

Former Representative Mark Finchem Extremism Spotlight

A judge sanctioned election denier Finchem for his “groundless” lawsuit seeking to overturn his election loss. In 2023, a Maricopa County Superior Court judge threw out a lawsuit filed by Finchem, who unsuccessfully ran for secretary of state, and failed Republican gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake, that falsely claimed that electoral fraud had cost them victory in 2022. The judge then ordered Finchem to pay the defendants’ legal costs, finding that the suit was “groundless and not brought in good faith.” She added that Finchem made no effort to establish that their claims were true and made false claims of fraud despite contradictory evidence. Finchem had pledged before the election to contest the result if he lost. “Ain’t gonna be no concession speech coming from this guy,” he said. Finchem is also a vocal proponent of the lie that Donald Trump lost the 2020 election because of voter fraud, and has asserted that former Vice President Mike Pence was part of a coup to oust Trump from office.. [Associated Press, [3/6/2023](#); Politico, [8/1/2022](#)]

Finchem promotes QAnon and far-right fringe conspiracy theories. Finchem regularly posts QAnon content to right-wing social media, as well as conspiracy theories promoted by the fake news site Gateway Pundit. On an online QAnon show in 2023, Finchem pushed a baseless conspiracy theory that the Sinaloa drug cartel bribed Arizona officials to rig elections. He has denied that there was far-right violence at the Charlottesville “Unite the Right” neo-nazi rally in 2017 and claimed that reporting of far-right violence “has Deep State PSYOP written all over it.” He traveled to California for a fundraiser hosted by Nicole Nogrady, a conspiracy theorist who has promoted beliefs that fetal tissue is used to produce some food and drink products by corporate America, and who believes the U.S. government launched the 9/11 attacks. He spoke before a self-described Christian militia that says it battles “the demonic rulers of the darkness of this world.” [Vice, [4/12/2021](#); Media Matters, [8/14/2023](#); Arizona Republic, [7/13/22](#)]

Finchem is an active member of a right-wing militia. In 2014, Finchem disclosed that he was a member of the Oath Keepers, a group described by the Southern Poverty Law Center as “one of the largest far-right antigovernment groups in the U.S.”. The Oath Keepers were founded in 2009 after the election of President Barack Obama, and organized around a set of conspiracy theories about the federal government working to destroy Americans’ liberties. The group has participated in multiple standoffs with federal officials, and openly urged President Trump to reject the results of the 2020 election and remain in office. 18 members of the Oath Keepers have been arrested and charged with crimes related to the January 6th, 2021 attempted insurrection in Washington, DC. [Southern Poverty Law Center, Accessed [11/5/2021](#); InMaricopa, [7/30/2014](#); Phoenix New Times, [3/22/2019](#)]

Finchem engages in antisemitism and touts the endorsements of notorious antisemites and white nationalists. Jewish groups have criticized Finchem for embracing white nationalism and relying on antisemitic tropes, such as claiming that rich Jewish businessmen control Democrats.

Finchem touted an endorsement from an Oklahoma candidate who listed “The Jews” as a group that proves “evil exists.” Finchem also said he was “honored” to have the endorsement of Andrew Torba, the CEO of far-right social media platform Gab, who said Jewish people aren’t welcome on the platform. He said, “They’re not Christian, right? They don’t share our values. They have inverted values from us as Christians. So don’t fall for the bait, right? We are going to take back this country for the glory of God. This is an explicitly Christian movement because this is an explicitly Christian country” [Arizona Republic, [9/16/22](#); Arizona Mirror, [7/29/22](#)]

Finchem was at the Capitol on January 6 and was subpoenaed by the January 6th Committee.

Mark Finchem was subpoenaed by the January 6th Committee and was asked for both documents and testimony regarding his efforts to overturn the 2020 Presidential election. Finchem helped organize an unofficial marathon hearing at a downtown Phoenix hotel that included testimony from Trump attorney and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Finchem was at the U.S. Capitol on January 6 and refused to supply phone records that could document the details of his activities there. [Arizona Republic, [2/15/22](#); Vice, [4/12/2021](#)]

Finchem wants to abolish early voting and allow the legislature to declare the winner of a presidential election regardless of the outcome of the popular vote. As a candidate for secretary of state in 2022, Finchem advocated for the abolition of early voting and the posting of ballot images online. He said ballots should get hand-counted and has argued the state Legislature has the power to set aside presidential election results if lawmakers believe there is illegality in how those results were obtained. [Arizona Republic, [7/13/22](#)]

Finchem attacked “homosexuals” and “baby killers.” In March 2024, Finchem posted to Twitter an image with the message, “We live in a society where homosexuals lecture us on morals, transvestites lecture us on human biology, baby killers lecture us on human rights, and socialists lecture us on economics.” He wrote, “Defining ‘fringe.’” [Twitter, [3/25/2024](#)]