

# Senator Mark Finchem

District 1

## Legislative Biography



AZ Sen. Mark Finchem is a Senator in the Arizona State Legislature who represents the 1st district and received 65.9% of the vote in his last election. He is the Chair of the Audit and Federalism committees, and a member of the Judiciary and Appropriations committees.

He works most frequently on Law (203 bills), Crime and Law Enforcement (169 bills), Education (115 bills), Arizona (107 bills), and Economics and Public Finance (91 bills). He has sponsored 190 bills in his last sixteen year(s) in office, voting with his party 92.0% of the time, getting 60.0% of his bills out of committee, and 22.11% of his sponsored bills enacted.

Sen. Finchem most frequently works on legislation with Vince Leach (R-AZ-17) (135 bills), John Kavanagh (R-AZ-3) (122 bills), and David Livingston (R-AZ-28) (122 bills). He most frequently votes with Frank Carroll (R-AZ-28) (98.43%), Timothy Dunn (R-AZ-25) (97.96%), and Thomas Shope (R-AZ-16) (97.96%).

Before entering politics, Sen. Finchem was involved in real estate. He received his undergraduate degree from Kalamazoo Valley Community College (MI) and a non-degree from Six Sigma (Green Belt) Management.

### **About**

Assumed Office - 2024

Next Election - 2026

Residence - Oro Valley, AZ

Term - 1st term

### **Previous Experience**

Arizona Representative, Arizona House of Representatives, 2015-2023

Former President, Oro Valley Business Club

Life Member, National Rifle Association (NRA)

Member, National Association of Realtors

Member, Tucson Association of Realtors, Government Affairs Committee

Member, Friends of the Freedoms Foundation, Tucson Chapter

## Undermining American Democracy

Activity	Description	Category	Role
Texas v. Pennsylvania, et al.	Amicus Brief urging courts to overturn the 2020 election	Voter Suppression	Signed
HB 2794	Bans election officials from altering voting deadlines	Voter Suppression	Co-sponsored
HCR 2023	Resolution opposing "For the People" Act	Voter Suppression	Co-sponsored
HB 2905	Restricts mail ballot from being sent to all voters	Voter Suppression	Co-sponsored, Voted Yes
SB 1485	Allows purging voters from Permanent Early Voting List	Voter Suppression	Voted Yes
HCR 2033	Decertifying AZ's 2020 Presidential Electors	Voter Suppression	Sponsored
HB 2596	Eliminates early voting, allows legislature to reject election results	Voter Suppression	Co-Sponsored
HB 2238	Ban Ballot Drop Boxes	Voter Suppression	Voted Yes
HB 2289	Eliminates Mall Voting/Early Voting/Vote Center and requires hand counting ballots	Voter Suppression	Voted Yes
HB 2492	Proof of citizenship required for voting	Voter Suppression	Voted Yes
SB 1268	Imposes onerous red tape on unions	Anti-Labor	Voted Yes
SB 1377	Grants immunity from COVID-19-related liability	Anti-Labor	Voted Yes, Voted Yes in Committee
HCR 2031	Preempts local wage and benefit ordinances	Anti-Labor	Voted Yes
SB 1191	Bans PLAs/Prevailing Wage	Anti-Labor	Voted Yes in Committee
HB 2001	Prohibits local ordinances on labor productivity	Anti-Labor	Voted Yes
SB 1278	Onerous paperwork for labor unions	Anti-Labor	Voted Yes
HB 2309	Criminalizes protests of seven or more people	Anti-First Amendment	Co-sponsored, Voted Yes
SB 1532	Prohibits teachers from discussing so-called "divisive issues" such as racism, sexism, bias and other social issues	Anti-First Amendment	Voted Yes
SB 1456	Suppresses teaching of sex ed and gender identity	Anti-First Amendment	Voted Yes
SB 1074	Bans public sector trainings on race, sex discrimination	Anti-First Amendment	Voted Yes
SB 1165	Bans transgender students from participating on girls sports teams	Anti-First Amendment	Voted Yes
SB 1138	Bans medical care for transgender youth	Anti-First Amendment	Voted Yes
HB 2161	Requires teachers to report LGBTQ student to parents	Anti-First Amendment	Voted Yes
HB 2112	Bans instruction on race, ethnicity, or sex, threatening teachers with fines and losing their licenses	Anti-First Amendment	Voted Yes
HCR 2001	Bans Critical Race Theory Through Constitutional Amendment	Anti-First Amendment	Voted Yes

## Disinformation

### Big Lie

Here is an example of Representative Mark Finchem's social media posts endorsing Trump's Big Lie:

**December 2nd, 2020** - *We also need a forensic audit from Pima county. #StopTheSteal*  
*Nancy Barto (@NancyBarto): A full forensic audit is key to achieving clarity and closure.*

### COVID-19

Here are some examples of Mark Finchem's posts pushing dangerous anti-science sentiments during the historic pandemic:

**September 5, 2021** - RT @JaromeBellVA: High vaccinated vs given over the counter Ivermectin and HCQ. You decide. <https://t.co/8XLq6IWXmx>

**September 17th, 2020** - RT @mandie\_312: *I keep seeing mask hysteria on Twitter today. I have to ask: If your mask works, why do you care if I have one on? Do masks only work if 2 masks are involved? Does that make you think maybe they don't work? Can you wear 2 masks & STFU? #facemasks#scamdemic2020#COVID1984*

**June 28th, 2020** - *I remain unconvinced that a presumed case without a positive Covid-19 test should be counted, especially in light of the huge number of positive tests that have not required hospitalization. It appears that the counting of "cases" has been flawed from the start. As a matter of law, we may need to examine the need to more clearly define what the requirements are for a death certificate, and how the Bureau of Vital Statistics collects data. When data reporting is flawed, decision making is as well.*

### Critical Race Theory

Here is an example of Representative Mark Finchem's social media posts misrepresenting Critical Race Theory to distort and, ultimately, silence arguments for racial justice & equality in the United States:

**February 17th, 2022** - RT @Leo4AzHouse: *The Arizona House, in a party line vote, just banned Critical Race Theory in our schools. This racial propaganda does not belong in our schools and I'm proud to have voted to ban it. <https://t.co/5Oy5gyUNfj>*

## Other

**Representative Mark Finchem is a member of a right-wing militia.** In 2014, Rep. Mark 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. Eighteen 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 received nearly \$10,000 in donations from individuals linked to the far-right extremist group, the Oath Keepers while running for Secretary of State.** According to the Arizona Mirror, “The Mirror compared campaign finance records for Finchem’s campaign for secretary of state with names in a leaked database of Oath Keepers members that was published by the journalism collective Distributed Denial of Secrets. The Oath Keepers are an anti-government extremist group whose members were deeply tied to the violent riot at the Capitol on Jan. 6. The leader of the organization, Stewart Rhodes, has been charged with seditious conspiracy, and he spoke of ‘Civil War’ prior to the day’s events. Another 10 Oath Keepers, including one from Arizona, are also facing charges of seditious conspiracy and other crimes. Finchem declared his membership in the Oath Keepers in a 2014 candidate questionnaire, writing that he was an ‘Oath Keeper committed to the exercise of limited, constitutional governance.’ His Twitter bio previously

**Finchem falsely claimed fraud when losing his bid for Secretary of State and filed frivolous lawsuits attempting to overturn the will of Arizona voters.** In December 2022, Mark Finchem filed a lawsuit challenging his loss in the Secretary of State race, seeking to overturn the election results. Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Melissa Julian dismissed the suit, deeming it “groundless” and not filed in good faith. In March 2023, Judge Julian ordered Finchem to pay legal fees incurred by his opponent, Adrian Fontes, as a sanction for the baseless claims. According to the Guardian, “The judge added that Finchem and his team had not only made no effort to establish if their claims of electoral unreliability were true but had continued to make false claims of fraud despite contradictory evidence. She noted that imposing financial sanctions in such a case was rare, but justified in this case.” [The Guardian, [3/6/2023](#)]

**In 2022, Finchem, alongside other election deniers, filed a lawsuit attempting to ban the use of electronic voting machines in Arizona.** The lawsuit was dismissed due to a lack of evidence, and subsequent appeals, including one to the U.S. Supreme Court, were unsuccessful. According to Democracy Docket, “After the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear their voting machines lawsuit in April, election-denying duo Kari Lake and Mark Finchem’s lawsuit has once again failed in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The case, brought by Lake and Finchem in 2022, challenged Arizona’s use of electronic voting machines and was subsequently rejected by both the trial court, the 9th Circuit Court, and the U.S. Supreme Court. After the Supreme Court put an end to their case, Lake and Finchem filed a Hail Mary and asked the 9th Circuit to withhold its final judgment in the far-flung challenge. County and state Republican parties also joined Lake and Finchem’s call, but the 9th Circuit declined to do so.” [Democracy Docket, [6/26/2024](#)]

**Finchem, who attended the January 6th Insurrection, falsely claimed he was not near the US Capitol as Trump supporters stormed the building, but video evidence proves he was very close to the carnage.** According to the Arizona Mirror, “Newly discovered footage taken during the

Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot shows Arizona GOP legislator Mark Finchem was much closer to the day's violence than he has previously claimed. Finchem has insisted that he never got within 500 yards of the Capitol building, but Getty footage of the failed attempt to stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden's election that was recently discovered by activists on Twitter shows Finchem walking directly in front of the east steps at the Capitol after pro-Trump rioters had already broken through a series of barricades and police lines and then smashed their way into the Capitol building. Finchem, who is from Oro Valley and is running to be secretary of state, did not respond to a request for comment confirming if the man in the video was him, but the high-resolution video clearly shows Finchem wearing the same hat, jacket and VIP lanyard he had been seen wearing throughout the day. " [Arizona Mirror, [6/2/2021](#)]

**Finchem is a staunch anti-choice legislator and voted to ban abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.** According to the Arizona Republic, "Finchem describes himself as strongly pro-life, and his voting record as a state lawmaker supports that. He has received 100% ratings from the Center for Arizona Policy, which promotes abortion restrictions. Earlier this year, he voted for the ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy along with fellow Republicans in the Legislature. Asked to clarify which restrictions, if any, he would place on abortion, on Oct. 9, he said he supports the law that is on the books. As of that date, the 15-week ban was law. [Arizona Republic, [10/16/2022](#)]

**In September 2024, Finchem appeared on a talk show hosted by a known conspiracy theorist with a history of antisemitic views and promoted Q-anon conspiracy theories.** During the September 11 interview, Finchem discussed his campaign and shared election-related conspiracy theories, including Q-anon. The host, Scott McKay, has publicly praised Adolf Hitler and previously claimed that Jewish people practice "child sacrifice" by eating hearts and were responsible for the 9/11 attacks. [Media Matters, [9/14/2024](#); Arizona Mirror, [9/13/2024](#)]

**Finchem bragged of having access to a confidential federal law enforcement database and claimed it supported his conspiracy theories.** In October 2024, Finchem boasted about collaborating with a Tennessee law enforcement officer under criminal investigation to access confidential financial data from the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). He claimed to use this data to substantiate his false election fraud theories. According to the Arizona Mirror, "Former Republican lawmaker and candidate for Arizona Senate Mark Finchem has said in multiple interviews that a small-town Tennessee police department that is under criminal investigation gave him access to a confidential federal law enforcement database used for tracking financial transactions to prevent crime. The GOP candidate, who served in the state House of Representatives from 2015 through 2022, has been making the rounds in the far-right media ecosystem touting an 'investigation' being conducted by a nonprofit he runs that is involved in a bizarre, conspiracy-riddled probe into a Tennessee police department." [Arizona Mirror, [10/7/2024](#)]

**Finchem narrowly avoided a criminal speeding charge and demanded the speeding ticket be dismissed, citing legislative immunity.** In early 2025, Finchem was cited for driving 48 mph in a 30 mph zone, which narrowly allowed him to avoid a criminal speeding charge. According to AZFamily, "Records show that two days after the ticket was issued, Prescott Police Chief Amy

Bonney received a letter from Finchem on official state senate letterhead. 'I ask that the citation be voided and stricken from the record,' Finchem asked, citing a provision in the Arizona Constitution, that protects lawmakers from arrest and civil prosecutions while the legislature is in session." [AZFamily, [2/6/2025](#)]

**Finchem served as the Arizona coordinator for an organization with ties to a "domestic terrorist."** In 2016, Mark Finchem served as the Arizona coordinator for the Coalition of Western States (COWS), a pro-militia group that supported the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in 2016. COWS has been linked to anti-government extremism. According to the Phoenix New Times, "The 2015 news release mentions Finchem, a Republican from Oro Valley, as an 'Arizona Coordinator' alongside other controversial far-right politicians from Western states, like Idaho State Representative Heather Scott and Washington State Representative Matt Shea. In 2019, investigators hired by the Washington House of Representatives concluded that Shea had engaged in 'domestic terrorism' during his involvement in the Oregon militia stand-off and 'promoted' three 'armed conflicts of political violence against the United States.'" [Phoenix News-Times, [10/1/2020](#)]

**Finchem falsely claimed the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville was a "Deep State" Psyop facilitated by the media and Democrats.** According to the Phoenix New-Times, "In the August 15, 2017, blog post, Finchem denied that members of the American far-right were behind the violent 'Unite the Right' rally, where one person was murdered and dozens injured by a neo-Nazi who rammed his car into a group of counter-protesters. Days after the rally, Finchem wrote on his campaign website that reporters 'are peddling the story that 'far right' and the far left are at each other's throats, and that they are behind the violence that erupted in Charlottesville this past weekend.' Finchem's blog post echoes a common conspiracy theory circulated in fringe conservative media outlets after the rally turned deadly, framing Kessler as a government operative or Democratic plant who orchestrated the Charlottesville rally. In his blog post, Finchem twice referred to Charlottesville as a PSYOP, a military term for 'psychological operations' commonly used by conspiracy theorists." [Phoenix News-Times, [3/22/2019](#)]

**In 2013, Finchem falsely claimed that former President Barack Obama was seeking to establish a "totalitarian dictatorship."** According to the Phoenix New-Times, "Another article on his campaign website describes Obama as 'taking every opportunity to install his ideological, totalitarian dictatorship.' 'From the IRS working in concert with HHS to the EPA, to the NSA, Barak [sic] Obama has loosed the hounds of government hell upon the American people. Arizona legislators have been engaged in pushing back, and the battle will grow even more intense during the next 3 years,' Finchem wrote in 2013. He added that Americans 'can expect more from this despotic administration and the complicit, progressive controlled Congress.'" [Phoenix News-Times, [3/22/2019](#)]

**Finchem has shared various conspiracy theories and extremist views on social media, including keeping a "Treason Watch List," which included former President Barack Obama, Jesse Jackson, Janet Napolitano, and John Kerry.** According to CNN, "Finchem's most extreme content came on the social media platform Pinterest, which allows users to save, categorize and



share posts called pins into digital mood boards. While Finchem has some light-hearted and conventional boards on food, fashion, and dogs, he also has a board titled 'Treason Watch List,' featuring photos of Jesse Jackson, former Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, and former Secretary of State John Kerry. In another board labeled 'Thought Provoking,' Finchem pinned a number of extremist posts, comparing Democrats to Nazis and invoking the Holocaust to argue against gun control, along with posts calling for stockpiling ammunition. One pin compared Obama to Adolf Hitler with a cartoon featuring the former president raising his arm while speaking and a cartoon of a Nazi just behind him in a similar fashion saying, 'Tyranny is always lurking just around the corner' Another pin shared by Finchem showed hundreds of boxes of stockpiled personal ammunition saying 'you need to be prepared.' Another of Finchem's pins, arguing against gun control, depicted Jews being rounded up by Nazis saying, 'What makes us think IT CAN'T HAPPEN IN AMERICA?' Yet another pin showed an image saying 'a war in America' will have 'no rules of engagement.' Other posts Finchem pinned on his 'Thought Provoking' board included conspiracy theories that the Mexican Army was making incursions into the United States in preparation for a full-scale invasion and repeated anti-Muslim posts arguing that Sharia law was coming to the US soon. One pin shared an image warning of 'the communists inside our government,' and another included a fake quotation alleging George Washington saying US citizens should be armed against the government. Finchem was linking to his Pinterest account in Tweets from 2012 to 2015." [CNN, 8/16/[2022](#)]

**Representative Mark Finchem signed a letter calling for funding to be withheld for school districts that implement mask mandates.** The same day, three state universities announced they would implement mask mandates, and 17 Arizona legislators wrote a letter to then-Governor Ducey calling for him to withhold federal funding to schools that implement such policies. The letter highlights preemption saying that local governments cannot make their own policies and the real issues, "The Arizona legislature, with the governor concurring, very intentionally enacted the laws at hand to protect Arizonans and Arizona children from the threat of government mandating them to wear a mask or be injected with a vaccine." The letter publicly asks Ducey to withhold funding, provide Empowerment Scholarship Accounts to students, and initiate legal action in those school districts. The following week, Gov. Ducey announced education grants that can only be directed to schools without mask mandates, but the Treasury Department said these grants are "not a permissible use" of federal funding. [Gila Herald, [8/12/2021](#); The Hill, [8/18/2021](#); AP News, [10/5/2021](#)]

**Mark Finchem touted the endorsement of the antisemitic CEO of the social media platform Gab.** Mark Finchem said he was "honored" to have the endorsement of Andrew Torba, the CEO of far-right social media platform Gab. Torba, who is a consultant for Pennsylvania Gubernatorial candidate Doug Mastriano, has recently said Jewish people aren't welcome on Gab. He said, "These people aren't conservative. 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 Mirror, [7/29/22](#)]

**Mark Finchem 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. As reported by the Arizona Republic, “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. It was after that hearing that Giuliani pitched Arizona legislative leaders on the idea of casting out the election results and voting to simply appoint the Republican electors. [Arizona Republic, [2/15/22](#)]