have on individuals, families, and communities in Arizona. Her campaign is focused on education, affordable housing, healthcare, the economy, and voting rights.



### **SD13 Sharon Winters**

*Senate District 13 (Maricopa County)*

Sharon Winters holds a BS in psychology from Illinois State University and an MA in humanities from the University of Texas. A retired English and math teacher, she has authored multiple books. Winters devoted her teaching career to special education in public schools at a pueblo in New Mexico, as well as English at Brookhaven College in the northern Dallas suburbs.



### **SD16 Stacey Seaman**

*Senate District 16 (Maricopa, Pima and Pinal counties)*

Seaman is an immigrant from Australia who graduated from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in music education and taught music in the CG Elementary District before founding the BlackBox Foundation. She holds a master's degree in theatre education and one in conducting. Seaman is currently the Professor of Music at Central Arizona College.

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